

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-0063983-04-0

Permittee: Hilltop Dairy LLC, N477 Cty Rd Q, Markesan, WI, 53946

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Hilltop Dairy LLC, N477 County Road Q, Markesan, WI, 53946; Green Lake County WI, Town of Mackford, NE ¼ of NE ¼ Sec. 35 T14N R13E

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the South Branch Rock River Watersheds

Brief Facility Description : Hilltop Dairy LLC is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Hilltop Dairy LLC is owned and operated by the Greenfield family. The farm currently has 1,830 animal units. (1,225 milking & dry cows, 75 heifers up to 1200 lbs, and 160 dairy/beef calves). Hilltop Dairy LLC has a total of 3,318.8 acres available for land application of manure and process wastewater. Of this acreage, 611 acres are owned, and 2,638 acres are rented or controlled through manure agreements. Approximately 20,335,893 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 400 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term. The farm has a proposed 318 days of liquid manure storage and at least 59 days of solid manure storage. The farm had been considering a proposed expansion, those plans are currently on hold. If future expansion plans develop the farm may be required to submit a permit modification.

One facility is currently covered under Hilltop Dairy LLC WPDES Permit. The main dairy site is located at N477 County Road Q, Markesan, WI 54946 and is composed of 1 dairy freestall barns, milking parlor, calf barn, feed storage area, and one, 3 stage waste storage facilities. The farm plans to construct runoff controls for the feed storage area with a waste storage facility.

Hilltop Dairy 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 first permit reissuance for this facility. Hilltop Dairy LLC has an approved Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that is written according to WPDES permit and Chapter NR 243 Wis. Adm. Code.

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: Markesan Regional Reporter, 33 W John Street, PO Box 218, Markesan, WI, 53946-0218

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, February 20, 2025