



# PUBLIC HEALTH

healthier together

**DATE:** August 20, 2020  
**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 for Research Farms LLC (West Site)

This report is being written to make you aware of concerns regarding an updated Manure Management Plan received by this office from **Research Farms LLC (West Site)** 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 the issues to be forwarded to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The operation is located at **15594 180<sup>th</sup> Street in Section 21 of Bath Township**. The facility houses 2,490 finishing hogs in one building that is 200 feet by 101 feet. The 1,094,000 gallons of manure produced annually are stored in below building pits.

Manure from this operation will be applied on fourteen fields totaling 906.2 acres in Sections 21, 27, 28, 29, 34, and 35 in Bath Township. None of the fields are listed as “highly erodible land”. The same fields are used in the plan for Research Farm LLC (East Site). The “Short Form” indicates changes to crop rotation and optimum yields and the use of manure analysis. The concerns with the plan are similar to last year and are listed below:

- Rockwell is adjacent to the manure application area.
- East Branch Beaverdam Creek and its flood plain, along with a couple tributaries, abut and crisscross the manure application area in Section 21, 27, 28, 29 and 34.
- The Blazing Star Prairie (county owned) is about ¼ mile from the manure application area.
- Public use areas within about a mile of the manure application area include: Rockwell Aquatic Center, Linn Grove Golf Club, Zeidler Park and Linn Grove Park and Campground.

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

September 22, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

CC: Daniel Ries, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

FROM: John Robbins

SUBJECT: Manure Management Plan Update filed by Research Farms, LLC

Gentlemen:

This office is in receipt of an updated manure management plan for Research Farms, LLC. The updated plan addresses the application of manure from a site located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21, Bath Township (15594 – 180<sup>th</sup> Street). The update states that crop rotation or optimum yields have changed and that manure analysis is being used to determine application rates.

Manure will be applied on 14 fields totaling 906.2 acres during crop years 2020 through 2021. All of the fields are in Bath Township. The number of acres on which manure will be applied is unchanged from the previous year. Manure will be knifed in or injected directly into the soil. None of the fields contain highly erodible land.

The floodplain of the East Branch of Beaverdam Creek cuts through the fields in Section 29, the fields in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28, and the fields in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34. A tributary to the East Branch of Beaverdam Creek cuts through the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34. Another tributary cuts through the southeast corner of the field in Section 27.

The field in Section 27 is  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile southwest of Blazingstar Prairie. The fields in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34 abut the north city limit line of Rockwell and are within a mile of Linn Grove Golf Club, the Linn Grove County Park and Campground, the Rockwell Aquatic Center, and Zielder Park. The field in Section 35 is about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile north of these same public use areas. There are about 22 dwellings within  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile of the fields on which manure will be applied. These public areas and dwellings are likely to be impacted by odors on days that manure is applied.

The fields in Section 29 and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28 can be accessed from 180<sup>th</sup> Street or Olive Avenue, both of which are gravel-surfaced. The field in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28 can only be accessed from 170<sup>th</sup> Street, which is also gravel-surfaced. The field in Section 35 is accessed from 160<sup>th</sup> Street, which again is gravel-surfaced. Rutting and other damage can occur on gravel roads if manure is hauled over them following periods of wet weather or when frost boils are emerging. All of the fields in Section 34 have access to hard-surfaced roads.

In summary, the application of manure raises three major concerns. First, manure will be applied within flood hazard areas. Second, there may be odor impacts on public areas and nearby dwellings on days in which manure is applied. The third major concern is the possible damage to and rutting on gravel roads when manure is hauled.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Attachment



2020 MMP Short Form for Annual Update

**Facility**

180th West Site # 66076  
15594 180th St  
Rockwell, IA 50469

**Date Due:**  
09/01/2020

**Date Received:**  
08/15/2020

**Date Approved:**  
08/20/2020

**Owner**

Research Farms LLC

**Contact**

Brian Ritland- Pinnacle Group

Prior to making changes in manure management practices, update the on-site copy to show actual changes. Please select changes below and include all changes in your current, on-site MMP.

- I have made no changes to my MMP
- I have added acres
- Change Crop Rotation or Optimum Yields
- Changed Application Method
- Used manure analysis
- I am electing to be a small animal feeding operation (SAFO) or facility capacity has changed
- I have made other changes to my MMP Describe :

- I sell all manure with a Chapter 200A license through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.
- In addition to selling manure as indicated above, I also apply manure to fields using a manure management plan.

**County Notifications**

The following counties have been notified:

Cerro Gordo

**Animal Unit Capacity / Payment Summary**

Animal Type	Head	AUC	Amount (AUC * 0.15)
Swine Wean to Finish	2490	996.00	\$149.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>2490</b>	<b>996.00</b>	<b>\$149.40</b>

I, Brian Ritland, attest that the information indicated above is accurate and complete.

**Comments**