

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0064416-03-0

Permittee: Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC, N5485 Harvey Rd, Jefferson, WI, 53549

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC, N5358 HWY 89, and W6178 HWY B, Lake Mills, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the **Lower Crawfish** Watershed

Brief Facility Description : Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC is a proposed Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) that raises cage free layer chickens for egg production. Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC is owned and operated by **Scott Schneider**. It currently has **2,786** animal units.

The Main poultry farm has four barns and a covered manure storage building and is located on Highway 89, just south and east of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The facility is adding a satellite farm called the Hermann farm located on Highway B, east of Lake Mills, to their operation. This site features 3 layer barns that are being converted to a cage free system for smaller birds called pullets. This facility was previously operated as a poultry facility. Manure produced at this farm will be transported to the Main farm.

The Main farm will be upgraded to include a new egg wash and grading facility and a new manure drying system. Wash water from the egg washing and grading facility and condensate from the manure dryer will be stored in a new concrete above ground liquid manure storage facility. A new covered manure storage building will be built for the dried manure.

The Hermann farm barns are being renovated inside for a cage free system with solid manure loadout systems. An older concrete liquid manure storage structure has been removed.

The Department has reviewed and granted conditional approval of the submitted Nutrient Management Plan and give conditional approval to the plans and specifications for the reviewable structures except the manure transfer plans for the Hermann site. Those plans are being reviewed.

Deans Eggs dba Nature Link Farms, LLC has a total of **2,150.1** acres. Of this acreage, **497.2** acres are owned and **1652.9** acres are rented. Of the total acres, 1,831.2 are spreadable acres, available for land application of manure and process wastewater .

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued. This WPDES permit action is an integrated analysis action under s. NR 150.20(2), Wis. Adm. Code, and does not require a separate action under NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Mark Cain, DNR, SCR Headquarters, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 275-3252, mark.cain@wisconsin.gov

Informational Hearing Date, Time, and Location: **September 10, 2019 at 1:00 PM in the Community Room of the City of Lake Mills Municipal Building; 200 Water Street; Lake Mills, WI 53551.**

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 use 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 insure 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 (608) 275-3252 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 OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Lake Mills Leader

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 320 N Main Street, Lake Mills, WI 54551-0310

Date Notice Issued: August 8, 2019