



Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

Mohawk Square - Suite 300 ♦ 22 North Georgia Avenue ♦ Mason City, IA 50401
Tel. (641) 421-9300 ♦ Fax (641) 421-9350 ♦ www.cghealth.com



DATE: August 19, 2019
TO: Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors
CC: John Robbins, Cerro Gordo County Planning and Zoning
FROM: Daniel Ries, Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health
SUBJECT: Manure Management Plan Christiansen Family Farms (F-47)

This report is being written to make you aware of concerns regarding an *updated* Manure Management Plan received by this office from **Christiansen Family Farms (F-47) swine operation**. This report is being submitted according to Resolution 2003-123 **A Resolution Adopting Policy for the Receipt, Review and Comment on Manure Management Plans Received by the Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors**. Within seven (7) days of receipt of the manure management plan the Environmental Service Manager shall review the Manure Management Plan and prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors detailing concerns to be forwarded to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The confinement unit is located at **8821-170th Street in Section 32 of Mount Vernon Township**. The swine operation is an existing operation that is not expanding. The operation consists of 4,160 hogs in the wean/finish stage, which will produce about 1,310,400 gallons of manure annually. The manure will be stored in below building pits. Manure will be applied to eight fields totaling 1,365.2 acres in Sections 19, 20, 26, 31, 32, 33 and 36 of Mount Vernon Township and Section 4 of Pleasant Valley Township. The Short Form indicates the use of manure analysis for determining application rates. The concerns with the plan are listed below:

- One of the fields where the manure will be applied is less than one mile from Swaledale.
- The fields where the manure will be applied are within the following distances to public use areas: ¼ mile to Beaverdam Creek Waterfowl Protection Area; ½ mile to Walch Wildlife Area; ½ mile to Zirbel Slough; 1½ miles to Stille Wildlife Area; 1½ miles to Union Hills Waterfowl Protection Area, 1¼ miles to the Mount Vernon Township Cemetery.
- Tributaries of West Branch Beaver Dam Creek run adjacent or are in close proximity to the fields in Sections 31 and 32 of Mount Vernon Township.
- Beaver Dam Creek and related tributaries and flood plains impact the fields in Section 26 and 36 of Mount Vernon Township.
- A waterway commences in the field in Section 33 of Mount Vernon Township.
- The manure will be applied adjacent to heavily traveled Interstate 35; odors may influence the perception of travelers.

If you have any questions regarding this information feel free to contact this office at (641) 421-9338 or dries@cghealth.com.



PLANNING AND ZONING

Cerro Gordo County Courthouse

220 N Washington Ave Mason City, IA 50401-3254

(641) 421-3075

John Robbins, Planning and Zoning Administrator

plz@cgcounty.org

Michelle Rush, Executive Assistant

cgcounty.org/planning

October 15, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

CC: Daniel Ries, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

FROM: John Robbins

SUBJECT: Manure Management Plan Update filed by Christiansen Family Farms – Site F47

Gentlemen:

This office is in receipt of a manure management plan update for Christiansen Family Farms – Site F47. This is an existing confinement site at 8821 – 170th Street and located in the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 32, Mt. Vernon Township. The short form states manure analysis is being used.

The plan describes the application of manure on eight fields totaling 1,365.2 acres of land. The number of acres on which manure will be applied is unchanged from the previous year. The fields are located in Sections 19, 20, 26, 31, 32, 33, and 36 of Mount Vernon Township and Section 4 of Pleasant Valley Township. Manure will be surface applied and incorporated into the soil within 24 hours. None of the fields on which manure will be applied contain highly erodible land.

There is a floodplain in the extreme southwest corner of the field in the NE¼ of Section 32 in Mt. Vernon Township. Also, the floodplain of a tributary of the West Branch Beaver Dam Creek runs through the northerly part of the field in Section 31, Mount Vernon Township. The floodplain of Drainage Ditch 92 is within the fields of Sections 26 and 36, Mount Vernon Township. Otherwise, none of the other four fields contain land in a flood hazard area. There are, however, small waterways in each of these fields. There is concern about runoff into waterways since manure will be surface applied and incorporated within 24 hours. Contamination could occur if it rains between when manure is surface applied and it is incorporated into the soil.

There are approximately 40 dwellings within ½ mile of the fields on which manure will be applied. The City of Swaledale is 1 mile southeast of the field in Section 4 of Pleasant Valley Township. Manure will also be spread along the Interstate 35 right-of-way in Sections 20, 32, and 33 of Mt. Vernon Township and Section 4 of Pleasant Valley Township.

In addition, there are public areas in close proximity to the fields on which manure will be applied. The field in Section 20 of Mt. Vernon Township is ½-mile south of Zirbel Slough, 1

mile west of the township cemetery, and 1½ miles west of the Walch Wildlife Area. The field in Section 26, Mount Vernon Township is about ½-mile south of Walch Wildlife Area. The field in Section 31 is ¼-mile east of the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area. The field in Section 4 of Pleasant Valley Township is 1½ miles northwest of the Stille Wildlife Area. Union Hills Wildlife Management Area is also about 2 miles west of the fields in Sections 19 and 31 of Mount Vernon Township.

Access to all eight of these fields is by gravel road only. 170th and 190th Streets are two of the few gravel roads that cross Interstate 35. Therefore, they carry more traffic (35-40 trips per day) than most gravel roads. If manure is hauled over these roads after periods of wet weather or when frost boils are emerging, rutting and other damage to the roads may result.

My major concerns with the plan are possible runoff from manure application, the proximity of residences to the fields on which manure will be applied, possible odor impacts on Swaledale, nearby public use areas, and along Interstate 35, and damage to gravel roads.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Attachment