

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0003018-10-0

Permittee: Foremost Farms USA, 240 Prentice St N, Clayton, WI, 54004

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Foremost Farms USA Clayton, 240 Prentice St. N

Receiving Water And Location: An unnamed ditch tributary emptying into Little Moon Lake in Barron County (Hay River watershed within the Lower Chippewa River basin) and the groundwater of Barron and Polk County within the St. Croix River and Lower Chippewa River basins.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Foremost Farms, USA – Clayton produces mozzarella cheese from raw milk and condensed skim milk or nonfat dry milk. Whey, a byproduct of the cheese making process, is evaporated and concentrated then shipped to other Foremost Farms plants for further processing.

Process water is treated in a 2-part oval aeration channel. Partially treated wastewater may be stored in a holding pond through the winter then sent back to the last aeration channel treatment unit before being discharged to spray irrigation or seepage cells. Non-contact cooling water is discharged to Little Moon Lake via an unnamed ditch tributary. Segregated process waste is discharged through landspreading.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be March 31, 2030. Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Significant changes from the previous permit include: [1] Effluent weekly and monthly thermal limits based on the month will be imposed at the end of a "Temperature Limits" schedule. [2] A new groundwater monitoring well 824 has been installed to monitor the seepage cells, replacing unreliable well 819. [3] The spray irrigation fields Preventative Action Limits (PALs) for nitrite + nitrate, organic nitrogen, pH and total dissolved solids have been adjusted based on background water quality.

Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the below-named basin engineer.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Carson Johnson, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 205-7507, carson.johnson@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above-named 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 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 issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats. 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, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above-named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 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, permit 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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