

Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number:	WI-0063151-03-0
Permittee Name:	HIGHLAND CROSSING DAIRY LLC
Address:	W3194 Playbird Road, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085, SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 34 T 16N R22E
Permit Term:	March 01, 2026 to February 28, 2031
Discharge Location:	Unnamed Creek (WBIC 5026878) to Pigeon River within the Pigeon River Watershed, and groundwaters of the state

Animal Units					
Animal Type	Current AU		Proposed AU		
	Mixed	Individual	(Note: If all zeroes, expansions are not expected during permit term)		
Milking and Dry Cows	1400	1430	0	0	N/A
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	22	20	0	0	N/A
Total	1422	1430	0	0	N/A

Facility Description

Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC (Highland Crossing Dairy) is an existing Concentrated Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) owned and operated by Darin Strauss in the Town of Sherman in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

Highland Crossing Dairy consists of one production site located at W3194 Playbird Road Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. The site includes a three-stage waste storage facility, one feed storage area, a leachate collection basin, and a vegetated treatment area.

The current herd size is 1,430 animal units. Approximately 13,338,987 million gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater and 10,365 tons of solid manure is produced annually at the current herd size. Highland Crossing Dairy has approximately 286 days of waste storage capacity. Highland Crossing Dairy owns or rents 2,577 acres of cropland, of which approximately 2,466 acres are available for manure application.

Substantial Compliance Determination

Enforcement During Last Permit: None

After a desktop review of all Highland Crossing Dairy LLC's land app reports, compliance schedule items, and a site visit on 7/29/2025, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Compliance determination made by Jean Weaver (WDNR CAFO Specialist) on 8/13/2025.

Sample Point Descriptions

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste	
Sample Point Number	Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)
001	WSF 1: Sample point 001 is for liquid waste storage facility 1 (WSF 1). WSF 1 is a clay sided concrete bottom storage and is the western-most storage cell. WSF 1 has a maximum operating level of 988,670 gallons and was constructed in 2001. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the Freestall Barn, Special Needs Barn, and Parlor and is used as a sand settling basin. WSF 1 was last evaluated in 2022 and met permit requirements.
002	WSF 2: Sample point 002 is for liquid waste storage facility 2 (WSF 2). WSF 2 is a clay sided concrete bottom storage and is the second stage storage located east of WSF 1. WSF 2 has a maximum operating level of 595,659 gallons and was constructed in 2011. WSF 2 accepts manure and process wastewater from WSF 1. WSF 2 was last evaluated in 2022 and met permit requirements.
006	WSF 3: Sample point 006 is for liquid waste storage facility 3 (WSF 3). WSF 3 is an in-place earthen storage located as the eastern most cell of the waste storage facilities. The facility has a maximum operating level of 8,871,619 gallons and was constructed in 2011. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from WSF 2. WSF 3 was last evaluated in 2022 and met permit requirements.
007	Feed Storage Area & Runoff Control System: Sample point 007 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area and associated runoff control system located at on the south side of Playbird Road. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.
009	Settled Solid Manure: Sample point 009 is for sand and manure solids removed from bottom of liquid waste storage facilities, WSF 1, WSF 2, and WSF 3. This includes manure-laden sand solids, manure fiber solids, etc. Representative samples shall be taken from each waste storage facility.
010	Headland Stacked Manure: Sample point 010 is for solid manure stacked in approved headland stacking locations. Representative samples shall be taken of this manure prior to land application. Note: Headland stacking sites are subject to production site discharge limitations; weekly visual monitoring is required during use of stacking sites to ensure discharges meet permit requirements.
011	Storm Water Runoff Control System: Sample point 011 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.
012	Solid Manure: Sample point 012 is for solid manure sources that are directly land applied and not stored in a waste storage facility. This includes solid sources such as calf hutch manure, maternity pen bedpack, heifer bedpack, steer manure, etc. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source type.
013	Leachate Storage Basin: Sample point 013 is for the leachate storage basin. The leachate storage basin is a concrete storage as part of the runoff controls for the feed storage area. The storage basin is designed to collect the 25-year/24-hour storm event from the feed storage area. This storage accepts feed leachate from the feed storage area. The leachate storage basin was constructed in 2010 with Department approval and discharges through 6 bubblers to the vegetated treatment area (VTA).

Permit Requirements

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 286 days of storage for liquid manure. The permittee must maintain 180 days of storage, unless temporary reductions in required storage are approved by the Department.

Solid Manure Stacking

The operation has proposed to stack solid manure. All stacking of solid manure shall be done in accordance 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 1,430 animal units (1,000 milking & dry cows, 20 heifers), it is estimated that approximately 13,338,987 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 10,365 tons of solid manure will be produced per year. The permittee owns approximately 514 acres of cropland and rents about 2,064 acres. Given the rotation commonly used by the permittee,

2,466 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; 002- WSF 2; 006- WSF 3, and 013- Leachate Storage Basin

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	

1.1.1 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample points 001-WSF 1, 002-WSF 2, and 006-WSF 3 were edited to include an updated description.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Manure must be properly stored and land applied according to the permit and department approved nutrient management plan.

1.2 Sample Point Number: 007- Feed Storage & Runoff Controls; 011- Storm Water Runoff Control

1.2.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No Changes.

1.2.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure unlawful discharges to waters of the state do not occur. Weekly or quarterly inspections are required and shall be recorded to the monitoring plan.

1.3 Sample Point Number: 009- Settled Solid Manure; 010- Headland Stacked Manure, and 012- Solid Manure

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	

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Solids, Total		Percent	Quarterly	Grab	

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No changes.

1.3.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Solid manure sources must be properly sampled and land applied according to the permit and department approved nutrient management plan.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: Update the written Emergency Response Plan within 90 days of permit coverage, available to the Department upon request.	05/30/2026

2.2 Monitoring & Inspection Program

Use of the department's monitoring and inspection program template is encouraged, but not 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 90 days of the effective date of this permit.	05/30/2026

2.3 Annual Reports

Submit Annual Reports by January 31st 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.	01/31/2027
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2028

Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2029
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2030
Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2031
Ongoing Annual Reports: Continue to submit Annual Reports until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.4 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
Management Plan 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).	
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.	03/31/2026
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.	03/31/2027
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.	03/31/2028
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.	03/31/2029
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.	03/31/2030
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.5 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date
Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	09/01/2030

2.6 Explanation of Schedules

Emergency Response Plan, Monitoring and Inspection Program- Schedules consistent with permit requirements.
Annual Reports, Nutrient Management Plan, Submit Permit Reissuance Application- Schedules Consistent with Permit Requirements.

Other schedule items are required to comply with s. NR 243 WPDES permit conditions.

Attachments

Sample point map

5-year NMP Conditional Approval Letter

Evaluation Review for Days of Storage Approval Letter

Public Notice

Justification Of Any Waivers From Permit Application Requirements

N/A

Prepared By: Jean Weaver Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist

Date: 11/18/2025





October 14th, 2025

Sheboygan County
Approval

Darin Strauss
Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC
W3194 Playbird Rd.
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

SUBJECT: Conditional Approval of Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC Nutrient Management Plan,
WPDES Permit No. 0063151-03

Dear Darin Strauss:

After completing a review of Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC 2026-2030 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 Highland Crossing Dairy, 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.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Department confirms that:

1. A current dairy herd size of 1,430 animal units (1,000 milking & dry cows, 20 heifers). Currently there are no planned expansions in the next permit term.
2. Manure generation and spreading records indicate your herd will annually generate approximately 13,338,987 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 10,365 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term.
3. The use of application restriction options 1, 2, & 5 within surface water quality management areas.
4. The use of phosphorus delivery method P Index.
5. That Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC currently has 2,577 acres (514 owned and 2,064 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 2,466 are spreadable acres.
6. 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.
7. 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 2026-2030 Highland Crossing Dairy, 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 ID:	Other Permittee Name:	Site ID:	Field ID:	DNR #:
DR HF1	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	1	120474
DR HF1	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	2	120475
DR HF2	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	1	120474
DR HF2	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	2	120475
DR HF3	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	1	120474
DR HF3	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	3	120476
DR HF3	D-D MEAT PROCESSING LLC	32	4	120477
KH-1-3W	SHEBOYGAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	224	3W	20717
KH-1D	JOHNSONVILLE LLC	16	1	81042
KH-1H	HOWARDS GROVE WASTEWATER TRTMT FAC	25	1	95802
KH-1H	HOWARDS GROVE WASTEWATER TRTMT FAC	25	2	20716
KH-1S	SHEBOYGAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	224	1S	71077

Prior to any manure applications on these fields Highland Crossing Dairy, 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 Highland Crossing Dairy, 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: Highland Crossing Dairy, 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:
 - 1_2 (expired soil test)
 - DR BECKY (expired soil test)
 - KH-1S (expired soil test)
 - KH-2S (expired soil test)
 - RRB-ABCD (expired soil test)

If Highland Crossing Dairy, 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 (NH₄⁺) is greater than 75% of the total N, Highland Crossing Dairy, 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. Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC shall record daily manure applications by using custom form 'Manure Record of Application'. These forms shall be retained at the farm and provided to the department upon request.
8. Highland Crossing Dairy, 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 'CAFO Annual Spreading Reports' generated by Snap Plus.

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:

- AH001 (except areas of W soils)	- MB002
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11. 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.
12. Winter applications of liquid manure shall only occur under emergency situations, after notifying the Department and receiving verbal approval.
13. 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

14. The following headland stacking site is rejected due to restrictions within the proposed area that are within shallow soil to groundwater.

- TSS 1	
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NR243.143/151.075 SILURIAN BEDROCK PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

15. Manure generated by Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC that is mechanically applied to the following approved fields meet planning requirements under NR243.143/151.075, Silurian bedrock performance standards. The following fields are required to meet all requirements under NR243.143/151.075, Silurian bedrock performance standards immediately following this approval.

- RH001	- VT001
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MANURE & PROCESS WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

16. Irrigation of manure or process wastewater is prohibited.

SUBMITAL AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

17. 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.
18. An updated copy of winter spreading map including W soils should be submitted by no later than November 3rd, 2025 for the emergency winter field proposed.

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 608-212-8460 or
Ashley.Scheel@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Ashley Scheel, CCA
WDNR Nutrient Management Plan Reviewer
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

CC:

Jean Weaver, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist (jean.weaver@wisconsin.gov)
Erin Hanson, Acting Section Chief-Runoff Management Section (erin.hanson@wisconsin.gov)
Aaron O'Rourke, WDNR Nutrient Management Program Coordinator (aaron.orourke@wisconsin.gov)
Falon French, WDNR Intake Specialist (falon.french@wisconsin.gov)
Tabby Davis, WDNR CAFO Engineer (tabatha.davis@wisconsin.gov)
Tyler Betry, Sheboygan County (tyler.betry@sheboygancounty.com)
Ted Hoffman, InDepth Agronomy (ted.hoffman@indepthagronomy.com)
File



October 9, 2025

FILE REF: R-2025-0216
WPDES Permit #: WI-0063151

Darin Strauss
Highland Crossing Dairy LLC
N5854 Meadowlark Rd
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Subject: Days of Storage Review for Highland Crossing Dairy LLCSE $\frac{1}{4}$ of T16N, R22E, Section 34 in Sheboygan Falls Township, Sheboygan County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Darin Strauss:

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 under certification by Patrick Roach, Roach & Associates on August 31, 2025 with revisions received on October 6, 2025 on behalf of Highland Crossing Dairy LLC.

The Department reviewed the submitted calculations in accordance with ss. NR 243.14(9) and NR 243.15(3)(i) to (k), Wis. Adm. Code. Under s. NR 243.17(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee shall demonstrate compliance with the 180-day design storage capacity requirement at specified times. For the following liquid manure storage calculations, the Department has determined **no additional actions** on your part are required.

Days of Available Liquid Waste Storage: The submitted information states that Highland Crossing Dairy LLC has 286 days of liquid waste storage based on the volumes listed in the table below with respect to s. NR 243.15(3)(i) to (k), Wis. Adm. Code. The current number of animal units provided for the calculation is 1,430. The liquid waste volumes are based on the NRCS spreadsheet and other estimated or calculated values for a collection period of 365 days. Leachate and 0.05 inches of first flush are collected in permanent storage. The remaining runoff is directed to the farm's VTA. The operation has an agreement to receive up to 50,000 gallons of butcher shop wash water from D & D Meats.

Total Liquid Waste Storage Capacity (gallons)						
Waste Storage	Total Vol. from Settled Top to Bottom	-Solids Storage	-25-yr, 24-hr Precip. on Storage	25-yr, 24-hr Collected Runoff	Freeboard Vol.	Max. Operating Level (MOL) Vol.
#1	1,498,931	212,557	88,043		209,661	988,670
#2	803,940		65,242		143,039	595,659
#3	11,713,435	1,614,483	354,595		872,738	8,871,619
						Total MOL Vol: 10,455,948
						Days of Storage: 286

Total Annual Liquid Waste Volume (NRCS Table Values)	
Liquids Collected/Stored	Annual Gallons
Manure	7,962,834
Parlor Wastewater	2,846,410
Feed Storage Leachate	78,092
Feed Storage Runoff Collected	231,134
Net Precipitation on Storage Surface(s)	2,170,517
Offsite Waste	50,000
TOTAL:	13,338,987

Should you have any questions, please contact Tabby Feller, 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



Bernie Michaud, P.E.
CAFO Engineer Supervisor
Watershed Management Program



Tabby Feller
CAFO Review Engineer
Watershed Management Program

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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-0063151-03-0

Permittee: HIGHLAND CROSSING DAIRY LLC, W3194 Playbird Road, Sheboygan Falls, WI, 53085

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: HIGHLAND CROSSING DAIRY LLC, W3194 Playbird Road Sheboygan Falls

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Pigeon RiverWatershed

Brief Facility Description : Highland Crossing Dairy, LLC is an existing Concentrated Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) owned and operated by Darin Strauss in the Town of Sherman in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. Highland Crossing Dairy consists of one production site located at W3194 Playbird Road Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. The site includes a three-stage waste storage facility, one feed storage area, a leachate collection basin, and a vegetated treatment area. The current herd size is 1,430 animal units. Approximately 13,338,987 million gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater and 10,365 tons of solid manure is produced annually at the current herd size. Highland Crossing Dairy has approximately 286 days of waste storage capacity. Highland Crossing Dairy owns or rents 2,577 acres of cropland, of which approximately 2,466 acres are available for manure application.

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

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jean Weaver, 1155 Pilgrim Road, Plymouth, WI, 53073, (920) 400-7014, jeanm.weaver@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 (920) 400-7014 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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Date Notice Issued: [Enter Date Notice Issued](#)