

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0063657-04-0

Permittee: Blaken Farms LLC, W13887 Cty Rd D, Melrose, WI, 54642

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Blaken Farms LLC, N2150 Gundersen Rd Melrose

Receiving Water and Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Fleming Creek-Black River Watersheds

Brief Facility Description : Blaken Farms LLC is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) dairy farm in Jackson County. Blaken Farms is owned and operated by Joby Blaken, Larry Blaken, Terry Blaken, and John Dobbs. The dairy currently operates at 780 milking/dry cows, 504 heifers, and 160 calves (1,574 animal units). The dairy's production area includes two cow barns, a milking parlor, one heifer barn, one calf barn, three waste storage structures, and a feed storage area.

Blaken Farms has a total of 1,579.7 cropland acres included in their nutrient management plan. Of these acres, 691.6 acres are owned, and 888.1 acres are rented or controlled by land agreement. Acres in the nutrient management plan are located in Jackson County.

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

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Clare Freix, DNR, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-4465, Clare.Freix@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, or the application, or to request a public informational hearing may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is re-issued. 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. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be re-issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if within 30 days of the public date of this notice, a request for a hearing is filed by any person. The Department shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from USEPA or from 5 or more persons or if the Department determines there is significant public interest. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

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) 492-4465 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: Banner Journal, 409 E Main Street, Black River Falls, WI, 54615-1460

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, February 28, 2024