STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO ISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0066982-01-0

Permittee: Nel Farm Inc., W6119 Hazel Ridge Rd, Elkhorn, WI, 53121-4204

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Nel Farm Inc., W6119 Hazel Ridge Road, Elkhorn

Receiving Water And Location: Unnamed tributaries to Turtle Creek in the Turtle Creek Watershed and groundwater of the state

Brief Facility Description: Nel Farm, Inc. is an existing Animal Feed Operations for dairy cattle located in the Town of Sugar Creek in Walworth County, Wisconsin. Nel Farm, Inc has applied for a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. Nel Farm, Inc consists of one production site located at W6119 Hazel Ridge Road, Elkhorn WI 54121 and is owned and operated by Marc Nelson and Scott Nelson.

Located on the south side of Hazel Ridge Road is 4 waste storage facilities, 2 feed storage facilities, two milking parlors, one outdoor heifer lot, and various barns. The calf barn is located on the north side of Hazel Ridge Road. Nel Farm, Inc plans to construct a new barn with a Weiser tank (WSF 5), a feed storage area and runoff controls for the feed storage areas and outdoor lot, and a mortality composting facility. Additionally, Nel Farm, Inc plans to increase animal units from 899.2 to 1,287.5 by 2024.

Approximately 10.4 million gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater, and 2,500 tons of solid manure are produced annually at the current herd size. With submitted documentation and construction of the new waste storage facility, Nel Farm, Inc has approximately 257 days of liquid manure and process wastewater storage capacity. This number will be verified during the review of engineering evaluations. Nel Farm, Inc owns or rents 1,642.9 acres of cropland, of which approximately 1,578.2 acres are available for manure application.

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

Permit Drafter’s Name, Address, Phone and Email: Victoria Ziegler, DNR, 141 NW Barstow St, Waukesha, WI, 53188, (414) 391-8946, Victoria.Ziegler@wisconsin.gov

Informational Hearing Date, Time, and Location:

September 13th, 2022, 10:00AM, Virtual Hearing using Zoom. If you want to attend the hearing, please fill out the registration form at the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpce6gqD8pH9bvaKEOyfe6t3REO5iKvy7G

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled a public informational hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, and the application for this operation.

The hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly fashion and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may place limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, or the application, are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above named permit drafter’s address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final
determination. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department’s final decision regarding permit coverage. 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.

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 (414) 391-8946 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 OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Elkhorn Independent
ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 812 N Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI 53121
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