

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

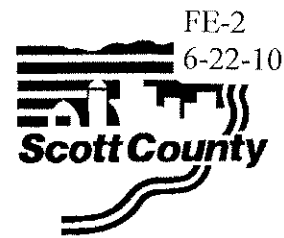
500 West Fourth Street

Davenport, Iowa 52801-1106

E-mail: planning@scottcountyiowa.com

Office: (563) 326-8643

Fax: (563) 326-8257



Timothy Huey
Director

To: Dee F. Bruemmer, County Administrator

From: Timothy Huey, Planning Director

Date: June 14, 2010

Re: County review and public hearing on the Construction Permit Application of Sievers Family Farms, LLC in the S½NE¼ Section 32, T80N, R1E (Liberty Township) for the construction of a confined animal feeding operation (cattle) located at 26618 20th Avenue.

On June 2nd the above referenced application was submitted to the Iowa DNR. Scott County has 30 days from that date to submit comments and a recommendation on that application. Notice of the receipt of this application has been published as required by the State regulations. A public hearing was also set for the Board meeting on June 24th to take comments from the public.

This request is for the construction of a 4,888 head cattle confinement operation in Liberty Township that requires compliance with the standards of the Master Matrix. The separation distances for an operation of the size proposed require that any residence, business, church or school in an unincorporated area be no closer than 2,500 feet to the proposed site. There are two residences within 2,500 feet of the site but both property owners have signed waivers of separation distance agreements with Sievers Family Farms. There are no businesses, or schools within a mile of the site. The city limits of New Liberty are about 1½ miles to the northwest.

The site meets the distance requirements for water sources and designated wetlands. The CAFO site is about ¼ mile south of a small stream that is a tributary of Mud Creek, which flows north through Scott County to the Wapsipinicon River.

The buildings are also required to be setback a minimum of 100 feet from the County road right of way and the site plan shows the proposed buildings setback over 500 feet from the County road right of way.

A project overview, prepared by Sievers Family Farms, describing how the manure solids generated from this operation will be handled is attached.

Staff has not, as of yet, received any calls or comments regarding this request. Staff will include any written comments and a summary of any verbal comments received at the public hearing with the Board's recommendation to the IDNR.

Staff will accompany the IDNR inspector from the Washington, Iowa district office when that inspection is scheduled. Staff will report on that inspection at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday June 22nd. Staff will also be ready to make a recommendation following that inspection and the public hearing at the Thursday Board meeting.

**Overview of Project for Scott County Planning & Development
Sievers Family Farms, LLC, New Liberty, IA
May 28, 2010**

The key feature of this project is an anaerobic digester which focuses on using a higher percentage of solids to produce methane gas than previously seen in Iowa farm-based digesters. Specifically, the business will recycle beef cattle manure and crop stover through the anaerobic digester.

Of the 129 operational methane digesters in the U.S., only two operational systems are reported to exist in Iowa. Clearly there is a need to establish additional operational systems. This particular system will use more carbon-based solids as its source of substrates than other anaerobic digesters currently in operation. It will also demonstrate the importance of anaerobic digester managers which will create additional job opportunities in this emerging industry. According to the Environmental Protection Agency about 8,000 farms across the United States are good candidates for capturing and using biogas. If all 8,000 farms implemented biogas systems, methane emissions would be reduced by more than 34 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, roughly equal to the annual emissions from 6.5 million passenger vehicles. In addition, these projects would generate more than 1,500 megawatts of renewable energy.

The anaerobic digester selected for the site will be a 1.4 megawatt unit installed by Organic Waste Systems (OWS). OWS has been building and supporting digesters in Europe and Asia since 1988. OWS will provide a DRANCO-Farm turnkey system. It will also provide technical support for the operations after the unit is built. This is potentially the first OWS turnkey operation in the U.S. and will serve as an educational model and demonstration project for other farmers and livestock producers considering anaerobic digesters.

Organic Waste Systems (OWS) has constructed anaerobic digesters since 1988. OWS currently has 21 systems operating in Europe and Asia. While OWS has provided biodegradability analysis and digester consulting in the U.S. for several years, this is potentially the first OWS turnkey system in the United States.

This process will produce renewable biogas, recapture nutrients used to grow the corn fed to the cattle, and reduce environmental effects from livestock production. With the anaerobic digester there are three areas to derive economic benefits:

- Generation of renewable energy for use on the farm and for re-sale. Alliant Energy and Sievers Family Farms, LLC have signed a letter of mutual intent to enter into a Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement.
- Creating valuable co-products from the digestion process; including but not limited to low-cost crop nutrients and livestock bedding, and
- Reducing potential environmental liability from the cattle production.

Sievers Family Farms, LLC will own all structures and the land needed for this renewable energy facility and beef cattle feedlot. This includes four 700' mono-slope cattle barns, the anaerobic digester which includes a liquid effluent storage structure and a separated solids storage structure. Additional facilities will include 200' x 165' corn silage and commodity bunker silo, covered commodity and bedding stockpile buildings, certified platform truck scale and platform sorting scale, processing, receiving, and load out facilities, and office space. The project will be sited on approximately 57 acres near New Liberty, Iowa on land owned by Sievers Family Farms, LLC.

Glenora Feed Yard, LLC of New Liberty, Iowa will lease the barns, anaerobic digester, and storage structures from Sievers Family Farms. Glenora Feed Yard, LLC is a family corporation owned by Bryan and Lisa Sievers and has been in existence since 1991. The Sievers family has been farming and feeding cattle in Scott County, Iowa since 1873. Approximately 9,500 head of cattle would be finished in the cattle barns each year. Both company owned and custom-fed cattle would be fed out in the barns. The total one-time capacity of the barns is 4,888 head and the cattle in the barns would turn twice a year. The four barns will be a combination of bedded manure pack and slatted floors for the liquid effluent. A portion of the separated solids from the anaerobic digester will be used in the barns as bedding. Added bedding sources will include ground corn cobs, baled corn stalks, and bean straw.

Project Team members include:

- CEO and President Lisa Sievers, a CPA with 28 years of business and management experience.
- COO Bryan Sievers has 35 years of crop, cattle, and farm management and operations experience.
- Organic Waste Systems, Inc. (OWS) of Dayton, OH. OWS is a subsidiary of OWS, Nv of Belgium.
- Phoenix Construction Management, Boone, IA, has provided input in building design and planning and will provide project management.
- ProAg Engineering, Lakefield, MN has provided engineering consultation and services for the livestock, commodity storage, and livestock manure storage structures and handling equipment.
- The Pinnacle Group, Iowa Falls, IA has worked on the development of the Manure Management plan.
- Phase 3 Renewables of Cincinnati, OH is providing grant-writing services for the project.
- Randolph Writing and News Services, Des Moines, IA is providing grant-writing services and business plan development.
- Two additional advisors include a world-renowned veterinarian and a physician. These individuals have provided guidance on business and management structure, financial planning, and overall project development. In addition, two law firms, one located in Muscatine, IA and one located in Des Moines, IA, have provided legal expertise and consultation.

In anticipation of several federal grant applications to be submitted for this project, endorsements have already been received from the Scott County Farm Bureau, Scott County Cattlemen's Association, and the Partners for Scott County Watersheds.

Contact info: Bryan J. Sievers
Chief Operating Officer
Sievers Family Farms, LLC
27135 1st Avenue
New Liberty, IA 52765
Ph: 563-893-2930 (H/O) or 563-340-6541 (Cell)
Email: 4isu@fbcom-wb.net

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Timothy Huey
Director

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALLOW FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT ON AN
APPLICATION FOR A STATE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
ANIMAL CONFINEMENT FEEDING OPERATION**

The Scott County Board of Supervisors have on file an application for a construction permit that has been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the construction of new animal (cattle) confinement feeding operation in Scott County.

Name of Applicant: Sievers Family Farms LLC
Address: 27135 1st Avenue
New Liberty, Iowa 52765

Location of operation: S½NE¼ Section 32, T80N, R1E (Liberty Township)

Description of application: The proposed confined animal feeding operation will have a capacity of 4,888 animal unit (AU). The proposal includes the construction of four (4) 90 foot by 700 foot buildings with a capacity of 1,222 head each. There will be a 12 foot wide slatted floor with a two foot deep pit on each side of the building. These pits will be cleaned daily and the manure separated, with the solid manure stored in a covered concrete bunker and the liquid manure stored in a circular concrete tank with a capacity to store 227 days of liquid manure.

Examination: The application is on file with the Scott County Planning and Development Department located at 500 West 4th Street, Davenport, Iowa and is available for review by the public during normal working hours 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Comments: Written, faxed or emailed comments for the Board of Supervisors may be delivered or sent to the Scott County Planning and Development Department until Monday, June 21, 2010 at 4:30 PM. All comments will be forwarded to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The fax number for Planning and Development is 563-326-8257 and the email address is planning@scottcountyiowa.com

Additional Information: Timothy Huey, Planning Director
500 West 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801
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