

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO GRANT A PERMIT AUTHORIZING  
THE USE OF WATER FOR COMMERCIAL  
AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES  
IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, IOWA**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 455B, there is now on file with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Water Supply Engineering Section, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite "200" Des Moines, Iowa 50321 applications as described below.

Phillip O. Sonstegard on behalf of Sunrise Farms Inc. (Iowa DNR Log No. 34,246) requests a permit authorizing withdrawal of water from four existing and one proposed Ocheyedan River alluvial aquifer wells, each approximately 50 feet deep and located on land generally described as the W ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 9 and the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 8, T98N, R39W, Osceola County, Iowa, in the maximum quantity of 265 million gallons per year at a maximum rate of 1,530 gallons per minute throughout each year to operate an egg production and processing facility, known locally as Sunrise Farms, Inc., on land generally described as NW ¼ of Section 34, T99N, R39W, Osceola County.

The only change to the existing permit is the addition of a new Ocheyedan River alluvial well, as described above.

The Department has determined that these uses of water conform to the relevant criteria (Iowa Code Chapter 455B and Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 567) and recommends the permits be granted. Copies of the summary reports for the applications are available upon a request to the Department at the address listed above. Comments on the reports and on these uses of water must be received by February 25, 2026, and should be addressed "ATTN.: Water Supply Engineering Section" and should specify the applicant's log number. (By Michael K. Anderson, P.E.)

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**WATER USE PERMIT SUMMARY REPORT**

Applicant: Philip O. Sonstegard  
6060 White Ave.  
Harris, IA 51345-7549

Application Iowa DNR Log No.: 34,246

Phillip O. Sonstegard on behalf of Sunrise Farms Inc. (Iowa DNR Log No. 34,246) requests a permit authorizing withdrawal of water from four existing and one proposed Ocheyedan River alluvial aquifer wells, each approximately 50 feet deep and located on land generally described as the W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9 and the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T98N, R39W, Osceola County, Iowa, in the maximum quantity of 265 million gallons per year at a maximum rate of 1,530 gallons per minute throughout each year to operate an egg production and processing facility, known locally as Sunrise Farms, Inc., on land generally described as NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34, T99N, R39W, Osceola County.

The only change to the existing permit is the addition of a new Ocheyedan River alluvial well, as described above.

1. This permit adds the irrigation component that was missing from the October 28, 2011, water use permit modification.
2. Applicant's facility is located about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles northeast of the city of May City and about 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of the Municipal Limits of the city of Harris, Iowa. According to the Applicant, water use at this facility is expected to double within the next ten years due to planned increases in egg production and processing.
3. Applicant's water source is located about 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the southwest of the egg production and processing facility, on the eastern edge of the Ocheyedan River Valley and consists of four, soon to be five, sand and gravel wells in the Quaternary System. This alluvial aquifer is associated with the Ocheyedan River drainage system and is recharged primarily from surface water and through precipitation and horizontal groundwater movement. Under normal conditions the aquifer, being associated with a large drainage basin, should not be subject to significant depletion or experience an extended cone of depression as a result of water withdrawals made at the magnitude and rate requested by the Applicant.
4. According to the Applicant, the nearest neighboring water user requiring the diversion of water in sufficiently large proportions to require a water use permit is an agricultural user, located about 558 feet west of Applicant's North Well and involves the use of water from the alluvial aquifer by the Sonstegard Family Farms for irrigation of general farm crops (Water Use Permit No. 3888-R3). Whereas these wells are in close enough proximity that some minor well interference might occur during drought conditions, this should not impede the use of these wells for their intended purpose at their permitted quantity and rate.
5. The next-nearest neighboring water user requiring the diversion of water in sufficiently large proportions to require a water use permit is located about 1,250 feet southwest of the Applicant's South Well and involves the use of water from the alluvial aquifer by the Gary D. Sonstegard for irrigation of general farm crops (Water Use Permit No. 3555-R4). Whereas there is a significant distance between users and no record of well interference in the area, no negative impacts on these neighboring permitted water users are expected.
6. According to departmental photographic maps of the area, private well sites could be located about 2,400 feet to the southwest and northeast of the Applicant's withdrawal sites. Because of the large separation distance from the Applicant's wells, it is unlikely persons who live in the area described and have properly constructed wells in the same or shallower aquifers will experience any significant impacts from the withdrawals by the Applicant. In any event, the interests of individuals using water for domestic purposes, as well as those persons benefiting from the

permits mentioned above, are amply protected, in the event of substantial injury, pursuant to Section 455B.271, Code of Iowa.

7. The applicant is using a reasonable amount of water in a beneficial use (commercial agriculture/egg production. Egg production contributes to an economic benefit to citizens of the State of Iowa. There is no evidence that the use of water pursuant to a permit granted in accordance with the conclusions contained herein will constitute a waste of the water resources of the State, will be incompatible with the state comprehensive plan for water resources, will impair the effect of pollution control laws of this State or the navigability of and navigable watercourse, or will be detrimental to the public interest or to the interests of property owners with prior or superior rights who might be affected.
8. The department has jurisdiction over the surface and ground water of the State as established by specific authority in 455B and 445E of the Code of Iowa. The Department is required to establish and administer a comprehensive program to assure that the water resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent possible, that the waste or unreasonable use, or unreasonable methods of use of water be prevented, and that the conservation and protection of water resources be required with the view to their reasonable and beneficial use in the interest of the people.

**THEREFORE:**

The requested use of water conforms to the relevant criteria in Division III, Part 4, Chapter 455B, Code of Iowa and Chapter 52 of Part 567, Iowa Administrative Code. No adverse effect upon other water users is foreseen at this time. Following publication of notice and subject to revisions in response to comments that may be submitted, the attached draft permit should be issued for a period of ten years.

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Water Supply Engineering

Date: January 20, 2026

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATER USE PERMIT**

Permit issued to:	Permit Number:	7509-M8
SUNRISE FARMS INC PHILIP SONSTEGARD 2060 WHITE AVE HARRIS IA 51345-7549	Effective:	xxxx
	Expires:	xxxx

**The Permittee is authorized to:**

withdraw water from four existing and one proposed Ocheyedan River alluvial aquifer wells, each approximately 50 feet deep and located on land generally described as the W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9 and the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T98N, R39W, Osceola County, Iowa, in the maximum quantity of 265 million gallons per year at a maximum rate of 1,530 gallons per minute throughout each year to operate an egg production and processing facility, known locally as Sunrise Farms, Inc., on land generally described as NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34, T99N, R39W, Osceola County, Iowa.

This authorization to withdraw water has been granted pursuant to the provisions of Part 4 of Division III of Chapter 455B, Code of Iowa, and Chapter 50 of Part 567, Iowa Administrative Code, and is further subject to the general permit conditions within this permit.

Conditions of this permit may be appealed as provided in rule 567--50.9, Iowa Administrative Code. Appeal must be in writing and must be received at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Water Supply Engineering Section, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite "200" Des Moines, Iowa 50321 within thirty days of the date of the certification of the mailing of the permit.

**FOR THE DIRECTOR:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Executed: \_\_\_\_\_  
cc: Permit File

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

On the date shown below, a copy of the foregoing permit was mailed to the Permittee and to each person entitled to receive a copy as provided by rule 567--50.8(2), Iowa Administrative Code.

Certified by (initials): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

1. Permittee shall maintain accurate and up-to-date records of monthly water use from each authorized source and submit them annually to the Department.
2. Permittee may be required to submit other information related to the regulation of this use of water as directed by the Department.
3. This Permit is issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 455B.265(1) to authorize the withdrawal and use of water by the permittee, subject to the terms contained herein and to the laws and rules of the Department that regulate the withdrawal and use of water. Issuance of this permit does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility to comply with applicable local, state and federal laws, ordinances, regulations or other legal requirements.
4. Permittee shall be responsible for notifying the Department when there are changes to any conditions and authorizations given in this permit, including additional water source(s), well(s), intake(s), an expansion of the facility, or any other listed condition.
5. Permittee shall construct, maintain, and monitor observation wells as directed by the Department to define the effects of Permittee's water withdrawals on groundwater resources or on other water users who might be affected by the withdrawals authorized herein.
6. Each well authorized as a source of water in this permit must be constructed to allow for accurate measurement of water levels.
7. Withdrawals from permitted wells may be made only after the Permittee has made the following information available to the Department: well location(s), well log(s), and results of yield tests. Required chip samples shall be submitted to the Iowa Geological Survey.
8. Permittee shall be responsible for accurately measuring depth to water under non-pumping (static) conditions, depth to water under pumping conditions, and pumping rate(s) for all active wells listed in this permit, at a minimum of one measurement per year. These records shall be submitted annually to the Department.
9. Permittee shall submit to the Department within 90 days of being notified by the Department or no later than the expiration date of this permit, whichever first occurs, a plan for implementing routine day-to-day water conservation measures and for implementing emergency water conservation measures during periods of water shortage. Until such a plan has been submitted to and approved by the Department, Permittee shall implement those emergency water conservation measures determined to be necessary by the Department pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 455B.265 and 455B.266.
10. This permit supersedes Water Use Permit No. 7509-R7.

## CAVEAT

Permittee is advised that pursuant to Section 455B.271, Code of Iowa, the authority to withdraw water provided by this permit may be modified, canceled or suspended in case of any breach of the terms or conditions herein, in case of any violation of state law pertaining to the permit, or if found necessary to prevent substantial injury to private or public interests.