

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0062928-04-2

Permittee: Ridge Breeze Dairy, W2686 390th Ave, Maiden Rock, WI, 54750

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Ridge Breeze Dairy, LLC, W2686 390th Avenue Maiden Rock

Receiving Water and Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Rush River and Lake Pepin Watersheds

Brief Facility Description : Ridge Breeze Dairy, LLC is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) dairy farm located in Salem Township in Pierce County. The facility is owned and operated by Breeze Dairy Group, and currently operates with approximately 1,700 milking/dry cows (~ 2,380 animal units). The operation is proposing to expand to approximately 6,200 milking/dry cows and 300 heifers (~ 9,010 animal units) in 2025.

Ridge Breeze Dairy has a total of 7,363 acres of available cropland in their nutrient management plan. Of these acres, 89.7 acres are owned, with 7,273.3 acres controlled through contracts or manure spreading agreements. The majority of the nutrient management plan acres are located within Pierce County, with some additional acres located in St. Croix and Pepin County.

Ridge Breeze Dairy, LLC requested a modification to their WPDES CAFO permit to accommodate the addition of three waste storage facilities (WSF-4, WSF-5, and WSF-6) and a stacking pad. New sample points describing the new structures have been added to the permit. Existing and proposed storage structures provide the operation with 240+ days of liquid waste storage, based on expanded animal numbers. Only aspects of the modification action are subject to the public input process. This includes the addition of sample points 011 (WSF-4), 012 (WSF-5), 013 (WSF-6), 015 (stacking pad), and the recently approved nutrient management plan.

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

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jeffrey Jackson, DNR, 890 Spruce St, Baldwin, WI, 54002, (715) 210-1415, Jeffrey.Jackson@wisconsin.gov

Informational Hearing Date, Time, and Location:

July 11, 2024, at 4 pm, virtual hearing using Zoom. If you plan to attend the hearing, please fill out the registration form at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sdeuvqj8oHtOreDCnCLSM1UY4Kxu001Uw>

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 office 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 ensure 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 (715) 210-1415 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: Pierce County Journal, 311 Dakota Street S, PO Box 4, Prescott, WI, 54021-0004

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, June 12, 2024