

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0064335-01-0

Permittee: Organic Valley Chaseburg, 203 S Main St, Chaseburg, WI, 54621

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Organic Valley Chaseburg, 203 S Main St Chaseburg WI 54521

Receiving Water And Location: The groundwaters of the Bad Axe/LaCrosse River Basin located in Vernon County

Brief Facility Description : The proposed new permit combines two previous general permits, Landspreading of Industrial Liquid Wastes and Landspreading of Industrial Sludge for this facility. All proposed reporting and monitoring requirements are based on the previously held two general permits. CROPP Cooperative operates a creamery/dairy processing plant for products under the Cooperative Regions of Organic Producers Pools label. The Chaseburg Creamery is a balancing plant, which means that it helps to balance out raw milk supply. When milk is needed at other plants, the creamery can send them milk or cream to meet their production needs. When there is excess milk that is not needed at other plants, it comes to the Chaseburg Creamery. The raw milk is separated into bulk tankers of fresh, organic Grade A farm milk or reloaded raw milk. The skim milk and cream are pasteurized at the Chaseburg plant utilizing HTST pasteurization; cream is segregated in vats or silos and used in butter production or for standardized milk loadouts. The Grade A skim milk and standardized milk is loaded out by tanker for customer use. No bottling or packaging of milk occurs onsite. Raw milk and pasteurized cream and buttermilk from the butter making process are also shipped out on tankers for further processing by customers.

Liquid wastes at sample points 001 and 003 are hauled to approved manure storage tanks. The generated sludge at sample point 002 is from the plant's dissolved air floatation (DAF) treatment system that collects all rinse and wash water generated at the plant. The DAF system consists of a 20,000 gallon tank where a flocculant is added to keep solids afloat and a coagulant is then added to allow the solids to gather at the top of the processing tank where the solids are skimmed off and stored in the sludge tank for later disposal. The liquid is pH adjusted and sent to the village of Chaseburg POTW to be treated under their WPDES permit. The DAF system is designed to remove suspended solids (TSS), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and oils and greases (O&G). This sludge is also hauled to approved manure storage tanks.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Angela Parkhurst, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 839-3836, Angela.Parkhurst@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Peter Carlson, 890 Spruce Street, Baldwin, WI 54002, (715) 225-2209, Peter.Carlson@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above-specified WPDES permit should be issued for this new discharge.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the above-named basin engineer.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above-named 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 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 issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats. 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, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above-named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 839-3836 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, permit 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: Vernon County Times

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 1407 St Andrew Street, LaCrosse, WI 54603

Date Notice Issued: May 28, 2025