

Application Type Renewal  
Facility Type CAFO  
Permit Type Individual

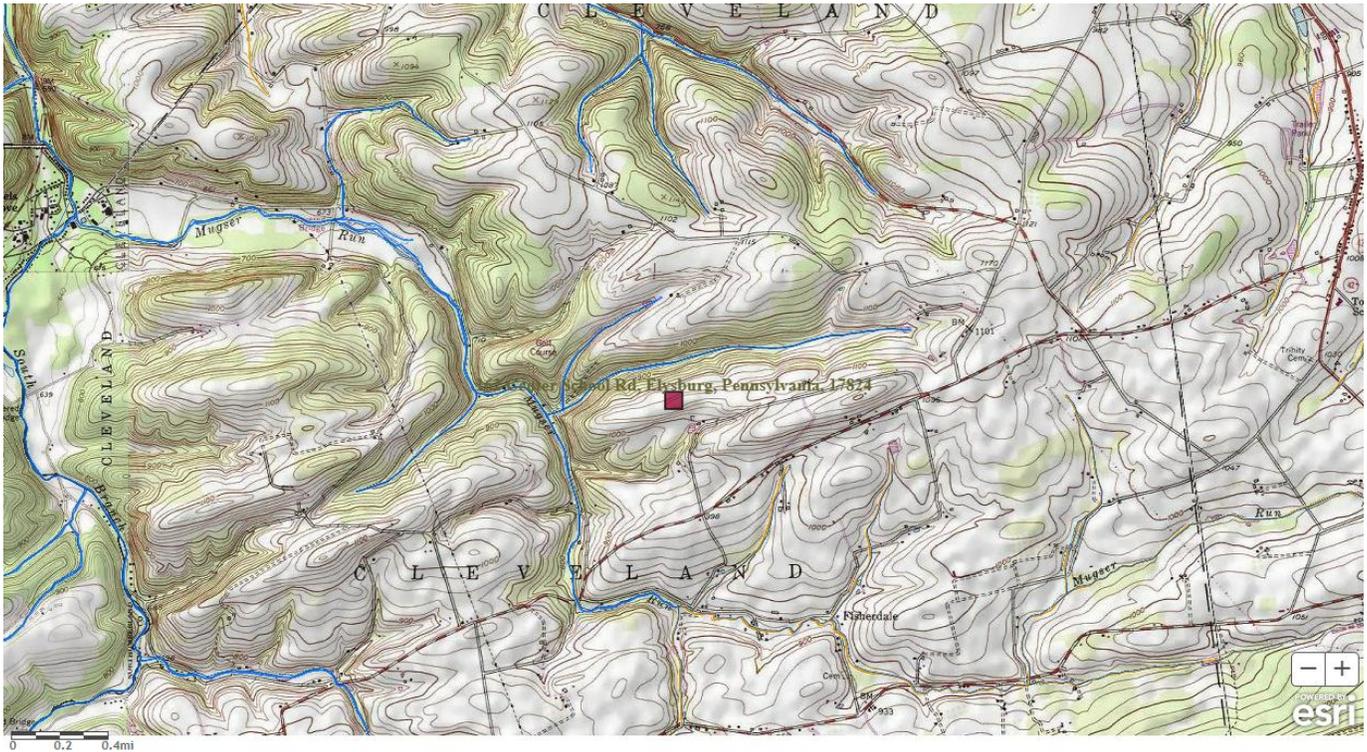
**NPDES PERMIT FACT SHEET  
CAFOs**

Application No. PA0233544  
APS ID 825149  
Authorization ID 1560400

**Applicant and Facility Information**

Applicant Name	<u>Joel D. Knoebel</u>	Farm Name	<u>Cleveland Pork CAFO</u>
Applicant Address	<u>110 Center School Road</u> <u>Elysburg, PA 17824-9142</u>	Farm Address	<u>162 Center School Road</u> <u>Elysburg, PA 17824-9142</u>
Applicant Contact	<u>Joel Knoebel</u>	Farm Contact	<u>Joel Knoebel</u>
Applicant Phone	<u>(570) 847-6347</u>	Farm Phone	<u>(570) 847-6347</u>
Client ID	<u>262621</u>	Site ID	<u>703076</u>
SIC Code	<u>0213</u>	Municipality	<u>Cleveland Township</u>
SIC Description	<u>Agriculture - Hogs</u>	County	<u>Columbia</u>
Date Application Received	<u>February 26, 2026</u>	WQM Required	<u>Yes</u>
Date Application Accepted	<u>March 3, 2026</u>	WQM App. No.	<u>1921201</u>

Project Description Joel D. Knoebel submitted an application for individual CAFO permit renewal for the existing Cleveland Pork CAFO operation.



Approve	Deny	Signatures	Date
x		<i>Hans D. Shollenberger</i> Hans D. Shollenberger / Project Manager	03/04/2026
x		<i>Scott M Arwood</i> Scott M. Arwood, P.E. / Environmental Engineer Manager	03/04/2026

**Description:**

Joel D. Knoebel submitted an application for individual CAFO permit renewal for the existing Cleveland Pork CAFO operation located in Cleveland Township, Columbia County. The operation has two swine barns and the following animal population:

Animal Type	Number	AEUs
Swine grow finish: 10–28 wk.	9,160	1,387.18
	<b>Total AEUs =</b>	1,387.18

The operation is considered a CAO for exceeding 8 AEUs while having an animal density exceeding 2 AEUs/Acre. The operation is considered a large CAFO for being a CAO exceeding 300 AEUs, for exceeding 1,000 AEUs, and for exceeding the EPA large CAFO threshold of 2,500 swine each weighing 55 pounds or more.

The nearest receiving water to the operation is Trib 27470 To Mugser Run, designated as High Quality-Cold Water Fishes and Migratory Fishes (HQ-CWF, MF), located in Watershed 5-E. This stream is not impaired by Department Standards.

**Manure/Nutrient Management:**

The current NMP was approved on December 6, 2023, for crop years 2024, 2025, and 2026. There are 0 acres available on lands owned and rented by the applicant for manure application according to the NMP, resulting in a density of 1,387.18 AEUs/acre.

*Manure Group Information:*

Manure Group	Manure Generated Annually	Manure Used on the Farm	Manure Exported (gallons or tons)
Swine Manure	2,229,500.0 gal	0.0	2,229,500.0 gal
Mortality Compost	73.0 tons	0.0	73.0 tons

*Exported Manure:*

Name/ Address	Amount and Source of Manure Exported per Season (gallons/ tons)			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Daniel Knoebel 113 Center School Road, Elysburg, PA 17824	1,099,848 gallons Swine & 42 tons Compost	0	1,099,848 gallons Swine & 42 tons Compost	0
Justin Knoebel 182 Center School Road, Elysburg, PA 17824	1,819,000 gallons Swine	0	1,819,000 gallons Swine	0
John Mack 204 Eisenhower Road, Catawissa, PA 17820	671,500 gallons Swine	0	671,500 gallons Swine	0
Adam Welkom 64 Roosevelt Road, Catawissa, PA 17820	<i>The Exporter/Importer agreement is not included in the NMP. This agreement must be submitted to DEP in order for the importer to be included on the factsheet addendum prior to final issuance of the CAFO renewal permit.</i>			

The following requirements must be met when transferring manure to other persons:

**40 CFR 122.42(e)(3) - Requirements relating to transfer of manure or process wastewater to other persons.**

*Prior to transferring manure, litter, or process wastewater to other persons, Large CAFOs must provide the recipient of the manure, litter or process wastewater with the most current nutrient analysis. The analysis provided must be consistent with the requirements of 40 CFR part 412. Large CAFOs must retain for five years records of the date,*

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**Cleveland Pork CAFO**

*recipient name and address, and approximate amount of manure, litter or process wastewater transferred to another person.*

**Winter Manure Management:**

Application of manure during the winter period is not approved in the NMP.

The following minimum freeboards must be provided by December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year to implement the NMP:

- Swine Barn 1 Deep Underbarn Concrete Pit: **1.8 ft**
- Swine Barn 2 Deep Underbarn Concrete Pit: **1.7 ft**

**Manure Storage Facilities:**

Swine Barn 1 underbarn manure storage has dimensions 80ft x 458ft x 6ft deep with a usable capacity of 1,484,444 gallons at the minimum regulatory 6 inch freeboard.

Swine Barn 2 underbarn manure storage has dimensions 81.5ft x 501ft x 5.5ft deep with a usable capacity of 1,527,100 gallons at the minimum regulatory 6 inch freeboard.

**BMPs Applicable to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL:**

DEP has evaluated the information included in the application materials; as well as the effluent limitations, BMPs, and other requirements included in the draft permit. This would include the approved Act 38 compliant Nutrient Management Plan, which includes Best Management Practices to meet Pennsylvania nutrient and manure management regulations, as well as Nutrient Balance Sheets for manure importers, applicable manure storage and manure spreading setback requirements, and Emergency Response Plan. Applicable Conservation Plans and/or Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control Plans were also evaluated, which includes Best Management Practices to meet Pennsylvania erosion and sediment control regulations.

The applicant is implementing the following BMPs within the production area:

- Manure Storage Facilities (Concrete Underbarn Storages)
- Mortality Management (Onsite Composting)

There are no NRCS Practice Codes prescribed as BMPs in the approved 2024 to 2026 NMP.

Based upon this evaluation, DEP believes no additional BMPs will be required at this time to meet the goals and requirements of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and to protect water quality criteria. This determination will be reevaluated through review of self-inspection reporting, annual reporting, and regular compliance inspections.

**Animal Mortality:**

Mortalities will be composted in a roofed bin composting structure. All manure and mortality compost will be exported to neighboring landowners for land application to cropped fields.

**Animal Concentration Areas (Chapter 102.4a):**

The operation does not have Animal Heavy Use Areas (AHUAs).

**Chapter 102 E&S (Conservation Plans):**

An agricultural E&S plan is not applicable to this operation, as there are no lands available for manure application. E&S Plans for plowing and tilling for importing operations located in special protection or impaired watersheds were included and confirmed.

**Downstream Public Water Supplies:**

The nearest downstream public water supply intake is located 14 miles downstream on the Susquehanna River by the Danville Municipal Water Authority in Montour County. This facility is not expected to adversely impact any public water supplies.

**Compliance History:**

There are no open violations for this operation.

**Public Participation:**

DEP will publish notice of the receipt of the NPDES permit application and a tentative decision to issue the individual NPDES permit in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 92a.82. Upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, DEP will accept written comments from interested persons for a 30-day period (which may be extended for one additional 15-day period at DEP's discretion), which will be considered in making a final decision on the application. Any person may request or petition for a public hearing with respect to the application. A public hearing may be held if DEP determines that there is significant public interest in holding a hearing. If a hearing is held, notice of the hearing will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at least 30 days prior to the hearing and in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the geographical area of the discharge.