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NEWS RELEASE

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LAUTENSCHLAGER ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL SETTLEMENT WITH ST. CROIX COUNTY DAIRY OPERATION OVER WATER POLLUTION

Jon De Farm, Inc., Of Baldwin To Pay \$43,000 Fine For Manure That Flowed Into Rush River

MADISON - Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager today announced that the Wisconsin Department of Justice has settled an environmental lawsuit against a St. Croix County dairy operation for violations of state water pollution control laws.

The state's lawsuit, filed in November 2002 at the request of the Department of Natural Resources, charged Jon De Farm, Inc., of Baldwin with violating the manure management requirements of its Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit.

According to the Department of Justice's complaint, Jon De Farm owns and operates a concentrated animal feeding operation near Baldwin. The complaint alleges that on a number of occasions in 2000-2002, Jon De Farm violated the terms of its permit by allowing manure or manure contaminated leachate or washwater to flow into waterways that flow into the Rush River or its tributaries.

"Jon De Farm's violation of the manure management requirements as required by its permit clearly threatened the Rush River and its tributaries," Lautenschlager said. "In doing so, this dairy operation violated Wisconsin's water pollution control laws and created a situation that seriously compromised not only our clean water goals, but created an unacceptable risk to area families and community health. I'm pleased the settlement offers not only a reasonable financial penalty, but a commitment by Jon De Farm to improve its management operations and avoid future discharges."

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Jon De Farm will pay penalties of just under \$43,000 for the violations. It will also cease landspreading of liquid manure on frozen ground or

snow, except in an emergency, and will implement a number of other improvements in its manure management operations in order to keep pollutants out of surface waters.

The settlement agreement was approved by St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Scott Needham. Assistant Attorney General Shari Eggleston represented the state.

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