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Van Ham Dairy Farm Draft Permit to Operate Renewal

General overview of the farm

Van Ham Dairy is located in Putnam County, Perry Township, at 7089 Road 22 in Continental, Ohio. This facility is owned and operated by Van Ham Dairy, LLC and is located in the Auglaize River Watershed. This draft Permit to Operate (PTO) is a renewal application for the previously issued PTO, which was valid for a period of 5 years.

The existing facility has a design capacity of 2,250 mature dairy cows, which will remain the same under this draft Permit to Operate. Freestall barns #3 and #4 have a design capacity of 792 mature cows each, freestall barn # 2 has a design capacity of 186 mature dairy cows and freestall barn #1 has a design capacity for 480 mature dairy cows. Manure storage at the facility consists of four ponds and a concrete basin, which have a combined storage capacity of 50 million gallons for liquid manure. There is also approximately 102,600 cubic feet of storage for solid manure.

Overview of Draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a complete manure management plan is provided, which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. The estimated annual manure production for the facility is 29.8 million gallons of liquid manure from the cows and milking parlor. In addition, approximately 3,350 tons of solid manure will be generated annually, consisting of sand/solid laden manure, waste feed, compost and pen pack. Van Ham Dairy has approximately 3,866 acres of crop land available for the land application of the manure. This farm land will be in a corn silage, wheat, soybean and corn grain rotation.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The facility performs daily inspections throughout the facility for flies, and rodents. These inspection results are used to determine if the facility is required to perform treatment for insect or rodents based on the criteria set forth in the permit.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Van Ham Dairy will continue to utilize rendering as their method of disposal.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies. In case of an emergency or accident, the names and phone numbers of contact personnel and equipment are listed.

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 include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance.

