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## **Bernath Farms 1 and 2** **Draft Permit to Operate**

### ***General overview of the farm***

Bernath Farms 1 and 2 is an existing swine facility located at 17939 County Road HJ, Wauseon, Ohio. The facility is situated in Fulton County, Dover Township, in the Tiffin River Watershed. The facility is owned by Bernath Farms, LLC and is operated by Aaron Bernath, both of Wauseon, Ohio. The facility has two separate barns, each capable of housing 2,500 head of swine weighing over 55 lbs, for a total of 5,000 head of swine. Each barn is constructed with an eight foot concrete pit under the housing barns that are capable of storing approximately 1.2 million gallons of liquid swine manure, which provides almost 750 days of storage. A mortality composting structure is also located at the site that is capable of storing approximately 175 tons of mortality compost, providing well over 2,500 days of storage.

### ***General overview of the draft Permit to Operate***

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a manure management plan is provided which outlines different inspections and monitoring activities that must be completed. Approximately 1.2 million gallons of liquid manure and 20 tons of mortality compost material would be land applied annually. All of the compost material and the liquid manure would be land applied on approximately 700 acres that are controlled by Bernath Farms 1 and 2. The manure will replace the need for commercial fertilizer on a typical corn, soybean and wheat rotation.

A detailed Insect and Rodent Control Plan is required to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan details which types of pests could potentially cause problems and how the facility will prevent those problems from occurring. The plan explains what preventative measures and treatments are available and how and when they might be employed. Details regarding the Insect and Rodent Control Plan can be found in the draft PTO.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for the disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Bernath Farms 1 and 2 plans to continue using mortality composting as its method of mortality management.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure that emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies and resources. The plan also identifies procedures to be followed during an emergency, such as a spill or discharge, as well as contact information for those who would need to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records document inspection of the manure storage structures, groundwater sampling, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and its records are regularly inspected by the ODA to ensure compliance.

