Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0066621-02-1
Permittee Name and Address	SCHEPS DAIRY INC 1631 4th St, Almena, WI 54805
Permitted Facility Name and Address	SCHEPS DAIRY INC 1631 4th St Almena (Main Site) 1620 4th St Almena (Heifer Site) 1382 4th St Almena (Dale's Site) *
Permit Term	April 01, 2026 to August 31, 2030
Discharge Location	Almena Township
Receiving Water	Lightning Creek and Turtle Creek
Discharge Type	Existing Source CAFO

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.)	72	0	0	0	
Milking and Dry Cows	2590	2646	0	0	
Heifers (400 lbs. to 800 lbs.)	180	300	0	0	
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	682	620	0	0	
Total	3524	2646	0	0	

Facility Description

Scheps Dairy Inc is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) located in the Township of Almena, Barron County. Scheps Dairy consists of two production sites: the Main Dairy located at 1631 4th St., Almena, WI 54805 and the Heifer Site located at 1620 4th St., Almena, WI 54805. The operation is owned and operated by Dan and Ken Scheps, with a current herd size of 3,524 animal units (1,850 cows, 920 heifers and 360 calves). There is no expansion planned over the upcoming permit term.

Permit Modification Action: As part of this permit modification, Scheps Dairy intends to bring an additional feed pad and manure storage structure located at 1382 4th Street Almena into their CAFO permit. This modification will add sample points for Dale's Pit (008) and Feed Pad (009) to the Scheps Dairy CAFO permit.

Enforcement During Last Permit: The department has not taken enforcement action against Scheps Dairy during the current permit term.

After a review of all submitted reports, permit application materials, and a site visit on May 1, 2026, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Compliance determination made by Jeff Jackson – DNR Agricultural Runoff Specialist on June 5, 2026**.**

Sample Point Descriptions

Sample Point Designation for Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
001	Old Pit (liquids) - Sample point 001 is for liquids from the Old Pit ((WSF 1). It is an in-ground, earthen berm, partial concrete and partial HDPE lined pit. The facility is located in the southern portion of the Main Dairy site between the New Pit to the east and South Freestall Barn to the west. It was built in 2007 in a rectangular shape with top dimensions of 255 feet wide by 445 feet long by 15 feet deep and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) of approximately 8,343,856 gallons (2025 calculation). The Barron County Land Conservation Department designed and approved plans and specifications for construction. The DNR has not requested an engineering evaluation. It accepts liquid manure from the North and Middle Freestall Barns and processed wastewater from the milking center after going through the Sand Trap structure and an underground transfer system. A concrete ramp on the southwest corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed. An agitation boat mixes liquids and solids prior to removal for direct land application in the spring, summer, and fall.	
002	New Pit (liquids) - Sample point 002 is for liquids from the New Pit (WSF 2). It is an in-ground, earthen berm, concrete lined pit. The facility is located in the eastern portion of the Main Dairy site to the east of the Old Pit and Feed Storage Area. It was built in 2017 in a rectangular shape with top dimensions of 260 feet wide by 555 feet long by 18 feet deep with 2:1 sloping sides and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) of approximately 12,541,881 gallons (2025 calculation). Plans and specifications for the structure were approved by the DNR on June 15, 2017, with as-built documentation provided by Outland Design on April 2018. It accepts liquid manure from the South Freestall Barn through an underground transfer system after manure is processed in the Solids Separation Building. A concrete ramp on the southwest corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed. An agitation boat mixes liquids and solids prior to removal for direct land application in the spring, summer, and fall.	
003	Heifer Pit (liquids) - Sample point 003 is for liquids from the Heifer Pit (WSF 3). It is an in-ground, earthen berm, concrete lined pit. The facility is located in the western portion of the Heifer Site to the west of Heifer Freestall Barn. It was built in 2010 in a rectangular shape with top dimensions of 162 feet wide by 201 feet long by 15 feet deep with 3:1 sloping sides and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) of approximately 2,005,687 gallons (2025 calculation). Plans and specifications for the structure were approved by the DNR on July 8, 2010. It accepts liquid manure from the Heifer Freestall Barn through an underground transfer system. A concrete ramp on the northeast corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed. A drop in agitator mixes liquids and solids prior to removal for direct land application in the spring, summer, and fall.	
004	Bunker Leachate Pit (liquids) - Sample point 004 is for liquids from the Bunker Leachate Pit. It is a concrete lined in-ground pit located in the northeastern portion of the Main Dairy Site. It was built in 2017 in an oblong shape with top dimensions of 70 feet wide by 292 feet long by 12 feet deep with 2:1 sloping	

Sample Point Designation for Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
	sides and an total volume capacity of 839,414 gallons (2025 calculattion) and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) for manure of approximately 147,568 gallons (2025 calculation) after accounting for feedpad runoff collection from the Feed Storage Area. Plans and specifications were approved by the DNR on June 15, 2017, with as-built documentation provided by Outland Design on April 2018. It accepts liquids from the Feed Storage Area through two-24 inch underground pipes. Liquids are removed with a pump for crop irrigation or transferred to the New Pit. A concrete ramp on the southeast corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed.	
005	Misc. Solid Manure (solids) - Sample point 005 is for any miscellaneous waste solids directly land applied from the production area of the Main Dairy or Heifer Site. This includes calf hutch bedpack, heifer shed bedpack, sand settling lane solids, manure separator solids and any solids removed from the Old Pit, New Pit, and Heifer Pit. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source when land application occurs.	
006	Feed Storage Area - Sample point 006 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the Feed Storage Area and associated runoff control system in the northern portion of the Main Dairy site. The feed storage surface area is estimated at 171,050 square feet. A 100% runoff collection system was built in 2017 according to plans and specifications approved by the DNR on June 15, 2017, with as-built documentation provided by Outland Design on April 2018. All surface runoff from the Feed Storage Area is directed to two-24 inch pipes located at floor level within the east wall. Leachate and runoff enter the pipes and gravity flow to a nearby Bunker Leachate Pit to the east.	
007	Manure Stacking Sites (solids): Sample point 007 is for solid manure land applied from approved headland stacking sites. Representative samples shall be taken prior to land application. Stacks are defined as part of the production area and therefore subject to the discharge limitations of this permit. Weekly inspections of stack runoff controls are required and shall be recorded according to a monitoring program.	
008	Dale's Pit: Sample point 008 is for liquid manure from Dale's Pit, located at the Dale's Farm Site. Dale's Pit is a concrete-lined storage and was constructed in 2010. The structure has a usable capacity of approximately 2.2 million gallons and will be used to store manure and process wastewater produced in the site's heifer barn and feed pad. When manure is removed and land applied, the material must be sampled at a frequency that meets permit manure sampling requirements.	
009	Dale's Site Feed Pad & Runoff Control System: Sample point 009 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed pad and associated runoff control system located at Dale's Site. The schedule section of the permit requires a runoff collection system be installed. Proper operation and maintenance are required to ensure pollutant discharges meet permit requirements. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to the monitoring program.	

Permit Requirements

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 250 + days of storage for liquid manure and process wastewater. The permittee must maintain 180 days of storage, unless temporary reductions in required storage are approved by the Department.

Solid Manure Stacking

The operation has proposed to stack solid manure. All stacking of solid manure shall be done in accordance ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, which includes restrictions from NRCS Standard 313. Stacking of manure is considered to be part of the production area and is subject to the Production Area Discharge Limitations.

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

Scheps Dairy has approximately 4,659 cropland acres used for the application of manure and process wastewater in their nutrient management plan. The permit requires all landspreading of manure and process wastewater to 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 (≥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- Old Pit; 002- New Pit; 003- Heifer Pit; 004- Bunker Leachate Pit; 008- Dale's Pit

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

Sample Point 008 has been added as part of this permit modification.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Liquid manure and process wastewater from sample points 008 must be properly stored, sampled, and land applied in accordance with the farm's nutrient management plan.

1.2 Sample Point Number: 005- Misc. Solid Manure; 007- Manure Stacking Sites

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	
Solids, Total		Percent	Quarterly	Grab	

1.2.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No Changes

1.2.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Solid manure from sample points 005 and 007 must be properly stored, sampled, and land applied in accordance with the farm's nutrient management plan.

1.3 Sample Point Number: 006- Feed Storage Area and 009- Dale's Site Feed Pad

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

Sample Point 009 has been added as part of this permit modification.

1.3.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

There is no required nutrient sampling for the runoff control sample points. Rather, weekly or quarterly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to the monitoring plan and submitted with the Annual Report.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: Develop a written Emergency Response Plan within 60 days of permit coverage, available to the Department upon request.	10/31/2025

2.2 Explanation of Schedules

An emergency response plan is required to be developed per s. NR 243.13(6)(a) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.3 Monitoring & Inspection Program

Required Action	Due Date
Proposed Monitoring and Inspection Program: Consistent with the Monitoring and Sampling Requirements subsection, the permittee shall submit a proposed monitoring and inspection program within 60 days of the effective date of this permit.	10/31/2025

2.4 Explanation of Schedules

A monitoring and inspection program is required to be submitted per s. NR 243.19(1) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.5 Annual Reports

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.	

2.6 Explanation of Schedules

Annual reports are required to be submitted per s. NR 243.19(3) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.7 Nutrient Management Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Submit NMP Update #1: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the	

previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	
Submit NMP Update #2: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	
Submit NMP Update #3: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	
Submit NMP Update #4: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	
Submit NMP Update #5: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed.	

2.8 Explanation of Schedules

Nutrient management plan updates are required to be submitted per s. NR 243.19(3) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.9 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date
Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	02/28/2030

2.10 Explanation of Schedules

A permit reissuance application is required per s. NR 243.12(1)(d) Wis. Admin. Code.

2.11 Manure Storage Facility - Engineering Evaluation

This schedule item pertains to Dale's Pit and associated waste transfer system. The purpose of this requirement is to determine if the structure meets permit requirements.

Required Action	Due Date
Written Report: Submit a written report evaluating the existing manure storage facility's ability to meet the conditions in the Production Area Discharge Limitations and Manure and Process Wastewater Storage subsections and s. NR 243.15, Wis. Adm. Code. (See Standard Requirements for report details.)	11/30/2027
Plans and Specifications: Submit plans and specifications for Department review and approval in accordance with Chapter 281.41, Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, to permanently correct any adverse manure storage conditions.	06/30/2028
Corrections and Post Construction Documentation: Complete construction on the manure storage facility that permanently corrects any adverse conditions in concurrence with and approval by the Department, by the specified Date Due. Submit post construction documentation within 60 days of completion of the project.	11/30/2029

2.12 Explanation of Schedules

Engineering evaluation of Dale's Pit has been included per s. NR243.16(1) Wis. Admin. Code as the department has not previously evaluated this facility.

2.13 Feed Storage - Engineering Evaluation

This schedule item pertains to the feed pad at Dale's Site. The purpose of this requirement is to determine if the stacking area and runoff contols meet permit requirements.

Required Action	Due Date
Interim Runoff Controls - Installation: Interim runoff controls will need to be in place prior to corn silage harvest.	09/01/2026
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.	11/30/2027
Plans and Specifications: Submit plans and specifications for Department review and approval to permanently correct any adverse conditions identified as part of the engineering evaluation for the feed storage area in accordance with Chapter 281.41, Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code.	06/30/2028
Corrections and Post Construction Documentation: Complete construction of improvements to permanently correct any adverse conditions in concurrence with and approval by the Department, by the specified Date Due. Submit post construction documentation within 60 days of completion of the project.	08/31/2029

2.14 Explanation of Schedules

Engineering evaluation of the feed pad at Dale's Site has been included per s. NR243.16(1) Wis. Admin. Code as the department has not previously evaluated this facility.

Other Comments

The purpose of this permit modification is to add two new sample points to the existing permit. These sample points are located at a rented farm site. This permit modification does not include an increase in herd size.

Justification Of Any Waivers from Permit Application Requirements

No waivers requested or granted as part of this permit modification.

Prepared By: Jeff Jackson – DNR Agricultural Runoff Specialist **Date:** June 5, 2026

Scheps Dairy Sample Point Map (Dale's Site)

Sample Points – Waste Materials

008 Dale's Pit

Monitoring Points – Runoff Controls

009 Feed Pad & Runoff Control System