



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.*

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

Eric J. Holcomb  
Governor

Brian C. Rockensuess  
Commissioner

July 2, 2024

Noah Jr. & Emma Schmucker  
4375 S 1000 E  
Hamilton, IN 46742

Re: **Withdrawal of Confined Feeding Operation Facility Change Application**  
Steuben County  
Farm ID # 6882

Dear Noah Jr. & Emma Schmucker:

On July 1, 2024, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) received your email requesting to withdraw your Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) facility change application at the above referenced facility.

Please note, this facility change may be resubmitted by you with no fee once plans for the site have been finalized. Please answer the attached list of questions from the original May 14<sup>th</sup> email when you resubmit the project. IDEM CFO staff are happy to work with you prior to submission. Please contact Emma Lager, permit manager, for questions or to request a pre-application meeting at (317) 233-7274

Your application is hereby withdrawn based on your request. All material related to your application is public record per Indiana Code IC 5-14-3. You can view all public records for this CFO on IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet (VFC) website. Go to <https://www.in.gov/idem/legal/public-records/virtual-file-cabinet>, which is the VFC page. Once there, click on the **Virtual File Cabinet** in the blue box. Select the **"Quick Search"** option in the upper right hand corner. Select **"CFO/CAFO #"** from the dropdown menu. Type in the farm ID #, **6882**, in the box to the right of the **"Quick Search"**. Click the **Search arrow** button. You can sort the search results by clicking on the title at the top of the column for each of the following categories: **Content Id, Document Date, or Document Type**. IDEM posts documents within approximately 5 days of when we send or receive them. Contact us if you cannot locate a particular document.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Emma Lager by calling (317)233-7274.

Sincerely,

Joseph D Goetz, Section Chief  
Confined Feeding Permits Section  
Office of Land Quality



Visit [on.IN.gov/survey](https://on.IN.gov/survey) or scan the QR code to provide feedback.

*We appreciate your input!*



Noah Jr. & Emma Schmucker  
Page 2

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc: Melissa Lehman – Agronomic Solutions, LLC  
Tiffany Rolin – Agronomic Solutions, LLC  
Steuben County Health Department  
Steuben County Commissioners  
Hamilton Mayor/Town Council President  
Steuben County USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service

## Request for Additional Information

- Confirm with the applicant how the new roof will be supported. It sounds like no new support posts will be added in the concrete lot area, but please confirm this and show a side profile drawing of the proposed roof & supports. Based on the farmstead map, it looks like the footprint of the roof will extend beyond the building footprints to the north and south. If he is going outside of that footprint, how will the roof be supported on the north and south ends? There are no concrete walls to anchor the posts if he goes outside of the area of the buildings. Will he be adding new posts? Will he add new concrete? Will the extra area of the roof just be a large overhang? Will the roof be attached to the roof of the covered feed alley somehow? Please show any new footers.
- Explain how the existing concrete will be tied to these new supports and show it with a design drawing. Is this what “post mount saddle straps at each post” means? Could you elaborate on what those are or show a picture?
- Explain the plan for new gutters and downspouts and show it on an updated farmstead map. Will the downspouts be buried? Where will they outlet? It looks like they will be buried, but please confirm this and add them and their outlet to the farmstead map.
- Calculate the decrease in runoff and update storage calculations in E6 for the facility to show greater storage time. If the applicant would like to update the E6 calculations, he would likely gain more storage.
  - There will be less stormwater going into E6, thus increasing storage time, this may be helpful for future permitting.
- In regard to cutting an opening in the westernmost 6-foot concrete sidewall for E4, please confirm this is what will be cut down to 13 inches.
  - Please indicate the size and location of the proposed opening. Based on the submitted drawing, we are under the impression that the opening will be 16” and run along the entire length of E4. Please confirm if this is accurate and adjust the farmstead plan as needed.
  - Please include an updated design plan for the new square footage of E4, including supports for the extended roof and the new concrete that will be poured to create the small feeding area. Please add both.
  - State that the existing earthen berm to the west of E4 will not be affected. Please add this statement to the text of the facility change.
  - Add an explanation that this new area will not be used for manure storage or animal confinement; instead, it will be a feed bunk. Please add this statement to the text of the facility change.
  - Show how the top of the wall will be cut down to remove the slant and make it level. Please add a ‘zoomed in’ view of this.

## Lager, Emma C

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**From:** Noah Schmucker <schmucker@safecommail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lager, Emma C  
**Subject:** Re: Request to Withdraw Facility Change Application

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

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We want to withdraw the permit. Just wanted to let you know.

On 6/27/2024 4:18 PM, Lager, Emma C wrote:

Mr. Schmucker,

Thank you for your call this afternoon. As we discussed, if you are able to answer all of the questions outlined in the May 14<sup>th</sup> email (which I have just forwarded to you) by Monday, we will take a look at your response to see if we can process it. Again, I do strongly recommend that you withdraw the project to have some time to sort everything out rather than submit an application that we may not be able to review, and therefore deny. If you change your mind, please respond to this email with a request to withdraw or let your consultant know so they may do so on your behalf.

I believe Tiffany will be out of office next week, so you may want to send any plans to Melissa Lehman instead.

Best,

Emma



**Emma Lager**  
Environmental Manager | CFO Permits Section

(317) 233-7274 • [ELager@idem.IN.gov](mailto:ELager@idem.IN.gov)

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) | [in](https://www.linkedin.com/in/emma_lager) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/emma.lager) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/emma.lager) | [Twitter](https://twitter.com/emma_lager) | [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

Scan the QR code to leave your feedback

**We appreciate your input!**

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**From:** Lager, Emma C  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 12:44 PM  
**To:** [schmucker@safecommail.com](mailto:schmucker@safecommail.com)  
**Cc:** Goetz, Joseph D <[JGoetz@idem.IN.gov](mailto:JGoetz@idem.IN.gov)>; Espinda, Megan <[MEspinda@idem.IN.gov](mailto:MEspinda@idem.IN.gov)>; Wolff, Brian <[BWOLFF@idem.IN.gov](mailto:BWOLFF@idem.IN.gov)>; Feller, Robin <[RFeller@idem.IN.gov](mailto:RFeller@idem.IN.gov)>; Melissa Lehman <[melissa@agronomicsolutionsllc.com](mailto:melissa@agronomicsolutionsllc.com)>; Tiffany Rolin <[Tiffany@agronomicsolutionsllc.com](mailto:Tiffany@agronomicsolutionsllc.com)>

**Subject:** Request to Withdraw Facility Change Application

**Importance:** High

Mr. Schmucker:

On April 15, 2024, IDEM was informed that you would like to update your existing CFO facility, Farm ID#6882, by adding a roof over three currently existing hoop barns and associated lots. On May 9, 2024, IDEM CFO representatives met with your consultants, Agronomic Solutions, LLC, to discuss required items for this change to your permit. On May 14, 2024, IDEM CFO staff sent an email detailing said requirements to Agronomic Solutions. On June 4, 2024, IDEM received your facility change notification.

Upon preliminary review of the application, IDEM engineering and CFO staff have determined they will be unable to complete a full review of this project. The application did not include the required items detailed in the May 14<sup>th</sup> email. Additionally, IDEM has been made aware during the course of the review that the plans submitted may be inaccurate as the plans have changed and new concrete footers may be poured.

IDEM recommends that you withdraw your application until such a time as you are able to complete the requirements outlined in the May 14<sup>th</sup> email and you finalize your plans for the site. A letter stating the same points will be mailed to your address. Please reply to this email stating your request to withdraw or contact IDEM via phone or through your consultant. Once withdrawn, CFO staff will be happy to meet with you and your consultant to discuss your project and help you prepare it for resubmission.

If IDEM does not receive a withdraw request by Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, IDEM may issue a denial for an incomplete application. Please note, denial does not preclude you from resubmitting the application at a later date, once it is corrected.

If you have any questions, please contact Emma Lager at (317) 233-7274 or by replying to this email.

Regards,

Emma



**Emma Lager**

Environmental Manager | CFO Permits Section

(317) 233-7274 • [ELager@idem.IN.gov](mailto:ELager@idem.IN.gov)

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**We appreciate your input!**

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Thank You and May God Bless You  
The Schmuckers

Noah 419-553-0386

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