

Farms Causing Fallout

Madelyn Davenport

Team Members: Dr. Amber Wichowsky, Dr. Jill Birren, Graduate Student Jenny LaManna, and Graduate Student Jennifer Gaul-Stout

Introduction

Kewaunee County experiences contaminated water due to the run-off from local farms. Activists in Kewaunee county have been meeting over the past three years to discuss problems, actions individuals can take, and long-term solutions.

Currently tensions are running high in Kewaunee County as the citizens involved in local government that are speaking out about water contamination from farms have been removed from the Lincoln City board.

End Goal of Project

- Help find best solutions to the problem of water contamination due to farm run-off
 - Solutions that benefit non-farmer citizens and local farmers
- Provide support to activists
 - Encourage the continuance of this fight

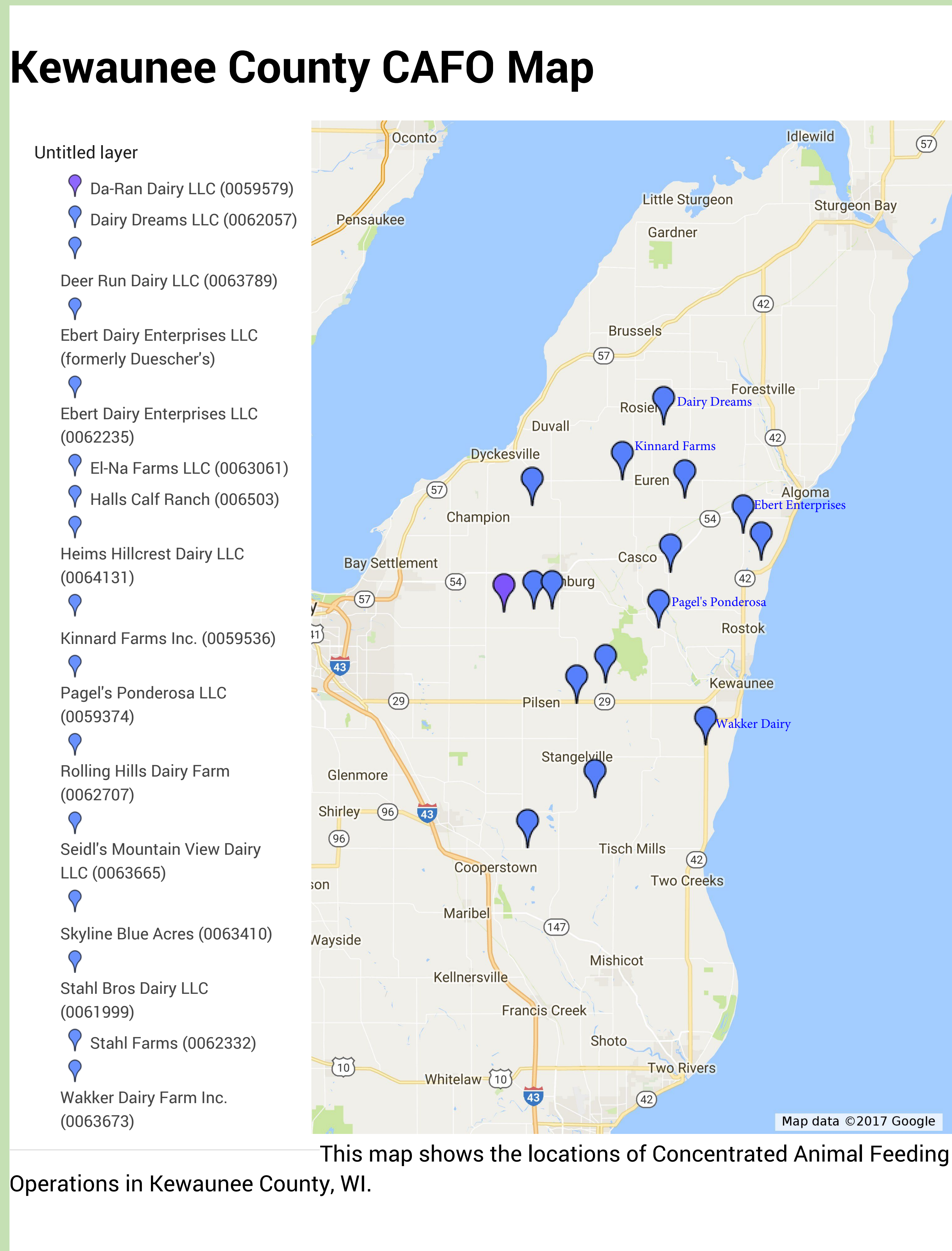
Current Work

- Listening to transcripts of past conversations of concerned Kewaunee County citizens from over the past three years : these are continuing to this day
- Finding legal precedent for these matters
- Gaining knowledge about problems and solutions related to water contamination from farms

Next Steps This Semester : Coding

- Code each conversation by:
 - Who's speaking
 - Topics spoken about & how often
 - Problems and Solutions
 - Attitudes towards topics

Current state and federal regulations to prevent the contamination of groundwater created by run-off from farms with livestock are limited.



CAFO: agricultural meat, dairy, or egg facilities where animals are kept and raised in confined situations -1,000 or more animal units

As of August 2020

Include a QR code to scan to download a digital copy of your poster

Future Steps

Track Community Engagement

- What problems and solutions fall out of conversation?
- What problems and solutions gain traction?
- How does citizen engagement respond to environmental degradation?
- Develop network analytic approach to assess community engagement over time.

Track Legal Proceedings

- Find comparative WI and US Supreme Court cases
- Find legal precedent to put in regulations for water run-off
- Create a timeline of resolved cases regarding farm water contamination

Track Changes in Agricultural Practices

- Does community engagement affect the likelihood of farmers adopting best management practices?

Present to Activists

- Go to Kewaunee County to show them our data
- Share findings with other clean water activists in Wisconsin and the greater Midwest
- Show successes, failures, and trials so that Kewaunee's steps can be replicated and perfected

Predicted Results

We are predicting that over time, citizens of Kewaunee will become more educated on the problems and solutions they are facing, leading to issues being brought to higher levels of government. Currently, the farthest citizens have gone is talking with city and county officials, and state legislators, but as this problem persists across the Midwest, there is a case to increase pressure on legislators, and even escalate to the federal congressional committees on agriculture. The problems of polarization will make citizens have to educate others in their local communities, so that individual farmers change their behavior.

