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Flat Land Dairy **Draft Permit to Operate**

General overview of the farm

Flat Land Dairy is located in Paulding County, Harrison Township, at 6787 County Road 144, Antwerp, Ohio in the Upper Maumee River watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Mike Visser. The dairy has a design capacity of 2,400 mature dairy cows housed in four freestall barns. There are four existing manure storage ponds with a combined capacity of 33.59 million gallons that provide about a year's worth of storage. A sand lane system is used to recycle bedding material. The facility has the capacity to store up to 74,000 cubic feet of recycled sand bedding material.

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 facility will generate an estimated 33.59 million gallons annually of captured storm water, manure, and milking center wastewater. The liquid manure will be distributed to area farmers and applied on 5,450 acres of crop land to recycle nutrients as a replacement for imported commercial synthetic fertilizers. The planned crops for these acres include corn silage, corn grain, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Flat Land Dairy plans to transport mortality to the Defiance County Landfill as the primary 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.

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, 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.

