

Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0064416-04-0
Permitted Facility Name and Address	Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC N5358 Hwy 89 Lake Mills
Permit Term	January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2029
Discharge Location	Main Farm: N5358 HWY 89, Lake Mills, WI, 53551; Jefferson County WI, Town of Aztalan, SW ¼ of SE ¼ Sec. 30 T07N R14E Hermann Farm: W6178 Co. B, Jefferson, WI 53549; Jefferson County WI, Town of Aztalan, SE ¼ of NE ¼ Sec. 16 T07N, R14E
Receiving Water	Unnamed tributaries within the Crawfish River Watershed, and ground waters of the state.
Stream Classification	303d
Discharge Type	Existing

Animal Units					
Animal Type	Current AU		Proposed AU (Note: If all zeroes, expansions are not expected during permit term)		
	Mixed	Individual	Mixed	Individual	Date of Proposed Expansion
Layers (each) - non-liquid system	2140	2632	0	0	
Broilers/Pullets (each) - non-liquid system	635	1016	0	0	
Total	2775	2632	0	0	

Facility Description

Dean’s Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Dean’s Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC is owned and operated by Scott Schneider. The farm currently has 2,775 animal units. (214,000 layer chickens and 127,000 pullets). Dean’s Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has a total of 2619.3 acres available for land application of manure and process wastewater. Of this acreage, 488.4 acres are owned, and 2,2238.2 acres are rented or controlled through manure agreements. Dean’s Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has no planned expansion during the proposed permit term. Approximately 0 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 2,800 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term. The farm has at least 59 days of solid manure storage not including headland stacking sites.

Two facilities are currently covered under Dean’s Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC WPDES Permit. The main site is located at N5358 Hwy 89, Lake Mills, WI 53551 and is composed of four layer barns, a fifth barn currently used for storage, and solid waste storage facilities. The Herman Pullet site is located at W6178 County Road B,

Jefferson, WI 53549 and is composed of three pullet barns, two are currently populated. Waste from the Hermann farm is trucked to the main site or is land applied according to the farm's approved nutrient management farm.

During the last reissuance Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC had planned to construct an egg processing building, install a manure dryer, and construct a solid and liquid waste storage facilities. With the COVID pandemic and fluctuating markets the project has been put on hold. The plans and specification approvals have lapsed and must be resubmitted prior to construction. Some of these improvements may happened during the permit term and are not required to meet permit conditions.

Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has submitted an application for reissuance of their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. The application is complete, and the facility has been determined to be in substantial compliance. This will be the third permit reissuance for this facility. Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has an approved Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that is written according to WPDES permit and Chapter NR 243 Wis. Adm. Code requirements. Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC was also found to have at least 59 days of solid manure storage.

Substantial Compliance Determination

Enforcement During Last Permit: The farm had no enforcement actions taken during the last permit term. The facility has completed all previously required actions as part of the permitting and / or enforcement process.

After a desk top review of all compliance schedule items and permit application materials, and a site visit on September 25, 2023, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Compliance determination made by **Eric J. Struck** on **November 6, 2024**.

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste	
Sample Point Number	Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)
001	WSF 1-Manure Storage Building: WSF 1 This sample point is for the existing solid manure storage structure that was constructed in 2005 and is located at the Main Farm, south of the 4 Layer Barns. It is NRCS-designed, roofed, has dimensions of 200 feet by 65 feet with 4-foot-high concrete side walls, and has a capacity of 34,970 cubic feet. A covered conveyor system transfers manure from the four layer barns to WSF 1. Conveyors move manure through watertight concrete tunnels before being lifted into WSF 1. Manure in WSF 1 will mostly be dried in the proposed new manure dryer and then transferred to the new Manure Storage Building WSF 2. Manure could also be land applied in accordance with an approved Nutrient Management Plan. Condensate from the dryer will be directed to the proposed round waste storage tank WSF 3. WSF 1 was last evaluated in 2014 and met permit requirements. See the Schedules Section for any additional requirements.
002	PROPOSED: WFS 2- Solid Manure Storage Building: WSF 2 This sample point is for a proposed 65 foot by 600 foot covered manure storage building that is proposed. WSF 2 will be located at the Main Farm just south of WSF 1 and will receive dried manure from WSF 1. WSF 2 will have a capacity to store 104,645 cubic feet of dried manure. Dried manure will then be land applied in accordance with a department approved Nutrient Management Plan or sold or transferred to others after approval from the Department. Plans and specifications will need to be resubmitted 90 days prior to construction.
003	PROPOSED: WSF 3- Liquid Process Wastewater Storage: WSF 3 This sample point is for a proposed 1.08 million Gallon round concrete tank (132' diameter x 12' tall) to be located south of WSF 2 on the

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste	
Sample Point Number	Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)
	Main Farm. WSF 3 will store wastewater from the egg washing building and condensate from the manure drier located in WSF 1. WSF 3 will provide 188 days of storage. The process wastewater and manure condensate will be land applied in accordance with a department approved Nutrient Management Plan. Plans and specifications will need to be resubmitted 90 days prior to construction.
004	PROPOSED: Egg Processing Building: This sample point is for the proposed processing building for egg washing and grading. The building will be located west of the existing layer barns at the Main Farm. The building will be 100 feet by 300 feet. Wastewater from the building will be transferred to WSF 3 through a reception/transfer tank and underground piping. The egg processing building is expected to produce about 3,000 gallons each day. Plans and specifications will need to be resubmitted 90 days prior to construction.
005	Hermann Farm- Solid Pullet Manure: This sample point is for the pullet raising facility at the Hermann site and includes all the pullet manure generated at the 3 pullet barns. Fully populated this will include 127,000 pullets that will produce about 1,900 tons of manure each year. The manure will be transferred inside the buildings to loadout areas where it will be loaded into manure hauling vehicles. Manure will be transferred to, WSF 1, approved headland stacking sites, or land applied in accordance with a department approved Nutrient Management Plan. After completion of the upgrades at the Main Farm manure hauling vehicles will transport the manure to the Main Farm for drying in WSF 1. The transfer system and load out areas were constructed with plan approval and appear to meet permit requirements
006	Headland Stacking Sites: Sample point 006 is for solid manure land applied from approved headland stacking sites. Stacks are defined as part of the production area and therefore subject to the production area discharge limitations section of this permit. Quarterly inspections while stacks are present are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.
007	Storm Water Runoff Control System: Sample point 007 is for visual monitoring and inspection of all production site storm water conveyance systems. This includes roof gutter and downspout structures, drainage tile systems, grassed waterways and other diversion systems that transport uncontaminated storm water. Proper operation and maintenance is required to keep uncontaminated runoff diverted away from manure and process wastewater handling systems. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.

1 Livestock Operations - Proposed Operation and Management

Production Area Discharge Limitations

Beginning on the effective date of the permit, the permittee may not discharge pollutants from the operation’s production area (e.g., manure storage areas, outdoor animal lots, composting and leachate containment systems, milking center wastewater treatment/containment systems, raw material storage areas) to navigable waters, except in the event a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event (or greater) causes the discharge from a structure which is properly designed and maintained to contain a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event for this location as determined under s. NR 243.04. If an allowable discharge occurs from the production area, state water quality standards may not be exceeded.

Runoff Control

The permit requires control of contaminated runoff from all elements of the production area to prevent a discharge of pollutants to navigable waters in accordance with the Production Area Discharge Limitations and to comply with surface water quality standards and groundwater standards. Beginning on the effective date of this permit, (if needed) interim

measures shall be implemented to prevent discharges of pollutants to navigable waters. In addition, permanent runoff control system(s) shall be designed, operated and maintained in accordance with the requirements found in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. If any upgrading or modifications to runoff controls are necessary, formal engineering plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for approval.

Manure and Process Wastewater Storage

The permit requires the operation to have adequate storage for manure and process wastewater and that storage or containment facilities are designed, operated and maintained to prevent overflows and discharges to waters of the state. In order to prevent overflows, the permittee must maintain levels of materials in liquid storage or containment facilities at or below certain levels including a one foot margin of safety that can never be exceeded. If any upgrading or modifications to the storage facilities are necessary, formal engineering plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for approval.

The permittee currently has approximately 0 months of storage for liquid manure. The permittee must maintain 180 days of storage, unless temporary reductions in required storage are approved by the Department. The facility does not currently generate any liquid waste.

Solid Manure Stacking

The operation has proposed to stack solid manure. All stacking of solid manure shall be done in accordance with ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, which includes restrictions from NRCS Standard 313. Stacking of manure is considered to be part of the production area and is subject to the Production Area Discharge Limitations.

Ancillary Service and Storage Areas

The permittee shall take preventative maintenance actions and conduct visual inspections to minimize pollutant discharges from areas of the operation that are not part of the production area or land application areas. These areas are called ancillary service and storage areas and include access roads, shipping and receiving areas, maintenance areas, refuse piles and CAFO outdoor vegetated areas.

Nutrient Management

With 2,775 animal units (214,000 layer chickens and 127,000 pullets), it is estimated that approximately 2800 tons of manure will be produced per year. The permittee owns approximately 488.4 acres of cropland and rents about 2,2238.2. Given the rotation commonly used by the permittee, 2619.3 acres are available (or open) to receive manure and process wastewater on an annual basis. The permit requires all landspreading of manure and process wastewater be completed in accordance with an approved nutrient management plan. The permit will require sampling and analysis of manure and process wastewater that will be landspread. Landspreading rates must be adjusted based on sample analysis. The permit requires the permittee to maintain a daily log that documents landspreading activities. The permit also requires the submittal of an annual report that summarizes all landspreading activities. Plans must be updated annually to reflect cropping plans and other operational changes. Among the requirements, the plans must include detailed landspreading information including field by field nutrient budgets.

The permittee is required to implement a number of practices to address potential water quality impacts associated with the land application of manure and process wastewater. Among the permit conditions are restrictions on manure ponding, restrictions on runoff of manure and process wastewater from cropped fields, and setbacks from wells and direct conduits to groundwater (e.g., sinkholes, fractured bedrock at the surface). In addition, the permittee must implement a phosphorus based nutrient management plan that addresses phosphorus delivery to surface waters by basing manure and process wastewater applications on soil test phosphorus levels or the Wisconsin Phosphorus index. Additional phosphorus application restrictions apply to fields that are high in soil test phosphorus (>100 ppm).

The permittee must also implement conservation practices when applying manure near navigable waters and their conduits, referred to as the Surface Water Quality Management Area (SWQMA). These practices include a 100-foot

setback from navigable waters and their conduits, a 35-foot vegetated buffer adjacent to the navigable water or conduit, or a practice that provides equivalent pollutant reductions equivalent to or better than the 100-foot setback.

In addition, the permittee must comply with restrictions on land application of manure and process wastewater on frozen or snow-covered ground. Included in these restrictions is a prohibition on surface applications of solid manure ($\geq 12\%$ solids) on frozen or snow-covered ground during February and March, non-emergency surface applications of liquid manure ($< 12\%$) on frozen or snow-covered ground are prohibited.

Monitoring and Sampling Requirements

The permittee must submit a monitoring and inspection program that outlines how the permittee will conduct self-inspections to determine compliance with permit conditions. These self-inspections include visual inspections of water lines, diversion devices, storage and containment structures and other parts of the production area. The permit requires periodic inspections and calibrations of landspreading equipment. The permittee must take corrective actions to problems identified inspections or otherwise notify the Department. Samples of manure, process wastewater and soils receiving land applied materials from the operation must also be collected and analyzed.

Sampling Points

The permit identifies the different sources of land applied materials (e.g., manure storage facilities, milking centers, egg-washing facilities) as “Sampling Points.” For these Sampling Points, the permittee is required to sample and analyze the different sources for nutrients and other parameters which serve as the basis for determining rates of application for these materials. Other areas are also identified as Sampling Points as a means of identifying them as areas requiring action by the permittee, such as an upgrade or evaluation of a certain system or structure (e.g., runoff control systems), even though sampling is not actually required.

1.1 Sample Point Number: 001- WSF 1- Manure Storage Building; 002- PROPOSED:WSF 2- Solid Storage; 005- Hermann/Pullet-Solid Manure; 006- Headland Stacking Sites

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Nitrogen, Total		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Grab	
Nitrogen, Available		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Calculated	
Phosphorus, Total		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Available		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Calculated	
Solids, Total		Percent	Quarterly	Grab	

1.1.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No sample points were added, nomenclature and descriptions were updated to current language used by the department.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Waste shall be sample, stored, and land applied according to permit and nutrient management plan requirements per s. NR 243, Wis. Admin. Code.

1.2 Sample Point Number: 003- PROPOSED: WSF 3; 004- PROPOSED: Egg Processing

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Nitrogen, Total		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Grab	
Nitrogen, Available		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Calculated	
Phosphorus, Total		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Grab	
Phosphorus, Available		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Calculated	
Solids, Total		Percent	2/Month	Grab	

1.2.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No sample points were added, nomenclature and descriptions were updated to current language used by the department.

1.2.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Waste shall be sample, stored, and land applied according to permit and nutrient management plan requirements per s. NR 243, Wis. Admin. Code.

1.3 Sample Point Number: 007- Storm Water Runoff Controls

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No sample points were added, nomenclature and descriptions were updated to current language used by the department.

1.3.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Runoff controls should be visually monitored per the farms monitoring and inspection program and in accordance to s. NR 243, Wis. Admin. Code.

2 Schedules

2.1 Monitoring & Inspection Program

Use of the department's monitoring and inspection program template is encouraged, but optional.

Required Action	Due Date
Proposed Monitoring and Inspection Program: Consistent with the monitoring and sampling requirements subsection, the permittee shall update and submit a proposed monitoring and inspection program within 30 days of the effective date of this permit.	01/31/2025

2.2 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: The permittee shall update and submit an emergency response plan within 30 days of the effective date of this permit.	01/31/2025

2.3 Nutrient Management Plan

Submit annual nutrient management plan (NMP) updates by March 31 of each year. Note, in addition to annual NMP updates, submit NMP amendments and substantial revisions to the department for written approval prior to implementation of any changes to the NMP.

Required Action	Due Date
Updates to NMP Submittal: Submit any necessary updates to the Nutrient Management Plan to meet the conditions outlined in this permit (see conditions in the Livestock Operational and Sampling Requirements section), to include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	01/31/2025
Submit NMP Update #1: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2025
Submit NMP Update #2: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2026
Submit NMP Update #3: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2027
Submit NMP Update #4: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2028
Submit NMP Update #5: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2029
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed, to include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	

2.4 Annual Reports

Submit annual reports by January 31 of each year in accordance with the annual reports subsection in standard requirements.

Required Action	Due Date
Submit Annual Report #1: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2025
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2026
Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2027
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2028
Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2029
Ongoing Annual Reports: Continue to submit Annual Reports until permit reissuance has been completed, to include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	

2.5 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date
Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	07/01/2029

Explanation of Schedules

Schedules are included in the permit to ensure compliance with s. NR 243, Wis. Admin. Code, requirements.

Most of the Schedule items are typical for a large CAFO facility. The schedules contained in 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 are standard permit schedules.

Other Comments

None

Attachments

Inspection Report with Map(s) September 25, 2023

Nutrient Management Plan Approval Letter(s) October 30, 2024

Days of Storage Review Letter(s) October 15, 2024

Public Notice

Justification Of Any Waivers From Permit Application Requirements

NA

Prepared By: Eric Struck Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist

Date: [November 6, 2024](#)



March 20, 2024

Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC
Scott Schneider
N5358 HWY 89
Lake Mills WI 53549

WPDES Permit No. WI-0064416-03-0
Jefferson County

Subject: Inspection Report Summary Letter

Dear Mr. Schneider:

On September 25, 2023 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) conducted a site inspection for Deans Egg dba Nature Link Farms LLC as part of the WPDES permit reissuance process. A copy of this inspection report is attached. Based on the site visit there are no additional items that will be required as part of the final permit application.

Please review the attached site inspection report. The end of the report summarizes actions that maybe include as schedule items for the next permit term.

The final permit application should be submitted by April 1, 2024. Permit application materials must be submitted through the ePermitting System located at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water/>. The following is required for a complete permit application:

Permit Application Materials Required for All Operations:

- 3400-025 form (Livestock/Poultry Operation WPDES Permit Application)
- 3400-025A form (Animal Units Calculation Worksheet)
- 3400-025B form (Nutrient Management Plan Checklist)
- 3400-025C form (Reviewable Facilities of Systems Checklist)
- Soil survey map(s) for each site managed by your operation
- Labeled aerial map(s) showing the features and structures located at each site managed by your operation (clearly delineate what is existing and proposed)
- Calculations documenting a minimum of 180 days liquid manure (and process wastewater) storage
- Supporting documentation for 180-day storage calculations
- A complete 5-year Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). If necessary, include a description of permanent spray irrigation systems and any other landspreading or treatment systems (proposed or active)
- *Plans and specifications for reviewable facilities (if proposed)

***Note: Plans and specifications must be submitted through the ePermitting system as a separate submittal**

If you have any questions regarding this letter, inspection report, or permit requirements, please contact me at (608) 422-1512 or eric.struck@wisconsin.gov. If you have any questions on the ePermitting submittal process, please contact Falon French at (608) 228-5265 or faalon.french@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric J. Struck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Eric J. Struck
Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist – Bureau of Watershed Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Cell: (608)-422-1512
eric.struck@wisconsin.gov

Attachments: Inspection report September 25, 2023

CC: Laura Bub, Tony Salituro (WDNR)
Andrew Skwor (MSA- Engineer),
Philips Crop Care
Sam Peterson- Jefferson County



CAFO Compliance Report: March 20, 2024

Inspection Date: September 25, 2023

Inspection Type: Permit Reissuance

Operation Name: Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC

WPDES Permit No. WI-0064416-03-0

Operation Address: Main Farm: N5358 HWY 89 in the Town of Aztalan, Jefferson Co. WI; T7N, R14E, Sec 30, Lake Mills, WI 53551

Aztalan Site (Jim Herman Farm) : W6178 Co. B in the Town of Aztalan, Jefferson Co. WI; T7N, R14E, Sec 16, Jefferson, WI 53549

County: Jefferson

On-Site representatives: Scott Schneider: Owner

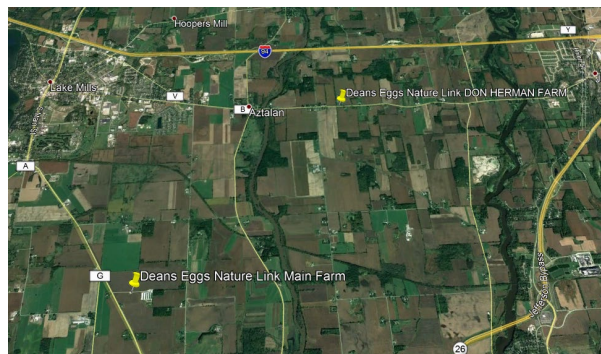
Liz Darner: Phillips Crop Care.

Other: Sam Peterson: Jefferson County

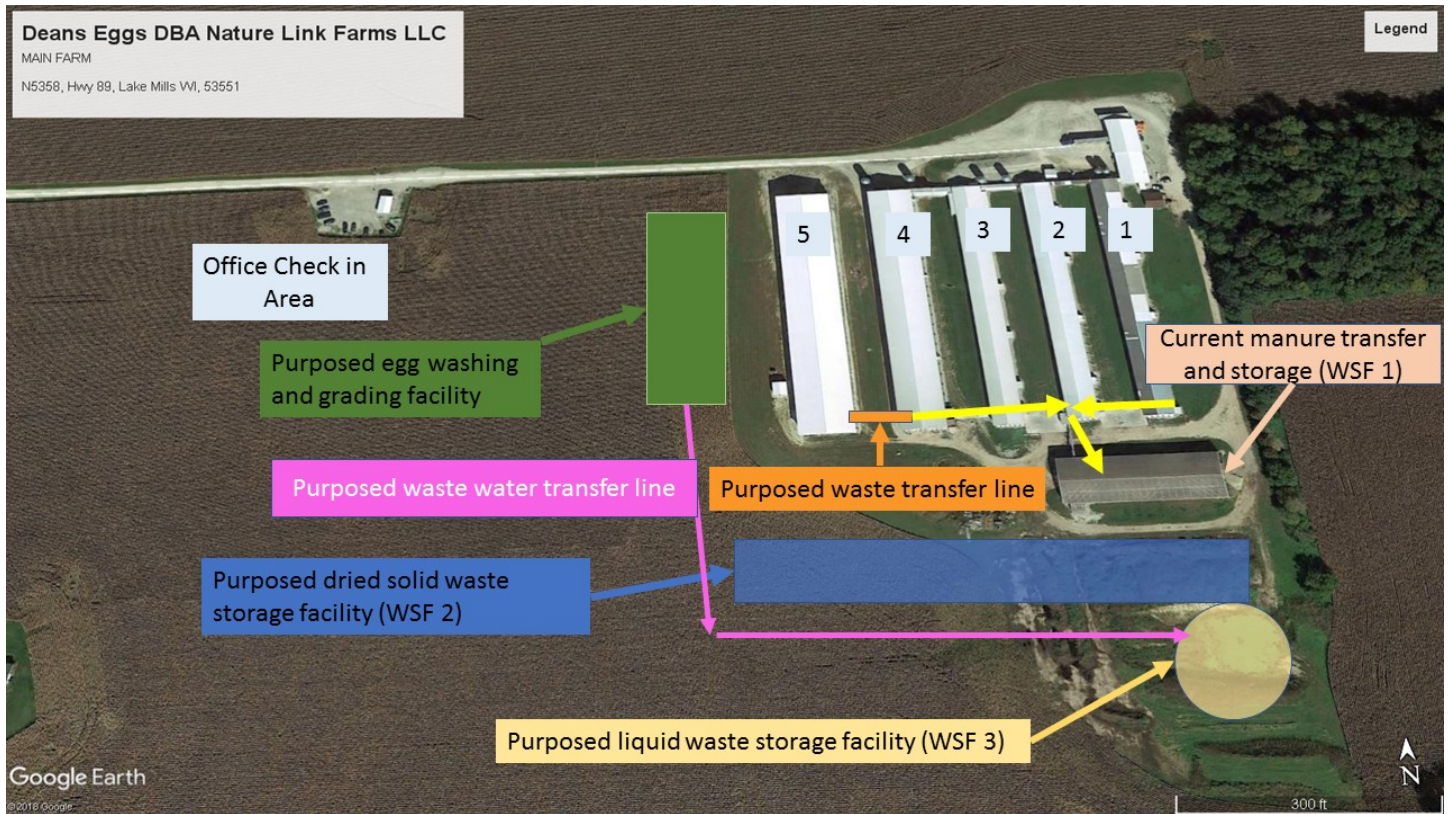
DNR Staff / Report Writers: Holly Stegemann, Eric Struck (writer)

On September 25, 2023, at 10:00 pm Eric Struck and Holly Stegemann of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) met with Scott Schneider of Nature Link Farms, Liz Darner of Philips Crop Care, and Sam Peterson of Jefferson County to conduct a WPDES reissuance inspection for Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC. Both facilities covered under the WPDES Permit and operated by Scott Schneider were inspected. Approximately 0.25 inches of precipitation had occurred in the morning prior to the inspection. The weather the day of the inspection was cloudy with temperatures near 75 F. WDNR Staff met at the entrance office at the Main Farm and walked the perimeter of the buildings. For biosecurity reasons no one entered the animal buildings and spent most of the time in the truck. Following the inspection at the Main Farm an inspection was as done at the Aztalan Site.

Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC WPDES permit expires on June 30, 2024. A permit application was due on January 1, 2024. A complete permit application is anticipated to be submitted on April 1, 2024. No additional information is needed with the permit application.



Map 1. Ariel photo showing location of each of the production areas.



Map 2. Map of the Main farm. Map shows potential expansion and improvements that have been considered in the past. Plans are currently on hold and new plans and specifications would need to be submitted and a permit modification maybe required.



Map 3. Map of the Aztalan Facility, formerly Don Hermann farm.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Main Farm

The Main Farm site currently has 4-layer barns in operation. All birds are under roof and feed is stored in grain bins. All manure is handled as a solid and is always covered until it is loaded out. Manure is conveyed with in the barns to the south ends and is then conveyed to barn 2 where it is conveyed to the manure storage building (waste storage facility [WSF] 1). The conveyers are housed in covered tunnels that are constructed of watertight concrete. The manure storage building (WSF1) is a covered 200 feet by 65 feet with a 4-foot-high concrete side wall, with a capacity of 34,970 cubic feet. It was last evaluated in 2014 and found compliant. The building, walls, and floor appeared to be in good condition with no cracks or evidence of a discharge.

Barn 5 is currently not used to house birds and would need some additional construction to be converted to a cage free egg laying barn. There are no current plans to populate barn 5. It was explained that plans and specifications would need to be submitted and the permit may need to be modified with the additional construction and manure transfer systems.

Prior to the current permit term plans for manure drying, waste storage facilities, and egg washing facility were discussed and presented to the department. The plans called for the addition of a manure dryer, a dried manure storage building, and a liquid waste storage facility to collect condensate from the dryer. At this time the facility has no plans to pursue these plans. One point of discussion was the submittal of plans and specifications and the possible need to modify a permit if the farm does move forward with the construction project.

During the permit term the roof of barn 1 collapsed due to the weight of snow. The barn was depopulated and repaired. Barn 1 has since been repopulated.

The farm currently had an approved alterative distribution for taking waste to a composting facility. This was done in the past calendar year. Future plans are currently unknow. A schedule section maybe added to the permit to cover the future distribution of manure and to detail the departments approval.



Photo #	1725
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: North side of barn 1, barn roof collapsed the previous winter and was depopulated. Has since been repaired and repopulated. No changes were made to the floor and manure transfer systems.



Photo #	1736
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: South end of barn 3 facing north. Manure transferred underground and covered conveyers from barns 4 to 3 to 2.



Photo #	1737
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: South end of barn 2 with conveyers meeting and transferred to the waste storage building.

Waste Storage Facilities

Solid and liquid waste storage facilities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges (includes headland stacking sites).

Solid and liquid waste storage structures are well-maintained, in good repair, and in compliance with permit requirements.

The main Facility has one waste storage facility (WSF). Waste is transferred within the barns on conveyers and is then conveyed to WSF 1. Manure is transferred and stored underroof until it can be either land applied according to the farms approved nutrient management plan (NMP) or taken to a headland stacking site to be applied later. Scott mentioned the possible improvements around WSF1 including concrete entrance aprons and possible berm to keep waste in the barn and allow for easier clean up with loading trucks. These improvements would not require plans and specifications as they are not part of the waste storage facility floor or structure.

Nature Link has worked with a custom manure hauler with the proper operation and maintenance of headland stacking sites and are include in the farm's approved NMP. The headland stacking maps should be reviewed prior to the NMP being submitted with the application be sure all sites are included and named.

The farm currently has an alternative distribution approval to Jason Fuller. Jason Fuller owns and operates a composting facility. His holds a DATCP fertilizer licenses, solid waste compost approval, and wastewater land application approval. Manure is composted with other material and is sold as fertilizer or soil augment. This distribution approval will be part of the five-year NMP Narrative. A permit schedule item maybe added to the proposed permit to detail the expected volumes transferred and approvals Jason Fuller holds, to show compliance with Wis. Admin. Code. Ch. NR 243.142.



Photo #	1734
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Conveyer from barn 2 to waste storage building. Dropping in for storage.



Photo #	1730
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Roof of waste storage building in good condition



Photo #	1737
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing west from the east end of the waste storage building. Waste all stored underroof prior to land spreading or headland stacking.



Photo #	1728
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Main Facility
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing southwest at the east end of the waste storage building. The farm is considering installing a concrete apron and entrance for the building to help with clean up.

Aztalan Site (formerly Don Hermann Farm)

The Aztalan Site has been updated to house pullets for the Main Farm. Currently two barns are being used to raise pullets. The barns have been updated to solid waste transfer system. The liquid waste facility has been abandoned and removed. Conveyer belts have been added to the barns. The conveyer leads to a covered load out conveyer that is used to load into trucks. Waste is then taken to the waste storage building at the Main farm. The load out areas were constructed for easy clean up and containment of spillage.

Waste Storage Facilities.

The liquid waste storage facility has been abandoned according to permit conditions. The barns have been converted to a dry solid manure system. Waste is transferred to the waste storage facility at the main farm, headland stacked, or land applied according to the farms approved nutrient management plan. The load out areas appeared to be clean and in good condition and were constructed with plan approval.



Photo #	1747
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Aztalan Satellite Site
Photo taken by:	Struck

Description: Facing south from the north end of the buildings at the Aztalan Site. Former location of the liquid waste storage facility that was abandoned during the permit term.



Photo #	1741
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Aztalan Satellite Site
Photo taken by:	

Description: Solid waste load out area of the north end of the west barn at the Aztalan Site.



Photo #	1744
Date/Time:	September 25, 2023
Location	Dean's Eggs Nature Link- Aztalan Satellite Sit
Photo taken by:	Struck
Description: Solid waste load out area of the north end of the east barn at the Aztalan Site.	

Feed Storage Areas

Feed storage areas and associated process wastewater (leachate, runoff) are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Feed storage areas and runoff control systems are well-maintained, in good repair and in compliance with permit requirements.

All feed is stored in storage bins and augered into the barns. The feed bins were clean with no signs of waste or runoff concerns.

Animal Mortality Disposal

Animal mortalities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Mortalities are disposed in dumpsters. The mortality management plan should be updated accordingly. If the farm wished to further discuss a mass mortality scenario a meeting and plan can be set up with the department on other agencies as needed

Ancillary Service Areas

Preventative maintenance actions and visual inspections are occurring to minimize pollutant discharges from ancillary service and storage areas (i.e. storm water conveyance systems, driveways, etc.).

The ancillary service areas around the farm were clean and free of debris. Some driveway work is planned around the waste storage building to make it easier for loading and cleaning.

RECORDS REVIEW

This section can include summary of the review done at the farm as well as office file review.

May include photos taken of records during inspection to include in report as documentation.

The permittee has current WPDES Permit and Nutrient Management Plan onsite.

The permittee provided complete production site inspection records that are required to be retained.

The permittee provided adequate documentation that the facility has a minimum of 180 days of liquid manure storage capacity.

The permittee provided land application records to demonstrate compliance with nutrient management plan requirements.

The permittee has copies of their emergency response and monitoring and inspection plans onsite.

The permittee is up to date on required reporting and actions as specified in the Schedules section of permit.

SUMMARY

Areas of Concern

- None identified during the inspection.

Permit Violations Alleged Noncompliance

- None identified during the inspection.

Action Items

- Permit application Due January 1, 2024
 - o Plan to be submitted by April 1, 2024

Items for Next Permit Term.

- Detailed Alternative Distribution Plan
 - o Permits help by Jason Fuller, DATCAP Fertilizer License, Composting, Solid waste, Wastewater.
 - o General Business plan.
 - o Volume anticipated to be transferred.
- Possible emergency response plan for mass mortality scenario



October 30, 2024

Scott Schneider
Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC
N5358 Hwy 89
Lake Mills, WI 53549

SUBJECT: Conditional Approval of DEANS EGGS DBA NATURE LINK FARMS, LLC Nutrient Management Plan, WPDES Permit No. 0064416-04

Dear Farm Contact:

After completing a review of DEANS EGGS DBA NATURE LINK FARMS, LLC Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department) is providing conditional approval that it is consistent with Nutrient Management Requirements in s. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. This part of your WPDES permit application is now ready for the public notice and comment process as required by Ch. 283 Stats.

Before applying manure onto approved fields each season, the Department recommends DEANS EGGS DBA NATURE LINK FARMS, LLC review the NMP with those individuals involved with manure applications to ensure all remain familiar with the approved manure spreading protocol, spreading maps, field and map verification, record keeping requirements, and all the conditions of this approval. Specifically, some fields in Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC may have:

- Soils that may have bedrock or groundwater within 24 inches of surface,
- Multiple setback areas due to streams, conduits to streams, grassed waterways, wetlands or wells, and
- Evidence of possible soil erosion/flow channels. Note: road ditches or other man-made channels may be considered flow channels or conduits to navigable water and may be subject to a SWQMA and setback.

Reviewing the NMP and checking fields for these features and soil conditions prior to manure applications will help Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC maintain compliance with their WPDES permit and Ch. NR 243 requirements.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Department confirms that:

1. A current herd size of 3872 animal units (226,500 layers and 127,000 pullets). A planned herd size of 3648 animal units (214,000 layers and 127,000 pullets) by 2025.
2. Manure generation and spreading records indicate your herd will annually generate approximately 2,800 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term.
3. The use of application restriction options 1, 2, and 5 within surface water quality management areas.
4. The use of phosphorus delivery method P Index.
5. That Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC currently has 2726.6 acres (488.4 owned and 2238.2 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 2619.3 are spreadable acres.

6. That some fields included in the NMP are directly adjacent to or have high potential to deliver nutrients and sediment to Pecatonica River, Yahara River, (Total Phosphorus), Lake Kegonsa (Total Phosphorus, PFOS – Contaminated Fish Tissue), Oregon Branch (PCBs – Contaminated Fish Tissue),
7. That no fields are directly adjacent to or have high potential to deliver nutrients and sediment to outstanding/exceptional waters.
8. That 15 fields are tiled.
 - Heiman F-1 back
 - Heiman F-24-2 bottom half
 - Heiman F-3 north east
 - Heiman F-31 S of long
 - Heiman F-5 east
 - Heiman F-33 back north
 - Heiman F-19 W of woods
 - Heiman F-34 back south
 - Heiman F-20-21 S of woods
 - Zastrow Moms Farm
 - Heiman F-22 S of 26
 - Zastrow North 1-4-6 Front
 - Heiman F-23 S of 25
 - Zastrow North 5 Back
 - Heiman F-24-1 top half
9. That all fields will be checked for the following features prior to/during manure or process wastewater applications: soil areas with possible shallow groundwater (i.e., within 24 inches of surface) at the time of manure application; required setbacks associated with wells, navigable waters, conduits to navigable waters, grassed waterways, wetlands, possible soil erosion/flow channels.
10. That surface applications of manure will not be completed when precipitation capable of producing runoff is forecasted within 24 hours of the time of planned application.

CONDITIONAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

The Department hereby approves the 2024-2029 Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC Nutrient Management Plan subject to the following conditions and the applicable requirements of Ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code:

FIELD AND MANURE MANAGEMENT

1. Fields not included in the NMP and new fields shall not receive manure or process wastewater applications until they have been properly soil sampled, entered into Snap Plus, evaluated for their nutrient needs, and approved by the Department.
2. The following fields have also been approved to receive industrial, municipal, or septage waste:

Field Name	Other Permittee Name	Other Permittee Field Name	DNR #
Hull Auby R2 north of blds	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	195-N	15823
Hull Auby R3 SW big	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	195-N	15823
Hull Auby R4 west	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	195-N	15823
Hull Auby R5 south of blds	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	195-N	15823
Hull Bob Meyer 1a-1 West not fenced strip	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-09A	15888
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-09B	15889
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-14	15881
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-15	15882
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-18	15883
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-7	15886
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-9	15887

Hull Bob Meyer 1a-2 West north of dry lot	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-09B	15889
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-09D	15890
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-9	15887
Hull Bob Meyer 1b West dry lot	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-09D	15890
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-18	15883
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-6	15885
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-7	15886
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-9	15887
Hull Bob Meyer 1c West tower field	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-5	15884
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-6	15885
Hull Bob Meyer 2 East north	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-10	15877
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-11	15878
Hull Bob Meyer 3 East south	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-12	15879
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-13	15880
Hull Circle 1 big	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	247-P	16342
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	247-Q	16343
Hull Circle 4 back hoe	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	247-R	16344
Hull Circle 5-6-7 north east	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	247-O	16341
Hull Circle 8 blds	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	247-S	16345
Hull Coachman 21 north	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	460-B1	98581
Hull Hwy 138 1 West Houston big	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-2	15820
Hull Hwy 138 2 East Houston big	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-01A	15873
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-01B	15874
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-01C	15875
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	108-01D	15876
Hull Sterling Farm	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	161-1A	15937
	MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT WWTF	161-1B	15938

Prior to any manure applications on these fields Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC shall contact the entities listed above to obtain recent spreading records and make the necessary adjustments to the planned manure application rates. At the end of each year Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC shall contact each entity listed above to obtain spreading records from the previous year so that they can be properly tracked in the NMP. Please Note: Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC is responsible for obtaining nutrient content values for all other wastes spread on any field in their NMP.

3. The following fields are prohibited from receiving applications of manure or process wastewater:
 - Hull Paynter 47 Yard

If Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC wishes to use these fields for applications of manure or process wastewater all necessary information shall be submitted to the Department prior to application to demonstrate compliance with NR 243 and other applicable codes. Written Department approval amending this condition approval must be received prior to application.

4. If existing fields yield a soil test results equal to or greater than 200 ppm P, those fields would be prohibited from receiving manure or process wastewater applications, unless you obtain Department approval in accordance with NR 243.14(5)(b)2., Wis. Adm. Code.
5. All liquid manure samples collected may be analyzed, at a minimum, for percent dry matter, total nitrogen, percent NH₄-N, percent NO₃-N, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur.

6. If manure sample results have a dry matter (DM) content less than 2.0% and the percent ammonium (NH_4^+) is greater than 75% of the total N, Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC may use the following equation to adjust the first year available nitrogen when applications are injected or incorporated within 1 hour:

$$\text{First-Year Available N} = \text{NH}_4\text{-N} + [0.25 \times (\text{Total N} - \text{NH}_4\text{-N})]$$

7. Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC shall record daily manure applications by using form 3200-123A. These forms shall be retained at the farm and provided to the department upon request.
8. Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC shall annually submit a spreading report that summarizes the land application activities listed under NR 243.19(3)(c)5., Wis. Adm. Code by using form 3200-123.

WINTER SPREADING

9. Liquid manure applications during winter conditions, as defined by NR 243.14(7), Wis. Adm. Code, are prohibited with the exception of emergency applications.
10. The following field(s) are approved for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure. Please note that applications may not occur on W soils unless the depth to groundwater is verified:
- Hull Bob Meyer 1a-1 West not fenced strip
 - Hull Bob Meyer 1a-2 West north of dry lot
 - Hull Bob Meyer 2 East north
 - Hull Bob Meyer 3 East south
 - Hull Circle 1 big
 - Hull Circle 5-6-7 north east
 - Hull Coachmen 21 north
 - Hull Door Creek Farm
 - Hull Home 1 Pasture W of driveway
 - Hull Home 2 Pasture silage bales
 - Hull Home 3 Pasture middle strip
 - Hull Home 4 Pasture back south
 - Hull Home 6 Pasture E of driveway
 - Hull Hosfeld 2 South
 - Hull Hwy 138 2 East Houston big
 - Hull Hwy 138 1 West Houston big
 - Hull Sterling Farm
 - Hull Thor Mikkelson Farm
 - J and S Smith West 1 west of rd
 - J and S Smith East 9 east of barn
 - J and S Smith East 5,6,10,11 south of woods
11. The following field(s) are denied for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure due to insufficient land spreading area and the presence of W soils:
- Hull Bob Meyer 1b West dry lot
 - Hull Bob Meyer 1c West tower field
 - Hull Circle 8 bids
 - Hull Home 5 Pasture back north
12. Winter spreading of solid and liquid manure may not occur during the “high risk runoff period” pursuant to s. NR 243.14(6)(c) and NR 243.14(7)(c), respectively.
13. Winter applications of liquid manure shall only occur under emergency situations, after notifying the Department and receiving verbal approval.
14. Liquid applications shall be limited to 3,500 gallons per acre or 30 lbs. P per acre, whichever is less, on slopes 2-6% and 7,000 gallons per acre or 60 lbs. P per acre, whichever is less, on slopes 0-2%. Winter applications of solid manure shall be limited to 60 lbs. P per acre.

HEADLAND STACKING

15. The following sites are approved for non-winter and winter headland stacking:

- Hull Bob Meyer 1a-1 West Site 1
- Hull Bob Meyer 1a-1 West Site 2
- Hull Bob Meyer 1a-1 West Site 3
- Hull Bob Meyer 1a-1 West Site 4
- Hull Bob Meyer 1b West Site 4A
- Hull Bob Meyer 1b West Site 4B
- Hull Bob Meyer 2 East North Site 5
- Hull Coachman 21 Site 7
- Hull Circle 1 big Site 8B
- Hull Circle 1 big Site 8C
- Hull Circle 1 big Site 8D
- Link Home 6 Site 16B
- Hull Home 1 Site 17A
- Hull Door Creek Farm Site 22
- Hull Thor Mickelson Farm Site 24
- Hull Hwy 138 big Site 27A
- Hull Hwy 138 big Site 27B
- Hull Hwy 138 big Site 27C
- Hull Hwy 138 big Site 27D
- Hull Hwy 138 big Site 27E
- Hull Hwy 138 big Site 27F
- Heiman F-27 long Site 28A
- Heiman F-27 long Site 28B

16. The following sites are not approved, because they are located within a SWQMA. Stacking sites can be reconsidered if they are moved so that they do not overlap with SWQMA buffers:

- Hull Main 2 Site 18A
- Hull Main 2 Site 18B
- Hull Hywa A Corral Site 20
- Hull Main 1 Site 23A
- Hull Main 1 Site 23 B

17. The following sites are not approved, due to insufficient depth to groundwater:

- Zastrow North F-4 Site 6
- Hull Main Farm 2 Across River Site 18

18. The following sites are not approved, due to insufficient depth to bedrock. These sites can be reconsidered by the Department, but will require depth to bedrock verification:

- Hull Barneveld 8 Site 11B
- Hull Barneveld 8 Site 11C

19. The following sites are not approved, due to steep surrounding slopes. If slope is verified and runoff controls plans are submitted these sites can be reevaluated and approved by the Department:

- Hull Paynter 49 Site 10A
- Hull Paynter 49 Site 10B
- Hull Barneveld 8 Site 11A
- Hull Barneveld 6 Site 12
- Hull Home 5 Site 17B
- Hull Main 8 Site 19B
- Hull Timber Ridge Farm Site 21A
- Hull Timber Ridge Farm Site 21B
- Hull Sterling Farm Site 25A
- Hull Sterling Farm Site 25B

MANURE & PROCESS WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

20. Irrigation of manure or process wastewater is prohibited.

MANURE DISTRIBUTION

21. Out of state sales shall be tracked in the nutrient management plan, and volumes of manure moved out of the state will be included in the annual NMP update.

22. The department hereby approves Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC to sell 400-700 tons of manure to Carbon Cycle under WI DNR License #: 4843 via NR 243.142 (2)(b)(2), Wis. Adm. Code. All transfers of manure from Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC to Carbon Cycle, LLC shall be tracked in the nutrient management plan and included in the annual NMP update.

SUBMITAL AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

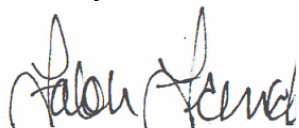
23. A copy of this conditional approval shall be included in all future annual Nutrient Management Plan Updates in addition to the NR 243 and NRCS 590 checklists.

This conditional approval does not limit the Department's regulatory authority to require NMP revisions (based upon new information or manure irrigation research findings) or request additional information in order to confirm or ensure your farm operation remains in compliance with NR 243 and your WPDES permit conditions. If additional information, project changes or other circumstances indicate a possible need to modify this approval, the Department may ask you to provide further information relating to this activity.

Please keep in mind that approval by the Department of Natural Resources – Runoff Management Program does not relieve you of obligations to meet all other applicable federal, state or local permits, zoning and regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this approval I can be reached at (608) 228-5265 or Falon.French@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Falon French
WDNR CAFO Intake/Nutrient Management Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc: Eric J Struck, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist (eric.struck@wisconsin.gov)
Laura A Bub, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Supervisor (Laura.Bub@wisconsin.gov)
Christopher Clayton, WDNR Runoff Management Section Chief (ChristopherR.Clayton@wisconsin.gov)
Aaron O'Rourke, WDNR Nutrient Management Program Coordinator (Aaron.Orourke@Wisconsin.gov)
Ashley Scheel, WDNR CAFO Nutrient Management Plan Reviewer (Ashley.Scheel@Wisconsin.gov)
Tabby Davis, WDNR CAFO Review Engineer (tabatha.davis@wisconsin.gov)
Phillip Laatsch, Phillip's Crop Care (phillipscropcare@yahoo.com)
Amy Piaget, Dane County (piaget.amy@danecounty.gov)
Katie Abbott, Iowa County (Katherine.Abbott@iowacounty.org)
Erica Sauer, Lafayette County (erica.sauer@lafayettecountywi.org)
File



October 15, 2024

FILE REF: R-2024-0245
WPDES Permit #: WI-0064416

Scott Schneider
Deans Eggs dba Naturelink Farms, LLC
N5358 Hwy 89
Lake Mills, WI 53549

Subject: Evaluation Review for Days of Storage for Solid Manure, at Deans Eggs dba Naturelink Farms, LLC Sec 30, T07N, R14E, Aztalan Township, Jefferson County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Mr. Schneider:

This letter is to inform you that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department) has completed its review of the calculation of days of storage submitted by Phillip Laatsch and Liz Darner from Phillips Crop Care Inc. on April 25, 2024, with revision sent on October 1, 2024 on behalf of Deans Eggs dba Naturelink Farms, LLC.

The Department reviewed the submitted calculations in accordance with ss. NR 243.16(1)(c) and (d), NR 243.15(3)(h) and NR 243.17(5), Wis. Adm. Code. Under s. NR 243.16(3), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department may require additional practices, conditions, or permittee actions based on review of the submitted evaluation. For the solids manure storage calculations, the Department has determined **no additional actions** on your part are required.

Days of Available Solid Manure Storage: The submittal states that Deans Eggs dba Naturelink Farms, LLC has sufficient solid manure storage for the period of February 1 through March 31 based on existing solid manure storage facility capacity and proposed solid manure generation volumes. The farm is planning for 2,800 tons of solid waste based on the current 3,648 Animal Units. The solid manure volume calculations were based on past manure hauling logs. The farm has a concrete waste storage facility that measures 201 ft long by 65 ft wide with 4 ft walls. Engineering Calculations done by Miller Engineers & Scientists show there is approximately 51,000 cubic feet of solid waste storage onsite. The operation also has 24 approved headland stacking sites included in their nutrient management plan. Should you have any questions, please contact Tabatha Davis, DNR Madison office or your regional CAFO Specialist.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to WIS. STAT. §§ 227.52 and 227.53, you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 227.42, you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with WIS. ADMIN. CODE § NR 2.05(5), and served on the Secretary in accordance with WIS. ADMIN. CODE § NR 2.03. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bernard Michaud, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer
Watershed Management Program

Email: Scott Schneider; Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC
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Andrew Skwor; MSA Professional Services
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Eric J Struck; DNR-Southeast Region
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Tabatha Davis DNR, Central Office
(608) 712-2324; tabatha.davis@wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0064416-04-0

Permittee: Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC, N5358 Hwy 89, Lake Mills, WI, 53549

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: **Main Farm:** N5358 HWY 89, Lake Mills, WI, 53551; Jefferson County WI, Town of Aztalan, SW ¼ of SE ¼ Sec. 30 T07N R14E; **Hermann Farm:** W6178 Co. B, Jefferson, WI 53549; Jefferson County WI, Town of Aztalan, SE ¼ of NE ¼ Sec. 16 T07N, R14E

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the **Crawfish River** Watershed

Brief Facility Description : Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC is owned and operated by Scott Schneider. The farm currently has 2,775 animal units. (214,000 layer chickens and 127,000 pullets). Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has a total of 2619.3 acres available for land application of manure and process wastewater. Of this acreage, 488.4 acres are owned, and 2,2238.2 acres are rented or controlled through manure agreements. Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has no planned expansion during the proposed permit term. Approximately 0 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 2,800 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term. The farm has at least 59 days of solid manure storage not including headland stacking sites.

Two facilities are currently covered under Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC WPDES Permit. The main site is located at N5358 Hwy 89, Lake Mills, WI 53551 and is composed of four layer barns, a fifth barn currently used for storage, and solid waste storage facilities. The Herman Pullet site is located at W6178 County Road B, Jefferson, WI 53549 and is composed of three pullet barns, two are currently populated. Waste from the Hermann farm is trucked to the main site or is land applied according to the farm's approved nutrient management farm.

During the last reissuance Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC had planned to construct an egg processing building, install a manure dryer, and construct a solid and liquid waste storage facilities. With the COVID pandemic and fluctuating markets the project has been put on hold. The plans and specification approvals have lapsed and must be resubmitted prior to construction. Some of these improvements may have happened during the permit term and are not required to meet permit conditions.

Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has submitted an application for reissuance of their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. The application is complete, and the facility has been determined to be in substantial compliance. This will be the third permit reissuance for this facility. Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC has an approved Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that is written according to WPDES permit and Chapter NR 243 Wis. Adm. Code requirements. Dean's Eggs dba Nature Link Farms LLC was also found to have at least 59 days of solid manure storage.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric Struck, WDNR, 141 NW Barstow Street, Suite 180, Waukesha, WI, 53188-3789, (608) 422-1512, Eric.Struck@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, or the application, or to request a public informational hearing may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is re-issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be re-issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if within 30 days of the public date of this notice, a request for a hearing is filed by any person. The Department shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from USEPA or from 5 or more persons or if the Department determines there is significant public interest. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit and fact sheet (if required), the operation's nutrient management plan and application may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (608) 422-1512 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice and fact sheet.

Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

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