

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY,

Complainant,

V.

# GRAINLAND FARMERS, an Illinois Agricultural Cooperative

Respondent.

AC 2025-

(IEPA No. 79-25-AC)

## NOTICE OF FILING

To: Grainland Farmers  
c/o Terry Lee Blin  
1861 State Route 116  
Roanoke, IL 61561-7759

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on this date I electronically filed with the Clerk of the Pollution Control Board of the State of Illinois the following instrument(s) entitled ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION, AFFIDAVIT, and OPEN DUMP INSPECTION CHECKLIST.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kiper

~~e-signature valid for IPCB e-filings ONLY~~

Michelle M. Ryan  
Assistant Counsel

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2520 West Iles Avenue  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
(217) 782-5544

Dated: May 28, 2025

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL	)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	AC 2025-
	)	
v.	)	(IEPA No. 79-25-AC)
	)	
GRAINLAND FARMERS, an Illinois	)	
Agricultural Cooperative	)	
	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

JURISDICTION

This Administrative Citation is issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency by Section 31.1 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/31.1 (2024).

FACTS

1. That Grainland Farmers is the present owner and operator of a property located at 927 County Highway 3, Eureka, Woodford County, Illinois. The property is commonly known to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as Eureka/Grainland Cooperative.
2. That said facility is an open dump operating without an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Operating Permit and is designated with Site Code No. 2030205038.
3. That Respondent has operated said facility at all times pertinent hereto.
4. That on April 9, 2025, Nathan Graham of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Peoria Regional Office inspected the above-described facility. A copy of his inspection report setting forth the results of said inspection is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

5. That on May 28, 2025, Illinois EPA sent this Administrative Citation via Certified Mail No. 7022 3330 0000 8734 6299 to Grainland Farmers.

#### VIOLATIONS

Based upon direct observations made by Nathan Graham during the course of his April 9, 2025 inspection of the above-named facility, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has determined that Respondent has violated the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (hereinafter, the "Act") as follows:

- (1) That Respondent caused or allowed the open dumping of waste in a manner resulting in litter, a violation of Section 21(p)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1) (2024).
- (2) That Respondent caused or allowed the open dumping of waste in a manner resulting in open burning, a violation of Section 21(p)(3) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(p)(3) (2024).
- (3) That Respondent caused or allowed the open dumping of waste in a manner resulting in deposition of general construction or demolition debris or clean construction or demolition debris, a violation of Section 21(p)(7) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(p)(7) (2024).

#### CIVIL PENALTY

Pursuant to Section 42(b)(4-5) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2024), Respondent is subject to civil penalties of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for each of the violations identified above, for a total of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00). If Respondent elects not to petition the Illinois Pollution Control Board, the statutory civil penalties specified above shall be due and payable no later than July 13, 2025, unless otherwise provided by order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

If Respondent elects to contest this Administrative Citation by petitioning the Illinois Pollution Control Board in accordance with Section 31.1 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31.1 (2024), and if the Illinois

Pollution Control Board issues a finding of violation as alleged herein, after an adjudicatory hearing, Respondent shall be assessed the associated hearing costs incurred by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Those hearing costs shall be assessed in addition to the One Thousand Five Hundred Dollar (\$1,500.00) statutory civil penalty for each violation.

Pursuant to Section 31.1(d)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(1) (2024), if Respondent fails to petition or elects not to petition the Illinois Pollution Control Board for review of this Administrative Citation within thirty-five (35) days of the date of service, the Illinois Pollution Control Board shall adopt a final order, which shall include this Administrative Citation and findings of violation as alleged herein, and shall impose the statutory civil penalty specified above.

When payment is made, Respondent's check shall be made payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund and mailed to the attention of Fiscal Services, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2520 West Iles Avenue, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. Along with payment, Respondent shall complete and return the enclosed Remittance Form to ensure proper documentation of payment.

If any civil penalty and/or hearing costs are not paid within the time prescribed by order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, interest on said penalty and/or hearing costs shall be assessed against the Respondent from the date payment is due up to and including the date that payment is received. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General may be requested to initiate proceedings against Respondent in Circuit Court to collect said penalty and/or hearing costs, plus any interest accrued.

PROCEDURE FOR CONTESTING THIS  
ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Respondent has the right to contest this Administrative Citation pursuant to and in accordance with Section 31.1 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31/1 (2024). If Respondent elects to contest this Administrative Citation, then Respondent shall file a Petition for Review, including a Notice of Filing, Certificate of Service, and Notice of Appearance, with the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, 60 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 630, Chicago, Illinois 60605. A copy of said Petition for Review shall be filed with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Division of Legal Counsel at 2520 West Iles Avenue, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. Section 31.1 of the Act provides that any Petition for Review shall be filed within thirty-five (35) days of the date of service of this Administrative Citation or the Illinois Pollution Control Board shall enter a default judgment against the Respondent.



Andrew Armstrong, Chief Legal Counsel  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Date: 05/28/2025

Prepared by: Dawn A. Hollis, Legal Assistant  
Division of Legal Counsel  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2520 West Iles Avenue  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
(217) 782-5544

REMITTANCE FORM

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	AC 2025-
	)	
v.	)	
	)	(IEPA No. 79-25-AC)
GRAINLAND FARMERS, an Illinois Agricultural	)	
Cooperative	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

FACILITY:	Grainland Farmers	SITE CODE NO.:	2030205038
COUNTY:	Woodford	CIVIL PENALTY:	\$4,500.00
DATE OF INSPECTION:	April 9, 2025		

DATE REMITTED:

SS/FEIN NUMBER:

SIGNATURE:

NOTE

Please enter the date of your remittance, your Social Security number (SS) if an individual or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) if a corporation, and sign this Remittance Form. Be sure your check is enclosed and mail, along with Remittance Form, to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Attn.: Fiscal Services, 2520 West Iles Avenue, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Bureau of Land – Field Operations Section

Inspection Report

**General Facility Information**

<b>BOL ID</b>	2030205038	<b>Evaluation Date</b>	4/9/2025
<b>USEPA ID</b>	N/A	<b>Region</b>	Peoria
<b>Site Name</b>	Grainland Cooperative	<b>County</b>	Woodford
<b>Address</b>	927 County Highway 3	<b>Phone</b>	309-467-2355
<b>City/State/Zip</b>	Eureka, Illinois 61530	<b>EJ Status</b>	None
<b>Limited English</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Primary Language</b>	English

**Observations**

<b>Time</b>	1058-1119 hours
<b>Weather Conditions</b>	Rain
<b>Temperature</b>	37° Fahrenheit
<b>Photos Taken</b>	Yes
<b>Amount of Waste</b>	About 30 cubic yards
<b>Complaint Id</b>	7749

**Evaluation Type**

Solid Waste Program - Open Dump Inspection

**Owner**

Grainland Cooperative  
Attn: Terry Bline  
927 County Highway 3  
Eureka, Illinois 61530

**Operator**

Grainland Cooperative  
Attn: Terry Bline  
927 County Highway 3  
Eureka, Illinois 61530

**Inspection Participants**

<u>Person</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Nathan Graham	IEPA FOS Primary Inspector	(309) 671-4720
Donald LaPonsie	IEPA FOS Secondary Inspector	(309) 671-3086

**Persons Interviewed**

<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
No one interviewed		

**Permit**

<u>Application Date</u>	<u>Log #</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>Mod/Sp #</u>	<u>Mod/Sp Date</u>
NONE					

### ***Active Enforcement Orders***

CACO  
NONE

Consent Decree

CAFO

IPCB

Federal Court

State Court

### ***Executive Summary***

On April 9, 2025, I (Nathan Graham, BOL/FOS – Peoria) and Donald LaPonsie, BOL/FOS – Peoria, conducted a follow-up inspection at Grainland Cooperative located at 927 County Highway 3 in Eureka, Woodford County, Illinois. The initial inspection was conducted in response to complaints stating that open dumping and open burning occurred on the property. According to the Woodford County GIS website, the property is owned by Terry Bline. Apparent violations were observed.

### ***Evaluation Narrative***

#### **Background**

On July 3, 2024, Citizen's Complaint Investigation no. 7749 was conducted on the property, and as a result of the inspection, Violation Notices (VNs) L-2024-00242 and L-2024-00243 were sent to Grainland Farmers and Grainland Cooperative, respectively, on August 5, 2024.

On September 13, 2024, the Illinois EPA received a response from Terry Bline, the owner and operator of Grainland Cooperative, indicating a wish to enter into a Compliance Commitment Agreement (CCA) with the Illinois EPA.

On October 28, 2024, a CCA between the Illinois EPA and Grainland Cooperative was executed indicating that as of September 16, 2024, the property had been cleaned.

On October 30, 2024, a follow-up inspection was conducted at the property, and a new area of open-dumped and open-burned solid waste was observed. As a result of the inspection, VN L-2025-00013 was sent to Grainland Cooperative on January 13, 2025.

On January 30, 2025, the Illinois EPA received a response from Terry Bline indicating a wish to enter into a CCA with the Illinois EPA.

On March 19, 2025, a CCA between the Illinois EPA and Grainland Cooperative was executed, indicating that as of January 29, 2025, all open dumping and open burning have ceased and will no longer occur.

#### **Inspection**

LaPonsie and I arrived at the property at approximately 1058 hours. I took photographs to document observations made during the inspection. The property's photograph locations and GPS coordinates have been plotted on this report's Illinois EPA Site Map. Photograph 1 depicts the front entrance of the property as observed from County Highway 3.

I proceeded to the main office building, where I was greeted by the front desk attendant. I informed them of the reason for my inspection and asked to speak with Terry Bline, the owner. The front desk attendant stated the Bline was not present at the time. I asked the attendant to let Bline know I came by, and I continued to tour the property accompanied by LaPonsie.

The areas where the open-dumped solid waste was observed from the last two inspections were cleaned. Photographs 2 and 3 depict the clean areas.

I continued touring the property and observed an area of open-dumped solid waste with evidence of open-burned solid waste comprised of railroad ties and charred wood. Photographs 4 and 5 depict the area of open-dumped solid waste with evidence of open-burned solid waste.

I observed an area of open-dumped solid waste comprised of metal piping, rebar, and landscape waste. Photograph 6 depicts the area of open-dumped solid waste.

I observed another area of open-dumped solid waste comprised of concrete with protruding rebar, wiring, brick, and landscape waste. Photograph 7 depicts the area of open-dumped solid waste.

LaPonsie and I departed the property at approximately 1119 hours. Although Grainland Cooperative cleaned the original areas of open-dumped and open-burned solid waste, the area of open-burned solid waste with railroad ties suggests open burning is still occurring after the executed CCA. Apparent violations were observed. See Summary of Apparent Violation(s) table below:

<b>Summary of Apparent Violation(s)</b>			
<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Continuing	7/3/2024	21(a)	Cause or allow open dumping
Continuing	7/3/2024	21(d)(1)	Conduct a waste storage, treatment, or disposal operation without a permit or in violation of a permit
Continuing	7/3/2024	21(p)(1)	Cause or allow open dumping of any waste in a manner which results in litter
Continuing	7/3/2024	21(p)(3)	Cause or allow open dumping of any waste in a manner which results in open burning
Continuing	7/3/2024	21(p)(7)	Cause or allow open dumping of any waste in a manner which results in deposition of general or clean construction or demolition debris
Continuing	7/3/2024	9(a)	Cause, threaten or allow air pollution in Illinois
Continuing	7/3/2024	9(c)	Cause or allow open burning

### **Attachment Listing**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
NONE	



**Legend**

● Site Waypoint

Ⓜ Photograph & Direction

**ILLINOIS EPA SITE MAP**

2030205038 - Grainland Cooperative  
927 County Highway 3  
Eureka, IL 61530  
Woodford County

INSPECTION DATE: 04/09/2025  
INSPECTOR: NATHAN J GRAHAM

0 25 50 100 150 200  
Meters

N  
W E  
S



Digital Photographs



Bureau Id: 2030205038  
Photo No.: 1  
Photo Date: 4/9/2025  
Photo Time: 11:01:43 AM  
Direction: NW  
Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts the entrance to the main office as observed from County Highway 3.



Bureau Id: 2030205038  
Photo No.: 2  
Photo Date: 4/9/2025  
Photo Time: 11:07:23 AM  
Direction: E  
Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts the area where open-dumped and open-burn solid waste was located and is now clean.



Bureau Id: 2030205038  
Photo No.: 3  
Photo Date: 4/9/2025  
Photo Time: 11:07:55 AM  
Direction: ESE  
Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts the area where open-dumped and open-burn solid waste was located and is now clean.



Bureau Id: 2030205038  
Photo No.: 4  
Photo Date: 4/9/2025  
Photo Time: 11:11:51 AM  
Direction: S  
Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts an area of open-dumped solid waste with evidence of open-burned solid waste comprised of charred wood, railroad ties, and landscape waste.



Bureau Id: 2030205038  
Photo No.: 5  
Photo Date: 4/9/2025  
Photo Time: 11:12:34 AM  
Direction: N  
Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts an area of open-dumped solid waste with evidence of open-burned solid waste comprised of charred wood, railroad ties, and landscape waste.



Bureau Id: 2030205038  
Photo No.: 6  
Photo Date: 4/9/2025  
Photo Time: 11:15:52 AM  
Direction: S  
Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts an area of open-dumped solid waste comprised of wood, rebar, metal piping, and landscape waste.



Bureau Id: 2030205038

Photo No.: 7

Photo Date: 4/9/2025

Photo Time: 11:16:56 AM

Direction: N

Taken By: Nathan Graham

This photograph depicts an area of open-dumped solid waste comprised of dirt and general construction/demolition debris including but not limited to concrete with protruding rebar, brick, and wiring.



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

IN THE MATTER OF:

IEPA DOCKET NO.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY,  
Complainant

vs.

Terry Bline,  
Respondent

AFFIDAVIT

Affiant, Nathan Graham, being first duly sworn, voluntarily deposes and states as follows:

1. Affiant is a field inspector employed by the Bureau of Land of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and has been so employed at all times pertinent hereto.
2. On April 09, 2025, between 1058 hours and 1119 hours. Affiant conducted an inspection of the site in Woodford County, Illinois, known as Grainland Cooperative, located at 927 County Highway 3, and designated Bureau of Land Site # 2030205038.
3. Affiant inspected said site by an on-site inspection, which included walking the site.
4. As a result of the activities referred to in Paragraph 3 above, Affiant completed the Inspection Report attached hereto and made a part hereof, which, to the best of Affiant's knowledge and belief, is an accurate representation of Affiant's observations and factual conclusions with respect to the site.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this 14 day of April, 2025

Nathan Graham

  
Notary Public

OFFICIAL SEAL  
KATHERINE R SMITH  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 03/08/2027

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800  
115 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 2203, Chicago, IL 60603  
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120  
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000

595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131  
2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200  
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022  
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I did on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025, serve with postage thereon prepaid, by depositing in a United States Post Office box a true and correct copy of the following instrument(s) entitled ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION, AFFIDAVIT, and OPEN DUMP INSPECTION CHECKLIST

To: Grainland Farmers  
c/o Terry Lee Bline  
1861 State Route 116  
Roanoke, IL 61561-7759

and the original via electronic filing on May 28, 2025

To: Don Brown, Clerk  
Pollution Control Board  
60 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 630  
Chicago, IL 60605



e-signature valid for IPCB e-filings ONLY

Michelle M. Ryan  
Assistant Counsel

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2520 West Iles Avenue  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
(217) 782-5544