

## Solids Reduction Dramatically Improves Manure Handling in Western Pennsylvania with PIT PERFECT®

*ViewFamily Farms (CVFF) — Western Pennsylvania*

### BACKGROUND

ViewFamily Farms (CVFF) operates a contracted sow farm in Western Pennsylvania, constructed with shallow manure pits in two barns, each followed by million-gallon collection pits. Effluent is transferred to two receiving lagoons every one to two weeks.



*Fig. 1: CVFF sow operation. Effluent is sent to two receiving lagoons every one to two weeks.*

### CHALLENGE & SOLUTION

The farm was experiencing serious problems with its large pull-plug operations. Shallow pits in the barns were blocked with sludge, compounding issues in the two million-gallon collection pits. One collection pit had developed a cone-shaped sludge pile measuring 18 feet high, extending from the pit floor to the surface water level. Effective agitation was impossible and pumping was nearly unworkable. The contract pumper opted to trial **PIT PERFECT** technology to resolve these issues.

❑ KEY CHALLENGES	✓ PIT PERFECT® SOLUTION
Shallow barn pits blocked with sludge	Low-dosage pit treatment program applied in 2006
18-ft cone-shaped sludge pile in 1M-gal collection pit	Sludge cone fully eliminated in one growing season
Pumping nearly impossible; agitation ineffective	Pit pumping problems fully resolved
Heavy odor and operational inefficiency on the farm	Odor significantly reduced; large time & cost savings

## TREATMENT

In 2006, a low-dosage PIT PERFECT® program targeting the shallow barn pits was initiated. Within the first 60 days, shallow pit problems were resolved. Treatment was subsequently continued to address downstream receiving lagoon issues. After a six-month program covering all barn pits, treatment effects cascaded into the storage lagoons without any direct lagoon dosing.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

<p><b>60 Days</b> Shallow pit problems resolved</p>	<p><b>6–7 Feet</b> Bottom solids removed from lagoons</p>	<p><b>1 Season</b> 18-ft sludge cone fully eliminated</p>
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## BEFORE AND AFTER COMPARISON

AREA	BEFORE TREATMENT	AFTER PIT PERFECT®
<b>Shallow Barn Pits</b>	Blocked with sludge; pull-plug operations failing	Fully clear within 60 days; all solids eliminated
<b>Million-Gallon Collection Pits</b>	Pumping almost impossible; 18-ft sludge cone present	Pumped without issues in first spring post-treatment
<b>Downstream Receiving Lagoons</b>	Heavy surface crust; 6–7 ft of bottom solids	Surface crust and bottom solids fully eliminated
<b>Odor</b>	Significant odor issues reported	Substantially reduced throughout the operation

## TREATMENT PROGRESS – PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The photographs below document the remarkable transformation across both downstream lagoons following the **PIT PERFECT** barn pit treatment program.



*Fig. 2: Downstream lagoon after 6 months of PIT PERFECT® treatment of the manure pit. No direct lagoon treatment was applied, yet substantial crust removal and clear zones are visible.*



*Fig. 3: The second lagoon was completely cleared of solids after the six-month PIT PERFECT® pit treatment.*

## DETAILED RESULTS

After the six-month treatment program, results across the entire operation were impressive:

- All barn pits cleared of solids entirely
- Odor significantly reduced across the operation
- Surface and bottom solids in storage lagoons eliminated
- Pit pumping problems fully resolved — first trouble-free pumping reported in years
- An astonishing 6–7 feet of bottom solids removed from the lagoons
- Large savings in time and expense reported by CVFF

For more information on PIT PERFECT® Technology visit:  
<https://ecologicallabs.com/pit-perfect/>

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