

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-0065528-02-0

Permittee: North Star Acres/Jeff Potter, N9344 Hwy 40, Exeland, WI, 54835

Receiving Water And Location: Big Weirgor Creek (WBIC 2370400) within the Brunet River-Chippewa River Watershed of the Upper Chippewa River Basin, and groundwaters of the state.

Brief Facility Description : North Star Acres is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) located in the Township of Murry, Rusk County. North Star Acres consists of three production sites: the Primary Site located at N9344 Hwy 40, Exeland WI 54835, the Storage Site, and the Heifer Site at N9275 Hwy 40, Exeland WI 54835. The operation is owned and operated by Jeff Potter. The current herd size is 3,200 animal units (1,650 milking/dry cows, 1,010 heifers, and 400 calves). There is no expansion planned over the upcoming permit term. Approximately 21 million gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater, and 7,000 tons of solid manure will be generated annually at the current herd size. Manure and process wastewater is stored in one liquid waste storage facility. A second storage structure is planned for construction during the permit term. The total usable storage capacity currently is approximately 8.1 million gallons or approximately 138 days of storage capacity for liquid manure and at least 59 days for solid manure. After the second storage structure is built, total useable storage capacity is projected at 12.2 million gallons or approximately 202 days of storage capacity for liquid manure. North Star Acres owns or rents 4,313 acres of cropland, of which approximately 4,293 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: Todd Prill, DNR, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 214-8576, Todd.Prill@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 (715) 214-8576 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: Ladysmith News

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 120 W. 3rd St. S, PO Box 189, Ladysmith WI 54848-0189

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, January 16, 2025