

General information

Public comment period begins: October 8, 2020
Public comment period ends: November 9, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: November 10, 2016
Current permit expiration date: January 31, 2021

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify this permit for a term of approximately four months.

Name and address of Permittee:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
Scherping Farms of Little Falls Inc. 3592 158th St Little Falls, MN 56345-5317	Scherping Farms of Little Falls Inc. 3592 158th St Little Falls, MN 56345-5317 Morrison County T129N, R31W, Section 016	Kourtney Frank Watershed Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 7678 College Road, Suite 105 Baxter, MN 56425 Phone: 218-316-3874 Email: kourtney.frank@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 1-844-828-0942

Watershed: Mississippi River - Brainerd

Description of Permitted Facility

This is a public notice of Intent to Modify coverage under the State of Minnesota General Animal Feedlot National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. A copy of this General permit is available for review on the MPCA webpage <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/npdes-and-sds-permits>. Copies of the permit application and any additional materials relating to the issuance of this permit are available for inspection by appointment at any MPCA office (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-offices>) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the General permit, permit application, and any supporting documentation upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

The Facility is currently permitted for six total confinement barns, one partial confinement barn, two open lots, five liquid manure storage areas, and one feed storage area. The Facility currently houses 1,022 mature dairy cows over 1,000 pounds, 75 heifers, and 60 calves for a total animal capacity of 1,157 or 1,495.3 animal units (AU).

The permittee is proposing to build an additional total confinement barn, a synthetic-lined earthen basin, and a permanent stockpile pad. The permittee is proposing an increase in animal numbers by adding 500 mature dairy cows over 1,000 pounds for a total animal capacity of 1,657 or 2,195.3 animal units (AU).

The preliminary determination to modify this Feedlot permit is tentative.

Procedure for public participation

- (1) Submit written comments on the permit application and the preliminary determination to issue coverage under a general permit.
- (2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- (3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or email, you must state:

- (1) Your interest in the permit application and the preliminary determination to issue coverage under a general permit.
- (2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the application materials you believe should be changed.
- (3) The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of the position.

Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

Contested Case Hearing

A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. As described in Minn. R. 7000.1800, persons who submit petitions for a contested case hearing must also state the issues they propose to address in a contested case hearing, the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter, and the reasons (which may be in the form of proposed findings) supporting an MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing. Failure to comply with these rules exactly may result in a denial of the request. To the extent known, the petitioner may also submit a list of prospective witnesses to be called at a hearing, a proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced at a hearing and the approximate time required for the petitioner to present the matter at a hearing. The decision whether to hold a contested case hearing will be made under Minn. R. 7000.1900.