

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PERMIT

A. PERMITTEE (Name and Address): Mercer Vu Farms Inc. 12275 Mount Pleasant Road Mercersburg, PA 17236-9745		CLIENT ID#: 161260	B. PROJECT/FACILITY (Name): Mercer Vu Farms CAFO
C. LOCATION (Municipality, County): Montgomery Township, Franklin County		SITE ID#: 555137	
D. This amendment approves the construction and operation of manure storage facilities consisting of: -HDPE-lined Lagoon (275' x 315' x 21') This amendment approves the operation of existing manure storage facilities consisting of: - HDPE-lined Covered Lagoon (Lagoon 1) (200' x 587' x 14') - HDPE-lined Leachate Lagoon (Lagoon 2) (160' x 300' x 14') - Circular Concrete Pit (100' x 8') - Circular Concrete McCulloh Pit (140' x 10') This amendment approves the operation of existing facilities: - Dairy Concrete Settling Cells (40' x 128' x 10' and 24' x 60' x 10') - Leachate Settling Cell (20' x 150' x 10')			
		Manure Storage: Proposed Capacity: 7.81 MG Total Operational Capacity: 21.05 MG Freeboard: 24 inches	
E. APPROVAL GRANTED BY THIS PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING: 1. Amendments: All construction, operations and procedures shall be in accordance with the Water Quality Management Permit Amendment application dated 08/05/2025 , its supporting engineering report dated 08/08/2025 , and design plans dated 08/12/2025 , which are hereby made a part of this amendment. Except for any herein approved modifications, all terms, conditions, supporting documentation and addendums approved under Water Quality Management Permit No. 2802201 dated 04/09/2002 , 2802201 A-1 dated 06/01/2018 , and 2802201 A-2 dated 02/28/2024 shall remain in effect. 2. Permit Conditions Relating to Manure Storage are attached and made part of this permit.			
F. THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THIS PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS: 1. If there is a conflict between the application or its supporting documents and amendments and the attached conditions, the attached conditions shall apply. 2. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations of DEP or with the terms or conditions of this permit shall void the authority given to the permittee by the issuance of this permit. 3. This permit is issued pursuant to the Clean Streams Law Act of June 22, 1937, P.L. 1987, as amended 35 P.S. §691.1 <i>et seq.</i> Issuance of this permit shall not relieve the permittee of any responsibility under any other law.			
PERMIT ISSUED: <u>10/08/2025</u>		BY: <u>Maria D Bebenek</u> Maria D. Bebenek, P.E. Clean Water Program Manager Southcentral Regional Office	TITLE: <u>Clean Water Program Manager</u> Southcentral Regional Office



PERMIT CONDITIONS RELATING TO MANURE STORAGE

For use in Water Quality Management Permits

(Check boxes that apply)

General

- ☒ 1. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) considers the licensed Professional Engineer whose seal is affixed to the design documents is fully responsible for the adequacy of all aspects of the facility design.
- ☒ 2. This permit does not supersede any relevant conditions of any prior Water Quality Management permits, decrees or orders issued to the permittee. When a prior permit, decree or order conflicts with a term of this permit, this permit shall govern.
- ☒ 3. This permit and all of its conditions apply to the permittee's successors, lessees, heirs and assigns, and any other person in responsible managerial charge of the manure storage facility.
- ☒ 4. This permit may not be transferred to another person, unless approved by DEP.
- ☒ 5. The permittee is responsible for obtaining and complying with the proper authorization or permits for any outfall, stream crossing, or other change to natural stream channels associated with installation and operation of this manure storage facility.
- ☒ 6. This permit will expire 5 years from the date of issue, unless DEP has specifically granted an extension, or construction of the permitted work has begun.
- ☒ 7. If the operation is a new or expanded CAFO, an NPDES CAFO permit must be obtained and facility construction must be completed before bringing in or adding animals at the location and beginning the actual operation that results in production or increased production of manure.

Construction

- ☒ 8. This permit is issued under the authorization of The Clean Streams Law and 25 Pa. Code Chapter 91. The permittee shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals and/or registrations under 25 Pa. Code Chapters 102, 105 and 106 prior to commencing construction of the facilities authorized by this permit, as applicable. The permittee should contact the DEP office that issued this permit if there are any questions concerning the applicability of additional permits.
- ☒ 9. The manure storage facility shall be constructed under the supervision of a Pennsylvania licensed Professional Engineer in accordance with the approved plans and specifications under this permit. Any deviation from the approved plans and specifications requires DEP review and approval before implementation.
- ☒ 10. Upon completion, the construction of the facility shall be certified by a Pennsylvania licensed Professional Engineer to be in accordance with the approved WQM permit application and design plans and specifications using the form, "Post Construction Certification Manure Storage Facility" (3800-PM-WSFR0179b). At least 15 days prior to bringing animals (or additional animals) onto the operation, the permittee must submit the certification to DEP. Within 30 days of the certification, if requested by DEP, the permittee must also submit "as-built" drawings, photographs, and a description of any DEP-approved deviations from the application and design plans and specifications.

Operation and Maintenance

- ☒ 11. The permittee shall obtain as-built drawings that document the actual construction of the manure storage facility, including any changes from the originally approved plans. The permittee shall also obtain a facility operation and maintenance (O&M) plan for the facility. These documents must be kept up to date on-site and, if requested, shall be filed with DEP.
- ☒ 12. In the event of an accident or other incident that leads to a pollutant discharge or a danger of one from the manure storage facility, the permittee shall immediately notify DEP. The permittee shall also take immediate steps to minimize the environmental impact and eliminate the cause of the discharge. Non-compliance with any standard or requirement of this permit must also be reported to DEP.

- ☒ 13. The permittee shall implement the O&M plan for the facility and shall otherwise prevent discharges from the facility up to and including the appropriate design storm (100-year, 24-hour storm for new or expanded CAFOs that commenced operations after April 13, 2003, for a manure storage facility that contains manure from swine, poultry or veal calves; 25-year, 24-hour storm for all others). The permittee shall conduct periodic inspections needed to assess the structural stability and available capacity of the facility, and shall monitor the leak detection system on a regular basis. DEP recommends weekly inspections as well as reviews following measurable precipitation events.
- ☒ 14. In accordance with the operation's nutrient management plan, only those liquids or semi-solids that are provided for in the design volume shall be stored in the facility for which this permit is issued. These liquids or semi-solids are limited to: animal manure, animal bedding, waste feed, barnyard runoff, milking center wash water, flush water, silage leachate, the net precipitation over the longest planned storage period, urine, reproductive wastes and chemical and organic wastes used for animal health and directly discharged via urine, manure or wash water.
- ☒ 15. Facilities that are neither CAOs nor CAFOs must have an emergency action plan that describes actions that will be taken in the event of a manure spill. CAOs may meet this requirement with the development and implementation of the contingency plan for manure spills required with the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). CAFOs shall meet this requirement with the development and implementation of a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency (PPC) Plan required by the NPDES CAFO permit.
- ☒ 16. A full reinspection of the manure storage facilities must be conducted and a certification issued by a Pennsylvania licensed Professional Engineer every five years to assure the structural stability and integrity of the facility. For CAFOs, the certification must be submitted to DEP at the time of the NPDES renewal application.
- ☒ 17. If major changes are proposed to the manure storage in the future, the permittee must obtain DEP approval through an amendment to the permit. Major changes include adding capacity or affecting the structural stability of the facility. Minor changes may be approved by DEP without amending the permit. Routine maintenance activities may be carried out without notifying DEP.
- ☒ 18. When the permitted facility is expected to cease operations, the permittee shall promptly submit a Facility Closure Plan that is consistent with PA Technical Guide Standards pertaining to Closure of Waste Impoundments.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT POST CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATION

PERMITTEE IDENTIFIER		
Permittee	Mercer Vu Farms Inc.	
CAFO Name	Mercer Vu Farms CAFO	
Facility Location	Montgomery Township, Franklin County	
WQM Permit No.	2802201 A-3	
CONSTRUCTION		
The construction of the manure storage facility involved installation and/or fabrication of the following components:		
☐	Subbase Preparation	Avg. Permeability: cm/sec
☐	Compacted Earthen (Clay) Liner	Avg. Permeability: cm/sec
☐	Synthetic Liner	Specify material:
☐	Leak Detection Zone	Specify material & depth:
☐	Non-reinforced Concrete Base	Thickness:
☐	Reinforced Concrete Base	Thickness:
☐	Other Material Base (i.e., Steel)	Specify:
☐	Groundwater Monitoring Wells	Number:
☐	Sump or Observation Pits	Number:
☐	Spill Containment Structures	Number:
☐	Leak Detection or Footer Drain Effluent Pipe	
☐	Shutoff Valve on Leak Detection or Footer Drain Pipe	
☐	Perimeter Foundation (Footer) Drain	
Were there any field modifications made to the design documents, drawings or plans?		
☐ Yes ☐ No	If Yes, attach a detailed description of the field changes, what impact this had on construction, the reasons for the changes and whether or not DEP was informed of the changes prior to implementation.	
This certification must be completed and returned to the Permits Section of the DEP regional office issuing the WQM permit within 30 days of completion of the project and must be received by DEP prior to operation. Attach to this Certification the following: 1) Description of any field changes; 2) As-Built Drawings (if requested); 3) Photographs of construction (if taken); and 4) a Post-Construction Inspection Report, including any inspection and monitoring results obtained during construction for the subbase and liner. Also, indicate any unexpected conditions encountered during construction (e.g., high groundwater table) and how this impacted construction.		

CERTIFICATION

I, being a Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, do hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief, based upon personal observation and interviews, that the above facility approved under the Water Quality Management Permit has been constructed in accordance with the plans, specifications and modifications approved by DEP.

Construction Completion Date (MM/DD/YYYY):

Professional Engineer

Name _____
(Please Print or Type)

Signature

Date

License Expiration Date

Firm or Agency

Telephone

Permittee or Authorized Representative

Name _____
(Please Print or Type)

Signature

Title

Telephone

Engineer's
Seal