

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0055808-10-0

Permittee: Old Country Farms Coop, S510 CTH D, Cashton, WI, 54619

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Old Country Farms Coop, S510 County Road D, Cashton, WI 54619

Receiving Water And Location: groundwaters of an unnamed tributary of Knapp Creek in the West Fork Kickapoo River Watershed of the Lower Wisconsin River Drainage Basin located in Vernon County

Brief Facility Description: Old Country Farms Coop makes cheese and whey ultra-filtration (UF). The main raw materials are milk, rennet, starter, calcium, and salt. The factory processes about 55 million pounds of milk per year. The by-products from the cheese making process are whey and whey cream. The whey cream is collected and sold. The by-product from the whey process is permeate, which is combined with equipment washwater and overflow from Outfall 006, stored in a lagoon, and land applied on Department approved sites at a rate of 7,000,000 gallons per year. The facility also produces cheese whey which is run through UF to remove protein, then run through a reverse osmosis (RO) system to remove water. The resulting water is stored in a steel silo and either used in the plant as washwater for equipment, land applied on Department approved sites at a rate of 2,500,000 gallons per year or sent to manure storage units. No operational changes occurred during the last permit term.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Peter Carlson, 890 Spruce Street, Baldwin, WI 54002, (715) 928-9223, Peter.Carlson@wisconsin.gov

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

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. 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 above-named basin engineer.

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) 492-0483 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.