

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 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.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Lake Mills Leader, 320 N Main Street, Lake Mills, WI, 53551-0310

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, November 21, 2024