Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0063975-04-0
Permittee Name	Rickert Bros LLC
Address	Dairy Site: W9150 Lincoln Road, Eldorado, WI 54392 Heifer Site: W9135 Lincoln Road, Eldorado, WI 54932 Steer Site: W8959 Lincoln Road, Eldorado, WI 54932
Permit Term	May 01, 2025 to April 30, 2030
Discharge Location	Eldorado Marsh-Fond Du Lac River and Eight Mile Creek watersheds, and groundwater of the state

Animal Units					
	Current AU		**Proposed AU** **(Note: If all zeroes, expansions are not expected during permit term)**		
Animal Type	**Mixed**	**Individual**	**Mixed**	**Individual**	**Date of Proposed Expansion**
Dairy Calves (under 400 lbs.)	66	0	66	0	08/31/2028
Milking and Dry Cows	1540	1573	2100	2145	08/31/2028
Heifers (400 lbs. to 800 lbs.)	225	375	225	375	08/31/2028
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	336	305	336	305	08/31/2028
Steers or Cows (400 lbs. to market)	45	45	45	45	08/31/2028
Total	2212	1573	2772	2145	

Facility Description

Rickert Bros LLC (Rickert Bros) is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) for dairy cattle located in the Town of Eldorado in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Rickert Bros consists of three production sites, Main Site, Heifer Site, and Steer Site. The Main Site is at located W9150 Lincoln Road, Eldorado, WI 54932. The Heifer Site is located at W9135 Lincoln Road, Eldorado, WI 54932. The Steer Site is located at W8959 Lincoln Road, Eldorado WI 54932. Rickert Bros is owned and operated by Greg Rickert. The current herd size is 2,212 animal units. The proposed herd size by 2028 is 2,772 animal units. Approximately 12,246,933 million gallons of liquid manure and process wastewater and 3,483 tons of solid manure is produced annually at the current herd size. Rickert Bros has approximately 191 days of storage capacity. Rickert Bros owns or rents 2081 acres of cropland, of which approximately 2,029.5 acres are available for manure application.

Substantial Compliance Determination

After a desk top review of all discharge monitoring reports, land application reports, compliance schedule items, and a site visit on 11/19/2024, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Compliance determination made by Jean Weaver (WDNR CAFO Specialist) on 2/12/2025.

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) located at the Dairy Site. WSF 1 is an 421.2 ft x 179.2 ft x 12.9 ft clay lined waste storage pond located northeast of WSF 2. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 3,572,470 gallons and was constructed in 1999. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from freestall barns 1, 2, and 3 and the milking parlor. WSF 1 was last evaluated 2021 and meets permit requirements.	
002	WSF 3 (liquids): Sample point 002 is for waste storage facility 3 (WSF 3) located at the Dairy Site. WSF 3 is a concrete stacking pad that stores solid and liquid manure and is located east of the youngstock barn. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 12,968 gallons and was constructed in 2012 with department approval. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the youngstock barn.	
003	WSF 2: Sample point 003 is for liquid waste storage facility 2 (WSF 2) located at the Dairy Site. WSF 2 is a slurry-store storage located on the southwest of WSF 1. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 2,176,270 gallons and was constructed in 2009. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from WSF 1.	
004	WSF 5: Sample point 004 is for liquid waste storage facility 5 (WSF 5) located at the Heifer Site. WSF 5 is a slurry store storage located south of feed storage area 1. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 521,787 gallons and was constructed in 2013 with department approval. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the Heifer Site.	
005	WSF 8: Sample point 005 is for liquid waste storage facility 8 (WSF 8) located at the Steer Site. WSF 8 is an under-barn storage. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 104,840 gallons and was constructed in 1983. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the Steer Barn. WSF 8 was last evaluated in 2007 and met permit requirements.	
006	Dairy Site Solid Manure: Sample point 006 is for solid manure sources at the Dairy Site 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.	
007	Heifer Site Solid Manure: Sample point 007 is for solid manure sources at the Heifer Site 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.	
008	Steer Site Solid Manure: Sample point 008 is for solid manure sources at the Steer Site 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.	
009	Feed Area 1 & Runoff Controls: Sample point 009 is for visual monitoring and inspection of feed storage area 1 and associated runoff control system located at the Heifer Site north of WSF 5. FSA 1 has a feed pad, nine feed bunkers, clean water diversion system, and a leachate collection system that was installed in 2021. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program. An engineering evaluation of the feed storage area 1 and runoff control system was submitted 9/20/2024 and awaiting	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
	department approval, see Schedules section for due dates for construction.	
010	Outdoor Lot 1 & Runoff Controls: Sample point 010 is for visual monitoring and inspection of outdoor lot 1 and associated runoff control system located at the Heifer Site west of WSF 6. Outdoor lot 1 runoff is directly collected in WSF 6. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
013	WSF 6 (liquids): Sample point 013 is for waste storage facility 6 (WSF 6) located at the Heifer Site. WSF 6 is a stacking pad that stores solid and liquid manure located to the east of freestall barn 5. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 24,871 gallons and was constructed in 2008 with department approval. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from freestall barn 5.	
014	Solid Separator System: Sample point 014 is for the solids separator system located at the Dairy Site. The solids separator system was constructed with department approval in 2017. Separated solids are reused as bedding in the freestall barns. Unused separated solids are stored to the southeast of the covered building in a bunker and either directly land applied in accordance with Rickert Bros' NMP or taken to a WSF.	
016	Feed Area 3 & Runoff Controls: Sample point 016 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area 3 and associated runoff control system located at the Heifer Site west of Feed Storage Area 1 where feed is usually stored in agricultural feed bags. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program. FSA 3 is approved to be abandoned, see Schedules section for due dates for abandonment.	
017	Feed Area 4 & Runoff Controls: Sample point 017 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area 4 and associated runoff control system located at the Heifer Site south of WSF 5. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program. FSA 2 is approved to be abandoned, see Schedules section for due dates for abandonment.	
018	Solid Manure: Sample point 018 is for any manure solids removed from bottom of liquid waste storage facilities. This includes manure-laden sand solids, manure fiber solids, etc. Representative samples shall be taken from each waste storage facility.	
019	Calf Hutch 1 & Runoff Controls: Sample point 019 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the calf hutch area 1 and associated runoff control system located at the Dairy Site South of freestall barn 3. Proper operation and maintenance is required to ensure discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
021	Storm Water Runoff Controls: Sample point 021 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.	
022	WSF 3 (solids): Sample point 022 is for waste storage facility 3 (WSF 3) located at the Dairy Site. WSF 3 is a concrete stacking pad that stores solid and liquid manure and is located east of the youngstock barn. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 12,968 gallons and was constructed in 2012 with department	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
	approval. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from the youngstock barn.	
023	WSF 6 (solids): Sample point 023 is for waste storage facility 6 (WSF 6) located at the Heifer Site. WSF 6 is a stacking pad that stores solid and liquid manure located to the east of freestall barn 5. The facility has a capacity (MOL) of 24,871 gallons and was constructed in 2008 with department approval. This storage accepts manure and process wastewater from freestall barn 5.	
024	Headland Stacking Solids: Sample point 024 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 of runoff controls is required during use of stacking sites to ensure discharges meet permit requirements.	
026	WSF 4: Sample point 026 is for liquid waste storage facility 4 (WSF 4), a leachate collection basin located at the Heifer Site. WSF 4 is a concrete-soil composite liner storage constructed in 2021. The facility has a MOL capacity of 161,916 gallons.This storage accepts process wastewater, feed leachate, from the feed area 1 (sample point 009).	

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 191 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.

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 2155 (1,100 Milk/Dry Cows, 680 Heifers, 330 Calves, 45 Steer), it is estimated that approximately 12.2 gallons of manure and process wastewater will be produced per year. The permittee owns approximately 1642.8 acres of cropland and rents about 438 acres. Given the rotation commonly used by the permittee, 2029 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 or 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 (Liquids); 002- WSF 3 (liquids); 003- WSF 2; 004- WSF 5; 005- WSF 8; 013- WSF 6 (liquids), and 026- WSF 4

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

None.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Liquid manure and process wastewater is required to be sampled twice per calendar month that land application occurs. Samples are to be analyzed for the parameters listed in the table above. Land application shall occur in accordance to the operation's monitoring and inspection program. Inspection findings shall be submitted to the department annually on January 31.

1.2 Sample Point Number: 006- Dairy Site Solid Manure; 007- Heifer Site Solid Manure; 008- Steer Site Solid Manure; 014- Solid Separator System; 018- Solid Manure; 022- WSF 3 (solids); 023- WSF 6 (solids), and 024- Headland Stacking Solids

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	

1.2.1 Changes from Previous Permit

None.

1.2.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Solid manure is required to be sampled once per quarter that land application occurs. Samples are to be analyzed for the parameters listed in the table above. Land application shall occur in accordance with the operation's approved nutrient management plan. Solid manure storage structures shall be inspected according to the operation's monitoring and inspection program. Inspection findings shall be submitted to the department annually on January 31.

1.3 Sample Point Number: 009- Feed Area 1 & Runoff Controls; 010- Outdoor Lot 1 & Runoff Control; 016- Feed Area 3 & Runoff Control; 017- Feed Area 2 & Runoff Control; 019- Calf Hutch 1 & Runoff Controls, and 021- Storm Water Runoff Controls

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample points 011, 012, 020, 025 were removed from the permit due to operation abandonment of outdoor lot 2, outdoor lot 3, calf hutch area 2, and calf hutch area 3. Sample point 015 was removed and replaced by sample point 009 to account for the feed storage area 1 runoff control system upgrades which apply to the entire FSA 1 facility.

1.3.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Runoff control systems are required to be inspected in accordance with the operation's monitoring and inspection program. Results shall be submitted to the department annually on January 31.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: Update the written Emergency Response Plan within 30 days of permit coverage, available to the department upon request.	06/01/2025

2.2 Monitoring & Inspection Program

Use of the department's monitoring and inspection program template is encouraged, but optional.

Required Action	Due Date
Proposed Monitoring and Inspection Program: Consistent with the Monitoring and Sampling	06/01/2025

Requirements subsection, the permittee shall submit a proposed monitoring and inspection program within 30 days of the effective date of this permit.	

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	01/31/2026
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E	01/31/2027
Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E	01/31/2028
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E	01/31/2029
Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E	01/31/2030
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: Submit an Annual Update to the Nutrient Management Plan by March 31st of each year. Note: In addition to Annual Updates, submit Management Plan Amendments to the Department for written approval prior to implementation of any changes to nutrient management practices, in accordance with the Nutrient Management requirements in the Livestock Operational and Sampling Requirements section.	03/31/2026
Submit NMP Update #2: Submit an Annual Update to the Nutrient Management Plan.	03/31/2027
Submit NMP Update #3: Submit an Annual Update to the Nutrient Management Plan.	03/31/2028
Submit NMP Update #4: Submit an Annual Update to the Nutrient Management Plan.	03/31/2029
Submit NMP Update #5: Submit an Annual Update to the Nutrient Management Plan.	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 Feed Storage Area 2 & 3 - Abandonment

Submit final abandonment documentation outlined in the department's abandonment approval dated 11/13/2024.

Required Action	Due Date
Complete Abandonment: Complete abandonment as approved by the Department.	06/30/2025

2.6 Feed Storage - Engineering Evaluation

This schedule item pertains to FSA 1 (sample point 009). An evaluation has been submitted and is awaiting department review.

Required Action	Due Date
Retain Qualified Expert: The permittee shall retain a qualified expert to complete an engineering evaluation for the feed storage area and report the name of the expert to the Department.	05/01/2025
Written Description of Existing System: Submit an engineering evaluation that includes a written description of the existing feed storage area and its adequacy to meet the conditions found in the Production Area Discharge Limitations subsection and NR 243.15, Wis. Adm. Code.	05/01/2025
Plans and Specifications: If the engineering evaluation identifies any adverse conditions; submit plans and specifications to DNR to remedy those adverse conditions within 90 days of DNR's response to the complete evaluation. Submit plans and specifications for Department review and approval in accordance with Chapter 281.41, Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code.	
Corrections and Post Construction Documentation: Complete construction of the DNR-approved plans and specifications within one year of their approval by DNR. Submit post construction documentation within 60 days of completion of the project.	

2.7 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date
Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	10/31/2029

2.8 Explanation of Schedules

Section 2.5 Feed Storage Area 2 & 3- Abandonment

The abandonment plans for project number R-2024-0234 were conditionally approved on 11/13/2024 by the department. Documentation of official abandonment should be submitted to the department by the schedule timeframe.

Section 2.6 Feed Storage Area 1- Engineering Evaluation Follow-up

The department received an engineering evaluation on 9/20/2024 outlining the proposed repairs to Feed Storage Area 1. Pending department approval of the proposed plans additional plans or plan corrections may be required within 90 days of department response. If plans are approved by the department as submitted, post construction documentation will be required within 60 days of project completion.

Attachments

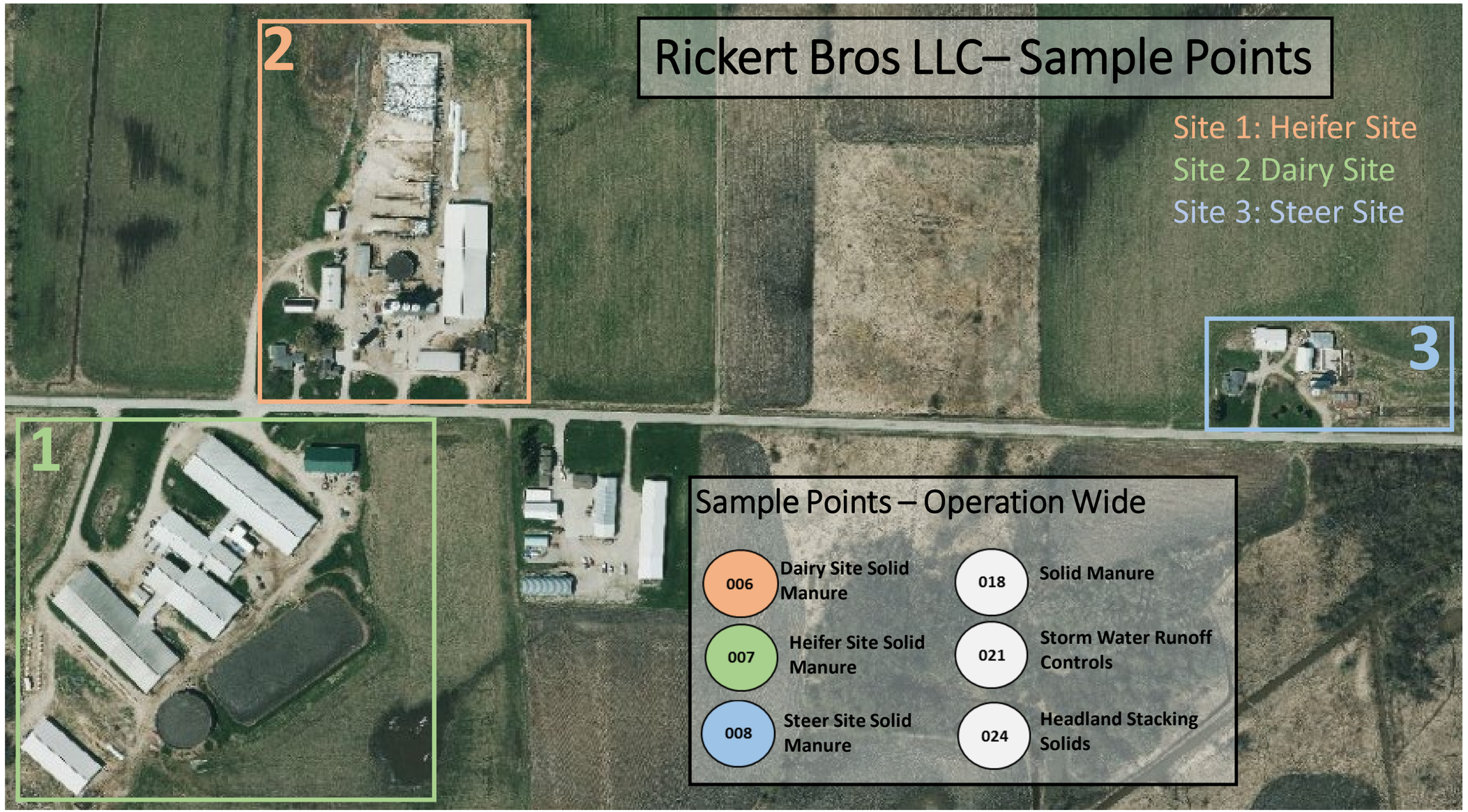
Map(s)

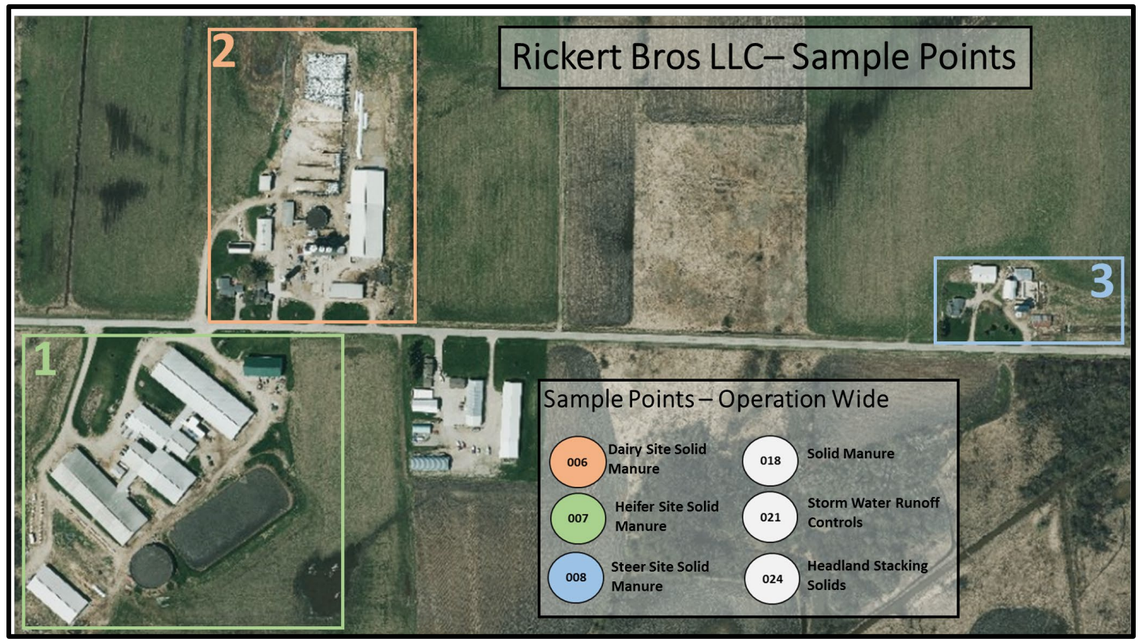
Plan Approval Letter(s)

Public Notice

Expiration Date:

Prepared By: Jean Weaver Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Date: Enter Date


Rickert Bros LLC– Sample Points
Site 1: Heifer Site
Site 2 Dairy Site
Site 3: Steer Site
2
3
1
Sample Points – Operation Wide
006
Dairy Site Solid Manure
007
Heifer Site Solid Manure
008
Steer Site Solid Manure
018
Solid Manure
021
Storm Water Runoff Controls
024
Headland Stacking Solids



Sample Points – Heifer Site

- 004 WSF 5
- 009 Feed Area 1 & Runoff Controls
- 010 Outdoor Lot 1 & Runoff Controls
- 011 Outdoor Lot 2 & Runoff Controls
- 013 WSF 6 (liquids)
- 016 Feed Area 3 & Runoff Controls
- 017 Feed Area 4 & Runoff Controls
- 023 WSF 6 (solids)
- 026 Leachate Basin Runoff Controls

Sample Points – Dairy Site

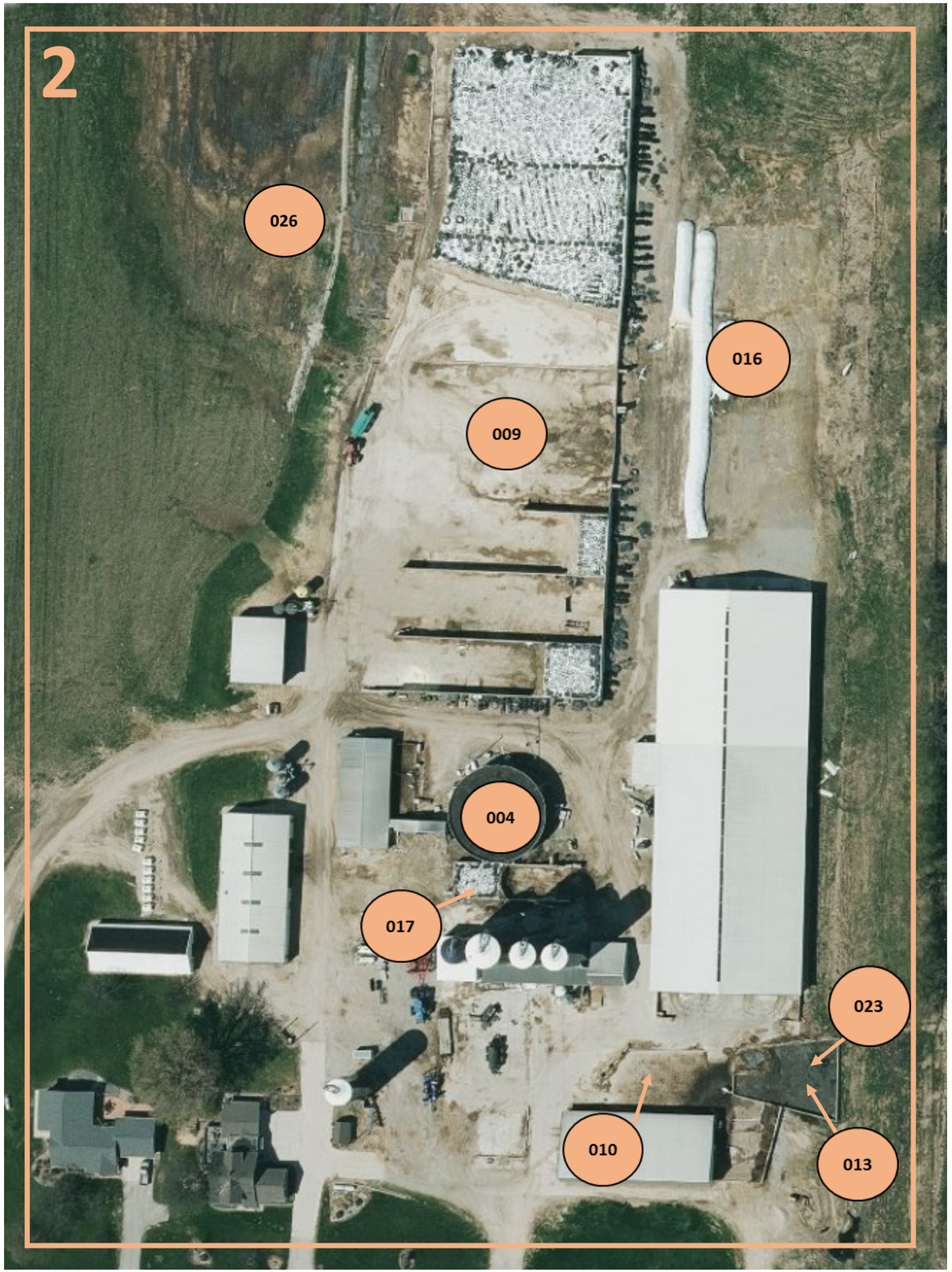
- 001 WSF 1
- 002 WSF 3 (liquids)
- 003 WSF 2
- 014 Solid Separator System
- 019 Calf Area 1 & Runoff Controls
- 022 WSF 3 (solids)

Sample Points – Steer Site

- 005 WSF 8

Sample Points – Dairy Site

- 001 — WSF 1
- 002 — WSF 3 (liquids)
- 003 — WSF 2
- 014 — Solid Separator System
- 019 — Calf Area 1 & Runoff Controls
- 022 — WSF 3 (solids)



Sample Points – Heifer Site

- 004 — WSF 5
- 009 — Feed Area 1 & Runoff Controls
- 010 — Outdoor Lot 1 & Runoff Controls
- 013 — WSF 6 (liquids)
- 016 — Feed Area 3 & Runoff Controls
- 017 — Feed Area 4 & Runoff Controls
- 023 — WSF 6 (solids)

**Sample point 016 & 017 can be omitted after proper abandonment*

Sample Points – Steer Site

005 **WSF 8**

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor

Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

December 12, 2024

FILE REF: R-2024-0185
WPDES Permit #: WI-0063975

Greg Rickert
Rickert Bros LLC
W9150 Lincoln Rd
Eldorado, WI 54932

Subject: Days of Storage Review for Rickert Bros LLC T16N, R16E, Section 17 in Eldorado Township, Fond Du Lac County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Greg Rickert:

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 Clark Fox, Outland Design on July 10, 2024, with revisions received on September 18, 2024, on behalf of Rickert Bros 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 Rickert Bros LLC has 191 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 2,212 with 2,025 animal units contributing to liquid waste. The operation calculates 3,483 tons of solid waste will be produced by the farm annually. The liquid waste volumes are based on the NRCS spreadsheet and other estimated or calculated values for a collection period of 365 days. Runoff from Feedlot 1 on the Heifer site is collected in permanent waste storages.

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	4,868,313	600,120	193,141		503,845	3,571,207
#2	2,346,828		47,348		123,517	2,175,963
#3	41,888		8,029	1,660	20,944	11,255
#4	562,683		11,352		29,613	521,718
#5	60,132		9,677		25,245	25,210
#6	167,552	41,888	0		20,944	104,720
					Total MOL Vol:	6,410,073
					Days of Storage:	**191**

Total Annual Liqud Waste Volume (NRCS Table Values)	
Liquids Collected/Stored	Annual Gallons
Manure and Bedding and Parlor Wastewater	11,055,068
Feedlot Runoff	13,190
Net Precipitation on Storage Surface(s)	1,191,865
TOTAL:	**12,260,123**

Two feed storages, FSA 2 and FSA 3, have been abandoned by the farm. The remaining FSA 1 contains clean water diversion, and the submitted calculations state 64% of runoff is diverted as clean water. Leachate and process wastewater are stored in waste storage facility 4 and managed separately from manure storage. The operation estimates 125 days of leachate and process wastewater storage. The table below summarizes submitted leachate and process wastewater information for the farm.

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	502,634		44,277	171,576	109,745	177,036
					Total MOL Vol:	177,036
					Days of Storage:	**125**

Total Annual Liquid Waste Volume (NRCS Table Values)	
Liquids Collected/Stored	Annual Gallons
Feed Storage Leachate	149,600
Feed Storage Runoff Collected	171,756
Net Precipitation on Storage Surfaces	195,783
TOTAL:	**517,139**

Should you have any questions, please contact Tabby Davis, 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 Davis
CAFO Review Engineer
Watershed Management Program

Email: Greg Rickert; Rickert Bros LLC
(920) 872-2027; gregrickert91964@gmail.com

Clark Fox; Outland Design
(608) 960-7549; cfox@outland-design.com

Aaron O'Rourke; DNR, Eau Claire
(715) 839-3775; aaron.orourke@wisconsin.gov

Matt Woodrow; DATCP
(920) 427-8505; matthew.woodrow@wisconsin.gov

Brad Murry; Fond du Lac County Land & Water
(920) 929-4679; bradly.murry@fdlco.wi.gov

Jean Weaver; DNR-Southeast Region
jeanm.weaver@wisconsin.gov

Michelle M Scott; DNR-Southeast Region
(920) 252-0679; Michelle.Scott@wisconsin.gov

Ashley Scheel; DNR, Central Office
(608) 261-6419; ashley.scheel@wisconsin.gov

Tabatha A Davis; DNR-Central Office
(608) 712-2324; tabatha.davis@wisconsin.gov

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Tony Evers, Governor
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 23rd, 2025

Fond Du Lac County
Approval

Greg Rickert
Rickert Bros LLC
W9150 Lincoln Rd
Eldorado, WI 54932

SUBJECT: Conditional Approval of Rickert Bros LLC Nutrient Management Plan, WPDES Permit No. 0063975-04-0

Dear Greg Rickert:

After completing a review of Rickert Bros LLC 2025-2029 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 Rickert Bros 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.
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FINDINGS OF FACT

The Department confirms that:

1. A current dairy herd size of 2,212 animal units (1,100 milking & dry cows, 680 heifers, 330 calves, 45 steers). A planned herd size of 2,772 animal units (1,500 milking & dry cows, 680 heifers, 330 calves, 45 steers) by 2029.

2. Manure generation and spreading records indicate your herd will annually generate approximately 12,746,071 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 3,483 tons of solid manure in the first year of the permit term. Once the farm reaches full projected expansion in 2029, the herd will generate approximately 15,864,560 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 3,483 tons of solid manure.

3. The use of application restriction options 1 and 5 within surface water quality management areas.

4. The use of phosphorus delivery method P Index.

5. That Rickert Bros LLC currently has 2,081 acres (1,643 owned and 438 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 2,029.5 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 2025-2029 Rickert Bros 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. 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.

3. All liquid manure samples collected may be analyzed, at a minimum, for percent dry matter, total nitrogen, percent NH_4-N, percent NO_3-N, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur.

4. If manure sample results have a dry matter (DM) content less than 2.0% and the percent ammonium (NH_4^+) is greater than 75% of the total N, Rickert Bros LLC may use the following equation to adjust the first year available nitrogen when applications are injected or incorporated within 1 hour:

$$\text{First-Year Available N} = NH_4\text{-N} + [0.25 \times (\text{Total N} - NH_4\text{-N})]$$

5. Rickert Bros LLC shall record daily manure applications by using the 'Daily Log' generated by Snap Plus. These forms shall be retained at the farm and provided to the department upon request.

6. Rickert Bros 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 'CAFO Annual Spreading Reports' as generated by Snap Plus.

WINTER SPREADING

7. Liquid manure applications during winter conditions, as defined by NR 243.14(7), Wis. Adm. Code, are prohibited with the exception of emergency applications.

8. The following field(s) are approved for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure:

- D	- Davies	- E	- F
- G1	- I2	- J1	- J2
- J3	- N1	- O2	- P6
- Q5	- T1-4	- U1	- V3
- W1	-	-	-

9. 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.

10. Winter applications of liquid manure shall only occur under emergency situations, after notifying the Department and receiving verbal approval.

11. 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

12. No headland stacking sites are approved. If the farm wishes to utilize this practice in the future, these sites should be submitted to the department for approval.

MANURE & PROCESS WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

13. Irrigation of manure or process wastewater is prohibited.

SUBMITAL AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

14. 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.

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 locate 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 Specialist (Jean.Weaver@Wisconsin.gov)
Michelle Scott, WDNR Watershed Field Supervisor (Michelle.Scott@Wisconsin.gov)
Christopher Clayton, WDNR Runoff Management Section Chief (Christopherr.Clayton@Wisconsin.gov)
Aaron O'Rourke, WDNR Nutrient Management Program Coordinator (Aaron.Orourke@Wisconsin.gov)
Falon French, WDNR Intake Specialist (Falon.French@Wisconsin.gov)
Rob Davis, WDNR CAFO Engineer (Robert.Davis@Wisconsin.gov)
Tony Salituro, WDNR CAFO Engineer (Anthony.Salituro@Wisconsin.gov)
Eric Redeker, Fond Du Lac County (Eric.Redeker@fdlco.wi.gov)
Amy Haak, Country Visions Cooperative (ahaak@cvcoop.com)
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