

1. Site Description

Birchen Farms Inc. operates as a dairy facility in Stephenson County near Pearl City Illinois.

The farm currently consists of a two freestall barns, a hospital barn, 4 calf hoop barns, a parlor, commodity storage area and two earthen waste storage structures. Current animal numbers on the lot include approximately 824 stalls for the dairy herd, which includes approximately 125 stalls for dry cows. Under the current setup manure storage is less than 6 months of storage. The prouder is planning on construction of a new heifer freestall barn and the expansion of the existing earthen manure storage structure that will increase the facility to over 180 days of storage. The proposed freestall barn will have a maximum capacity of 250 head of dairy cattle and will accommodate animals moved from outside lots at another facility. The existing and barns will then have adequate manure storage. A complete list of animal numbers can be found in section 7 of this CNMP.

A separate area is utilized for commodity storage. In 2009 an earthen storage structure was constructed to capture all precipitation and runoff from the commodity area. A combination of berms and other diversions are utilized to divert non-contact water from entering the commodity area or its storage system.

Facility uses a rendering service to handle mortalities.

Manure is applied via liquid injection on fields with the exception of alfalfa. Solid manure is applied via broadcasting. Solid manure is applied on approximately 40 acres annually.

Approximately 935 acres in a mostly silage/corn/oat/hay rotation are available for waste utilization. Silage may be harvested in consecutive years on fields where slope and soil type do not limit this practice. Soil test values for Phosphorus and Potassium are included with the individual basic field information. Risk assessments for Phosphorus and Nitrogen are included in section 16. Recommended manure application rates are found in the Summary Table (section 19), and comply with all provisions of NRCS IL 590 Standard.

See site facility layout on the following page. The farmstead itself is located in Section 24 of Jefferson Township in Stephenson County.

Table A-1 Site Soils and Geologic Information			
Soil Type	Soil Name	Hydric Soils Class	High Water Table
29D2	Dubuque silt loam, 10-18% slopes, eroded	B	--
233C2	Birbeck silt loam, 5-10% slopes, eroded	B	4.0-6.0 ft.
417D2	Derinda silt loam, 10-18% slopes, eroded	C	2.0-3.0 ft.
429B	Palsgrove silt loam, 2-5% slopes	B	--
429C2	Palsgrove silt loam, 5-10% slopes, eroded	B	--
429D2	Palsgrove silt loam, 10-18% slopes, eroded	B	--
675B	Greenbush silt loam, 2-5% slopes	B	4.0-6.0 ft.

Note: Information Obtained from USDA NRCS Stephenson Co. EFOTG

