



# PUBLIC HEALTH

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**DATE:** August 12, 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 EJ Pork Roots site

This report is being written to make you aware of concerns regarding an annual update to the Manure Management Plan received by this office from **EJ Pork Roots** 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 site is in Franklin County about two miles south of the Cerro Gordo-Franklin County line at 980 240<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheffield in Section 9 of Richland Township.** The facility houses 4,000 finishing hogs, equivalent to 1,600 total AU (animal units). Approximately 928,253 gallons of manure will be produced annually and stored in below building pits.

The plan includes 25 fields totaling 2,568.1 acres to be used over the course of the four-year plan. The majority of the manure application will occur in Franklin County; however, five fields totaling 487.8 acres are designated in Cerro Gordo County. The fields in Cerro Gordo County are in Sections 19 and 30 of Pleasant Valley Township and Sections 25, 26 and 35 of Grimes Township. Although, a small minority of the acres are in Cerro Gordo County, the close proximity of the Franklin County fields may still impact Cerro Gordo County. The owner indicates a change to crop rotation and optimum yields and added acres on the Short Form Annual Update. My main concerns are listed below:

- The City of Thornton is adjacent to the manure application area.
- Ingebretson County Park is about 400 feet from the manure application area.
- Pleasant Valley Golf Course is about 1/3 mile from the manure application area.
- Two cemeteries (Pleasant View and Richland Lutheran) are both within about 1½ miles of the manure application area.
- Ring-Neck Wildlife Area is about 1/8 mile from the manure application area.
- Prairie Lane Trail is adjacent to the manure application area.
- The field in Section 25 of Grimes Township contains HEL (highly erodible land).
- A waterway and its flood plain cross through the field in Section 26 of Grimes Township.
- Ingebretson Creek is in close proximity to the application area in Section 6 of Richland Township. The creek enters Cerro Gordo County near Interstate 35.
- Many of the fields that will be used for this site are also included as part of the EJ Pork Sheldon Site and the EJ Pork Scott Site plans.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me 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  
John Robbins, Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Michelle Rush, Executive Assistant

(641) 421-3075  
plz@cgcounty.org  
cgcounty.org/planning

September 4, 2020

TO:            Board of Supervisors

CC:            Daniel Ries, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

FROM:        John Robbins

SUBJECT:     Manure Management Plan Update for Roots Site (EJ Pork)

Gentlemen:

This office is in receipt of a manure management plan update for EJ Pork's Roots Site, located in Franklin County. The plan addresses the application of manure on 25 fields totaling 2,568.1 acres. Five of these fields are in Cerro Gordo County with the remainder in Franklin County. The plan update states crop rotation or optimum yields have changed and acres have been added.

These four fields, located in Grimes and Pleasant Valley Townships, total 287.8 acres and are shown on the attached aerial photo. The number of acres on which manure will be spread has increase 226.8 acres from the previous years. None of the fields contain highly erodible land. The plan schedules manure application on these fields in crop year 2020. Manure will be knifed in or injected into the soil.

**It should be noted that a manure management plan for EJ Pork's Sheldon Site also designated manure to be applied to the same fields.**

The floodplain of Bailey Creek runs through the field in Section 26, Grimes Township and also run adjacent to the north of the field in Section 19, Pleasant Valley Township. The risk of runoff is less since manure will be knifed in or injected into the soil.

The field in Section 19, Pleasant Valley Township and Section 25, Grimes Township are adjacent to Thornton city limits. There is a cemetery located along 100<sup>th</sup> Street and about 1 mile south-southeast of the field in Section 30, Pleasant Valley Township. Ingbretson County Park and Campground is just over 300 feet north of the field in Section 19 Pleasant Valley Township. Pleasant Valley Golf Course is ¼-mile north of this same field. Finally, there is a cemetery on the north side of 130<sup>th</sup> Street about 1 mile north of the fields in Section 25, Grimes Township and Section 19, Pleasant Valley Township. The fields in Section 26 and 35, Grimes Township is about 2 miles east of Meservey city limits.

There are 17 dwellings within ½-mile of the fields on which manure will be applied. Depending on wind direction and weather conditions, odor impacts are likely on public areas and nearby dwellings on days that manure is applied.

From aerial photos, there appear to be field accesses into the W½ of the SW¼ of Section 30, Pleasant Valley Township, from Grouse Avenue (County Road S-25), which is paved, and 110<sup>th</sup> Street, which is gravel-surfaced. Access to the other four fields is by gravel road only. Given the location of the confinement facility, it is possible that manure will be hauled from the facility to each field only on gravel roads. If manure is hauled over these roads after periods of wet weather or when frost boils are emerging, damage to the roads could result.

In summary, my concerns with the manure management plan are: (1) the proximity of the fields to public use areas; (2) the proximity of the fields to nearby dwellings; (3) the proximity of fields to Thornton and Meservey city limits; and (4) the potential damage to gravel roads. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this report.

Attachments



**Facility**

Roots Site # 64058  
980 240th St  
Sheffield, IA 50475

**Date Due:**  
08/01/2020

**Date Received:**  
07/21/2020

**Date Approved:**  
07/22/2020

**Owner**

Scott Engebretson  
Sheldon Jurgens  
Kevin Jurgens  
Dean Jurgens

**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

Franklin

**Animal Unit Capacity / Payment Summary**

Animal Type	Head	AUC	Amount (AUC * 0.15)
Swine Grow to Finish	4000	1600.00	\$240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>1600.00</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>

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

**Comments**