

Application Type **New**
Facility Type **CAFO**
Permit Type **Individual**

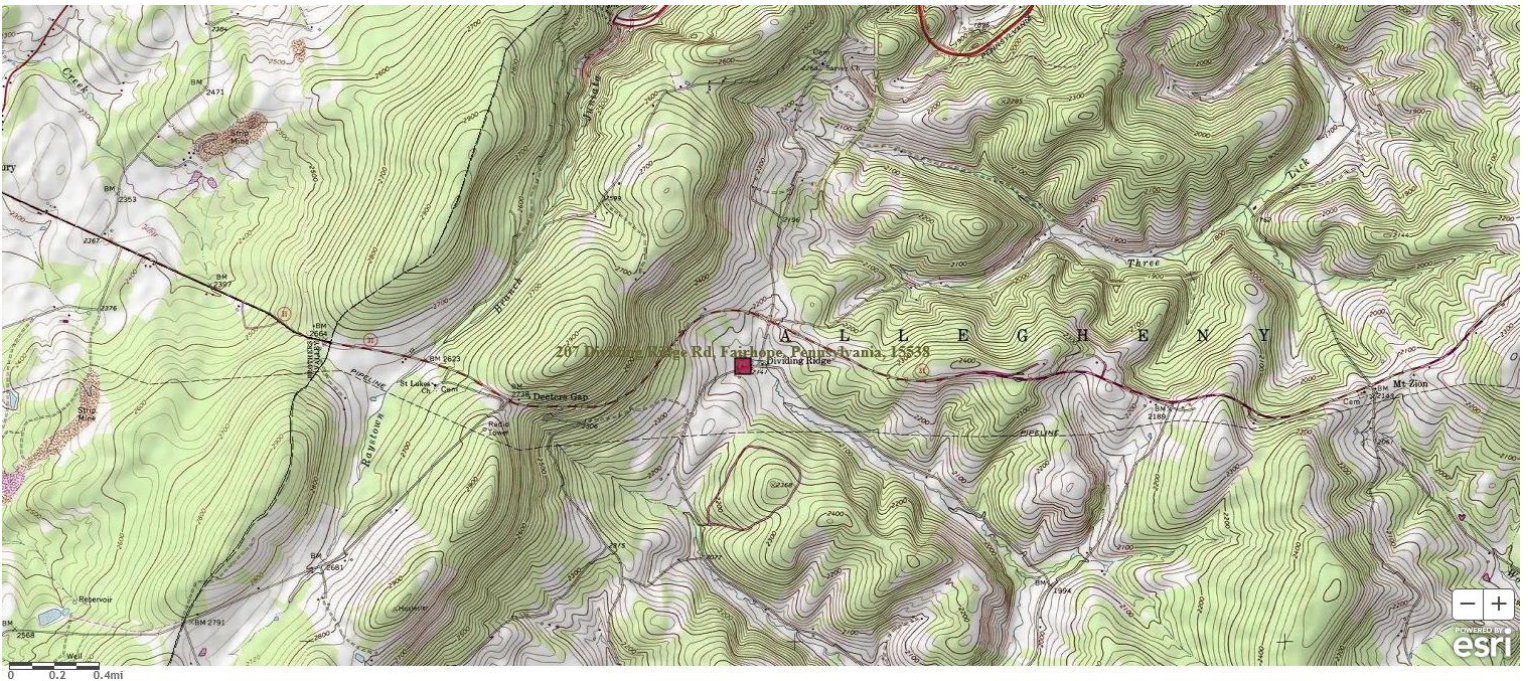
**NPDES PERMIT FACT SHEET
CAFOs**

Application No. **PA0281794**
APS ID **1028757**
Authorization ID **1340420**

Applicant and Facility Information

Applicant Name	<u>Dividing Ridge Farm</u>	Farm Name	<u>Dividing Ridge Farm</u>
Applicant Address	<u>207 Dividing Ridge Road</u>	Farm Address	<u>207 Dividing Ridge Road</u>
	<u>Fairhope, PA 15538-2040</u>		<u>Fairhope, PA 15538-2040</u>
Applicant Contact	<u>Derek Hillegass</u>	Farm Contact	<u>Derek Hillegass</u>
Applicant Phone	<u>(814) 483-0649</u>	Farm Phone	<u>(814) 483-0649</u>
Client ID	<u>360027</u>	Site ID	<u>778898</u>
SIC Code	<u>0241</u>	Municipality	<u>Allegheny Township</u>
SIC Description	<u>Agriculture - Dairy Farms</u>	County	<u>Somerset</u>
Date Application Received	<u>January 25, 2021</u>	WQM Required	<u>Yes</u>
Date Application Accepted	<u>February 11, 2021</u>	WQM App. No.	<u>5613200</u>

Project Description Dividing Ridge Farm has submitted an application for new individual CAFO permit coverage for their expanding dairy operation.



Approve	Deny	Signatures	Date
X		<i>Hans D. Shollenberger</i> Hans D. Shollenberger / Environmental Engineering Specialist	February 10, 2022
x		<i>Scott M Arwood</i> Scott M. Arwood, P.E. / Environmental Engineer Manager	02/10/2022

NOTE: This permit is being redrafted due to the addition of special conditions in Part C of the permit. See Compliance History section below.

Description:

The Dividing Ridge farm is an existing Dairy operation located in Alleghany Township, Somerset County. The farm submitted an individual NPDES CAFO permit new coverage application to the Department on January 25, 2021. The operation plans to expand to 700 dairy cows, 92 dry cows, 490 heifers, and 80 calves for a total of 1,546.6 AEUs. With 1,073.7 spreadable acres, the operation will have an animal density of 1.44 AEUs/Acre. Since the operation exceeds 1,000 AEUs it is considered a large CAFO. The operation also exceeds the EPA large CAFO threshold of 700 mature dairy cows, whether milked or dry. The farm will be permitted under an Individual Permit due to its location in a high-quality watershed.

The closest stream to the site is Hillegas Run, located in high-quality watershed 13-A and designated for High-Quality Cold-Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes (HQ-CWF, MF). The stream is not impaired by Department standards.

Manure/Nutrient Management:

The current NMP was approved on October 28, 2021, for crop years 2022, 2023, and 2024. There are 1,073.7 acres available on lands owned and rented by the applicant for manure application according to the NMP, resulting in a density of 1.44 AEUs/acre.

Manure Group Information:

Manure Group	Manure Generated Annually	Manure Used on the Farm	Manure Exported (gallons or tons)
Lagoon Dairy - Fall	1,965,885.0 gal	5,986,400.0 gal	0.0
Lagoon Dairy - Winter	1,988,666.0 gal	6,273,800.0 gal	0.0
Lagoon Dairy - Spring	1,988,980.0 gal	7,312,800.0 gal	0.0
Slurrystore Dairy - Fall	326,151.4 gal	943,200.0 gal	0.0
Slurrystore Dairy - Fall - uncollected	399.7 tons	401.2 tons	0.0
Slurrystore Dairy - Winter	424,822.8 gal	728,000.0 gal	0.0
Slurrystore Dairy - Spring	334,787.4 gal	652,800.0 gal	0.0
Slurrystore Dairy - Spring - uncollected	399.7 tons	401.2 tons	0.0
Bed Pack Dairy	402.5 tons	654.0 tons	0.0

Dividing Ridge Farm does not export any manure.

Winter Manure Management:

The application of manure during the winter period is approved in the NMP.

The HDPE Lined Lagoon Cell 2 will be maintained such that there will be at least 8.7 ft of useable space in the storage on December 15th. The Slurry Store will be maintained such that there will be at least 7.8 ft of useable space by December 15th.

Manure Storage Facilities:

The existing manure storages on the operation are shown in the table below:

Storage	Dimensions	Freeboard (ft)		Usable Capacity @ required freeboard
		Required	Winter	
HDPE Lined Lagoon Cell 1	175' x 80' x 15'	2	2	504,346 gallons
HDPE Lined Lagoon Cell 2	265' x 152' x 15'	2	8.7	2,310,789 gallons
Slurry Store	27' x 81'	2	7.8	963,100 gallons

All three liquid manure storages shown in the table above are top loaded with solids removed by agitation during pump-out. The storages are pumped out until max pump depth is reached and there is roughly 6" of manure left in

each storage. Parlor wash water is added to the storages. Manure samples for each storage will be taken from the top of the tanker immediately after loading. Both HDPE Lined Lagoon Cell 1 and Cell 2 are part of WQM5613200.

There is no in-field stacking of manure on this operation and currently no proposed manure storages.

Appendix 6 of the NMP states that silage leachate runoff is not controlled from the bunk area. NRCS 634 – *Waste Transfer* is the prescribed BMP to resolve the issue. A leachate collection system will be installed and maintained at the location shown in the NMP operation map.

Animal Mortality:

Mortalities are composted using bedded pack manure for a carbon and nitrogen source.

Animal Concentration Areas (Chapter 102.4a):

The operation does include AHUAs.

Appendix 6 of the 2022-2024 NMP mentions two large bare congregation areas in Pasture 1 and one large bare congregation area in Pasture 3. BMPs implemented to address these inadequate pasture conditions include NRCS 342 - *Critical Area planting* and NRCS 512 - *Pasture & Hay planting*.

Chapter 102 E&S (Conservation Plans):

Plans have been verified to exist for the operation, and all lands associated with the operation.

Downstream Public Water Supplies:

The nearest downstream public water intake is located over 25 miles downstream in the state of Maryland. This facility is not expected to adversely impact any public water supplies.

Compliance History:

On October 14, and October 21, 2020, the Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest Regional Office conducted inspections and collected water samples at Dividing Ridge Farm located at Dividing Ridge Road, Allegheny Township, Somerset County. The inspections were a result of complaints that the water in Hillegas Run was dark colored and odorous. A Notice of Violation was sent to Jeffrey Hillegass on December 21, 2020. From the October inspections, the Department noted the following violations:

1. Pollutants were discharged into waters of the Commonwealth. This is unlawful conduct and a statutory nuisance under Section 401 of the Clean Streams Law, 35 P.S. § 691.402.
2. Site conditions present a potential for pollution to waters of the Commonwealth in violation of Section 401 of the Clean Streams Law, 35 P.S. § 691.402.
3. Failure to implement effective agriculture BMPs in violation of Section 102.4(a) of the Regulations, 25 Pa. Code § 102.4(a).
4. Failure to apply for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit at least 180 days before operational changes increased the number of animals to qualify as a CAFO in violation of Section 92a.29(c) of the Regulations, 25 Pa. Code § 92a.29(c).

The 2022-2024 NMP and E&S Plan for Dividing Ridge Farm have been adjusted to address recent violations for this operation through the implementation of BMPs and Dividing Ridge has applied for Individual CAFO permit Coverage.

After conferring with DEP SWRO, it has been recommended that the following compliance schedule be added to the permit:

Best Management Practice	NRCS Practice Code	BMP Location	Implementation Season & Year
Waste Transfer ¹	634	Farmstead (Leachate)	Fall 2021
Critical Area Planting ²	342	P1 & P3	Spring 2022 & Fall 2022
Pasture & Hay Planting ²	512	P1 & P3	Spring 2022 & Fall 2022
Prescribed Grazing ³	528	P1 & P3	Spring 2022 & Fall 2022

Footnotes:

1. A Waste Transfer system must be in-place and operational prior to silage storage and during the timeframe when silage leachate runoff is occurring.
2. Planting to be implemented as needed to maintain compliance with § 102.4(a).
3. Prescribe grazing as needed to maintain vegetation.

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.