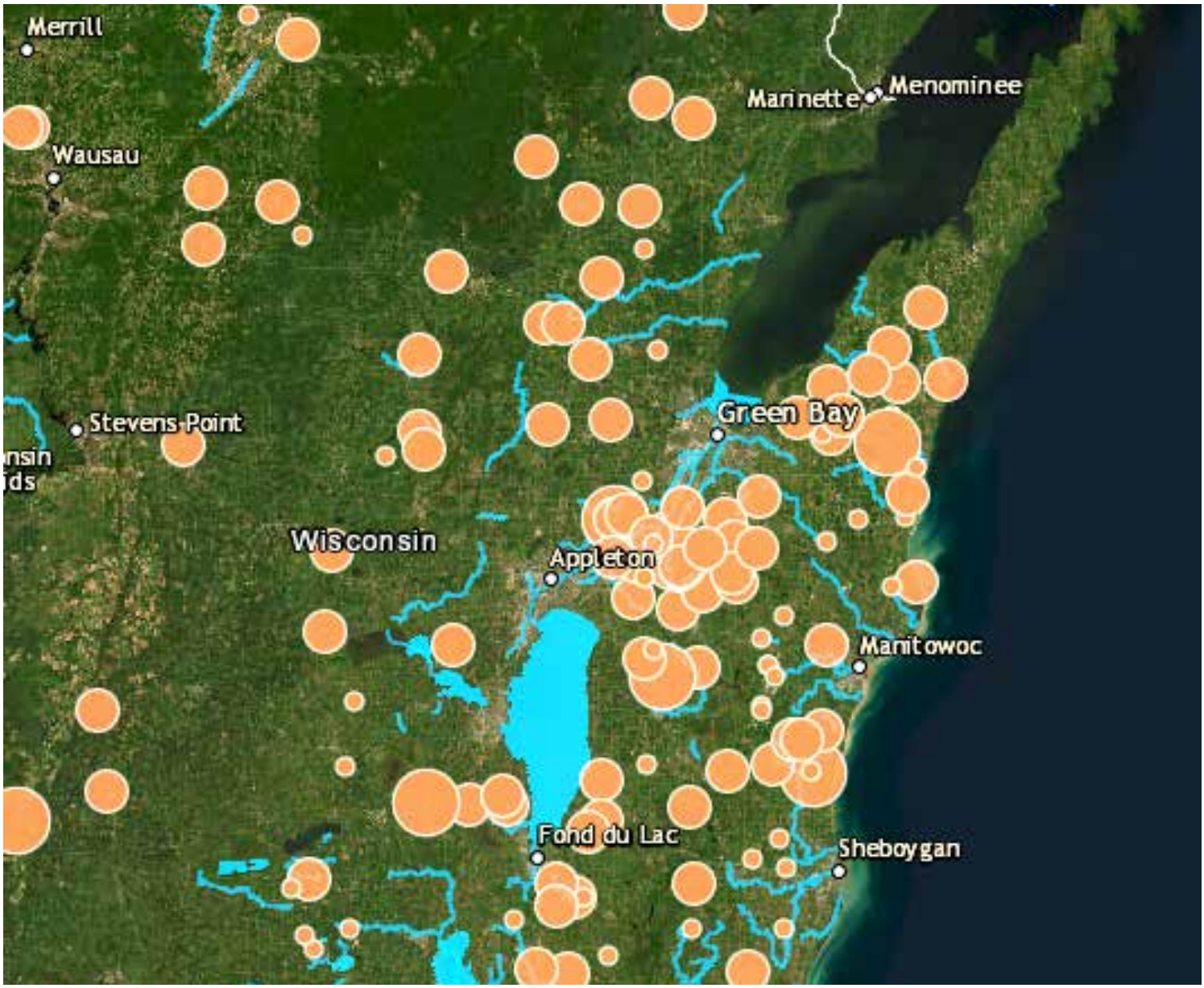
Clean Water Action Council

OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

Celebrating 39 years of working to protect public health and the environment in Northeast Wisconsin

SUMMER 2024

CAFO Expansions Continue as Opposition to Factory Farms Grows in NE Wisconsin, Across the State, and the Nation



Location of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in relation to EPA designated impaired waters (blue) in Northeast Wisconsin. https://arcg.is/1mD4aj

Introduction

by CWAC President Dean Hoegger

We first began reporting about the impact of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) on Northeast Wisconsin in 2012. At that time, members and residents came to us with many CAFO concerns. Concerns included contaminated drinking water, impaired streams and rivers, excessive traffic from liquid manure hauling, frequent manure spills, excessive odors, the construction of CAFO animal confinement buildings close to existing homes, and the threat of spraying liquid manure using irrigation systems. Most of these issues and concerns still remain a dozen years later.

In October 2014, CWAC, along with several other environmental organizations, placed before the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "The Petition for Emergency Action Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act to Protect the Citizens of Kewaunee County, Wisconsin from Imminent and Substantial Endangerment to Public Health Caused by Nitrate and Bacteria Contamination of an Underground Source of Drinking Water." There was, and still is, substantial evidence that this contamination was from the application of the millions of gallons of liquid manure spread on farm fields, as the method of disposing of the waste.

After many months of delay, at the urging of the EPA, the DNR finally began holding hearings on the matter for over a year before establishing the NR 151 Technical Advisory Committee, which met for another seven months. CWAC served on the committee with some additional environmental groups represented, and many agricultural representatives. The result was modest changes to NR 151 manure spreading rules, but only in regions where karst topography was present, and only in Northeast Wisconsin. The rules finally took effect in 2018.

NR 151 rule changes, improved practices by producers, and greater enforcement have led to some improvements in water quality. However, we still have a long way to go to protect the ground water. These improvements are being negatively offset by numerous CAFO expansions. *(See list on pgs. 4-7)* These expansions have further taxed the carrying capacity of the land making it unable to accept more liquid manure without contaminating the ground water or raising the level of phosphorus (P) retained in the soil. High levels of P in the soil contribute to P contaminating surface waters resulting in extreme algal blooms.

The current makeup of Wisconsin's legislature is very business friendly, including strong support for agribusiness. This places the environment and human health at risk. With local governments extremely limited by the state's Livestock Facility Siting Law, it is difficult to act locally based on local conditions. There appears to be no regulatory system in place that prioritizes public health or water quality. Local officials blame the state for the inability to pass more protective laws. "In order to change ordinances and change regulations we have to have a state change," said Davina Bonness, Land and Water Conservation Director for Kewaunee County,
at a public hearing as reported by WFRV TV.

For this reason, groups exist in Wisconsin that seek to place a moratorium on new CAFOs and expansions. At least five Wisconsin counties and three towns have enacted temporary CAFO moratoriums. Other states, such as Oregon and Iowa, Sonoma County California, and even the U.S. Senate have proposed CAFO moratoriums. The Senate Bill called the Farm System Reform Act of 2023, if passed, would have ended CAFO operations effective January 1, 2041, and provided funding for transitioning to more sustainable farming practices.

Read more in this issue about why so many Northeast Wisconsin residents oppose CAFOs as a model of food production and learn about some alternatives.

Reference: https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/swampereporting/CAFO/Index

What is a CAFO?

By Lauren Felder

In simplest terms, a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) is a farm where animals are kept and fed in confinement. To be a CAFO, a farm must first be an animal feeding operation (AFO), which means that animals are or were confined and fed on the land at least 45 days out of a twelve-month period, and no crops or vegetation are grown for harvest on any portion of the facility.

The definition of CAFOs comes from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which defines CAFOs and classifies them as a point source pollution to waters of the United States due to the discharge of manure and other waste. Administration of the NPDES program is delegated to state agencies, so in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources controls NPDES permits and regulations.

The definition of CAFO under the NPDES breaks them down into three categories: small, medium, and large. Small CAFOs are not regulated as CAFOs for the purposes of NPDES. Medium CAFOs must meet additional pollutant discharge criteria to be regulated as a CAFO. Large CAFOs are always regulated as CAFOs and must apply for discharge permits in order to operate. A CAFO is classified as large if more than a certain number of animals are kept in the CAFO, and that number changes depending on the animal.

The following examples are regulated as large CAFOs under the NPDES system. A beef or dairy CAFOs house 700 or more mature cattle, 1,000 or more cattle or 1,000 or more cow/calf pairs. A swine CAFO is an AFO that houses 2,500 pigs over 55 pounds or 10,000 or more pigs that weigh less than 55 pounds. An AFO that houses chickens becomes a CAFO when it houses 30,000 laying hens or broilers only if it has a liquid manure handling system to control animal

In the lower part of the image is an example of a manure storage system at Dairy Dreams in Kewaunee County. Courtesy of Google Earth.

waste. If the AFO has a different type of waste handling system, it becomes a CAFO when it houses 125,000 or more chickens other than laying hens, or 82,000 laying hens.

CAFOs are also regulated under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES), under which the definition of CAFO is simpler: an animal feeding operation with 1,000 or more animal units, no matter what kind of animal is housed on the property. An AFO with fewer than 1,000 animals may also be regulated if it discharges pollutants into navigable waters or contaminates a well. In Northeast Wisconsin, and all of Wisconsin, the most common type of CAFO is dairy. In fact, there is only one beef CAFO out of 139 CAFOs in Northeast Wisconsin, according to the DNR. The rest are dairy. To look up how many CAFOs are in your county and their permits, visit https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/swampereporting/CAFO/Index.

Natural Resources (NR) chapter 243 outlines the permitting procedures for CAFOs in Wisconsin. Among other requirements, an operation must complete a WPDES permit application at least twelve months before it is set to begin operation. The DNR reviews the plans for manure and wastewater storage and either approves or rejects the permit. This plan can include spreading manure on farm fields, but manure cannot be spread on frozen or snow covered ground with exceptions for emergencies or injection into the ground. CAFOs must also develop response plans for manure spills and disposal of animal carcasses. After a CAFO has an approved permit, the facility must comply with inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements, and renew their permits every five years.

The number of CAFOs is steadily increasing while the number of smaller family farms is decreasing. From 2010 to 2019, the number of dairy CAFOs increased 55%, to 279 CAFOs, in 2019. In 2017, farms with 500 or more cows were home to 41% of the cow population in Wisconsin, which is up from 3% in 1997. So, while the number of dairy cows in Wisconsin remains steady at about 1.25 million cows, the number of farms that house the cows has decreased.

According to the US Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Census, there were 387 farms in Wisconsin that housed more than 500 dairy cattle, up from 272 in 2007. In the most recent census, in 2022, there were 615 farms with more than 500 dairy cattle. In contrast, there were 3,843 farms housing fewer than 100 dairy cattle in 2022, down from 8,757 farms in 2012.

Unfortunately, industrial farming can lead to incidents of water contamination and animal cruelty. In 2023, Kinnard Farms, a large dairy CAFO in Kewaunee County, agreed to pay a $215,000 settlement for illegally spreading manure in Kewaunee and Door Counties. Residents of Kewaunee County are likely familiar with the ongoing water contamination issues due to agriculture.

A CAFO milking parlor carousel.

In 2013, videos of workers at Wiese Brothers Farm in Brown County committing acts of animal cruelty went public. Four workers were charged, but the owners were not. In 2014, similar videos from Andrus Dairy Farm in Birnamwood were published, although no one was prosecuted as a result of the videos. Currently, Wisconsin does not have what are known as ag-gag laws, which prohibit secretly filming farm operations inside a building.

Selected sources:
https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/sector_table.pdf
https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN CAFOs and THEIR VIOLATIONS

Compiled by CWAC intern Jenna Strei

Northeast Wisconsin has seen a significant increase in the loss of small to mid-size dairy farms and an increase in the number and size of concentrated animal feeding operations called CAFOs. While the overall number of animals has remained much the same, the numbers of animals confined at these facilities has greatly increased. To get a sense of how CAFOs are taking over the rural landscape, we have compiled a list of the DNR registered CAFOs in Northeast Wisconsin, by county, along with the location and current number of animal units and the number in 2019 to see the expansions taking place. This information is followed by any significant violations we found, including reported spills in the last ten years.

BROWN

Brickstead Dairy LLC
1734 Wayside Rd, Greenleaf
1385 animal units/1344 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2014

Calf Source LLC
3586 Cooperstown Rd, De Pere
2641 animal units/2250 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2012

Collins Dairy LLC
3489 Hill Road, Greenleaf
2668 animal units/1851 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2015, 2017, 2022

Country Aire Farms LLC
1440 Lamers Clancy Rd, Greenleaf
5197 animal units/4210 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2014

Dairyland Farm LLC
2647 Mercier Road, New Franken
8985 animal units/6600 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021 (2), 2022

DenMar Acres LLC
6489 County Road W, Greenleaf
1709 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2020

Greenleaf Ledge Dairy, LLC
1966 Day Street, Greenleaf
789 animal units/new

Joshua Verbeten
4357 County Rd U, Wrightstown
772 animal units/new

Kane Family Farm
4367 Lark Road, Denmark
1805 animal units/1648 in 2019

Ledgeview Farms LLC
3870 Dickinson Rd, De Pere
2618 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2019 (2)
Increased farm by 788 animal units between 2013 and 2014 without applying for a permit.
Operating without WPDES permit, allowing manure and wastewater to enter waterways (2023)
Violations of WPDES permit, continuing to discharge manure and wastewater in waterways

Meadowlark Dairy LLC
1074 Meadowlark Rd, De Pere
2629 animal units/2790 in 2019

Miedema Dairy Farms LLC
4431 County Road C, Pulaski
2196 animal units/1573 in 2019

Mueller Dairy Farm LLC
2375 Day St, Greenleaf
1216 animal units/1750 in 2019

New Horizons Dairy LLC
4240 Rosin Rd, De Pere
1550 animal units/1464 in 2019

Plum Pride Holsteins LLC
7016 County Road D, Greenleaf
1818 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2019

Stencil Dairy Farms LLC
4819 Glenview Rd, Denmark
2921 animal units/2803 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 1993, 2009

The Cattle Corner LLC
5580 Humboldt Rd, Luxemburg
1575 animal units/1400 in 2019

Thompsons Gold Dust Dairy
3793 State Highway 57, De Pere
2845 animal units/2694 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2023

Tindale Farms LLP
2768 Poplar St, Wrightstown
4420 animal units/3479 in 2019

Wayside Dairy LLC
3603 Wayside Rd, Greenleaf
4074 animal units/3275 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2019

Wiese Brothers Farms
7043 Bunker Hill Rd, Greenleaf
10463 animal units/10,460 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations for: 2014, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023
Animal abuse violations:
2 intentionally mistreatment of animals (Class A misdemeanor) 2 disorderly conduct (Class B misdemeanor)
3 Mistreatment of animals (not a criminal offense)

Zirbel Dairy Farms LLC
6013 Morrison Rd, De Pere
1809 animal units/1675 in 2019

CALUMET

Dallmann East River Dairy LLC
N6038 E River Rd, Brillion
5925 animal units/5200 in 2019

Grand View Dairy Farm Inc
W3412 Schmidt Road, Brillion
2328 animal units/2261 in 2019

Holsum Dairies LLC
W4880 Dick Rd, Chilton
15450 animal units/13,865 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014, 2018, 2019 (4)

Hornstead Dairy
W397 Man-Cal Road, Brillion
3988 animal units/1434 in 2019

Rivers Edge Dairy LLC
W2268 Hickory Hills Rd, Chilton
3381 animal units/1880 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016, 2021 (2)

Schneider Farms Inc
W2920 Faro Springs Rd, Hilbert
2536 animal units/2031 in 2019

Shiloh Dairy LLC
M8681 Bastian Rd, Brillion
5156 animal units/4570 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016 (2), 2018, 2019 (2), 2021, 2022

Wenzel Hilltop Dairy LLC
N6414 Riemer Road, Hilbert
1537 animal units/1508 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014

Woldt Farms LLC
N9594 County Road PP, Brillion
2698 animal units/2335 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017 (2), 2019, 2023

DOOR

Brey Cycle Farm LLC
2139 County Road O, Sturgeon Bay
1287 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2023

S & S Jerseyland Dairy LLC
7900 Old Elm Rd, Sturgeon Bay
9646 animal units/6395 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017, 2021

KEWAUNEE

Augustian Farms LLC
E 4361 County Road G, Kewaunee
1817 animal units/1672 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016, 2022

Baudhuin's Grandview Dairy, LLC
E3528 County Road T, Casco
997 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2019 (2), 2020

Buresh Farms LLC
E166 Hwy 29, Luxemburg
947 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2018, 2022

Dairy Dreams LLC
E2405 County Road X, Luxemburg
6427 animal units/5995 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016 (2), 2018 (2), 2019, 2022 (2)
08.01.2014: inspection violations from 04.10.2014 and 04.16.2014 include no MOL marker in manure storage pond, runoff discharges to storm water diversion.
01.09.2014: violation of manure runoff from land application site
11.26.2013: found liquid manure that had flowed from Dairy Dreams site to adjacent road ditch
03.21.2013: feed waste contamination of snow and frozen contaminated snowmelt down hill of field
11.12.09: manure applications on saturated soils

Deer Run Dairy LLC
N1215 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Kewaunee
2910 animal units/2538 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014, 2015, 2017, 2022
07.16.2014: illegal manure spreading, violation of spreading within 300 feet of drains.

Ebert Enterprises LLC
N6939 County Highway D
11236 animal units/8932 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2018, 2019, 2020 (2)
06.25.2014: During inspection in January 2014, inspectors found that Ebert Enterprises applied solid manure on frozen ground within 150 feet of an intermittent stream. Found during same inspection, solid manure was applied within 0 to 100 feet of wetland on snow-covered ground.

Ebert Enterprises LLC Tonet Dairy
N7521 Tonet Road, Luxemburg
1898 animal units/new

El Na Farms LLC
4029 Pheasant Rd, Algoma
3355 animal units/2993 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2019

Halls Calf Ranch
E2304 County Road F, Kewaunee
1975 animal units/1640 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2015
Between 2011-2013, several inspections recorded wastewater flowing to ditches, access roads, and East Twin River

Heims Hillcrest Dairy LLC
5566 County Rd E, Casco
1483 animal units/1238 in 2019

Kinnard Farms Inc
E2675 County Road S, Casco
13085 animal units/10,029 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014, 2015, 2016 (2), 2018, 2019 (3), 2020 (2), 2022
2023: manure spreads too close in proximity to private wells, failed to complete an engineering study of two waste storage facilities, and failed to submit manure management plans in a timely manner.
2021: Wisconsin DNR issues Kinnard farms Inc a wastewater permit to include a limit on herd size and requirement for groundwater monitoring.
2014: Wells contaminated with E. Coli likely due to manure spreading by CAFOs such as Kinnard

Legend Farms Dairy
E3470 County Road F, Kewaunee
790 animal units/1144 in 2019

Pagels Ponderosa Dairy, LLC
N4893 County Road C, Kewaunee
11395 animal units/9615 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014 (3), 2015 (2), 2017 (3), 2018 (2), 2021, 2022, 2023 (3)
08.21.2013: violation from inspection on 07.25.2013 in which Pagels Ponderosa was using unapproved method of manure application.
05.19.2011: complaint that liquid manure spreading equipment was not lifted up nor shut off as it went through channel (intermittent stream) therefore flushing liquids downstream to East Twin River.

Quality Dairy LLC
5232 BK Line Rd, Luxemburg
2688 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2022 (2)

Rolling Hills Dairy Farm
N3265 County Road AB, Luxemburg
3646 animal units/2904 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017

Sandway Farms LLC
E1411 Bolt Road, Denmark
1206 animal units/1072 in 2019

Seidls Mountain View Dairy LLC
N5405 Rendezvous Road, Luxemburg
1606 animal units

Wakker Dairy Farm Inc
N2348 Highway 42, Kewaunee
4435 animal units/3123 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017, 2018, 2019
2019: Wakker Dairy had excess manure and hired someone to spread the rest but spread the manure on multiple fields that exceed the amount allowed for the permit. This overspreading led to pollution discharges. E. Coli levels read up to 100 times more than what would close a public beach.

MANITOWOC

Badger Pride Dairy LLC
15724 Hillcreek Rd, Valders
1370 animal units/1368 in 2019

Blue Royal Farms Inc
1329 Menchalville Rd, Reedsville
1979 animal units/1837 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2023

Blue Royal Valley Dairy
3325 S Union Rd, Whitelaw
1359 animal units/1359 in 2019

Branch View Dairy LLC
7500 Village Drive, Whitelaw
1670 animal units/new

Cedar Springs Dairy
2001 Hillview Rd, Mishicot
1968 animal units/1520 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2020

Clarks Mills Dairy Farm LLP
14329 Upper Falls Road, Reedsville
1832 animal units/1311 in 2019

Fitz Pine Dairy Farm Inc
11405 County Rd F, Newton
2031 animal units/1954 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2024

Grotegut Dairy Farm Inc
7427 Newton Rd, Newton
7344 animal units/4774 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2023

Johnson Hill Farm LLC
5503 Marken Road, Valders
1390 animal units/1274 in 2019

Kocourek Dairy LLC
22220 Herzog Road, Reednville
1754 animal units/1169 in 2019

Kostechka Dairy LLC
12031 West Hillcrest Road, Whitelaw
1479 animal units/1430 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017

Maple Leaf Dairy Inc
6832 County X, Cleveland
11576 animal units/11723 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2015, 2019, 2020, 2023 (2)

Mueller Range Line Dairy
10104 North Ave, Newton
1140 animal units/1134 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014

Orthland Dairy Farm LLC
14319 South Union Road, Cleveland
2813 animal units/1189 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014, 2018

Otto Farms LLC
4012 Otto Lane, Valders
1290 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2019

Pagels Daybreak Dairy
14331 Saxonburg Road, Mishicot
1389 animal units/new

Robinway Dairy, LLC
17231 Point Creek Rd, Kiel
2987 animal units/2992 in 2019

Siemers Holstein Farm Inc
14421 Mineral Springs Road, Newton
8614 animal units/4232 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2019

Soaring Eagle Dairy
10219 County Road F, Newton
1950 animal units/1868 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016, 2019

Strutz Farm Inc
7500 Irish Road, Two Rivers
2104 animal units/1953 in 2019

Sunny Slope Dairy LLC
20507 Sunny Slope Road, Reedsville
1690 animal units/new

Triple F Dairy
5012 Maple Grover, Reedsville
1642 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014

Twin Cities Vue Dairy LLC
3416 Stone Rd, Manitowoc
1621 animal units/1634 in 2019

United Vision Dairy LLC
12434 Tannery Road, Mishicot
1750 animal units/1414 in 2019

Wolfgang Dairy LLC
11812 Palm Grove Rd, Reedsville
1268 animal units/1652 in 2019

MARINETTE

B&D Dairy Farm LLC
W7251 E 6th Rd, Pound
11550 animal units/9317 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2019
2018: violation of safe drinking water due to nitrate levels that exceed state limits

Coleman Ponderosa LLC
N2727 23rd Road, Coleman
3218 animal units/2010 in 2019

Fendryk Brothers Partnership
W9075 County Road P, Crivitz
2055 animal units/2278 in 2019

Golden Ridge Dairy LLC
W7419 E 18th Road, Crivitz
1583 animal units/new

Van De Walle Farms LLC
W8303 22nd Road, Crivitz
3280 animal units/2784 in 2019

Slowey Farms Inc.
N5400 County Road A, Westfield
2435 animal units/new

OCONTO

Blaser Farms Inc.
9267 State Highway 22 E, Gillett
962 animal units
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017

O'Harrow's Family Farm LLC
6401 Company Lake Road, Oconto Falls
3205 animal units/3055 in 2019

Peterson's Dairy LLC
6336 Goatsville Rd, Lena
2118 animal units/1068 in 2019

Sunrise Dairy LLC
9101 State Highway 32, Suring
2480 animal units/3390 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2015

Triple C Dairy LLC
8716 CCC Road, Oconto Falls
1934 animal units/1239 in 2019

Valley Line Dairy LLC
8976 Sellen Lane, Oconto Falls
1248 animal units/new

Zahns Farms LLC
11620 County Road H, Gillett
10671 animal units/5382 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2018, 2019

OUTAGAMIE

Allen VandeHei
N8370 County Road Y, Seymour
2500 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2020

Birlings Bovines LLC
N8212 Town Hall Road, Black Creek
2967 animal units/3078 in 2019

Neighborhood Dairy LLC
W926 Van Asten Road, Kaukauna
1622 animal units/1496 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017

Rohan Dairy Farms LLC
N7832 Village Road, Bear Creek
2027 animal units/1522 in 2019

Schuh View Dairy LLC
W2540 CTH S, Kaukauna
1998 animal units/2165 in 2019

Seven Oaks Dairy LLC
W229 County Road ZZ, Kaukauna
1893 animal units/1187 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2015

Sugar Creek Farm LLC
N6848 County Road D, New London
2153 animal units/1776 in 2019

Tidy View Dairy LLC
N3603 Vanden Bosch Road, Kaukauna
10777 animal units/10677 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014, 2015, 2019

Verhasselt Farms Ltd
N3835 Section Line Road, Kaukauna
5048 animal units/4370 in 2019

SHAWANO

Betley Farms LLC
W1630 Redwood Drive, Pulaski
4997 animal units/2893 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2020

Green Valley Dairy LLC
N5365 Hintz Road, Krakow
6475 animal units/5289 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014, 2018

Horsens Homestead Farms LLC
W1980 County Road C, Cecil
2385 animal units/new

Krueger Dairy LLC
W8371 Oak Avenue, Shawano
5025 animal units/3455 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2018

Matsche Farms Inc
N9035 River Road, Birnamwood
W16550 County Road N, Birnamwood
13066 animal units/8047 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2015, 2020, 2022

Olson Dairy Farms, Inc.
N9124 Butternut Road, Birnamwood
1338 animal units/new

Paiser Family Dairy LLC
W9388 Butternut Road, Shawano
1140 animal units/new
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2021

Schmidts Ponderosa LLC
W3773 Old Dump Road, Bonduel
2490 animal units/1930 in 2019

Strassburg Creek Dairy
N7339 Regina Road, Wittenberg
2810 animal units

Tauchen Harmony Valley Inc.
N3397 S Broadway Road, Bonduel
1913 animal units/1750 in 2019

Wagner Farms Inc
N6928 Country Road BB, Oconto Falls
1487 animal units/new

SHEBOYGAN

Anatevka Dairy
N2729 Faas Road, Oostburg
n/a animal units/1237 in 2019

Drake Dairy Inc
N8870 Crake Court, Elkhart Lake
5715 animal units/1908 in 2019

Goeser Dairy LLC
M7325 State Road 67, Plymouth
1573 animal units/1765 in 2019

Highland Crossing Dairy LLC
W3194 Playbird Road, Sheboygan Falls
1430 animal units/1373 in 2019

Hanke Farms, Inc.
N6368 Willow Road, Sheboygan Falls
1916 animal units/1769 in 2019

Hickory Lawn Dairy Farm
N2957 Hickory Grove Road, Cascade
1541 animal units/1500 in 2019

J C Maurer & Sons Inc.
W7560 Grogen Road, Elkhart Lake
3878 animal units/3053 in 2019

Kohlwey Farms LLC
W7377 S County Road A, Adell
1191 animal units/new

Majestic Meadows Dairy LLC
N5854 Meadowlark Road, Sheboygan Falls
1322 animal units/1320 in 2019

Quonset Farms LLC
W3018 Wilson Lima Road, Oostburg
1834 animal units/1242 in 2019

Rockland Dairy Inc.
W4705 County Road D, Random Lake
3648 animal units/1973 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2016

WAUPACA

Brooks Farms Dairy LLC
N1757 County Road A, Waupaca
1246 animal units

Egan Bros Partnership
N5736 County Highway T, New London
1718 animal units

Friendship Valley Dairy LLC
E8698 Reinke Road, Clintonville
3386 animal units
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2014 (2), 2017, 2019, 2022

Quantum Dairy LLC
E4399 Bartel Rd, Weyauwega
818 animal units
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2020

WINNEBAGO

Cross Farms LLC
7022 Cross Road, Winneconne
2951 animal units/2394 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2021, 2022

Omro Dairy LLC
2376 Scott Street, Omro
5209 animal units/3763 in 2019

Thistle Dairy LLC
3006 Lone Elm Road, Van Dyne
4140 animal units/3734 in 2019
Significant Actions:
Spill violations: 2017, 2020
Permit violations: failure to maintain adequate waste storage capacity to prevent overflows and discharged to waters of the state, failure to notify the DNR when its manure storage facilities exceeded their maximum operating level, failure to take preventative maintenance actions to divert uncontaminated runoff from manure and waste water storage and containment areas and outdoor animal lots, failure to collect and treat contaminated runoff; and failure to follow nutrient management restrictions when land applying waste (2011)

Why Are There CAFOs?

By Rick Adamski

Why have CAFOs become the prominent production model for livestock production in Wisconsin and the US? CAFOs are the acronym for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. This model is based upon the belief that the efficiency of production is achieved by concentrating many animals together to afford the latest technology to produce animal products at lower costs. CAFOs are a logical outcome of a system that is flawed. The system is the problem that has led to the current state of production agriculture.

The foundational buttress of this thinking is that the market is flawless. There is a fundamental belief in a market-based system that will solve all the problems caused in the process of production. This is not true because the market is a virtual reality. The market is an attempt to create value based upon the real world. Unfortunately, the market has been manipulated with incentives that have distorted and disconnected the market from reality.

My belief is that the closest humans can come to representing reality is by observation and sharing with others. This give and take of observation and learning the perceptions of others is the closest humans will come to a better understanding of reality. If the market was indeed an exploration, based upon curiosity, then we might come closer to a market system that would represent reality. Currently, our system is based upon an infinite growth model. The parallel to an infinite growth system in biology is cancer. Growth for the sake of growth is deadly.

Based upon our current system, CAFO owners are following the rules of this system. They believe that production is the most important element of their ability to continue to make a living into the future. There is a strong belief that maximum production is the equivalent of healthy. There is a firm commitment to maximum production being the most efficient means of production.

> **You cannot have infinite growth on a finite planet."**
>
> -Paul Guilding

There is a belief that farmers that adopted the newest technologies would realize an efficiency until others adopted the same technology. When this new technology became the normal means of production, it lost its efficiency until the next new technology would provide the next advantage for the next earliest adopters. This is called the technology treadmill.

The technology treadmill led farmers to believe that increasing production through new technology was progress. These innovations came at a cost that is not recognized. These farms became more dependent upon outside inputs that required more and more purchases. The technology treadmill is called the green revolution by those that advocated this system.

The technology treadmill is not unique to agriculture. It affects all of us because market fundamentalists want the price of food to be kept low to enable consumers to spend more money on nonessential items. I call this "Feeding the Beast." This belief is the beast that is driving all of us to be never satisfied. We are serving an economy of perpetual growth. This is the world of 'busyness' where we never have enough.

Another significant change is that farmers receive much less of the dollars spent by consumers buying food. Currently farmers receive an average of about 14 cents of every dollar that consumers spend on food. This was close to 50 cents 50 years ago. One reason for this change is that there is more processing of food today than there was 50 years ago. Another main reason is the consolidation of food companies have created a concentration of power with the food processing buyers. This allows buyers to exert their desires upon the growers, the consumers, and the government.

These are only a few of the reasons for the current state of agriculture. The results are a very productive system that does not respond to the concerns of those affected by this system. There is recognition of environmental impacts, but they are discounted by this system. Those that produce in this system believe that they are being victimized by this criticism. Those that are critical of this system are ignored because the market does not respond to external costs.

Essentially the system leads all of us to argue with each other and to blame others. Very few of us are truly able to work together with others to come to reasonable solutions to these problems. In my second article I will focus upon the environmental problems and suggest some long-term solutions.

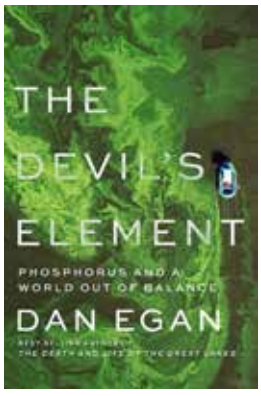
Environmental Problems of CAFOs and Some Solutions

By Rick Adamski

This article will address only a few of the environmental problems caused by the concentration of livestock in CAFOs. The big problems are the elements phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N).

Both elements are essential nutrients for all organisms. They are excreted by livestock and are found in elevated amounts in the surface and/or the groundwater near CAFOs. The P and N levels sometimes exceed human health standards. Although the health standards have been debated, I lean towards embracing the Hippocratic oath, "Do no harm."

The most prominent technological advancement in agriculture has been the widespread adoption of commercial fertilizers to increase the production of the crops grown on farms. The recognition that phosphorus fertilizers increase crop yield has been common knowledge for several centuries. Dan Eagan's most recent book, *"The Devil's Element, Phosphorus and a World out of Balance"* is a great read on the topic of phosphorus. Much of the information in this article uses information from this book.



Mined phosphorus is regularly treated with sulfuric acid to make the elemental phosphorus more readily available to growing plants. The world phosphorus reserve is limited and will be depleted soon if use continues at current rates. Because of the large numbers of dairy cattle, the largest source of phosphorus is manure. This is the primary nutrient for the crops of northeastern Wisconsin.

Excessive phosphorus in surface waters can cause blue-green algae blooms in warm summer temperatures. These algae are toxic to most organisms. They make surface waters unsafe for swimming because they create skin irritations and even breathing the air near these algae can cause lung complications.

Research has proven that the main source of excessive phosphorus comes from non-point source pollution. This is the erosion from farm fields. To grow annual crops, like corn and soybeans, the land must be plowed every year, and this causes bare soil to be exposed during the time of the year when we get the most rainfall, May, and June.

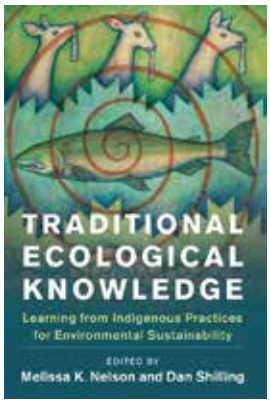
Some of the phosphorus fertilizer applied to the soil becomes attached to soil particles during a growing season and then becomes less available for plants to utilize. This soil-attached phosphorus can be transported to surface waters when it rains and when erosion occurs. Once washed into the water, the element is slowly released from the soil and dissolves into the water where it fuels algae growth.

Most of the nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer applied to farm fields does not transfer into the crops. The increase in fertilizers has increased crop yields. That which does not go into these crops is the problem of pollution.

Fifty years ago, traditional dairy farming practices had about half of their farm in hay fields every year. These hay fields were legumes and grasses. The legumes converted atmospheric nitrogen to grow hay. Today more than 2/3 of the cropland of CAFO's in northeastern Wisconsin is corn. There are several reasons for this change, but one reason is that corn needs more nutrients than other crops. It utilizes the nutrients from the manure.

The technologies of municipal sewerage systems have been adopted by animal agriculture production systems to create CAFO's. Collecting animal wastes as a liquid is fundamental to the creation of CAFO's.

Many people have observed these unintended consequences of this system of agriculture. There is a long history of seekers looking for solutions to the problems we've created with our annual crops fertilizer system. One set of solutions is practiced by indigenous people practicing the principles of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Among the many principles of TEK is to "take some and to leave some" to provide nutrients for the future.



Sustainable/Organic agriculture is another alternative solution. Many people using this system strive to farm in harmony with nature. This requires a farmer to observe natural systems near the farm and imitating those practices. One example is to grow crops that can produce good yields with minimal inputs and crop rotations that include several years of legume-based forage crops.

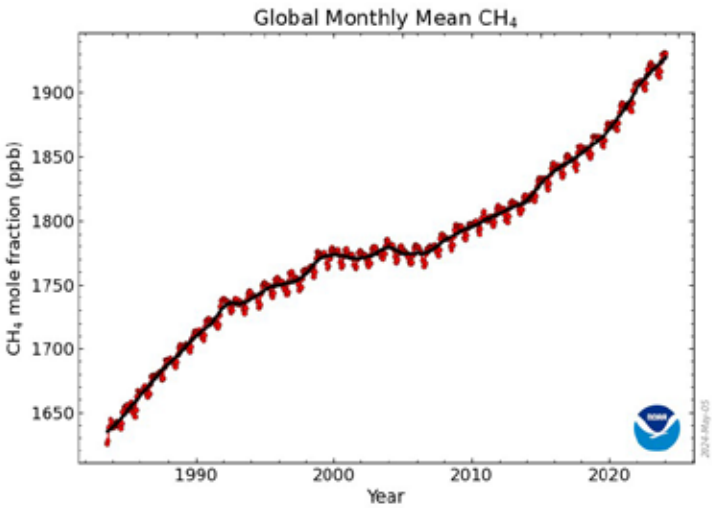
Regenerative Agriculture is another system trying to imitate nature by growing crops that are perennial instead of annual crops. One example of this system is to grow fruit and nut trees near animals so that the trees provide some of the feed for the livestock on the farm and the manures are distributed by the animals. Agroecology is the study of the ecology of farms and the interaction of these diverse species on the farm. Among the principles of ecology is that diverse systems are the most resilient ecosystems.

The common thread of all these alternative farming systems is to return livestock to the land. The practice of managed grazing of ruminants, and supplementing feed for other livestock with live plants, is the greatest hope we have to produce enough for our needs and to keep most of the nutrients in the soil and out of our water.

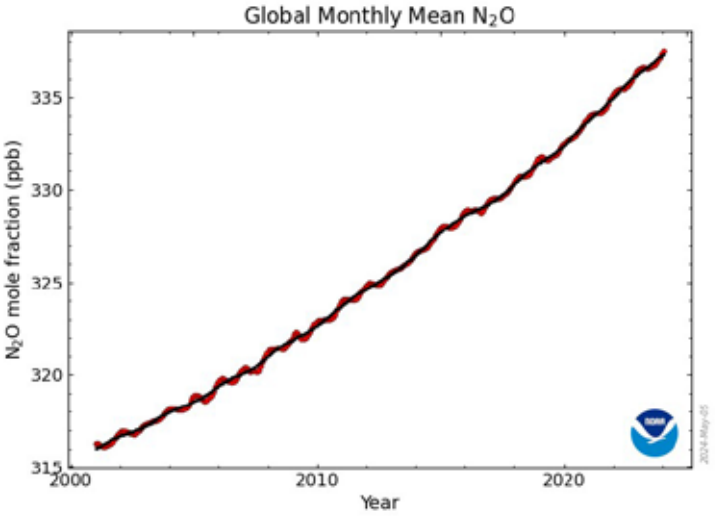
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Climate Change

By George Mason, Guest Writer

In 1984 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) started monitoring the concentration of Methane (CH4) in the atmosphere. Due to its structure, CH4 traps more heat in the atmosphere per molecule than Carbon Dioxide (CO2), making it 80 times more harmful than CO2 for 20 years after it is released. CH4's impact on human-induced global warming is significant. Since 1984, CH4 has increased in the atmosphere by 16%. As methane breaks down in the atmosphere, it creates water vapor and CO2, both extremely effective greenhouse gasses. A recent EPA report confirms animal agriculture as the largest U.S. source of methane pollution, with manure and enteric fermentation responsible for a combined 36% of total US methane emissions.



In addition to Methane emissions, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)s also emit a significant amount of Nitrous Oxide (N2O). Agriculture continues to be the leading U.S. source of methane and N2O, two highly potent climate pollutants. Nitrous oxide stays in the atmosphere longer than Methane and is 265 times stronger than carbon dioxide over 100 years.



Also a significant emission in CAFO operations, carbon dioxide continues to rise in the atmosphere. Since initial daily measurements began in 1958, atmospheric CO2 has risen from 316 parts per million to 426 parts per million, a 26% increase. Prior to daily measurements, ice core data indicates that CO2 has risen by 35% since 1800. CO2 remains in the atmosphere for over 200 years. CO2 molecules from the first internal combustion engine are still in our atmosphere.

Since 1900 when reliable standardized temperature measurements were introduced, the annual average temperature in Brown County has increased by 2.4 degrees Fahrenheit, greater than the global average temperature increase of 1.8 degrees F. Temperatures in the North are increasing faster than any other place on the planet. Those temperatures are also increasing at an extremely rapid rate. The annual Arctic temperature increase since 1985 now exceeds 5 degrees F.

CAFOs are a major contribution to global warming. From a climate change perspective, they are unsustainable. The citizens of Wisconsin will continue to see rapid annual temperature increases as man-made greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase. Organizations like the Clean Water Action Council seek to limit the expansion of CAFOs and other major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. They need your support, both privately and at the polls. We owe our children and grandchildren our best effort to correct the current pathway we are on. Last winter was an existential indictment against man-made greenhouse gas emissions. This summer is forecast to be the hottest that Wisconsin has ever experienced. Until we force change, these rapid temperature increases will continue.

George Mason is a retired Army Colonel and past treasurer of CWAC in 1994. Prior to returning to active duty in 1997, he researched Phosphorus and Nitrogen loading in the East River Watershed, TCE pollution on Scray's Hill East of Green Bay, and led testimony against the Grantech facility in Green Bay. He holds a BS degree in Earth science from UWGB and was selected as a Harvard National Security Fellow in 2012 where he studied global energy policy.

CAFOs Are Harming Area Residents

By Dean Hoegger

CAFOs are industrial agricultural facilities that pollute our air and water. They create stress on people living near these operations, and those who are on the manure spreading routes, or near where manure is spread. CAFOs lower property values and diminish the enjoyment of country living. They are not in line with the values of most rural residents. The following are stories of people harmed by CAFOs in Northeast Wisconsin.

According to a multitude of studies conducted since the late 1980s, the construction of a CAFO lowers the home and land values around it. A 2015 publication found that properties located within three miles of a CAFO lose up to 26% of their value. Based on these studies, Scott and Deborah Kliment successfully argued to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue that their dream home in rural Algoma was greatly reduced in value since the neighboring Ebert Dairy Enterprises developed into one of Kewaunee County's largest agriculture operations. They received a 13% tax reduction which may set a precedent for other similar properties.

A new subdivision in Casco was devastated by water contaminated by nitrates. One resident, Tyler Frye, said he paid for a reverse osmosis system out of his own pocket to ensure his drinking water was safe. He said the system costs $900. Lisa Cochart, owner of the Casco Kids Zone, needs to provide purchased water to guarantee safe drinking water for the children due to the high nitrate level in the tap/well water. The Village Café in Casco has the same problem and provides bottled water for customers.

Arlin and Mary Lou Karnopp live near Luxemburg where their property borders a field managed by Rolling Hills Dairy Farm for manure spreading, as reported by Wisconsin Public Radio. The Karnopps' well has tested positive for nitrates and coliform over the years, so they no longer drink the water. They are also afraid to let their grandchildren play in their yard due to fears over contaminated soil.

Lynda Cochart lives in the Town of Lincoln in Kewaunee County between two large CAFOs, Dairy Dreams and Kinnard Farms. Lynda has a constant concern for the safety of her well water. After years of tests showing bacterial contamination, she replaced the well in 2016. In the *CWAC Summer 2020* newsletter she reported she still does not feel safe drinking her well water, especially with her grandchildren visiting.

For John and Margaret Laramay, who live in Oconto County, country life radically changed in 2018 when B&D Dairy built a manure pit about a quarter mile from their home. After the 2.6-million-gallon capacity pit began to fill with liquid manure, the stench became overwhelming. "The smell is so strong that you can hardly stand to be out in the yard," stated John. "You can't plan ahead, not knowing which way the wind will blow." The Larmays noted that when people come to visit, they complain of the odor.

Shelly from the Town of Richmond in Shawano County is concerned about manure odors and water quality. She reports that the odors are so strong that she needs to have the windows closed during a two-week period, likely during liquid manure spreading. However, she has an ongoing concern for the safety of her well water. Her neighbor needed to put in a nitrate treatment system, and she worries her family may be at higher risk colon cancer. She also wonders if the abdominal illnesses her family is having might be well water related. CWAC urged her to have her well water tested!

There are hundreds, if not thousands of untold stories of people who are being harmed by the CAFO model of food production. **If your story needs telling, send it to us.**

Using Local and State Laws to Protect Our Waters from CAFO Pollution

By Dean Hoegger

Wisconsin's Right to Farm Laws, Wisconsin Statutes 823.08, severely limit farm activities by filing a nuisance claim. Alarmed by a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that found an egg farm to be a nuisance and ordered it closed, farm groups urged legislators to override this precedent. The result was a series of laws beginning in 1982 and then significantly upgraded in favor of farming in 1995. One upgrade was the condition that even if a farm drastically increases in size or changes the type of farming being conducted, that change might not be subject to nuisance liability.

823.08 also authorizes the courts to **award compensation for legal fees to the farmer** if the farmer proves under the law, his farming practice is not a nuisance. A local example of this, is when a group of residents in the Town of Little River contacted a law firm to represent them in an effort to stop a manure pit from being constructed. The group contacted CWAC, asking Executive Director, Dean Hoegger to advise the law firm. CWAC advised that the only action the resident group could take was to challenge the erroneous setback measurement. However, the law firm,

against Hoegger's warning about the Right to Farm Laws, decided to challenge the permit based on a nuisance claim. The judge ruled in favor of the farm, B&D CAFO, and billed the residents for over $100,000 in legal fees.

Residents living near CAFOs are further disadvantaged by the **Wisconsin Livestock Facility Siting Law**, which took away most local authority to regulate the siting or expansion of livestock facilities. "The Wisconsin Supreme Court has interpreted the law as creating a broad preemption of local authority with respect to livestock facility siting," reports a Wisconsin Legislative Council issue brief.

One notable exception to this law has been the success of **towns banning the practice of spraying liquid manure** onto fields using center-pivot and other types of irrigation sprayers. CWAC led this effort, resulting in 17 towns that banned the practice in four counties.

Spraying manure using irrigation equipment.

For some CAFO facilities, a **conditional use permit** (C.U.P.) is required at the county level, which may provide an opportunity to prevent the construction of a facility. When the C.U.P. requires obtaining a variance for construction, this leaves a potential opening for opposing legal action. After CWAC reviewed an application for a manure pit in Oconto County, which required a C.U.P., it was determined that all the conditions for obtaining the variance had not been met. An appeal to the Oconto Board was persuasive, and the permit was rescinded.

When CAFO's expand, or their current permit expires, the DNR must publish a **notice of the permit application** and provide permit documents when requested. Typically, the permit publication will include a phrase stating the DNR has tentatively approved the application. If five or more citizens ask for a hearing, however, then the notice will be republished to give sufficient notice of the hearing date.

However, this republished notice does not provide sufficient time to review the hundreds of permit pages and the nutrient management plan, which includes thousands of acres for liquid manure spreading. Among other concerns, these fields need be examined for slope, soil depth, proximity to bodies of water, and ownership or land rental contracts. Hiring an expert to review a nutrient management plan could cost over $7,000 as CWAC discovered.

Despite these challenges, it is important to place general concerns on the record by testifying at a hearing or by writing within 30 days from the date of a public notice. After a recent hearing for the CAFO, S&S Jerseyland Dairy, the DNR reduced the herd expansion to 10,231 animal units down from the proposed 14,711. It also required the CAFO to submit a groundwater monitoring plan and to install monitoring wells at the main production site. The large number of people attending the virtual hearing or submitting comments succeeded in obtaining those modifications of the plan.

While is difficult to determine the amount of liquid manure that is being spread per acre, it is possible to monitor and report other obvious violations, including runoff or ponding of manure, or in the case of a CAFO, applying manure on snow covered or frozen ground in the Silurian region with shallow bedrock. In northeast Wisconsin, that includes Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, and Sheboygan counties.

Seeking a CAFO moratorium is a strategy used to put CAFO permitting on hold, **but** it is only applicable for a limited time if approved. In 2017, Kewaunee County's Lincoln Town Board, passed a one-year moratorium on construction or expansion of existing livestock facilities in the town. Generally, moratoria are for a short period of time to complete investigations, such as threats to ground water, and then make the necessary recommendations. In the case of Lincoln, the town board was waiting for the results of a lawsuit against a CAFO, and the state's implementation of NR 151 manure spreading rules. Bayfield and Burnett counties also passed moratoriums.

Send us an email request if you would like any supporting documents or would like assistance with opposing a CAFO expansion.

Resources:

Midwest Environmental Advocates, staff attorney Adam Voskuil, presents "A Review of Local Regulations and Moratoriums for CAFOs in Wisconsin." Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W_uuSQO-do

Applying Our Food Dollars and Sense to Create a Sustainable Future

By John Hermanson

Consciously spending our food dollars, participating in public policy making, and promoting sustainable farming practices will help create landscapes with less industrial animal farms. While this issue is too broad to adequately explore here in detail, it is hoped this will place you on a path to a more sustainable food system.

Life is full of choices. How we spend our money, our time, and attention can help create the world we want. Our choices can range from small decisions like supporting a vendor at a local farmers market, to large decisions like supporting sustainable food practices. Belonging to groups like CWAC, and following food producer issues that the Wisconsin Farmers Union tracks, can help inform food purchases. For example, WFU provides information about small and midsized meat processing plants, local and state laws regarding backyard chickens, and so much more. The Wisconsin Local Food Directory is also a great resource,

Adam Goettelman, owner of Healthy Way Market in Sturgeon Bay, is passionate about Micro Dairies including Two Guernsey Girls Creamery from Freedom, Wisconsin. According to Adam, Micro Dairies are trendy in England and are catching on in the United States because the farms focus on quality products rather than quantity.

You can find Two Guernsey Girls Creamery at various farmers markets throughout the state including Green Bay on Saturdays. This Micro Dairy sells artisan cheese and non-homogenized A2/A2 Beta Casein whole milk that is vat pasteurized and bottled on their small farm with about a dozen cows.

Healthy Way also supports Westby Cooperative Creamery Plant with over 175 members, of which roughly 75% of the farms are organic certified. Westby Co-op provides cottage cheese, dips, sour cream, and butter using quality milk from small, family farms. They have a store locator on their website and online ordering is available at westbycreamery.com/.

For many people price and availability is important, so Lamers Dairy Inc. offers another local and economical choice. Lamers Dairy farm located near Appleton, is known for their glass returnable bottles, which account for roughly 28% of the volume of milk they sell.

Regarding meat purchases, you might consider the purchase of a customizable pastured chicken, pork and beef share. Members pay an annual or seasonal fee towards the producer's operating costs, and in turn receive weekly or monthly shares of the meat produced. Community supported agriculture (CSA) businesses such as SLO Farmers Co-op are a great place to start. SLO Farmers Co-op provides the chicken and some vegetables for the CWAC annual banquet.

Grass-fed beef, pastured pork, and poultry can also be purchased directly from local producers, such as Full Circle Community Farm of Seymour. The farm was named Organic Farmer of the Year and sells quarter, half, and whole portions. Waseda Farm Market in Bailey's Harbor and De Pere is also an organic producer of certified organic meat and eggs, including organic grass-fed Black Angus beef. They suggest you visit their market, garden, and walking trails at the farm. Tours can be made by appointment. Open everyday from 10 AM-5 PM. Phone: 920-839-2222.

Search the ***Farm Fresh Atlas™ 2024*** to find local food in Wisconsin:

https://farmfreshatlas.org/

Producer cooperatives, such as Organic Valley, Wisconsin Meadows, and Grass Roots Farmers help farmers share resources while supporting small farms. LocalHarvest.org connects producers with consumers through CSA's, farm markets, and retail outlets. Farmers markets and roadside stands are ways to shop locally, while learning about the people that grow the food. Northeast Wisconsin has an abundance of orchards and vegetable stands. Stop in, meet the growers, and hear their story.

Wisconsin Farmers Union is raising concerns about meat processing plant consolidation, which has resulted in fewer small or midsized plants, making it more difficult for smaller meat producers to get their product into consumer kitchens. They have a white paper on this topic: https://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/_files/ugd/629d75_550123f0097c4a7db5cf842c70ddea33.pdf. It reports what other states have done concerning portable meat processing operations and makes suggestions to encourage creating the infrastructure needed for small meat producers.

Northeast Wisconsin has a great climate for growing oats, which could support a dairy alternative: organic oat milk. With no manure waste, no manure pits, no manure hauling, no awful odors, and no pathogen contamination of the ground water, oat milk seems like a sustainable alternative to dairy.

Another alternative to dairy is Precision Fermentation (PF). It is a new technology for alternative protein production, while reducing the need for industrial agriculture. It has the potential to change our rural landscapes and help rewild our planet to become healthier and more resilient. It would feed humans and reduce the suffering of livestock. A good source to learn more about this technology is at https://www.rebootfood.org/.

Please Support Organic Valley and Other Area Organic Producers

CWAC believes in the work of Organic Valley to support small family farms which produce certified organic milk from cows on managed pastures. We have included stories in our newsletters about some of these farmers, and we invited them to teach other farmers at our managed grazing workshops. **Much of the following article contains excerpts from their website.**

Organic Valley farms comprise more than 400,000 acres of land in the United States, and this organic acreage is home to more than 1,600 Organic Valley family farms and a whole lot of biodiversity. (81,961 of these acres are in Wisconsin.)

Most of the land is home to dairy farms. Organic Valley farmers also raise poultry, beef, and produce. Why does it matter if these acres of land are organic? At Organic Valley they believe the less we mess with nature, the better. Nature already has it figured out.

Healthy soil is the foundation of organic farming and

there are 700-plus chemicals that, by law, cannot be used in growing or processing organic products. To be certified organic, producers must follow regulations, from farm to table, outlined by the National Organic Program. Organic practices support the cycling of on-farm resources, promote ecological balance, and preserve biodiversity. Organic Valley farms have kept 440 million pounds of chemicals off the land since its beginning in 1988!

Northeast Wisconsin is home to many of Organic Valley's farms. Twenty-five of these are within 50 miles of Green Bay. From Lena south to Manawa, and Sturgeon Bay west to Shawano, these are just some of the local farms your dairy dollars will support: https://www.organicvalley.coop/our-farmers/find-your-farmer/

Locations of Grassfed Farms in Wisconsin. We like this map a lot more!

The practice of using managed grazing methods to continuously have a mixture of grasses on a pasture helps absorb rainwater, thus preventing runoff of soil and nutrients. Grazing animals do not require pits to store their manure, and there is no need for air polluting tankers to haul liquid manure for spreading on fields, often great distances from where the animals are fed.

CWAC has supported this practice by holding two managed grazing workshops for farmers. One of our presenters was retired farm financial analyst, Tom Kriegl. He collected data for over 20 years showing the economic competitiveness of managed grazing dairy systems for the University of Wisconsin Center for Dairy Profitability. Other presenters were managed grazing farmers, conservationists, researchers, and educators.

The map below shows the locations of some of the farms using managed grazing practices in Northeast Wisconsin. Many of these have organic beef for sale. **Search: locations of grassfed farms in Wisconsin where you will find an interactive version of this map.**

Through the riveting stories of five American communities, ***'Right to Harm'*** exposes the devastating public health impact that factory farming has on many of our country's most disadvantaged citizens. https://vimeo.com/ondemand/righttoharm

The Action in Clean Water Action Council

By Dean Hoegger, CWAC President and Executive Director

Please renew your membership for 2024. Thank you, if you have already done so.

Memberships are for a calendar year. We keep your membership active even when you renew later in the year, but please renew as soon as possible, and maybe donate a little more if you forgot to renew in 2023.

To check your membership status, look at your address label which shows your last renewal year. Emailed newsletters include the last renewal year in the body of the email. **Membership donations are critical as they account for nearly half of our operational funds. Employee salaries are paid from a trust fund, our Packers' concession stand, and grants, not from membership donations.**

You can mail your membership donation with the enclosed or attached form or go online to http://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/membership/. If we have your current membership information, then all you need to do is click on the "Donate" button on our website's home page or in our email signature block. **Please know that you do not need a PayPal account to pay with a credit card, and a monthly donation is an option.**

We are thankful for members who wish to sponsor any of the following starting at the $250 level: newsletter ($800 per issue), intern ($500 per semester), or office rent at UW-Green Bay ($500 still needed for 2024).

We would like to thank the members who helped with the Spring Banquet, as well as the many sponsors. There are many volunteer opportunities with CWAC, some at the office, some outdoors, and helping at our Packers concession stand. Contact us to volunteer to help protect human health and the environment by calling 920-421-8885 or at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org.

Please consider joining our Planned Giving Circle of Friends to bequeath a donation to CWAC from your estate. See the planned giving mini poster in this issue and contact us with any questions.

Below are the actions that member donations supported in the last three months.

Be sure to contact us if an environmental issue arises in your community. CWAC is here to support citizen action.

Our Office Has Moved

A reassignment of offices across many departments at UW-Green Bay occurred in May. We are now in 310P in Rose Hall. If you come for a visit, park in visitor parking in the Wood Hall lot. Rose Hall is the second building from the lot. Thank you, board members and volunteers, for assisting with the move.

Get Our Weekly Update by Email

Each Tuesday, our Administrative Assistant Gracyn Holcomb emails the *CWAC Weekly Update* with Actions, Permits, Jobs, Events, In the News Updates, and Resources. We have upgraded to the Constant Contact email newsletter service, which makes the *Update* easier to read. If you have any information relevant to the content of the *Weekly Update*, please send us your information by Sunday evening to be posted the following Tuesday. If you are a member with an email address, and you are not getting the *CWAC Weekly Update*, check your spam folder before emailing us to request to be put on the mailing list.

If you are reading this newsletter as a non-member, email us at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org to be placed on the free *Weekly Update* emailing list. Emails are sent via BCC to protect your privacy.

Many of the legal actions in the following section have been addressed in our *Weekly Update* under the Actions section with suggestions for actions that readers can take.

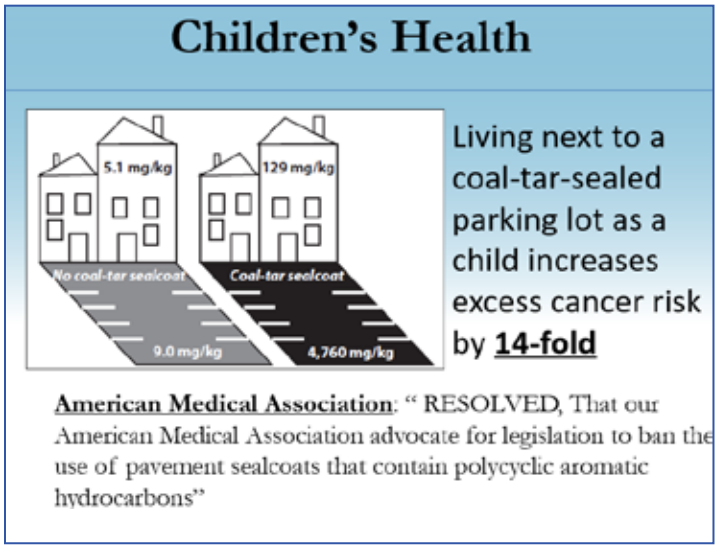
Legal Actions

As a citizen organization, an important function of CWAC is to take legal action on behalf of our members to protect human health and the environment. Here is an update on our ongoing actions.

Our Effort to Ban High PAH and Coal Tar Pavement Sealants Continues

These sealants contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are known to be a serious health threat. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, children living near surfaces treated with this sealant have a 13-fold increased risk of developing certain cancers. Lifetime exposure can result in a 38-fold higher risk of some kinds of cancer. **Children living near parking lots or playgrounds treated with coal tar sealant are at the greatest risk for developing certain cancers during childhood.**

The state will not ban the product, at least not in the next few years. Therefore, we need your help to seek local bans through village and town ordinances. Contact us to help get an ordinance passed in your community.
Click this link for a slide presentation on the topic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zyTSpzvwbk



CWAC Alerts Readers about Pollution Permits, Hearings, and Files Comments.

We monitor notices for new water pollution permits and renewals, and then alert over 750 readers via our emailed *Weekly Update*. Email us at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org to receive the privacy protected emailed update sent once a week. A recent notice for a CAFO permit for the Brey Cycle Farm alerted our members who then satisfied the requirement for five citizens to request a hearing in order for one to be scheduled.

Recent Actions to Protect our Water Resources.

We scheduled a meeting with Brown County Land and Water and the Zoning Department to learn more about the process they used to achieve a 35' cultivation setback from navigable waters. This setback distance reduces the risk of soil and nutrients running off cultivated land. We invited key stakeholders from Door, Kewaunee, and Outagamie counties to meet with the Brown County officials.

The Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce vs the DNR case is still waiting for a WI Supreme Court Hearing.

We supported the DNR's role to protect the public from PFAS and other chemicals by submitting friend of the court briefs in this case over the past two years. The State Court of Appeals found in favor of the WMC claim. The DNR and the Wisconsin Attorney General's office filed a motion for the WI Supreme Court to hear the case. Midwest Environmental Advocates filed a brief requesting the court consider friends of the court briefs from us should the case go before the Supreme Court. Loss of the DNR's authority would likely significantly increase pollution from a host of chemicals that would no longer be regulated by the Spills Law.

Informing members about PFAS legislation, SB 312 and LRB 5764.

SB 312 has been coined the bill with the poison pill by environmental groups. Since its introduction in May of 2023, we have followed this bill and informed members of our concerns. One concern was that it would weaken the state's spills law, which allows the DNR to hold polluters responsible for testing, cleanup, and remediation of

chemical contamination events.

The Senate passed the bill with additional amendments in November. Those amendments were not well received by environmental groups. Midwest Environmental Advocates' Rob Lee believed the amended bill would further limit the DNR's ability to protect the public.

The Assembly passed the bill which would have allowed funding to go to governments and individuals where it is needed to deal with PFAS contamination, but it also gave industrial polluters a free ride. Fortunately, Governor Evers vetoed the bill, and the legislature did not have the votes to override it.

Locally, Senator Wimberger keeps spinning the story that the bill would have protected innocent landowners. However, the language of the bill would have placed industrial polluters in the innocent landowner's category, exempting them from the DNR's authority to order a cleanup. In the meantime, the legislature has tied up the funding in the bill that could go to the truly innocent landowners.

Update on the "Fill Bill" (SB 541 / AB 579)

This law could allow the conversion of 'public trust' lands to private ownership and use. These lands were lakebeds or riverbeds at the time of statehood but since then have been filled to extend the shoreline. Our position was that since Wisconsin's Constitution grants citizens the rights to waters of the state, these filled waters should not be lost forever to private ownership. Unfortunately, On March 27, 2024, Governor Evers signed SB 541 into law as 2023 Wisconsin Act 247.

The Petitions to the EPA for Enforcement of The Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act.

The EPA took no recent action on these ongoing petitions. It is likely that meetings with EPA will be held sometime in 2024.

Educational Efforts in the Community

The CWAC Spring Banquet was a success! About 150 people attended who heard Amanda Smith, Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, talk about invasive species threats and how to take action. Our booth provided newsletters and literature, and our board members were available to discuss issues. Full Circle Farm provided organic food and musician John Rybski entertained us. We were able to meet our fundraising goal, primarily from the silent auction. Thank you to all who attended!

CWAC's President, Dean Hoegger, was invited to speak in April at "The Big Stink," Door County League of Women Voters' forum on liquid manure issues. Unfortunately, Dean was only given 15 minutes to help the audience understand that factory farms are creating the waste product liquid manure, allowed to spread the waste, as much as 15,000 gallons per acre, and call it a nutrient.

Two Food Waste Composting presentations were given. One was to members of Green Bay Leadership group at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and another was at UW-Green Bay for members and the public.

Attorney Adam Voskuil's presentation about requirements for a CAFO moratorium is on our website. He also discussed other laws that could control factory farm manure pollution. The presentation can be seen here: https://youtu.be/9W_uuSQO-do

CWAC exhibited at the Wisconsin Grassroots Network. The festival at Lawrence University in Appleton on May 4 focused on "Our Future Our Choice; Rural and Urban Together."

These Presentations Are Available from CWAC.

Here is a list of current presentations that can be given in-person or via Zoom. Call or email us for scheduling. The presentations can be tailored to your group's geographic location, age, and available time. Also, contact us if you would like us to promote or co-sponsor your event or presentation.

- Citizen Action to Protect the Waters of Northeast Wisconsin
- Using Local, State, and Federal Laws to Protect the Waters of Northeast Wisconsin
- Communities on the Road to Zero Waste
- The Health Hazards of Burn Barrels
- The Health and Quality of Life Hazards from Manure Spraying
- The Health Threat from Coal Tar Pavement Sealants
- Micro-plastic Pollution from Clothing
- Food Waste Composting Made Easy

Newsletter Outreach

The *Spring 2024 Newsletter*, "The Invasive Species Are Here" was sent to 550 members in March. The Sunshine House in Sturgeon Bay is now printing the newsletter in color and doing the non-profit mailing for us. There are a limited number of printed newsletters remaining if you would like to distribute them to a friend, group, or organization. Newsletters are also available on our website at: https://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/newsletter/. Let us know if you would like printed copies of any of our previous issues.

Outreach through Newspaper and Radio

CWAC sends press releases to local media, and we are often contacted to comment on developing environmental issues.

Website Updates

Updated articles, resources, CWAC events, board member bios, and previous newsletters can be found on the website https://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/.

CWAC Provides College Students with Valuable Learning Experiences.

We provide our interns with valuable experiences and strategies for managing a non-profit organization. Rachel Weber, our fall intern, was hired as our Administrative Assistant in January and was then hired by the State Department of Transportation in an environmentally related position. Fortunately, Gracyn Holcomb, who was our previous Administrative Assistant, agreed to work one evening a week. After graduating in December, Gracyn accepted a full-time paralegal position this spring.

Other Actions

Water Sampling at Baird Creek

We began water sampling at Baird Creek in May as part of a Lower Fox River Watershed monitoring program for water quality including phosphorus. Volunteers are needed to complete the water sampling, usually the second Tuesday afternoon of the month for about 45 minutes. Please contact us if you are available to volunteer.

Cultivation Monitoring

We continue to monitor for cultivation near bodies of water that are not in violation of the setback, which generally is only 5', but in some cases 35' in Brown County. We notified Door County Soil and Water about one case in which cultivation occurred right to the water's edge of a creek. We have not received a satisfactory response regarding the action required by the landowner. Members are encouraged to volunteer for our monitoring efforts including flying our drone.

"An example of a creek flowing through cultivated soil along Twin Harbor Creek in Door County."

Have you renewed your membership for 2024?

See your newsletter label or email notice which indicates the last year that you renewed.

CWAC Monitors for Compliance with Phosphorus in Fertilizer Law.

Wisconsin law prohibits marketing lawn fertilizer with phosphorus under most conditions. Phosphorus is a significant contributor to poor water quality in surface waters. A half-dozen compliance checks this spring found only the Door County Cooperative Farm Store to be in violation of the spirit of the law, if not the letter of the law. This has been the case with the store since we have been monitoring the past ten years. You will see in the photo that customers are routinely offered fertilizer with phosphorus. Hidden in the back, and hard to see, is zero phosphorus fertilizer.

CWAC Attends Meetings with Other Environmental Groups

We attended some of the monthly meetings with directors of other state environmental groups, and we network with other state and national organizations.

Citizen Complaints

Many of our more extensive actions, some requiring legal work, resulted from a follow-up of citizen complaints. Keep us in mind if you have an environmental concern and our support is needed.

CWAC's Non-Profit Status

To learn more about our non-profit status and financials, go to the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, Credential Lookup, and then go to Credential Search for Clean Water Action Council (https://www.wdfi.org/ice/berg/Registration/Financials.aspx?chid=933009&h=1122515367).

Please follow us on Facebook.
Click here for our page: ***Facebook***

https://www.facebook.com/cleanwateractioncouncil

Thank you, Title Town Brewery!

Title Town Brewery in Green Bay dedicated the beer, Clean Currents, Lemon Grass IPA, to CWAC's efforts to protect water quality. Pictured are CWAC's Dave Verhagen and Title Town's Scott Kraft with CWAC's president, Dean Hoegger, who is holding a $500 check from the brewery.

Thank you!

...to the many donors who made the spring banquet and fundraiser a success!

5th & Jefferson Café
Ahnapee Brewery
AMO Gallery & Framery
Angela Lensch Jewelry
Ann Ratsch
ARTicipation Studio and Gallery
Associated Bank
Badger Sports Park
Bay Area Yoga
Bay Shore Outfitters
Beach Harbor Resort
Bev Watkins
Bike Hub - De Pere
Bob Platten
Cabela's
Caitlin Cravillion Realty
Captain's Walk Winery
Carol Pearson
Chive's Restaurant - Suamico
Clay on Steele
Club Chalet
Community First Credit Union
Cultured Bakery
Dale Tease
Dancing Bear Toys
Dave Verhagen & Sher Brandl
Debra Noel
Design a la Mode
Door County Birdhouses
Door County Candy
Door County Kayak Tours
Dorothy Summers
Dudley Birder Chorale
Fairy-Tale Couture Boutique
Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center
Florence Banaszak
Four Way Bar & Restaurant
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
Foxy Pedaler
Gib's on the Lake
Ginger Birch
Gnarly Cedar Brewery
Green Bay Botanical Gardens
Green Bay Packers
Green Bay Rockers
Greener Bay Compost
Greens N' Grains
Hearthstone Historic House Museum
Hinterland Brewery
Hoegger Pottery
Holiday Motel
Howie's Tackle
John Hermanson
Joyce Fritz
Judith Van Ryzin
Judy and Nick Lom
Kathy Lefebvre
Kavarna Coffee House
Keltgen Family Chiropractic
Ken and Marge Bukowski
Kick Coffee
Kim Wallander
Kitty O'Reillys Irish Pub
Luigi's Pizza Palace
Mackinaw's Grill and Spirits
Madison Avenue Wine Shop
Madison Capitols Hockey
Madison Mallards
Margarita's
Mary Kay Baum
McFleshman's Brewing Co.
Milwaukee Brewers
National Railroad Museum
Neville Public Museum
New Glarus Brewing Co.
Nicolet Bank
Niemuth's Southside Market
North Shore Bank
Not By Bread Alone
Novel Bay Booksellers
Oilerie
Olson Dental
Other Worlds Books & More
Parallel 44 Vineyard & Winery
Patriot Motors
PCM Credit Union
Pelkin's Smokey Meat Market
Peninsula Jeweler
Peninsula Players
Phil Chaudoir
Popelka Trenchard Glass
REI Co-Op
Richard Kloes
Rose's Family Restaurant
Rustique Pizzeria & Lounge
Seroogy's Chocolates
SLO Farmers Co-Op
Stadium View
Starboard Brewing
Station 1 Brewing Co.
Tattoo Shop Pulaski
The Automobile Gallery
The Red Room
Third Avenue Playworks
Titletown Brewing Co.
Victoria's Italian Restaurant
Village Grille
Voyageur's Bakehouse
Wander Springs Golf Course
Wave Pointe Marina
Weidner Center
White Lace Inn
Wildflower Supper Club
Wilson's Restaurant
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Meetings, Events and Happenings

MEETINGS AND HEARINGS:

July 11 at 10:00 AM
Informational Hearing for Pagels Ponderosa permit renewal.
Via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoceuqqzsoH9MGeKwXkRDbAJTT7VWzbARq

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
(The link will also be active in the *CWAC Weekly Update*)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0059374-05-0 JUNE 6

Permittee: Pagels Ponderosa Dairy, LLC, N4893 Hwy C, Kewaunee, WI, 54216

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: N4893 County Road C, Kewaunee, WI 54216 N 1/2 NW 1/4 S4 T23N R24E, Township of West Kewaunee…
Receiving Water and Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Kewaunee River Watershed and Lake Michigan Drainage Basin

Brief Facility Description: Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy LLC is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation in Kewaunee County, WI… As of January of 2024, it has 6,877 milking and dry cows,(11,394 animal units). Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy has 10,548.5 acres available for land application.

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

Wednesday, July 17, 2:00 PM
Water Quality Program Planning – Triennial Standards Review
Zoom

The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing and informational webinar to gather input on which topics related to surface water quality standards should be top priorities for work over the next three years. The public has the opportunity to testify at the hearing or submit written copies before July 26 to Jenni Kempf via JenniL.Kempf@wisconsin.gov or by mail. For more information and to access the Zoom link visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar

Thursday, August 1, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group Meeting
State Natural Resources Building Room G09, 101 S. Webster St, Madison, or via Teams

Contact Natalia B. Hernández at natalia.hernandez@wisconsin.gov or 262-838-1567 for more information. For more information and to access the Microsoft Teams link visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar

EVENTS:

Sunday, June 23, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Fond du Lac County Breakfast on the Farm
Abel Dairy Farms, LLC, W4050 County Road UU, Eden

For 35 years, Fond du Lac County Breakfast on the Farm has provided attendees with the opportunity to experience area agriculture. The event will include: a large country-style breakfast; ice cream cups for $2; lots of local cheese to sample; petting zoo, educational exhibits, and more. There is something for everyone to enjoy on the farm! For more information and to purchase tickets visit: https://www.envisiongreaterfdl.com/breakfast-on-the-farm/

Saturday, June 29, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Solar Energy Basics for Camping
Governor Thompson State Park, N10008 Paust Lane, Crivitz

Join us for some fun with the sun and learn the basics of solar-powered, off-grid camping. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at the Woods Lake Shelter. For more information visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/90101

Sunday, July 7, 8:30 – 9:30 PM
Universe in the Park
Newport State Park, 475 County Road NP, Ellison Bay

Universe in the Park includes a rain-or-shine presentation on astronomy, including recent astronomical news, and a weather-dependent star party, where visitors can view available astronomical objects through a telescope. For more information visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/93441

Thursday, July 25, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Aquatic Invasives
High Cliff State Park, N7630 State Park Road, Sherwood

Learn about the invasive species that plague Lake Winnebago and find out what you can do to help stop them. For more information visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/89231

Friday, July 26, 4:00 PM
Save the Date: Wisconsin's Green Fire at Big Top Chautauqua
32525 Ski Hill Road, Bayfield

Join us July 26 at our summer event at Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield for an evening of fun, food, music, and education. We'll be celebrating our supporters at this not-to-be missed Northwoods event of the year! For more information on the event and purchasing tickets visit: https://wigreenfire.org/events/

Calendar continued...

Monday, August 5, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Feast with the Beasts
New Zoo, 4378 Reforestation Road, Green Bay

Back for its' 24th year is our popular Feast with the Beasts event! This adults-only event takes place on Monday, August 5 at the NEW Zoo with our VIP admission ticket holders from 5:00 p.m., and general admission tickets from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale Monday, June 3, 2024. For more information visit: https://newzoo.org/event/feast-with-the-beasts-2

Friday, August 9
Lake Michigan Day 2024
Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75. Maritime Dr, Manitowoc

Learn about innovative initiatives and celebrate the annual Lake Michigan Champions of Conservation at the 11th annual Lake Michigan Day! For more information visit: https://www.lakemichiganstakeholders.org/lake-michigan-day#:~:text=Lake%20Michigan%20Stakeholders%2C%20a%20proud,an%20option%20to%20join%20virtually).

BE PART OF THE PACKERS GAME DAY EXCITEMENT!

We are seeking volunteers for our Packers' game day concession stand for all home games.

We end sales when the fourth quarter starts and leave by the end of the game.

Last season we had lots of fun, connected with fans about our work, and earned $9,500!

Email us with Packers' Concessions in the subject line for more information.

Food and Yard Waste Composters Available

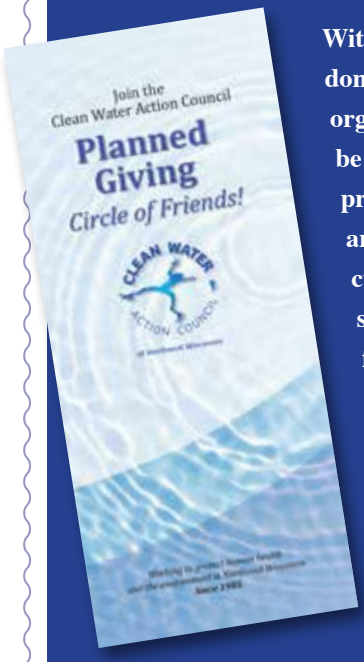
The composter features a locking lid, two doors for removing compost, and comes in two sections plus the lid for easy transport, set up, and take down. It can easily be moved to a new garden location. Made from a sturdy sun absorbing plastic, they have been in operation in Northeast Wisconsin for over a decade.

A limited number of composters will be available from CWAC this summer. Help the environment and produce your own soil amendment by composting your food and yard waste.

Food and Yard Waste Composters
can be purchased for $60 by contacting us at
contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org
or call 920-421-8885

We can deliver and set it up in the Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay areas, or it can be picked up at the office by appointment.

Join Our Planned Giving Circle of Friends



Without planned giving donations or legacies, our organization would not be able to do the work of protecting human health and the environment at its current level. Please consider supporting our endowment fund at the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation with a gift in your will or bequest.

Contact us for a Planned Giving Brochure

CWAC is seeking a volunteer to work two hours most Tuesdays

at our UW-Green Bay office.
Email us if you are interested and would like more information.
contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org
or call 920-421-8885.

Thank you to member

MELISSA ROULO

for providing an intern scholarship!

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from an IRA to an approved charity will exclude that amount from your taxable income. QCDs also can help satisfy your required minimum distributions (RMDs) and do not require that you itemize. You must be 70.5 years old to take advantage of this tax benefit option to giving.

Gifts of Securities, including appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund are another way to reduce your tax burden. They can be outright or a Charitable Gift Annuity. No donor info is transmitted with a stock transfer.

Grant from a Donor-Advised fund (DAF) allows recurring gifts. It is an investment account used for charitable giving to manage your tax situation.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is often referred to as a "split gift" because a portion is an immediate donation, and a portion is invested to for future income payments. You must be 65 or older. A CGA may be funded by cash donations, securities, or gifts of personal property.

Join or Renew Your Membership to Clean Water Action Council for 2024!

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member Date_____

( ) $25 Individual ( ) $50 Sustaining **(this amount would really help)**

( ) $35 Family ( ) $100 Donor ( ) $500 Benefactor

( ) Non-member donation of $ _____for_____

( ) Other $_____

( ) Please send me information about making a planned gift to CWAC

Name(s)_____

Address _____

City _____State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Receive FREE newsletters with each membership.

Please choose one... ☐ Printed version ☐ E-mailed version

Send check or money order to:

Clean Water Action Council
P.O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

To pay with a credit card or to make a monthly contribution, please go to:
https://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/membership/

CWAC is a registered non-profit organization.
Your contributions may be tax-deductible. ***Thank you!***

.....

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!
(BE SURE TO PROVIDE PHONE NUMBER ABOVE)

☐ the newsletter ☐ events ☐ work at office ☐ mailings

☐ joining or leading one of the committees ☐ other

Office location:
310P Rose Hall, UW-Green Bay
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311

www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org

Find us on Facebook or updates on hearings and current or upcoming events.

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Contributions may be tax-deductible.

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TIME TO RENEW for 2024!

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- **CAFOs Are Harming Area Residents**

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For previous newsletters, go to: www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/newsletter/