

Application Type Renewal
Facility Type CAFO
Permit Type Individual

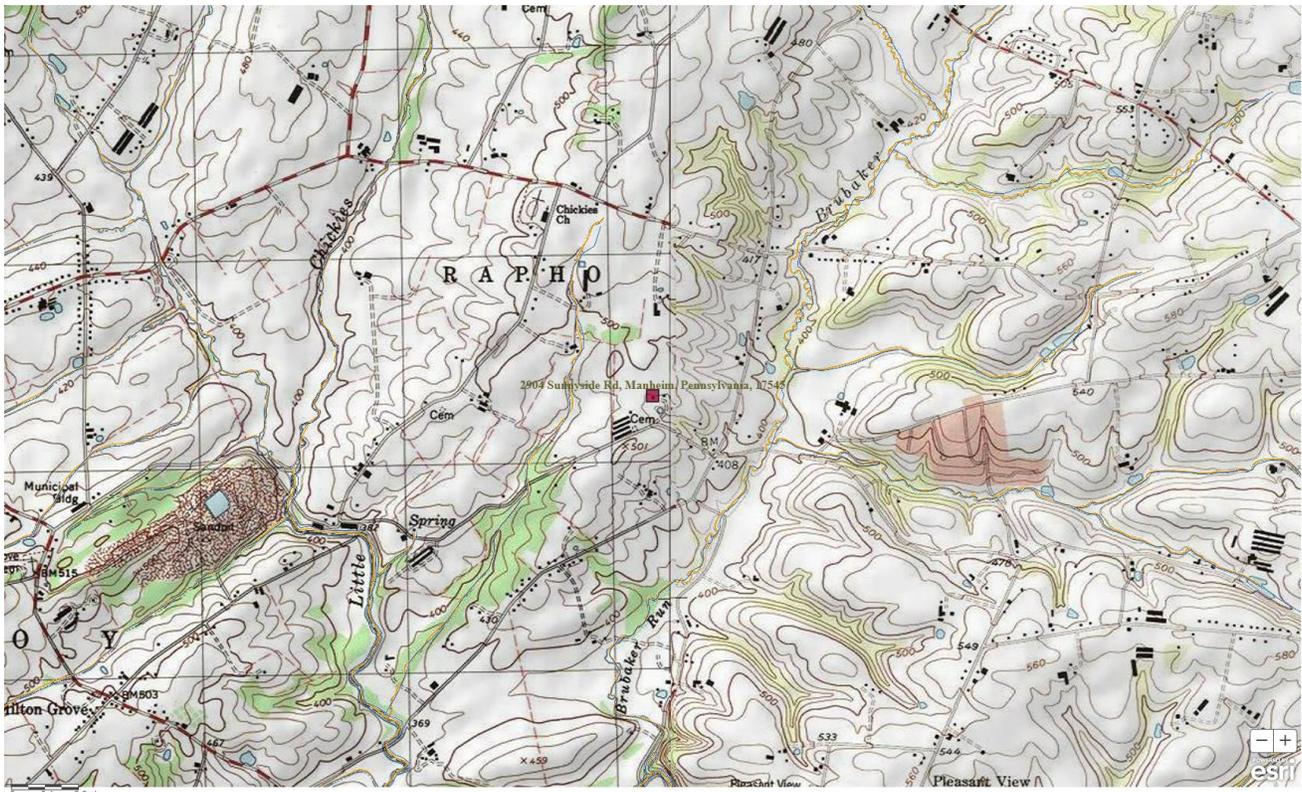
**NPDES PERMIT FACT SHEET
CAFOs**

Application No. PA0281816
APS ID 1035050
Authorization ID 1561489

Applicant and Facility Information

Applicant Name	<u>Harold E. Merkey</u>	Farm Name	<u>Merkey Hog Farm CAFO</u>
Applicant Address	<u>2904 Sunnyside Road</u> <u>Manheim, PA 17545-8333</u>	Farm Address	<u>2904 Sunnyside Road</u> <u>Manheim, PA 17545-8333</u>
Applicant Contact	<u>Harold Merkey</u>	Farm Contact	<u>Harold Merkey</u>
Applicant Phone	<u>(717) 989-8230</u>	Farm Phone	<u>(717) 989-8230</u>
Client ID	<u>361812</u>	Site ID	<u>848420</u>
SIC Code	<u>0212, 0213, 0272</u> Agriculture - Beef Cattle, Except Feedlots Agriculture - Hogs	Municipality	<u>Rapho Township</u>
SIC Description	<u>Agriculture - Horses and Other Equines</u>	County	<u>Lancaster</u>
Date Application Received	<u>March 6, 2026</u>	WQM Required	<u>No</u>
Date Application Accepted	<u>March 17, 2026</u>	WQM App. No.	<u>N/A</u>

Project Description Harold E. Merkey submitted an application for Individual CAFO permit renewal for his existing swine and beef operation.



Approve	Deny	Signatures	Date
X		Hans D. Shollenberger Hans D. Shollenberger / Project Manager	03/17/2026
X		Scott M Arwood Scott M. Arwood, P.E. / Environmental Engineer Manager	03/18/2026

Description:

Harold E. Merkey submitted an application for Individual CAFO permit renewal for his existing swine and beef operation located in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. The operation has the following animals:

Animal Type	Animal Number	AEUs
Swine grow finish: 10–28 wk.	2,200	348.08
Beef Replacement Heifer: 1-2 yr.	40	35.00
Beef Cow	40	56.00
Light Horse Mature	2	2.20
Beef Calf: 0-8 mo.	25	7.50
Miniature Horse Mature	23	4.60
Layer, breeder hen, white egg: 17-70 wk.	7	0.02
	Total AEUs	453.40

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 that exceeds 300 AEUs.

The nearest receiving stream to the operation is Brubaker Run, designated as Trout Stocked Fishes and Migratory Fishes (TSF, MF), located in watershed 7-G. The stream is impaired by agriculture siltation. The Merkey Farm is not located in a high-quality watershed but will be permitted under an Individual Permit for compliance reasons.

Manure/Nutrient Management:

The current NMP was approved on January 3, 2024, for crop years 2024, 2025, and 2026. There are 45.6 acres available on lands owned by the applicant for manure application according to the NMP, resulting in a density of 9.94 AEUs/acre.

Manure Group Information:

Manure Group	Manure Generated Annually	Manure Used on the Farm	Manure Exported (gallons or tons)
Liquid swine	418,500.0 gal	0.0	466,000.0 gal
Mixed Solid	336.8 tons	48.0 tons	350.0 tons
Mixed Solid - uncollected	1,109.5 tons	1,109.5 tons	0.0

Exported Manure:

Name/ Address	Amount and Source of Manure Exported per Season (gallons/ tons)			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Steve Miller 3248 Echo Valley Road Manheim, PA 17545	350 tons Bedded Pack & 380,000 gallons Swine	0	350 tons Bedded Pack & 380,000 gallons Swine	0
Fran Kratz 2916 Meadow View Road, Manheim, PA 17545	16,000 gallons Swine	0	16,000 gallons Swine	0
Greg Canouse 1710 Milton Grove Road, Manheim PA 17545	70,000 gallons Swine	0	70,000 gallons Swine	0

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.

NPDES Permit Fact Sheet
NPDES Permit No. PA0281816
Merkey Hog Farm CAFO

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

Winter Manure Management:

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

The swine underbarn storage must have a minimum freeboard of 1.6 ft by December 15th of each year to implement the NMP.

Manure Storage Facilities:

Liquid swine manure is stored in a rectangular slatted floor underbarn concrete pit with dimensions 250'x82'x6' and a usable capacity of 845,000 gallons at the minimum required freeboard of 0.5 ft.

There is no in-field stacking on the operation, no planned alternative manure technology practices, and no proposed manure storages.

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
- Mortality Management (Onsite Composting)

The following practices are prescribed as BMPs in the approved 2024 to 2026 NMP:

- NRCS 342 Maintain pasture vegetation (critical area planting), Location: PP1, PP2, Implementation: All Years
- NRCS 382 Temporary Fence, Location: Field 1, Implementation: Winter 2024
- NRCS 342 Regrade and seed Critical Runoff Problem Area, Location: inside temp fence area, Implementation: All years
- Animal Concentration Area Management, Location: PP1, PP2, Field 1, Implementation: All Years
- NRCS 561 Scrape Heavy Use Area and ACAs regularly, Location: PP1, PP2, Field 1, Implementation: Prior to anticipated precipitation events and/or every 30-60 days annually
- NRCS 635 Vegetated Treatment Area for Silage bunker, Location: PP2, Implementation: Spring 2024

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:

Animal mortality is composted onsite with bedded pack manure behind the hog barn. Larger animals are buried.

Animal Concentration Areas (Chapter 102.4a):

The NMP and E&S plan address practices to reduce erosion from AHUAs. PA Technical Guide Code 342-*Critical Area Planting* has been prescribed for Pasture 1 and Pasture 2 for all years. The ACA area in Pasture 1 should be scraped approximately every 30 to 60 days, and prior to a known precipitation event.

Chapter 102 E&S (Conservation Plans):

Agricultural E&S Plans have been included and verified to exist for land subjected to plowing and tilling activities. The operation's E&S plan was developed in 2014 and submitted to the Department. The importing farms for this operation's exported manure are not located in a High-Quality watershed.

Downstream Public Water Supplies:

The nearest downstream public water supply intake is located 6 miles downstream on Little Chickies Creek by the Mount Joy Borough Authority in Lancaster County. This facility is not expected to adversely impact any public water supplies.

Compliance History:

The Merkey Farm has the following open violations:

Violation ID	Date	Violation Description
8263297	02/03/2026	NPDES - Non-compliance with an issued permit, not classified by any other code
		Resolution:
		PA Code Legal Citation: 25 Pa. Code 92a.41(a)(1) : PA Code Website

Violation ID	Date	Violation Description
8263301	02/03/2026	NPDES - Non-compliance with an issued permit, not classified by any other code
		Resolution:
		PA Code Legal Citation: 25 Pa. Code 92a.41(a)(1) : PA Code Website

The above open violations must be resolved prior to final issuance of this CAFO permit renewal.

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.