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## Vissers Dairy Draft Permit to Operate

### *General overview of the farm*

The facility known as Vissers Dairy is located in Defiance County, Mark Township, at 09711 Breininger Road, Mark Center, Ohio in the Upper Maumee River watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Vissers Dairy, LLC and Van Alphen Dairy Leasing, LLC. The dairy has a permitted design capacity of 1,600 mature dairy cows housed in three freestall barns. The facility has two existing manure storage ponds, two settling basins, and a storm water runoff pond. The ponds and basins provide a combined 20.40 million gallons of liquid manure storage or about 400 days' worth of storage. The storm water pond can store 2.16 million gallons of captured rainfall and storm runoff. A sand lane system is used to recycle bedding material. The facility has the capacity to store about 50,000 cubic feet of recycled sand bedding and separated solids material.

### *Overview of Draft Permit to Operate*

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO) renewal, a complete manure management plan is provided which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. At the maximum design capacity, the facility generates an estimated 16 million gallons annually of manure, milking center wash water, and captured rainfall & runoff. The liquid manure will be distributed to and utilized by area crop farmers on 3,300 acres of available crop land to recycle nutrients as a replacement for imported commercial synthetic fertilizers. The planned crops for these acres include corn silage, corn grain and soybeans.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for proper disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Vissers Dairy plans to continue utilizing a licensed renderer as the primary method to manage mortality losses.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance.

