

EL-NA FARMS LLC



El-Na Farms LLC
E4029 Pheasant Road
Algoma, Wisconsin 54201

Owner(s) / Operator(s): Lonnie Fenendael, Shane E. Fenendael, Barry J. Fenendael

Federal USDA Subsidies 2000-2012: El-Na Farms LLC - \$ 589,653

Facility Description: Industrial dairy complex permitted to confine approximately 1,530 animals (870 milking and dry cows, 480 heifers, and 180 calves) under Wisconsin Permit WI-0063061 (last issued 7/25/2011). Liquefied manure, dairy wastewater and solids are currently stored in two concrete waste pits and one earthen waste pit, permitted to contain approximately 9 million gallons.

Sources: Compliance data is compiled from file excerpts of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Federal subsidy data is from USDA records assembled by the Environmental Working Group. Aerial image is from Google Earth ©.

On or About	Description El-Na Farms LLC
03.26.14	<p>WDNR correspondence from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Danielle Block to Lonnie Fenendael, Subject: Manure storage installation deadline: “For the past two years El-Na Farms has requested permission from the Department to temporarily transfer manure to offsite storage structures due to manure transfer issues. According to El-na [sic] Farms 2013 Annual Report the farm currently has 202 days of storage.</p> <p>Due to ongoing manure transfer system deficiencies which appear to result in capacity issues, the Department requests that the new [proposed] manure storage be installed and usable by Nov. 1, 2014. If El-Na Farms cannot meet this deadline El-Na will need to verify and supply to the Department evidence of its total usable liquid storage capacity at their facility.”</p>
03.29.13	<p>WDNR Memo to file, Subject: El Na Farms [sic] Headland Stacking Complaint: “On March 21, 2013 Joe Baeten of the WDNR responded to a runoff complaint of a headland standing site [of solid manure] in Kewaunee County. The land owner was concerned about the field runoff which made its way down the ditch and flowed past the front of his home. The landowner measured the distance from the well to the ditch totaling 75 feet. No active runoff was occurring at the time of the inspection on March 29 however there was standing, unfrozen water. A gravel berm was placed around the northern, eastern, and western sides of the stack to hold back any discharges from the site. The home owner stated the [sic] any runoff that made its way to the ditch would flow east past his home. The crop consultant for the farm was contacted immediately after the inspection and was notified to complete the berm around the stack.”</p>
03.28.13	<p>WDNR Email from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Jay Schiefelbein to Lonnie Fenendael and Nathan Nysse, RE: Informational: Approval of El-Na Transfer to Dairy Dreams RE: Manure Transfer: “1,000,000 gallons will be transferred from El-Na’s storage basin to Dairy Dreams’ manure storage basin. Please evaluate El-Na’s current manure storage system and the compatibility of that storage with the existing flush flume system to ensure compliance with the 180 day storage requirement.”</p>
03.07.13	<p>WDNR Email from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Jay Schiefelbein to Lonnie Fenendael and Nathan Nysse, Informational: EL-NA Farms Manure Transfer Request: “On March 7, 2013, the Department received a request from Nathan Nysse with Polenske Agronomic Consulting to transfer manure from El-Na Farms main dairy to offsite locations. Nysse explained that with the current pit levels (approximately 3’ below MOL [Maximum Operating Level]), are not allowing efficient operation of the flush flume system and a small amount of manure is backing up into the barn. The Department approves the transfer of 500,000 gallons of manure [to other facilities’ approved waste pits]...”</p>

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06.13.12	<p>WDNR correspondence from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Jay Schiefelbein to Lonnie Fenendael, Subject: Notice of Noncompliance – Spreading Manure in a Restricted Area: “On Friday, June 8, 2012 the [Department] investigated a concern that liquid manure had been spread on a field known to have shallow bedrock. A site investigation confirmed that manure was applied to areas of the field that are restricted due to shallow bedrock. Additionally, manure was spread through a grassed waterway. The Department is very concerned with El-Na’s failure to accurately follow the restriction maps contained in the NMP [Nutrient Management Plan].</p> <p>As Schiefelbein was completing the investigation he was approached by Fenendael who asked how bad it was. Schiefelbein brought out the restriction map and showed Fenendael the restricted areas and how clear it was that manure was applied throughout both fields. Fenendael agreed. Fenendael stated that he quickly looked at the maps and admitted to not looking as carefully as he should have.”</p>
03.25.11	<p>WDNR Email from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Amy Callis to Lonnie Fenendael: “The Department received a request from Nathan Nysse (Polenske Agronomic Consulting) on March 22, 2001 regarding transferring manure from El-na [sic] Farms to a temporary storage due to concerns regarding the pit levels at El-na [sic] Farms. At this time, the Department will provide temporary approval to place 500,000 gallons of manure per approved storage [Wallace Storage and Mueller Storage].”</p>
02.11.11	<p>WDNR correspondence from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Amy Callis to Lonnie Fenendael, Subject: Notice of Noncompliance – Manure Spreading on Unapproved Field [WDNR Investigator’s Notes]: “...solid manure was applied on field BG-2. Approval was not authorized by the WDNR. Ground was snow covered at the time of application. [Citizen] Complaint was filed with the WDNR. Field slopes from the NRCS state that the field has 9-16% slopes with HrD2 as the most erosive soil at 10% of the average. After field review in winter, [El-Na’s] agronomist found that the slopes are below 6%, but winter surface applications should be monitored for movement after the application.”</p>
05.24.10	<p>WDNR correspondence from Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist Amy Callis to Lonnie Fenendael, Subject: Summary of Compliance Inspection for WPDES Permit Renewal: “Feed Leachate Collection System: A few areas of erosion were noted during the inspection which the farm plans to address using a vegetative buffer.</p> <p>Concrete Lot at Heifer Facility: While as-built documentation is in the file, no information regarding an engineering evaluation regarding compliance with applicable technical standards was on file.</p> <p>Permanent Markers: Permanent markers for the maximum operating level, margin of safety and 180-day storage level need to be installed in the liquid manure storage.</p> <p>(continued on the next page)</p>

On or About	<div data-bbox="753 100 1154 184" data-label="Section-Header"> <h1>Description</h1> </div> <div data-bbox="810 184 1097 231" data-label="Text"> <p>El-Na Farms LLC</p> </div>
	<p>(continued from the previous page)</p> <p>Monitoring and Inspection Program: Under the WPDES permit, a proposed monitoring and inspection program was due to the Department 90 days after the permit effective date [Dec. 1, 2005]. No information is on file for this submittal.</p> <p>Annual Reports: After reviewing the permit file, it is noted that monitoring and inspection records for calendar years 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 are not in the file.</p> <p>Based on this information, this farm is considered in substantial compliance with the current WPDES permit.” [WDNR’s emphasis]</p>