Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0059200-05-1
Permittee Name and Address	Country Aire Farms LLC 1440 Lamers Clancy Rd, Greenleaf, WI 54126
Permitted Facility Name and Address	Country Aire Farms LLC 1440 Lamers Clancy Road Greenleaf
Permit Term	January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2026
Discharge Location	East River Watershed, groundwaters 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.)	40	0	40	0	06/26/2026
Milking and Dry Cows	5489	5607	7889	8058	06/26/2026
Heifers (400 lbs. to 800 lbs.)	71	119	120	200	06/26/2026
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	658	598	605	550	06/26/2026
Total	6258	5607	8654	8058	

Facility Description

Country Aire Farms is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) owned and operated by Mike and Matt Gerrits. It currently has 7,895.7 animal units (5,022 milking & dry cows, 924 heifers, and 0 calves) plans to expand to 8,654 animal units (5,635 milking & dry cows, 750 heifers, and 200 calves) once full expansion is reached. Based on planned herd size, Country Aire Farms has approximately 249 days of liquid waste storage. Country Aire Farms plans to generates 69,041,601 gallons of liquid manure annually and currently has 6,496.5 acres (3,109.2 owned and 3,389.2 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 6,376.2 are spreadable acres.

Country Aire Farms has requested a modification to its WPDES permit to accommodate the construction and use of a multiple new facilities. New sample points describing these facilities have been added to the permit. Only aspects of the modification action are subject to the public input process. This includes the addition of sample points 010, 011, 012, and 013, along with Schedule Section 2.8.

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
001	WSF 1 (Liquids) - Sample Point 001 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied directly from waste storage facility 1 (WSF 1). WSF 1, also called the North Pit, is the first cell in a three-celled system. WSF 1 is an earthen lined storage that was constructed in 1998 and has a maximum operating level of 6,293,030 gallons.	
002	WSF 2 (Liquids) - Sample Point 002 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied directly from waste storage facility 2 (WSF 2). WSF 2, also called the Middle Pit, is the second cell in a three-celled system. WSF 2 is an earthen lined facility that was constructed in 2007 and has a maximum operating level of 7,840,098 gallons.	
003	WSF (Solids) - Sample Point 003 is for manure laden sand and other solids land applied directly from waste storage facilities 1 - 8 described in sample points 001, 002, 004, 008, 010, 011, 012, and 013 respectively. Representative samples shall be taken from each waste storage facility when land application occurs.	
004	WSF 4 (Liquids) - Sample Point 004 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied directly from waste storage facility 4 (WSF 4). WSF 4, also called the Heifer Pit, is an earthen lined facility that was constructed in the 1970's and has a maximum operating level of 5,050,348 gallons.	
005	Miscellaneous Solids - Sample point 005 is for any miscellaneous solid manure directly land applied and not stored in a waste storage facility. This includes calf hutch manure, maternity pen bedpack, heifer bedpack, and any solids removed from a digester or sand lanes. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source type.	
007	Feed Storage Area - Sample Point 007 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the feed storage area and associated runoff control system. Leachate and runoff is collected and pumped to WSF 4, the Heifer Pit. Weekly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to monitoring program.	
008	WSF 3 (Liquids) - Sample Point 008 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied directly from waste storage facility 3 (WSF 3). WSF 3, also called the South Pit, is the third cell in a three-celled system. WSF 3 is an earthen lined facility that was constructed in 2009 and has a maximum operating level of 7,579,686 gallons.	
009	Stormwater - Sample Point 009 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.	
010	WSF 5 (Liquids) - Sample point 010 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied from waste storage facility 5 (WSF 5). WSF 5 is a concrete lined storage that was constructed in 2022 and is located south of WSF 3. It has a maximum operating level of 20,035,249 gallons and a gravity pipe connection to WSF 3. WSF 5 acts as the transfer pit for the pipelines to BC Organics.	
011	WSF 6 (Liquids) - Sample point 012 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied from waste storage facility 6 (WSF 6). WSF 6 is an earthen lined storage that was constructed in 2024 and is located west of the RCF. It has a maximum operating level of 20,035,249 gallons.	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**	
012	RCF (Liquids) - Sample point 012 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied from waste storage facility 7 (RCF). The RCF is a concrete lined storage that was constructed in 2024 and is located west of the feed storage area. This storage accepts leachate from the feed storage area and has a maximum operating level of 2,410,876 gallons.	
013	WSF 8 (Liquids) - Sample point 013 is for liquid manure and process wastewater that is land applied from offsite waste storage facility 8 (WSF 8), that is located at 2375 Day Street, Greenleaf, WI. WSF 8 is an earthen lined pit that was constructed in 1981 with a maximum operating level of 531,306 gallons. An engineering evaluation shall be submitted according to the permit schedules section.	

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 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 submitted to the Department for approval.

The permittee currently has approximately 249 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.

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

With a planned herd size of 8,654 animal units (5,635 milking & dry cows, 750 heifers, and 200 calves), it is estimated that approximately 69,041,601 gallons of manure and process wastewater will be produced per year. The permittee owns *approximately* 3,109.18 acres of cropland and rents about 3,387.21. Given the rotation commonly used by the permittee, 6,376.2 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 permitee 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.

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 2 (Liquids); 004- WSF 4 (Liquids); 008- WSF 3 (Liquids); 010- WSF 5 (Liquids); 011- WSF 6 (Liquids); 012- WSF 7 (Liquids), and 013- WSF 8 (Liquids)

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 points 010, 011, 012, 013 were added to more accurately describe the production site and new construction.

1.1.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Liquid manure sources must be properly sampled and land applied according to the permit and nutrient management plan.

1.2 Sample Point Number: 003- WSF (Solids); 005- Miscellaneous 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	
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 sources must be properly sampled and land applied according to the permit and nutrient management plan.

1.3 Sample Point Number: 007- Feed Storage Area and 009- Stormwater

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

No changes.

1.3.2 Explanation of Operation and Management Requirements

Proper operation and maintenance are required to ensure unlawful discharges to waters of the state do not occur. Weekly or quarterly inspections are required and shall be recorded according to the monitoring plan.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Update Emergency Response Plan: Update the written Emergency Response Plan within 30 days of permit coverage, available to the Department upon request.	01/31/2022

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.1 is included in the permit as a general permit requirement.

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 Requirements subsection, the permittee shall submit a proposed monitoring and inspection program within 30 days of the effective date of this permit.	01/31/2022

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.2 is included in the permit as a general permit requirement.

2.3 Annual Reports

Submit annual reports by January 31 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.	01/31/2022
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2023
Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2024
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2025
Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2026
Ongoing Annual Reports: Continue to submit Annual Reports until permit reissuance has been completed.	

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.3 is included in the permit as a general permit requirement.

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: 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.	03/31/2022
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.	03/31/2023
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.	03/31/2024
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.	03/31/2025
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.	03/31/2026
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed.	

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.4 is included in the permit as a general permit requirement.

2.5 Manure Storage Facility - Engineering Evaluation - WSF 4

Applicable to WSF 4, Sample point 004.

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.)	04/30/2023
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.	10/31/2023
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.	12/31/2024

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.5 is included in the permit to evaluate waste storage facility 4.

2.6 Runoff Control System - Abandonment

Referring to the vegetated treatment area.

Required Action	Due Date
Abandonment Plan: Submit an abandonment plan for the vegetated treatment area system to the Department for approval outlining the proposed method of abandonment.	03/31/2022
Complete Abandonment: Complete abandonment as approved by the Department.	12/31/2022

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.6 is included in the permit to abandon the vegetated treatment system.

2.7 Permit Application Submittal

Required Action	Due Date
Permit Application Submittal: Submit a complete permit application to the Department no later than 180 days prior to permit expiration.	07/01/2026

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.7 is included in the permit as a general permit requirement.

2.8 Manure Storage Facility - Engineering Evaluation - WSF 7

Applicable to WSF 8, Sample point 013, located at 2375 Day Street, Greenleaf, WI

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.)	12/31/2025
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.	06/01/2025
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.	12/31/2026

Explanation of Schedules

Schedule 2.8 is included in the permit to evaluate waste storage facility 7.

Other Comments

None

Attachments

Plan Approval Letter(s)

- Mid-Permit Inspection Report – June 24, 2024
- Nutrient Management Conditional Approval – February 20, 2025
- Days of Storage Review – February 21, 2025

Justification Of Any Waivers From Permit Application Requirements

n/a

Prepared By: Holly Stegemann Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Date: 03/17/2025

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay WI 54313-6727

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

July 11, 2024

Mike Gerrits
Country Aire Farms
1440 Lamers Clancy
Greenleaf, WI 54126

WPDES Permit No. WI-0059200-05-0
Brown County

Subject: Mid-Permit Walkover Inspection Report

Dear Mr. Gerrits:

On June 24, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources (department) conducted a mid-permit walkover inspection of Country Aire Farms. Results and photos are included in the enclosed report.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or your WPDES permit requirements, please contact me at (920) 360-0794 or at holly.stegemann@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

Holly Stegemann
Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist

Enclosure: Country Aire Farms_2024.06.24 Inspection Report

Electronic CC:
Matt Gerrits – Country Aire Farms
Nick Peltier - Brown County LCD
Jake Geiger, Jim West – Tilth Agronomy
Joe Baeten - DNR

CAFO Compliance Report (07/11/2024)

Inspection Date: 06/24/2024
Inspection Type: Mid-Permit
Operation Name: Country Aire Farms
WPDES Permit No. WI-0059200-05-0
Operation Address: 1440 Lamers Clancy Road, Greenleaf, WI 5412
On-Site Representative(s): Matt Gerrits, Owner/Operator
DNR Staff / Report Writer: Holly Stegemann, Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist

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On June 24, 2024, Stegemann met with Gerrits as well as Jake Geiger and Jim West (Tilth Agronomy) to conduct a mid-permit inspection of Country Aire Farms. All facilities currently covered under Country Aire Farms' WPDES permit were inspected. No precipitation had fallen prior to inspection.

Figure 1. Aerial overview of Country Aire Farms on the south side of Lamers Clancy Road. Blue arrows indicate approximate stormwater flow paths. Yellow arrows indicate approximate contaminated runoff flow paths. Pink arrows indicate manure transfer systems.

Figure 2. Aerial overview of Country Aire Farms on the north side of Lamers Clancy Road. Blue arrows indicate approximate stormwater flow paths. Yellow arrows indicate approximate contaminated runoff flow paths. Pink arrows indicate manure transfer systems.

Figure 3. Aerial overview of Country Aire Farms in relation to surface water features. Green areas represent designated wetlands. Blue lines indicate mapped waterways. Image obtained from SNAP Maps v19.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Feedlot Runoff

Country Aire Farms does not utilize any outdoor feed lots or barn yards. All animals are housed under roof.

Calf Hutch Areas

Country Aire Farms does not utilize any calf hutches. Calves are kept on the east end of barn 3 until they are picked up to be raised out of state.

Waste Storage Facilities

Manure and process wastewater is stored in multiple waste storage facilities on the main farm. Country Aire Farms does not utilize any offsite waste storage. There are two pumps located on the northeast corner of WSF 3 and the east side of WSF 1 that transfer liquid from WSF 3 to the flush-flume system that runs through the parlor and the freestall barns. The dairy utilizes sand separation lanes to wash and dry the sand used for cattle bedding. The liquid manure, process wastewater, and collected runoff from the sand stacking area can be directed to any of the three waste storage facilities on the south side of Lamers Clancy Road by a pump and manual valve system. The sand lanes are proposed to be partially abandoned as the farm has switched from sand bedding to recycled manure fiber (R-2023-0156). Solid manure is stacked on the concrete on the southwest corner of the sand stacking pad.

WSF 1, referred to as the North Pit, is an earthen lined storage that was constructed in 1998. This storage accepts liquid manure and process wastewater from the sand separation lanes via pump and manual valve system. WSF 1 has a maximum operation level of 6,392,634 gallons. WSF 1 has an overflow pipe to WSF 2. At the time of inspection, permanent markers and safety fencing were present.

WSF 2, referred to as the Middle Pit, is an earthen lined storage that was constructed in 2007. This storage accepts liquid manure and process wastewater from the overflow from WSF 1, as well as liquid from the sand separation lanes via the pump and manual valve system. WSF 2 has an overflow pipe into WSF 3. WSF 2 has a maximum operating level of 7,868,161 gallons. At the time of inspection, permanent markers and safety fencing were present.

WSF 3, referred to as the South Pit, is an earthen lined storage that was constructed in 2009. This storage accepts liquid manure and process wastewater from the overflow from WSF 2, as well as liquid from the sand separation lanes via the pump and manual valve system. WSF 3 has a maximum operating level of 7,725,298 gallons. At the time of inspection, permanent markers and safety fencing were present.

WSF 4, referred to as the Heifer Pit, is an earthen lined storage that was constructed in the 1970's. This storage accepts liquid manure as well as collected leachate and other contaminated runoff that is pumped through the heifer barn via flushing system. WSF 4 has a maximum operating level of 5,068,425 gallons. At the time of inspection, permanent markers and safety fencing were present.

WSF 5, is a concrete lined facility that was constructed in 2022 for the use of transferring manure to BC Organics. This facility is located south of WSF 4 and has a maximum operating level of 1,187,454 with an overflow connecting to WSF 4. At the time of inspection, safety fencing was present.

WSF 6, is a proposed waste storage facility that is currently under construction. This storage is located west of the RCF and will accept manure and process wastewater. WSF 6 is proposed to be earthen lined and have a maximum operating level of 20,035,250 gallons.

The Runoff Collection Facility (RCF) is a clay lined facility that is currently under construction. The storge is located to the west of the feed storage bunkers and to the east of WSF 6. The RCF has a maximum operating level of 2,410,876 gallons with two 24-inch diameter HDPE gravity pipes that transfer collected runoff to the RCF.

Solid and liquid waste storage facilities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges. Solid and liquid waste storage structures are well-maintained, in good repair, and in compliance with permit requirements.

Process Wastewater (other than feed storage area leachate/runoff)
Wastewater from the parlor is used as flush water through the barns before being sent through the sand settling lanes and finally transferred to permanent storage. Process wastewater sources (milking center, wash water, etc.) are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Feed Storage Area Runoff
All feed is stored under plastic on a concrete pad or in concrete bunkers. The west part of the feed storage area contains concrete bunkers that are pitched to convey leachate and contaminated runoff to a leachate collection tank and overflow basin that is connected via transfer lines to WSF 6 that is currently under construction.

The 2015 expansion of the feed storage area added a concrete pad to the east of the original feed storage area. The 2023 expansion of this pad, extended the pad further east, adding on approximately 136,400 SF for a total feed storage area of 405,754 SF. The new section of pad was connected to the 2015 expansion and consists of pitched asphalt that drains to the center of the pad to a series of pre-cast manholes that convey collected runoff west to the leachate basin. Areas of existing feed pad will also have manholes installed to collect and convey runoff to the west leachate basin.

The previous clean water diversion channel between the east bunkers and the 2015 expansion has been removed and in place the farm plans to diverted to clean water via numerous sandbags/filled drainpipes to direct clean runoff to inlets and a conveyance system that was under construction at the time of inspection.

Feed storage areas and associated process wastewater are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges. Feed storage areas and runoff control systems are well-maintained, in good repair and in compliance with permit requirements.

Animal Mortality Disposal
Animal mortalities are picked up as needed by OJ Krull. Animal mortalities are managed to not have current or past indicators of discharges.

Ancillary Service Areas
Country Aire Farms utilizes culvert inlets to divert clean stormwater to underground channels that transfer clean stormwater runoff to ditches on the north side of the facility. Preventative maintenance actions and visual inspections are occurring to minimize pollutant discharges from ancillary service and storage areas.

RECORDS REVIEW
The permittee has current WPDES Permit and Nutrient Management Plan onsite.
The permittee provided complete production site inspection records that are required to be retained.
The permittee provided adequate documentation that the facility has a minimum of 180 days of liquid manure storage capacity.
The permittee provided land application records to demonstrate compliance with nutrient management plan requirements.
The permittee has copies of their emergency response and monitoring and inspection plans onsite.
The permittee is up to date on required reporting and actions as specified in the Schedules section of permit.

SUMMARY

Areas of Concern
None

Permit Violations
None

Photo #:	2425
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:29
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 1

Photo Description:

View of WSF 1, North Pit, looking northwest.

Photo #:	2426
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:29
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 1

Photo Description:

View of WSF 1, North Pit, looking southwest.

Photo #:	2428
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:30
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 2

Photo Description:

View of WSF 2, Middle Pit, looking west.

Photo #:	2429
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:31
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 2/3

Photo Description:

View of berm between WSF 2 and WSF 3, looking west.

Photo #:	2436
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:36
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 3

Photo Description:

View of WSF 3, South Pit, looking northwest.

Photo #:	2439
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:49
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 4

Photo Description:

View of WSF 4, Heifer Pit, looking north.

Photo #:	2441
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:50
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 4

Photo Description:

View of WSF 4, Heifer Pit, looking northwest.

Photo #:	2435
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:36
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 5

Photo Description:

View of WSF 5, looking southwest.

Photo #:	2438
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:37
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	WSF 3

Photo Description:

View of overflow pipes between WSF 3 and 5, looking northwest.

Photo #:	2445
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:54
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	RCF

Photo Description:

View of the RCF under construction, looking north.

Photo #:	2446
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:54
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	RCF

Photo Description:

View of the RCF under construction, looking northwest.

Photo #:	2430
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:32
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	Sand Lanes

Photo Description:

View of sand settling lanes and stolid stacking area, looking east.

Photo #:	2448
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:58
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	FSA Bunkers

Photo Description:

View of west feed storage bunkers, looking northwest. Arrows indicate approximate contaminated runoff flow paths.

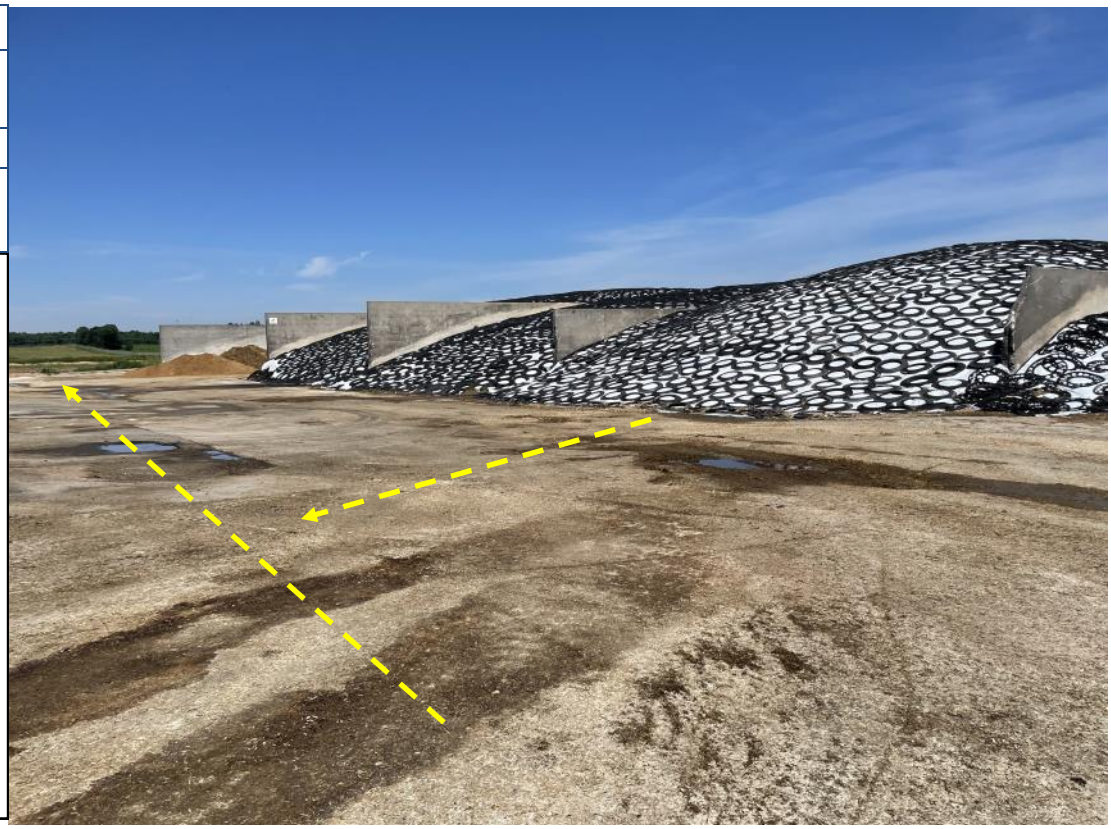

Photo #:	2449
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 10:59
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	FSA Bunkers

Photo Description:

View of feed storage area looking west towards leachate collection. Arrows indicate approximate contaminated runoff flow paths.

Photo #:	2454
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 11:00
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	FSA Pad

Photo Description:

View of feed storage area, looking west.

Photo #:	2457
Date/Time of Photo:	06/24/2024 11:02
Photo By:	Stegemann
Photo Location:	FSA Pad

Photo Description:

View of feed storage area runoff collection inlets and berm.

State of Wisconsin
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Tony Evers, Governor
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February 20, 2025

Brown County
Approval

Mike Gerrits
Country Aire Farms LLC
1440 Lamers Clancy Rd
Greenleaf, WI 54126

SUBJECT: Conditional Approval of Country Aire Farms LLC Nutrient Management Plan, WPDES Permit No. 0059200-05-1

Dear Mike Gerrits:

After completing a review of Country Aire Farms LLC 2024-2026 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 Country Aire Farms 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.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Department confirms that:

1. A current dairy herd size of 8105.6 animal units (5022 milking & dry cows, 924 heifers, and 200 calves). A planned herd size of 8,654 animal units (5635 milking & dry cows, 750 heifers, and 200 calves) by 2026.

2. Manure generation and spreading records indicate your herd will annually generate approximately 69,041,601 gallons of manure and process wastewater by 2026.

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 Country Aire Farms LLC currently has 6496.49 acres (3109.18 owned and 3387.21 controlled through contracts, rental agreements or leases, or under manure agreements) of which 6376.2 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 2024-2026 Country Aire Farms 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. The following fields have also been approved to receive industrial, municipal, or septage waste:

Field Name	Other Permittee Name	Other Permittee Field Name	DNR #
113-007	APPLETON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY	KDM-4	121085
113-007	APPLETON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY	KDM-6	121087

   Prior to any manure applications on these fields Country Aire Farms LLC shall contact the entities listed above to obtain recent spreading records and make the necessary adjustments to the planned manure application rates. At the end of each year Country Aire Farms LLC shall contact each entity listed above to obtain spreading records from the previous year so that they can be properly tracked in the NMP. Please Note: Country Aire Farms LLC is responsible for obtaining nutrient content values for all other wastes spread on any field in their NMP.

3. The following fields are prohibited from receiving applications of manure or process wastewater until updated soil samples can be taken:
   - Micke-3

   If Country Aire Farms LLC wishes to use these fields for applications of manure or process wastewater all necessary information shall be submitted to the Department prior to application to demonstrate compliance with NR 243 and other applicable codes. Written Department approval amending this condition approval must be received prior to application.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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, Country Aire Farms LLC may use the following equation to adjust the first year available nitrogen when applications are injected or incorporated within 1 hour:

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

7. Country Aire Farms LLC shall record daily manure applications by using form 3200-123A.

8. Country Aire Farms 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 form 3200-123.

WINTER SPREADING

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

10. The following field(s) are approved for winter spreading solid manure, emergency applications of liquid manure and frozen liquid manure:
    - EIS-1
    - EIS-3
    - Huss-1
    - Huss-3
    - Merbach-1
    - Schuessler

11. 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.

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

13. 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

14. No headland stacking sites are approved.

NR243.143/151.075 SILURIAN BEDROCK PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

15. Manure generated by Matt Lavey Farms, Inc that is mechanically applied to the following approved fields meet planning requirements under NR243.143/151.075, Silurian bedrock performance standards. The following fields are required to meet all requirements under NR243.143/151.075, Silurian bedrock performance standards immediately following this approval.
    - Bruecker-2
    - Bruecker-3
    - Diny
    - Lemke Home
    - Lemke Klug
    - Nickel
    - Swanson

MANURE DISTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS

16. It is noted that approximately 50,000,000 gallons of manure is transferred to BC Organics (WPDES permit no. 0066303-01-1) annually via an underground pipeline. This manure will be returned to Country Aire Farms LLC for land application. The annual report should include a digester transfer log.

MANURE & PROCESS WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

17. Irrigation of manure or process wastewater is prohibited.

SUBMITAL AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

18. 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.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

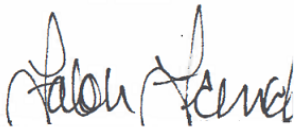
19. The animal unit to acreage ratio following the planned expansion significantly exceeds 1:1. This can lead to overutilization of the land base and rising soil test P levels. It is recommended to monitor the soil nutrient content and adjust manure and fertilizer application rates, to ensure that fields do not build soil test P.

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) 228-5265 or Falon.French@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Falon French
WDNR CAFO Intake/Nutrient Management Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc: Holly Stegemann, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist (Holly.Stegemann@wisconsin.gov)
Joe B Baeten, WDNR Agricultural Runoff Supervisor (Joseph.Baeten@wisconsin.gov)
Christopher Clayton, WDNR Runoff Management Section Chief (Christopherr.Clayton@Wisconsin.gov)
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File

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Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen Hyun, Ph.D., Secretary
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TTY Access via relay - 711

February 21, 2025

FILE REF: R-2024-0160
WPDES Permit #: WI- 0059200

Mike Gerrits
Country Aire Farms LLC
1440 Lamers Clancy Rd
Greenleaf, WI 54126

Subject: Days of Storage Review for Country Aire Farms LLCNW¼ of T21N, R20E, Section 20 in Holland Township, Brown County – NO ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Mike Gerrits:

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/ Ruekert & Mielke on June 25, 2024 on behalf of Country Aire Farms 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 Country Aire Farms LLC has 249 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 8,654. The liquid waste volumes are based on the NRCS spreadsheet and other estimated or calculated values for a collection period of 365 days. Full collection of stacking pad runoff is provided for the 25-yr, 24-hr runoff event. The volume calculations include a 4-million-gallon flush flume reserve. The farm manages leachate and process wastewater separately than manure waste; therefore, leachate and process wastewater volumes were not reviewed with the days of storage submission.

Waste Storage	Total Vol. from Settled Top to Bottom	Remaining Waste	25-yr, 24-hr Runoff	25-yr, 24-hr Precip. on Storage	Freeboard Vol.	Max. Operating Level (MOL) Vol.
#1	8,053,492	723,075	142,114	219,414	675,859	6,293,030
#2	9,697,290	870,214		263,077	723,901	7,840,098
#3	9,969,009	1,069,727		324,684	994,730	7,579,868
#4	7,017,673	706,492	570,614	183,541	506,677	5,050,349
#5	1,449,272			70,391	191,428	1,187,453
#6	24,436,837	1237098		608,694	2,555,796	20,035,249
Flush Flume Reserve		4,000,000				-4,000,000
					Total MOL Vol:	43,986,047
					Days of Storage:	**249**

Total Annual Liquid Waste Volume (NRCS Table Values)	
Liquids Collected/Stored	Annual Gallons
Manure, Bedding, and Parlor Wastewater	55,270,123
Net Precipitation on Storage Surface(s)	8,123,389
Stacking Pad Runoff Collected	1,100,355
TOTAL:	**64,493,867**

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

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