

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at the Hamiota Sports Complex

Hamiota, Manitoba

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

Mr. Terry Sargeant	Chairman
Mr. Edwin Yee	Member
Mr. Wayne Motheral	Member
Ms. Cathy Johnson	Commission Secretary
Mr. Doug Smith	Report Writer

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LORNE TANNAS	1809
BERT SWANN	1861
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LYLE KEATING	1890
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NO EXHIBITS MARKED

1 TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:20 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.

4 Welcome to our hearing today in Hamiota. My name
5 is Terry Sargeant. I'm the chair of the Manitoba
6 Clean Environment Commission. I am also the chair
7 of this panel. And with me on the panel are Wayne
8 Motheral and Edwin Yee.

9 I have a few opening comments. First
10 of all, I would like to apologize for starting
11 late. As of 12 o'clock today, we only had one
12 person who had registered to speak this afternoon,
13 and he is scheduled to come at 3:00. And then, in
14 addition to that, I think some of us who ordered
15 grilled food at the restaurant put a bit of a
16 strain on the grill and it was a little long
17 getting our lunch.

18 However, we are here now, and we have
19 had two more people indicate that they wish to
20 make presentations. I have some brief opening
21 comments that I will make, and then we will
22 proceed with the presentations.

23 The Clean Environment Commission has
24 been requested by the Minister of Conservation to
25 conduct an investigation into the environmental

1 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba.

2 The Terms of Reference from the
3 Minister direct us to review the current
4 environmental protection measures in place
5 relating to hog production in Manitoba, in order
6 to determine their effectiveness, for the purpose
7 of managing the industry in an environmentally
8 sustainable manner.

9 Our investigation is to include a
10 public component to gain advice and feedback from
11 Manitobans, and this meeting today is part of that
12 process.

13 We have also been asked to take into
14 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to
15 manage hog production in a sustainable manner in
16 those jurisdictions.

17 Further, we are to review the contents
18 of the report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
19 entitled, "An Examination of the Environmental
20 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

21 And at the end of these
22 investigations, we will consider various options
23 and make recommendations in a report to the
24 Minister on any improvements that may be necessary
25 to provide for the environmental sustainability of

1 the industry.

2 To ensure that our review includes
3 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
4 has undertaken to hold 17 days of meetings in 14
5 communities throughout the agricultural part of
6 the province. These meetings began in early
7 March, and are continuing this week and next, with
8 the final meeting scheduled for a week Friday, the
9 27th, in Winnipeg.

10 At these meetings, it is open to any
11 group, or individual, to make a presentation to
12 this panel on issues in relation to hog production
13 in Manitoba. For the most part, presentations are
14 to be limited to 15 minutes. Exceptions may be
15 made, in some cases, where a presenter needs more
16 time, provided that a request has been made with
17 the commission secretary prior to the
18 presentation.

19 Those making presentations will be
20 asked to take an oath promising to tell the truth.
21 Presentations should be relevant to the mandate
22 given to the Commission by the Minister. Members
23 of the panel may ask questions of the presenter
24 during or after the presentation. There will be
25 no opportunity for other presenters to question or

1 cross-examine presenters.

2 In addition to these public meetings,
3 the CEC is engaging consultants to assist us in
4 this review. The results of those research
5 endeavours will be posted on our website upon
6 receipt which, for the most part, will be in late
7 June.

8 Groups, and individuals, will be
9 invited to provide comments on any of those
10 reports, if they so wish. And a reasonable,
11 albeit brief period of time, will be allowed for
12 this.

13 Written submissions will also be
14 accepted. The information as to how to submit
15 those written suggestions is available on our
16 website. And the deadline for such submissions is
17 May 7th.

18 We also realize that many people are
19 reluctant to make presentations in public, for a
20 variety of reasons. To address that, we have
21 engaged a graduate student from the University of
22 Manitoba to meet with, or talk on the phone with,
23 people who would rather not speak at meetings.
24 These meetings, or phone conversations, will be
25 kept confidential. Information as to how to

1 contact this person is available on our website,
2 as well as at the table by the entry.

3 Finally, some administrative matters.
4 If you wish to make a presentation today, if you
5 haven't already done so, will you please let Joyce
6 know at our table by the entrance. As is our
7 normal practice, we are recording these sessions.
8 Verbatim transcripts will be available on the
9 website in a day or so. You can find the link on
10 our website.

11 Finally, in respect of cell phones, I
12 would ask that they be turned off, or at least
13 that the ring tone be turned off. And if you must
14 take a call, I would ask that you leave the room.

15 And on a final note, please don't
16 engage in any conversations while people are
17 making presentations. And that's it for opening
18 comments.

19 We have two people who have indicated
20 they wish to speak this afternoon, or immediately,
21 as well as a third later on this afternoon. First
22 is Mr. Lorne Tannas. Please go to this table over
23 here, sir. State your name for the record,
24 please?

25 MR. TANNAS: Yes, my name is Lorne

1 Tannas.

2 LORNE TANNAS, having been sworn, presents as
3 follows:

4 MR. TANNAS: I have trouble with my
5 hearing. I can't hear you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Just try the
7 headphones.

8 MR. TANNAS: Sorry about that.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's okay. Go ahead,
10 sir.

11 MR. TANNAS: I've written this today
12 on a personal basis for my farm and my family.
13 And after I have done this, I have a little bit to
14 say about some ideas that I've come across in the
15 last few days since I have actually prepared this.

16 I would like to thank you for the
17 opportunity to speak here today to the community
18 and to the Commission.

19 Fifteen minutes doesn't seem like a
20 lot of time to talk about something that could
21 greatly affect the future of my family, and my
22 farm, and my grandchildren and so on, but I will
23 try to keep it brief and keep it to stay to the
24 point.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: We are not really

1 pressed for time today, so if you go over, it's
2 okay.

3 MR. TANNAS: Thank you. My family has
4 been farming for many generations in Canada. My
5 great-grandfather had hogs, my grandfather had
6 hogs, and my father had hogs, all on a mixed
7 family farm. Now I am farming in Hamiota with my
8 wife, my son, my daughter on a hog farm north of
9 town.

10 Over the generations, we have made
11 many changes to the farming practices by
12 implementing best practices, emerging
13 technologies, adhering to self-imposed health,
14 safety and environmental standards and
15 regulations.

16 We have moved livestock from outside
17 lots indoors because of health and animal welfare
18 issues, and have virtually eliminated things like
19 trichinosis and other diseases. I remember when I
20 was a kid, our family -- there was six children in
21 our family. And we would line up twice a year and
22 we would all get our spoonful of de-worming
23 medicine. And nowadays, the consumer doesn't even
24 think of those things because of the clean health
25 product that we are producing today.

1 The use of antibiotics has been
2 greatly reduced by new practices like all in all
3 out rearing and multi-site farms. And this is one
4 of the reasons why we have gone this direction.
5 It is not so much that we see all farming has
6 increased in size, and the farms have increased,
7 but, really, we have done this for a better
8 product and for better animal welfare.

9 The environment has always been a very
10 important part of my family's farming. Long
11 before the government became involved in these
12 issues, our family was preserving the land for
13 future generations. We worked to get the best
14 results, while sustaining the soil and water for
15 the next generation that would farm this land.
16 Manure or organic fertilizer contains many
17 important nutrients that the land does not get
18 from petrochemical or rock fertilizers.

19 I was brought up in a family that
20 understood the balance of nature. My niece and
21 nephew, in 2003, earned the Emerald Award for
22 environmental stewardship in Alberta. This is the
23 highest award for environmental stewardship in
24 Alberta. In 2005, my brother and his wife earned
25 this same award. And last year, another brother

1 was nominated for three Emerald Awards. And he
2 earned, for his work with environmental
3 stewardship, two of these awards. We are focused
4 on sustaining long-term farming, and I'm in that
5 same boat as they are.

6 Here are the farming practices that I
7 have adhered to in this area. Over ten years of
8 filing Manure Management Plans -- and, I'm sorry,
9 not in this area, but I have been doing this in
10 other provinces, too. I have just been living
11 here for about three years. But over ten years, I
12 have filed Manure Management Plans with the
13 Provincial Government. Over 30 years, we have
14 done nutrient management. And that means soil
15 testing, having crop nutrient and rotation of
16 plants planning.

17 And I have included three copies of
18 soil tests, what the soil shows. And I think you
19 have copies of them there. And they show that the
20 soil is either marginal or deficient in
21 phosphorous, okay.

22 The second thing that I have done is
23 alternating spreading of organic fertilizer. And,
24 you know, this is important, as well. The land
25 gets manure every second year to allow for greater

1 use of the soil -- greater use of the manure and
2 the soil needs.

3 There are many other essential
4 nutrients and fiber in manure, rock phosphorous
5 and petro-nitrogen fertilizers are used on
6 alternative years. So if these soils come up
7 deficient, then the fertilizers are used. And I
8 have done this practice for ten years, as well.
9 We have alternated with manure. And that's
10 because we have lots of land to be able to do that
11 on.

12 The next one, which is a very
13 important one, is the use of phytase for over ten
14 years. This enzyme improves the absorption of
15 phosphorous from the grains by the hog by 35
16 percent, reducing the use of rock phosphorous in
17 the diet. This improvement continues on by
18 reducing phosphorous applied to the soil by up to
19 50 percent through the manure. If the crop
20 nutrient needs for phosphorous is greater than
21 what is in the manure, it can be achieved by
22 additional rock phosphorous on the land. This is
23 cheaper and makes more sense than putting
24 phosphorous through the pig and directly onto the
25 land through rock phosphorous.

1 I just want to point out that it is
2 important to grow healthy, good crops. And that
3 they need these nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorous,
4 potassium, and other nutrients. And that if I
5 don't put it on with fertilizer manure, then we
6 will be putting it on to get the sufficient level
7 with rock phosphorous, okay? And especially in
8 this area of Hamiota, where we are deficient or
9 marginal.

10 The next one is number 4, which is the
11 injection of manure. For generations, we have
12 known that the nutrients in manure have been a
13 very important part of growing good crops and
14 sustaining the soil. As a kid, every farm, that I
15 knew of, had a manure spreader, and people would
16 spread manure. We have moved away from this
17 method of spreading because of improved farming
18 practices.

19 And it showed that banding the
20 nutrients to the level that the crop roots can
21 take on nutrients, we can apply to the crops'
22 needs and not overapply. So we have banded down
23 to the level of four inches to six inches, to
24 where the nutrients are going to be absorbed more
25 readily by the plant. And we don't have to put on

1 as much if you are banding, as putting it on the
2 top and the nutrients have to reach down to the
3 plant.

4 Secondly, by banding the manure, we
5 prevent nutrient loss by evaporation or leaching.
6 Manure is an important commodity to the farmer.
7 He does not want to lose any nutrients at all, not
8 any. I have sold this manure for \$25 per acre,
9 and know of some people that are paying over \$40
10 per acre to have it applied to their land.

11 Injection of slurry manure adds the equivalent of
12 1/8th of an inch of rain. This small amount of
13 moisture enables for quick absorption into the
14 soil, banded down four to six inches, again, to
15 prevent evaporation and leaching. Phosphorous, by
16 its nature, does not travel very little in the
17 soil. It is not like nitrogen, in that way, and
18 can, therefore, be very effectively managed
19 through banding.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, can I just ask you
21 to clarify that?

22 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: I think you made a
24 mistake. You said: "phosphorous does not travel
25 very little". You want to say it travels very

1 little?

2 MR. TANNAS: It travels very little,
3 that's right.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: That's what you've
5 written.

6 MR. TANNAS: And I said it
7 differently. Thank you very much. Sorry, for
8 those of you that are listening.

9 In summary, Manitoba has some of the
10 best and most productive hog farmers in the world.
11 This is known through the record-keeping that we
12 call Pig Channel, and it's from all around the
13 world. In piglet rearing, we have a competitive
14 edge over the Unites States, and other provinces,
15 of up to 2.8 pigs per year.

16 This, along with the advantage of our
17 historical lower dollar, has seen some rapid
18 growth in the industry, especially here in
19 Manitoba. During that time, we have improved
20 farming practices by methods that I have stated
21 above. These improved practices have enabled
22 growth by being responsible and accountable. My
23 son, daughter and grandchildren will be hopefully
24 hog farmers in 10, 20 and 50 years from now by
25 implementing sustainable farming practices. We

1 are the keepers of the land. And we wear that
2 label with pride and shoulder the responsibility.
3 Long before there were environmentalists, there
4 was the farmer.

5 The other thing that I wanted to talk
6 about, and I didn't have it written down, was a
7 week ago Bill Barlow, from the Lake Manitoba
8 Watershed, I think he's the president, I believe,
9 he got up and spoke at one of our seminars. And
10 he talked about the amount of phosphorous getting
11 into Lake Manitoba. And his goal was to see that
12 those levels of phosphorous going to the lake
13 would be back to the 1970 levels.

14 And I sit and I look at where we are
15 and what we've done in the hog farming industry in
16 that period of time. The industry has grown, and
17 that's true. But in that time period, we have had
18 things like phytase come along, since the 1970s,
19 which is reducing phosphorous by -- that we put
20 into the minerals to the animals by 35 percent.
21 And then an additional, according to a Brandy
22 Street, a researcher with the Government of
23 Manitoba, is up to 50 percent reduction of
24 phosphorous through the animal.

25 We, additionally, have seen our feed

1 conversion go from three pounds per pound of
2 grain, or a 3:1 ratio to about a 2:6. We have
3 seen our sow herds, and some of the older people
4 here will know, that probably in the seventies we
5 were getting 20 pigs per sow per year. Well, now
6 it is very common to see 26. And so we have
7 improved that by another 20 percent.

8 We have gone to this banding, or
9 injection. Instead of spreading manure on top of
10 the soil, we are banding it down to where the
11 nutrient needs to be. And so we might be close to
12 that 1970 level that he is trying to achieve. And
13 I would like to see some research done into that
14 to see exactly if we are at that level. Because I
15 think if we are, we are very, very close. Even
16 though our industry has probably grown by doubling
17 or tripling in that period of time, the decreases
18 that we have made each time have make a difference
19 to that, as well.

20 We also understand that the nutrient
21 levels that we are putting into the farm, or my
22 farm, especially, is that we are putting it on the
23 low level, through the manure, and then we are
24 supplementing it with rock phosphorous. And I am
25 doing it every other year because I want to spread

1 the other nutrients that are so important to the
2 soil, and so important to growing good crops, and
3 the sustainability of our farm, that I also want
4 to be able to spread it on to more of the land
5 that I have around the place. And so those were
6 the other things that I wanted to bring forward,
7 or that has come forward, in the last couple of
8 weeks.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: And we have seen some
10 other lab reports before, but they are in a
11 different format. Could you just briefly explain
12 this one? And you have said that the soil tests
13 indicate that the soil is naturally low in
14 phosphorous?

15 MR. TANNAS: Do you have the reports
16 there?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

18 MR. TANNAS: Yes. It is showing that
19 it has a level there that you can see.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And that's the zero to
21 six inches?

22 MR. TANNAS: That's right.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: It has got 20 for
24 phosphorous?

25 MR. TANNAS: That's right, yes.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: So what's that, 20
2 parts per million?

3 MR. TANNAS: I'm assuming that's
4 pounds, pounds per acre.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

6 MR. TANNAS: And probably they are
7 looking for something like 40 to 60, that would be
8 what they are looking for. And you can see the
9 graph on the other side. And that is what they
10 are probably looking for to be able to grow a
11 normal crop.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, down below they
13 have got --

14 MR. TANNAS: Can I come up, come
15 forward?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

17 MR. YEE: 30 to 35.

18 MR. TANNAS: There is the "P" there.
19 And it needs to be up here to be sufficient. You
20 can see that it has to go quite a bit more to get
21 the phosphorous to grow the crop. And so we are
22 not putting it on with manure. And this is done
23 by our local people in town here that do our soil
24 sampling for us.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: I have a couple or

1 three questions. You wrote that:

2 "The use of antibiotics has been
3 greatly reduced by new practices."

4 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: And so you are saying
6 that by the practice of being in almost sanitary
7 farms --

8 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: -- that has reduced the
10 need for antibiotics?

11 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: And so the concern
13 about antibiotic residue or distribution from hogs
14 would be lessened?

15 MR. TANNAS: Well, not only that. We
16 have -- in this province here, you can't even sell
17 to Maple Leaf here to be slaughtered unless you
18 are C.Q.A. registered.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

20 MR. TANNAS: Quality Assurance
21 registered.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23 MR. TANNAS: And, therefore, you would
24 have to -- if you are caught with residues, and
25 they test periodically, then you would be shut

1 down. And you would not be able to ship animals.
2 And I think that the penalty is one full year that
3 you would not be able to ship animals. It is very
4 stiff.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: So does that mean that
6 you can't use antibiotics period or only certain
7 amounts?

8 MR. TANNAS: You can use antibiotics,
9 but you have to follow the label's prescription.
10 And you have to follow a veterinarian's
11 prescription.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: It has to be
13 prescribed --

14 MR. TANNAS: Absolutely.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: -- for the individual
16 pig?

17 MR. TANNAS: Yes, for individual pigs.
18 And you can group with the feed, but, again, it
19 has to be prescribed, and it is going to be
20 followed. And it is followed right to the
21 finishing barn or to the slaughter plant what is
22 being done.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: You also note that one
24 of the advantages that Manitoba has had is the
25 historically low dollar.

1 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Which certainly
3 contributed to the rapid growth during the
4 nineties. Has the -- what effect has the increase
5 on the dollar, over the last four or five years,
6 had on the industry?

7 MR. TANNAS: Well, it has not been
8 four or five years. But over the last two years,
9 I don't know of a single barn that's being built
10 in the last two years, a sow barn being built in
11 the last two years, simply because of that
12 difference in the competitive dollar has changed a
13 lot.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: So it has hurt the
15 market?

16 MR. TANNAS: Well, it has definitely
17 affected the market, yes. And the one thing that
18 has good for Manitoba is that we produce a
19 healthy, clean animal that is wanted by the
20 States.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, the other -- and I
22 have asked this of one or two of the other hog
23 farmers that have appeared before us, and I am
24 still not quite clear on it. With the use of
25 phytase, this reduces the phosphorous in the

1 manure?

2 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: But then does that make
4 the manure phosphorous deficient when you put it
5 on the field?

6 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And you have to add
8 other phosphorous?

9 MR. TANNAS: Rock phosphorous. But it
10 is cheaper to do it through -- by not going
11 through the pig. It makes no sense to put
12 phosphorous in through the pig to put it into the
13 soil.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: But if you don't give
15 it the phytase --

16 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: -- it will produce more
18 phosphorous?

19 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And you will have to
21 use less rock?

22 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: But is it still more
24 efficient to pay for the phytase than to put on
25 the rock phosphorous?

1 MR. TANNAS: Yes, it is. It's cheaper
2 to do. The pig is not a good factory for
3 producing phosphorous, when we can produce
4 phosphorous from rocks direct. I mean, it doesn't
5 make sense to put it through the pig. The pig is
6 taking the phosphorous more effectively out of the
7 grains. Otherwise, they would have gone right
8 onto the soil.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

10 MR. TANNAS: So this way here, we are
11 taking it out of the grains. And we are not
12 putting -- you see, we have to put minerals and
13 vitamins into our rations, as well, in rock
14 phosphorous. And so what we are doing is
15 minimizing the amount of phosphorous that we are
16 putting in the diet, reducing the phosphorous.
17 Does that help?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, your last comment
19 there.

20 MR. TANNAS: Having to add rock
21 phosphorous to the diet.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, the run-off that
23 Bill Barlow and others are concerned about, so
24 what's the difference whether it is manure
25 phosphorous or rock phosphorous?

1 MR. TANNAS: I don't know.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: And, I mean, if there
3 is too much applied, or if it is not applied
4 properly, whether it is rock or manure, it is
5 still going to be a problem in the lake, is it
6 not?

7 MR. TANNAS: Whether it's rotting
8 vegetation, whether it's -- whatever, exactly,
9 that's exactly right.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

11 MR. TANNAS: The whole point, the
12 whole thing of what I focus on, is being
13 responsible for my farm.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

15 MR. TANNAS: I am not responsible for
16 someone else and how they are doing it. But I
17 know that what I am doing is the best of all of
18 the technologies. Like I said, I am a fourth
19 generation farmer. And my son is farming right
20 now north of town, as well. And I have
21 grandchildren, and we want to be here 50 years
22 from now.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: And you say you've only
24 been here three years in Hamiota?

25 MR. TANNAS: In Hamiota, yes.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: What size operation do
2 you have?

3 MR. TANNAS: We run a 2,600 sow
4 isowean operation. And it's a multiplier for
5 breeding stock, and it's an isowean. It's about
6 3 -- don't quote me here, but I think it is about
7 380 animal units is what they say.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And how much land do
9 you have?

10 MR. TANNAS: We have a quarter
11 section, and then we have caveats for the manure.
12 But we have farmers fighting over -- I have
13 farmers phoning me up complaining that they are
14 not getting their share all the time. But do I it
15 on rotation. I have always done it. For ten
16 years I have done rotations. And I am just
17 telling them: Sorry, you have to wait until next
18 year.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: So you have no problem
20 getting rid of it?

21 MR. TANNAS: No. No.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.
23 Wayne?

24 MR. TANNAS: Sorry.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman. Most of the questions the chair has
2 already mentioned. I was just curious on the
3 number of acres and also the demand for the
4 product. Some call it waste, some call it manure.
5 I am just making a joke there. So the new
6 phosphorous regulations, when they came out, did
7 not affect you whatsoever?

8 MR. TANNAS: No.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: Because of your levels.

10 MR. TANNAS: No, because of my
11 phosphorous levels.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: I see that.

13 MR. TANNAS: And also my practice of a
14 rotation every second year. And I have never been
15 concerned.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Your 300 or so animal
17 units, the hog waste, or manure, whatever you want
18 to say, that comes -- does your quarter section --
19 do you cover your whole quarter section every
20 other year, right?

21 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. And how much --
23 how many acres in excess does that do? I mean,
24 does somebody else -- how many other farmers do
25 you have contracts with or does it have to be --

1 is it -- what's the distance? Is it right beside
2 your operation?

3 MR. TANNAS: Yes, it's right beside
4 the operation.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: So it is piped?

6 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: And then you just
8 inject it?

9 MR. TANNAS: Yes. Again, I have to
10 test the manure every year. Historically, we have
11 been running about ten pounds of nitrogen to the
12 1,000-gallons. Like, this is -- to me, this is a
13 very effective way of doing it. Like, slurry is a
14 lot more effective than using rock, because I have
15 so much leeway with 1,000-gallons. You know, I
16 can be a lot more exact on how much I put in and
17 where I'm putting it. You know, it's a very good
18 way of doing it.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: You, obviously, have an
20 earthen lagoon, do you?

21 MR. TANNAS: Yes.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: Is it covered?

23 MR. TANNAS: This is an excellent
24 question. We are just like the town. Like, the
25 town here has earthen storage, and all the towns

1 do. And I have been an advocate for years and
2 years and years not to cover that lagoon. And
3 I'll tell you why. Recently, we have just had, in
4 the United States, where they had the E. coli
5 poisoning through the spinach and the different --
6 remember, the crops and that? We have to -- just
7 like the earthen lagoons here, we need the sun to
8 penetrate down and kill the E. coli and kill the
9 salmonella. I will fight tooth and nail to not
10 cover those lagoons because I don't want E. coli
11 and salmonella on my land. If I have complaints
12 from my neighbours, I will cover the solid salad.
13 But to this day, I have never had those neighbours
14 that are getting manure ever complain about my
15 farm.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

17 MR. TANNAS: But that's the reason
18 that I fight tooth and nail is because we don't
19 want E. coli and salmonella on our land, and we
20 are keeping that out by allowing the sun to do its
21 job.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: Because we have heard
23 reports from some people who do cover that say
24 that actually increases the nitrogen content.
25 But, of course, in your operation, that wouldn't

1 be that important.

2 MR. TANNAS: No. To me, I don't want
3 the salmonella and E. coli. And I think that if
4 you look at some of the problems that you have
5 seen with feed lot in Alberta, with it in the
6 soils, the E. coli and salmonella, we don't need
7 those problems here.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Do you think you would
9 win your argument if the government suggested or
10 said that everybody, every hog farmer, should
11 cover their lagoon?

12 MR. TANNAS: Would I win my argument?

13 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes.

14 MR. TANNAS: No, I wouldn't. I am
15 very practical.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just putting
17 something out there because who knows what the
18 future holds here.

19 MR. TANNAS: Well, I don't know. I
20 don't know where we have escaped from using
21 science and common sense. I don't know what has
22 happened.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, the reason for
24 the covering, of course, is just for the smell.

25 MR. TANNAS: Yes, I know.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: And your reasoning for
2 doing it is for disease. And so it's two
3 different things.

4 MR. TANNAS: My son lives with my
5 grandchildren right on the farm.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Just out of curiosity,
7 where did you come from, or is that not any of my
8 business?

9 MR. TANNAS: Sure, I don't mind. I
10 spent -- I spent -- I have been in the province
11 for six years. I have worked at a private farm
12 for a farmer managing his unit. And then I bought
13 this farm here with that fellow in 2004. Prior to
14 that, we were in Saskatchewan working for a
15 company there. And I was there for how many
16 years, Vickie?

17 MS. VICKIE TANNAS: That was four
18 years.

19 MR. TANNAS: And then before that, I
20 worked at the Research Station in Lacombe. And I
21 managed the swine unit there. And the Lacombe
22 Research Station is for meat health, meat safety
23 and hygiene. I have done a lot of work in those
24 areas with swine and that. So those years of
25 working there, I have a lot of good -- a lot of

1 practical information and technologies that have
2 applied.

3 And going back and looking at it, we
4 ran hogs inside and outside of the swine unit
5 there. And every pig went through the lab, for
6 example. And every pig that there was looked at
7 for calcification and looked at for traces of
8 trichinosis or worms. We never raised a pig in
9 ten years, on an outside lot, no matter how much
10 de-worming medicine we poured into those pigs,
11 that didn't have worms in ten years. And in ten
12 years, we never used any de-worming medicine on
13 pigs, and we never had a worm in the pigs that
14 were raised on concrete.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Inside?

16 MR. TANNAS: Yes. And, again, about
17 disease, it is the same thing. It is the same
18 thing. You just cannot clean the disease out of
19 the dirt. And I would not be surprised if, in
20 Europe, we will see -- you know how we talked
21 about free range chickens? We will eventually see
22 that they do not want them because of the bird
23 influenza. And we want to move them outside. And
24 we think that is better for the animals and better
25 for their health and all of that, but I do not

1 think so. That is why we worked on this research
2 for safety of the animals and for the animal
3 health issues.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: Just one more question.
5 And I don't want to hog them all. I'm sorry, Ed,
6 but we have lots of time here today. When you
7 applied for a license, of course, to run your
8 operation, did you get great cooperation with your
9 municipality? Were you pleased with the process
10 or is there anything that you think could be
11 improved?

12 MR. TANNAS: Yes. I think when we
13 have these hearings, we have hearings, or open
14 hearings for people to come and speak. I think
15 people should be allowed to come up and speak
16 without being interrupted. And the hearings like
17 this are a good example. I think people have
18 concerns, whether it's smell, odour, disease,
19 anything that they are afraid of, they should have
20 a right to come up and speak. But they should be
21 able to come up and speak without being harassed
22 by people in the audience from either side. And I
23 think that's the biggest thing that I think is a
24 fault.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: That could be a

1 wonderful suggestion.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, so far, and this
3 is our 14th or our 13th day, and we have had no
4 problems in that regard. People have been treated
5 with respect, no matter how strong their positions
6 were, from one end of the spectrum to the other.
7 But that's a very valuable comment.

8 MR. TANNAS: That's good. But I have
9 been at hearings, and not here, but others, I have
10 been at hearings where the farmers got into name
11 calling.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: We have heard about
13 some of those municipal hearings.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: So at 380 animal units,
15 there was conditional use hearings?

16 MR. TANNAS: Yes. I didn't build a
17 farm, though. We bought this farm.

18 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Tannas, just a few
19 questions, since I think you have answered most of
20 the questions that I had, as well.

21 One question that I would have is,
22 could you explain the "self-imposed health and
23 safety"? You mentioned that:

24 "...implementing best practices,
25 emerging technology and adhering to

1 self-imposed health, safety and
2 environmental standards and
3 regulations."

4 So could you describe, sort of, the health and
5 safety?

6 MR. TANNAS: Yes. Well before there
7 was even the C.Q.A. came along, we were
8 implementing most of the safety and health and
9 stuff, where we would, you know, impose for
10 injections. And, for example, loading animals, we
11 wouldn't load our market animals with a prod,
12 hitting animals or heat. Like heat stress, cold
13 stress, those sorts of things. You know, years
14 ago, when I was a kid, we used to raise our pigs
15 outside, you know. And I don't know about you
16 guys, but a pig is a hair animal, just like you
17 and I are. And we have had some harsh, harsh
18 conditions out there. And at 40 below if you were
19 outside, or even 40 above outside, it is not a
20 good thing for animals.

21 And so we have kind of changed to make
22 that animal more comfortable, and those things,
23 more practical. The Unites States were actually
24 ahead of Canada in C.Q.A. When I was with the
25 Federal Government at Lacombe, I actually went

1 ahead and got the C.Q.A. regulation that they had
2 at that time. Our Canadians have adapted and,
3 actually, have a much better one than they had
4 there now. But at that time, there was nothing
5 here. And so I adopted all of those regulations.

6 And other things, like, again, as
7 these technologies, like all in, all out came
8 about. Injection, as opposed to top spreading,
9 spreading manure, I mean. And I don't want to
10 knock other industries, and I apologize if I do.
11 But that I can remember dairy farming, and
12 spreading manure on top of the snow, and that's
13 just horrible. And we have adopted those, but we
14 don't do those. We store the manure and apply it
15 so that we don't lose the nutrients. Does that
16 make sense?

17 MR. YEE: Yes, that's great. I can
18 relate to that because my uncle farmed out by
19 Westburn there, so I know how the pigs were dealt
20 with before.

21 The other question I have is, as you
22 have mentioned, and I think that you have
23 specified Lacombe and Saskatchewan, and that you
24 filed manure plans for about 30 odd years. And,
25 in your experience, have you noticed more

1 stringent regulations in Manitoba, or more
2 stringent requirements and approvals, like the
3 conditional use permits, is it more difficult in
4 Manitoba than it is in Saskatchewan or are there
5 comparisons?

6 MR. TANNAS: I don't think that it's
7 more difficult, it's just different. The growing
8 conditions -- and it's different in different
9 parts of Manitoba. The growing conditions in
10 Saskatchewan, you will remember, they may only
11 crop every second year. They may not be
12 continuous cropping. The crops we produce here in
13 Hamiota, compared to the crops they produce down
14 at Morris, I mean, the nutrient needs are so much
15 different. So to me it's -- yeah, the conditions
16 may be harsher here in Manitoba because they don't
17 take, maybe, enough into account of where exactly
18 we are in the province. Again, look at the land I
19 have available for me to spread my manure,
20 compared to maybe somewhere else, where they do
21 not have that availability. But the nutrient
22 uptake in those areas may be greater than what I
23 have here and that. And so I don't think -- I
24 have never had a problem here because I have
25 always been below the standards. And I have

1 always been able to be better than what the
2 requirements are asking, so it's never been an
3 issue or a problem for me. So I don't know if I
4 have answered that very well, but that's not ever
5 been a problem.

6 MR. YEE: Okay, that's fine. And just
7 one other question. And I might have missed this,
8 but you have mentioned about piping the manure.
9 Is it applied by yourself or is it commercially
10 applied?

11 MR. TANNAS: The manure?

12 MR. YEE: Yes. Do you have a
13 commercial applicator?

14 MR. TANNAS: No. I hire that out. I
15 hire people to put that on, yes.

16 MR. YEE: Okay, thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I just have one further
18 question. You talked about your experience, I
19 think it was at Lacombe, where you said that in
20 ten years no pig raised outside did not have worms
21 and no pig raised inside had worms.

22 MR. TANNAS: There is a double
23 negative there.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: How about in hoop
25 barns?

1 MR. TANNAS: We did not have hoop
2 barns, but we did have huts. And we had huts for
3 them to go into, and then a concrete pad for them
4 to eat on and feed on. But we don't have hoop
5 barns at that facility. But we did raise a lot of
6 pigs for -- we did meat quality, meat safety and
7 meat hygiene. And it was just a continuous issue,
8 for the research scientists doing research on
9 hygiene, to bring a pig in that had trichinosis.
10 The consumer will just not stand for it.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, hoop barns are on
12 concrete, though?

13 MR. TANNAS: They are on dirt.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: They are on dirt?

15 MR. TANNAS: Well, I don't know if
16 there is somebody here who is raising them in
17 hoops. But I think that they are either clay
18 based or they can also bring in a sand base and
19 straw.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we will ask that
21 of someone who raises in a hoop barn.

22 MR. TANNAS: When you have someone
23 come through.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
25 Mr Tannas. Thank you for coming here this

1 afternoon.

2 Next is Bert Swann. Please state your
3 name for the record?

4 MR. SWANN: Bert Swann.

5 BERT SWANN, having been sworn, presents as
6 follows:

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

8 MR. SWANN: It is time for a
9 commercial break. I want to thank the Commission
10 for this opportunity to come before you to express
11 a positive side from the community standpoint.
12 I'm the Economic Development Officer for the
13 Hamiota Economic Development Corporation. And we
14 are funded by the Town and the R.M. of Hamiota, so
15 we have a vested interest in this issue. We
16 create, promote and facilitate growth of our
17 economy.

18 The HEDC have supported the
19 establishment of hog barns in the R.M., the
20 National Swine Genetics, Genetic Pork and the
21 Foxtail Farms. You just heard from Lorne. He is
22 a wealth of information. We have supported these
23 barns from the beginning, and will continue to
24 support future hog barns.

25 These barns we have now, and we are

1 looking forward to more, together have almost 30
2 employees that shop in our stores. Their children
3 go to our schools. They enjoy the lifestyle. And
4 they contribute significantly to our economy,
5 retail and the tax base.

6 According to last year's census, the
7 surrounding towns and R.M.s, outside of the R.M.
8 of Hamiota, have lost over 10 percent of their
9 population during the past five years, while the
10 town and the R.M. of Hamiota lost only five
11 percent.

12 We need to keep on trying to create
13 the stability and promote growth of hog farms, in
14 order to stop this population drain and sustain a
15 strong economy, amongst other projects as well.

16 The HEDC will continue to support the
17 hog industry, and recognizes that, with the
18 technology we have today, we shouldn't need an
19 economy/environment trade-off.

20 Clearly, we should be able to engineer
21 the bio-digesters, for instance. Perhaps the
22 government could help fund the farmer, in this
23 regard, for alternative energy. We should clearly
24 establish a healthy environment and a sustainable
25 economy, without jeopardizing the lives of our

1 fellow citizens or the future of the hog industry
2 in Manitoba.

3 Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: How many -- more or
5 less, how many significant hog operations are in
6 the R.M.?

7 MR. SWANN: There is another three, I
8 believe, outside of the R.M., outside of the
9 Hamiota R.M. There is three inside.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: There is three inside
11 the R.M.?

12 MR. SWANN: Yes. Plus other
13 individual farmers have hogs. But the hog barns
14 themselves, there is three.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: And how long have they
16 been in this area, the significant sized ones?

17 MR. SWANN: Okay. Tom, help me out
18 here. Randy, help me out here. Just to clarify,
19 I have been here only about nine months.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: You are saying about
21 2,000 were the first ones of a significant size.
22 So about six, seven, eight years. Okay, six
23 years. And you've noticed a significant impact on
24 the community?

25 MR. SWANN: Absolutely. We would be

1 lost without them.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other
3 towns, of any size, in the R.M. or just Hamiota?

4 MR. SWANN: Hamiota is the significant
5 one with people.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Of the ones in the
7 area?

8 MR. SWANN: Yes, the ones with schools
9 and hospitals and dentists.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, I should be
12 asking you, and maybe you don't know, maybe if you
13 don't know, I have known Tom for a number of
14 years, so maybe he could help out. Does the R.M.,
15 with the new additions to the Planning Act, there
16 is a requirement, I believe, that municipalities
17 have a livestock operation -- operating policy by
18 the year of 2008, am I right there? I am just
19 wondering if the municipality has one going now or
20 are they like others awaiting the report of this
21 commission before they make their livestock
22 operation policy?

23 MR. SWANN: I would have to say the
24 latter, yes.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: I was just wondering

1 that. It is a wonderful opportunity, I know,
2 to -- obviously, you are welcoming operators here
3 or the hog industry into your municipalities so it
4 would probably be beneficial to have an operating
5 policy.

6 MR. SWANN: Absolutely.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: To welcome those kinds
8 of things. That's all.

9 MR. YEE: Yes, Mr. Swann, you
10 mentioned in your presentation 30 employees. Are
11 those 30 employees directly related to the hog
12 farm operation?

13 MR. SWANN: Hog farm, yes.

14 MR. YEE: Are there any other
15 ancillary things like feed mills or other things
16 that are ancillary but related to the hog industry
17 that have come into the community?

18 MR. SWANN: Right. Egg service
19 centers and we are looking to expand those as
20 well.

21 MR. YEE: Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: The 30 employees, are
23 they sort of locals who were hired or did any of
24 them come from other places to take these jobs?

25 MR. SWANN: Oh, they have come from

1 other places, yes.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

3 MR. SWANN: And some commute and some
4 are living in the R.M.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you very
6 much for your presentation today.

7 Now, we were given copies of another
8 presentation but there is no name here so I am not
9 sure who this is.

10 MR. TOLTON: I'm early.

11 THE COURT: Well, you're here. Would
12 you state your name for the record, please?

13 MR. TOLTON: I'm Gary Tolton from
14 Newdale, Manitoba.

15 GARY TOLTON, having been sworn, presents as
16 follows.

17 MR. TOLTON: I've given you the
18 written part of what I want to say. Actually, in
19 the year 2000, I had a detached retina. And
20 although growing older, I have a different problem
21 than everybody else. They claim their arms aren't
22 long enough. But I have to have it very close to
23 read. And talking into a mike would not be good.
24 So, with your indulgence, I will just deviate a
25 little bit, and not read what I wrote, but say

1 what I wrote.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: No, that's fine.

3 MR. TOLTON: Well, they told me that I
4 would never read again. And I kind of beat it,
5 but not as well as I would like to.

6 In 1974, my wife and I purchased a
7 farm in Newdale. I had farmed some land before
8 that. And we grew our first crop in 1974. And we
9 also raised the pigs in the barn on the farm, the
10 old-fashioned way, with a fork every couple of
11 days and straw.

12 Our crop in 1974 was very
13 disappointing. And after that, we soil tested and
14 found out that, although we had purchased some
15 land that everybody said was really great, half
16 summer fallow, half crop, no fertilizer applied,
17 our nutrient level was just about zero. Our
18 organic matter was low. Basically, the land had
19 been mined and we had to start over.

20 We raised cattle and hogs for a while.
21 And my main ambition was to build a hog barn. In
22 1977, I finally had the financial resources to
23 build the first feeder barn. I built that barn in
24 '77 and used the technology of the day, which was
25 pits under the barn and liquid manure. I started

1 spreading manure. And I was really waiting for
2 this nutrient build-up. And, actually, I found
3 out that we could spread 25 to 30 acres a year
4 from that barn, and that we would get almost
5 enough nutrients on those acres to grow a crop.
6 So as we spread it around the farm. And it took
7 us about six years to get back and spread on those
8 acres again. And we saw some significant
9 improvement, but we never, ever, at any time that
10 we ever took soil tests, did we ever get up to the
11 point where we were anywhere close to what they
12 were recommending for either phosphorous or
13 nitrogen.

14 And that has held true. The soil
15 tests that we took in 2001, was for an experiment,
16 where they did -- basically, every spot was done
17 by GPS. And they took 50 spots off of 50 acres.
18 And there was no spot -- well, no, I believe there
19 was one spot that seemed to have a high, high or
20 almost high, phosphorous level, but only one probe
21 out of that whole farm. So it really never did
22 become a problem. And I never did solve my
23 nitrogen and phosphorous problem. I am still
24 buying fertilizer. And I can say that today I
25 would like to have a hog barn beside me because it

1 is getting more expensive all the time.

2 During the time that we were raising
3 these hogs, we realized that -- and some of the
4 neighbours jokingly said that the smell of manure
5 was the smell of money. But we also realized, and
6 they also realized, that if there was any smell of
7 money, it was my money and not their money, so we
8 took as many precautions as we could. And we were
9 spreading on the land on about a monthly basis.

10 And so if we knew that they were going
11 to have a family event, we always tried to be at
12 least seven days away from spreading. We wouldn't
13 spread seven days before. We did the same kind of
14 thing for community events. If they were having a
15 snowmobile derby fairly close to the valley, if
16 you are having a canoe derby, we avoided spreading
17 manure at least a week in advance so that the
18 community wasn't affected by our barns. We didn't
19 want, you know, any bad neighbours, if we could
20 possibly avoid it.

21 We also had our own feed mill at the
22 time where we were purchasing grain. And we
23 always purchased local grain, provided it was high
24 quality. I had neighbours thinking pigs ate
25 anything, and always came over wanting a fairly

1 good price for something they couldn't sell to
2 anybody else. Unfortunately, I had to explain to
3 those guys that it just didn't work. If we are
4 going to raise a high quality animal, we are going
5 to have to use high quality grain. But overall,
6 we tried, over the years, to use as much local
7 grain as possible. We paid premium for it most of
8 the time.

9 We tried to use local contractors when
10 we built our barns, and we built three times. We
11 actually built in '77. And then we built a
12 farrowing barn in the early eighties. And we used
13 a barn that we used as a dry sow barn later in the
14 eighties. And at that point in time, we were able
15 to take our sows that we were pasturing outside
16 and put them inside. This allowed to us go to
17 minimal disease, which made it a whole lot easier
18 on C.Q.A. We used very little medication after
19 that. It was definitely the way to go, to have
20 everything confined inside and on a health
21 program.

22 And when we got into the nineties, we
23 again thought of building again. But by then, it
24 seemed that, in my part of the country, it had
25 become very much a spot where people would

1 complain about it. It wasn't my neighbours beside
2 me. It was people quite a bit farther in the
3 municipality that were definitely opposed to hog
4 barns. You know, some of them were suggesting
5 that it was a good place to be hog-free. They
6 haven't figured out what else they are going to do
7 to bring people in. And I was hearing things
8 like: We have to stop the pig barns. Because if
9 we could just stop all of these darn pig farms
10 from being built, we would get the Crow Rate back.
11 The only crow that ever came back is the one that
12 annoys me in the tree. And I was hearing that.

13 And I guess I lucked out. If I should
14 use my kids' inheritance, it didn't bother me
15 really all that much. I told them that a couple
16 of times. But my retirement fund, if I was going
17 to put it in to build a farm to really feed it, I
18 just really couldn't see why I would have that.
19 So that forced us to change. We rented some more
20 land and did not go ahead with that. And at
21 times, I deeply regret maybe not trying, because I
22 would have liked to have gotten to the point of
23 having an earthen manure storage. We would have
24 used the manure much more efficiently if we could
25 have had earthen manure storage and dragline

1 technology and spread the whole field. Because
2 the way we did it, we were winter spreading. And
3 even in the summer, if you are spreading down the
4 field and you have got 15 feet to go, and you are
5 a long ways away from home, you probably don't go
6 back. And so then you have to put up with a
7 little bit of poorer crops there. I think that
8 this manure technology would have really been
9 good.

10 The councils that we were dealing
11 with, they thought they would err on being safe.
12 In fact, I did come home one night and say to my
13 wife: You know, if we had had this for 100 years,
14 we would still be using horses because they are
15 safer than gas. But we just couldn't see any way
16 that we could move ahead.

17 And, anyway, you know, as I considered
18 it and I thought about it, I thought the things
19 that we have really to tell you is, you know,
20 people want to move ahead. We have to be larger
21 to use the technology, such as what Lorne is
22 talking about. I mean, those are fantastic. They
23 will definitely help the environment. I mean, he
24 has been able to spread his manure better. I
25 still winter spread. I don't feel that it's a

1 real problem, you know, because I am basically
2 wanting all of the fertilizer value that I can get
3 out of the manure, so I am not going to spread it
4 where I am going to waste it, either. And, like
5 him, I am going to try to get all of the value
6 possible.

7 So, actually, in concluding, my
8 recommendations, first of all, I believe that we
9 have to do research. I would like to see research
10 done on where this phosphorous is coming from. I
11 know that we are talking about it and wondering
12 here -- I guess, I wonder if, you know, all of
13 agriculture is changing. You know, is the
14 phosphorous being leached off the ground or are we
15 doing other practices?

16 And, you know, I think at home that we
17 now have a lot of crop residue. It wasn't many
18 years ago when everybody threw a match in the fall
19 and they burned it. So maybe we put a lot of
20 phosphorous up in the air those days, and it's
21 there now, so maybe that's part of the reason.
22 And maybe all of the tall grass decaying is part
23 of the reason, maybe. You know, maybe some of it,
24 if we overapply on the land, it is gone. But I
25 think we have to continue a lot of research. And

1 I would like you to recommend and continue
2 research so we know what we are doing. We are all
3 environmentally friendly. We don't want to
4 pollute the lake. But we have to find the
5 answers, not just blame somebody else.

6 And I guess I talked about winter
7 spreading. And I have to, you know, emphasize
8 that there are not many of us left. We're a small
9 number that are still winter spreading. You know,
10 in a lot of cases, we would like to get away from
11 it. But maybe many of us are close to retirement,
12 and this is the operation we are going to run. If
13 we are not, if I could have expanded and had an
14 earthen manure storage, and if we had over 300
15 animal units, we are going to stop it. And so, I
16 guess, that I would ask that that not really be a
17 consideration. Because I feel that looking at how
18 few operations there are, and how small of amount
19 of animals they represent in the hog industry.
20 And probably compared to other industries, like
21 beef that are swathe grazing, I mean, it is almost
22 like going out and trying to swat a fly in your
23 house with a sledgehammer. You will do a lot of
24 damage, but you probably won't get the fly.

25 I guess I would also like to talk a

1 little bit about the family farm. Lorne talked
2 about his family farm. It is a fairly big family
3 farm, but that's what it takes today. If we're
4 going to have a family farm, it's not going to be
5 one person anymore. It's going to be a group,
6 whether it's a father and some sons or nephews.
7 You know, we are seeing family farms, but they may
8 have six or seven families that can use their
9 resources much better, both financially and on a
10 workload.

11 I think I grew up -- my father had the
12 thought that if I took Sunday off I was really
13 being bad. You had to go out and do some work on
14 Sunday. My son informed me that that wasn't the
15 way he saw it anymore. He would much rather have
16 weekends off. And, you know, that's agriculture
17 today. We should all have those weekends off. So
18 the only way we can do it, is to have operations
19 that are big enough that you have employees to
20 take your turn at working a weekend, if you don't
21 want to work every weekend.

22 And the other end is the financial
23 part of it. And I think I have heard of
24 presentations talking about peasant farmers. And
25 compared to industrial, well, I don't think there

1 is many young people today that are going to take
2 over agriculture that want to start off on a
3 peasant farm. They want to make a living. They
4 want to make an adequate living, just like
5 everybody else in society. So that means that we
6 are going to have to have what we call commercial
7 agriculture.

8 And, you know, if you want to look
9 back to the good old days, when one person had a
10 little bit, there isn't going to be anybody to
11 take it over. You know, we are going to see, in
12 the next ten years, that a lot of people my age
13 that are going to retire. And if we don't try to
14 promote that kind of agriculture, it is sort of
15 like we will get older until we die. And then,
16 you know, I don't know, but I look at home and,
17 actually, it scares me. I went in for coffee the
18 other morning to talk about agriculture. And
19 there was only two of us, and we didn't get an old
20 age pension cheque at the end of the month, and so
21 we have to reverse that.

22 I guess we are looking at land use
23 planning. I think we have to try to streamline
24 land use planning. Because had my council been a
25 council that wanted to understand a little bit

1 about liquid manure, and not just put their head
2 in the sand and say it's bad. I listened to a lot
3 of rhetoric. I heard that Steinbach was
4 disappearing because the hog barns were forcing
5 people out. I guess that's why they only had 20
6 percent growth this year. You know, that was
7 being floated around. The councillors were --
8 actually, a councillor told me that I could easily
9 pollute with liquid manure. His cows were on a
10 ravine that runs into a lake. I have to wonder.
11 I thought if I was there maybe, I wouldn't talk.

12 But, anyway, I think we need a land
13 use planning. And I don't think councillors
14 really have the science to base -- to make a sound
15 decision. I think that they should make the
16 decisions for the municipality. But when it comes
17 to the science and where we should put these
18 buildings, I think it should be done by people
19 that are qualified.

20 Finally, I would like to suggest that
21 a moratorium on any part of agriculture, probably
22 any part of business, is bad. You know, I got
23 neighbours that are actually now scared. I mean,
24 they are in agriculture. And they are saying,
25 well, should we do the hogs this year? If we

1 don't like chemicals at the whim of somebody, and
2 we will just have one year of organic farming.

3 And the cattle industry is saying:
4 Could they look at us? I think this has done a
5 lot of harm to the industry. And it can't -- it
6 won't be corrected for a long time. The fact that
7 the government put in a pause is, by some people,
8 taken as: You were guilty. We just don't know
9 how guilty.

10 Thank you for the chance to make a
11 presentation.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Tolton.
13 I am just curious about your concerns about any
14 potential of stopping winter spreading. What
15 would it mean for your operation, or for other
16 small operations, if winter spreading were
17 completely outlawed?

18 MR. TOLTON: Well, an operation such
19 as the way mine is sitting today, I would have to
20 get -- I would have to put in an earthen manure
21 storage which, probably on a 50 sow, farrow to
22 finish, unit would be prohibitive. We haven't
23 really cleared that hurdle yet where there would
24 even be earthen manure storage. I think my
25 municipality would still fight tooth and nail

1 against me getting a permit for earthen manure.
2 They would want an upright one, which would be
3 totally out.

4 I don't think -- those last people
5 that are living, they are either going to have to
6 expand, and just do it, or else they are going to
7 be leaving. And, finally, getting -- having a
8 barn that you don't have to pay on. You know,
9 they may have some maintenance, but don't have to
10 make this farm payment. And they would like this
11 last five years or six years to get out. It is
12 going to disappear. We know it is going to
13 disappear. And just the way it is set up today,
14 it can't -- those people that are doing it
15 probably won't survive if it is outlawed. They
16 will probably all just quit.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18 MR. YEE: Mr. Tolton, you mentioned --
19 I think you mentioned considering expanding your
20 operation at one time. Like, you had problems
21 that you felt that the municipality wouldn't
22 approve it. Could you just expand on that a bit
23 for me?

24 MR. TOLTON: Well, we basically
25 started seeing a group that were relatively

1 opposed to it. And, I mean, I did talk to the
2 council. And I only had two out of six that even
3 thought that a hog operation should exist in the
4 municipality. But, I mean, at 35 years old, I
5 might have said, yeah, it's worth the fight.
6 Being about 50, I thought, you know, I might not
7 even get this barn built before I'm thinking of
8 retiring. And, you know, it just seemed that it
9 come from the eighties when I walked into the
10 municipality: Yeah, I am going to build a barn.
11 Yeah, that's great.

12 When we hit the nineties, there was
13 just too many people, and they weren't my
14 neighbours. That's the part that really hurt.
15 They weren't the neighbours living around me. The
16 people living close to the barn were all in
17 favour. It was people living 15 miles away that
18 didn't want it. But they definitely had the
19 council's ear and were just going to stop it
20 mainly on principle. I mean, it was mainly based
21 on: If you build anything bigger than what you
22 want to work in yourself, it's a factory farm and
23 we don't want it.

24 MR. YEE: I guess I just -- this is
25 probably not a question, more of a comment. One

1 of your recommendations mentioned that perhaps the
2 land use planning should be more of a provincial
3 jurisdiction, rather than the municipal. And I
4 think you went on to state "because the
5 councillors have no expertise". But they do rely
6 on Technical Review Committees. Do you have any
7 comments on that? Because there are Technical
8 Review Committees that are involved in the
9 conditional use and the applications for these
10 operations?

11 MR. TOLTON: Well, once you get to the
12 point of a technical review, yeah, they listen
13 to -- if they are in favour of putting a barn in,
14 they are probably listening to them. And if they
15 are really worried, you know, at this point, they
16 still have the absolute authority to reject it,
17 just like: We don't have to listen to it. So if
18 my ratepayers -- I'm sorry to suggest that they
19 don't want the barn. I don't have to listen to
20 technical review and the science, I can just
21 ignore it.

22 So, I mean, even if there is a policy
23 that, yeah, it's proven that it is going to be
24 good and you can do it, they know there is some
25 certainty. But, you know, it is a lot of expense

1 to get started to think about building one of
2 these barns. And if you are at the whim of six
3 people that were voted by -- in my municipality,
4 actually, cottage owners are the biggest amount of
5 residents. It's a little scary.

6 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Tolton.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: What municipality are
8 you in?

9 MR. TOLTON: Harrison.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

11 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. I gathered
12 that from your comments -- I have had some
13 municipal experience. And it's unfortunate that
14 that's the way it is, but municipalities do have
15 the final say. And that's the way -- well, that's
16 what it is. And in some cases, they like that
17 final say. But the part is that they don't have
18 to be accountable for whatever the reason is. I
19 can understand your frustration. I enjoyed your
20 presentation. I'm a farmer myself, and I know
21 what you've had to go through. And in order not
22 to be able to expand, it's unfortunate, that's all
23 there is to it.

24 Do you think that in the future, in
25 your municipality, that if there is -- they do

1 have to come up with a livestock operation policy
2 with the new Planning Act. Do you think that they
3 will cooperate there? Or would the present
4 council say: No, we don't want hogs, and just
5 make their operation livestock operation policy
6 that way?

7 MR. TOLTON: I have a little more
8 faith. Actually, I have talked to the people for
9 the cottage owners. And they kind of understand
10 that I don't want to build a barn near your lake,
11 but please understand agriculture. They are
12 starting to talk. We may have a little more
13 sensibility right now.

14 I think the interesting fact is that
15 they have to look at this not with a -- not
16 looking at pigs. If they bring this policy in,
17 there is a lot of cattle guys that are in a lot of
18 trouble. Because, you know, they won't even --
19 they won't even claim now that we have any cattle
20 operations over 400 animal units. And there is
21 probably seven or eight in the R.M. So if they
22 don't bring the policy -- you know, if they bring
23 in a policy, it's a livestock policy, not a pig
24 policy.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: And so maybe one of

1 your recommendations would be to have education,
2 then?

3 MR. TOLTON: Well, yeah. I mean, I
4 actually did try, you know, at times to educate
5 them. I guess, to sit here and be truthful, I am
6 a director on the Manitoba Pork Council. And I
7 have been in other municipalities. And I actually
8 asked the Reeve one time how many ILOs they have
9 in their municipality? None. They don't have any
10 pig barns. How many cattle? Oh, maybe I will
11 tell you that outside afterwards. So they know
12 that they are there. They are just hiding them.
13 And I think agriculture has to be agriculture.
14 You know, if we are looking at Lake Winnipeg, I
15 think probably phosphorous from cattle is just as
16 serious as phosphorous from hogs.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. And I noticed one
18 of your recommendations was continued research,
19 and you probably meant in that area. We have been
20 hearing that across the province. There are some
21 organizations who have undertaken that on a
22 private basis, one of them being Deerwood Soil
23 Management Group. They are doing some excellent
24 work down in southern Manitoba with the watershed
25 off the Tobacco Creek. And they have been doing

1 work on phosphorous, and these are the kinds of
2 things. And our Commission needs to find out in
3 these different areas where there is this research
4 being done. And phosphorous is something that we
5 need to know more about, I know that. Thank you.

6 MR. TOLTON: Thank you very much.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Just before you leave,
8 Mr. Tolton, I would just like to go back to the
9 land use planning stuff and your recommendations.
10 You were in Virden yesterday. You heard Professor
11 Dolecki talk about his experience in the R.M. of
12 Daly where they had a petition, apparently
13 supported by over 90 percent of the residents. I
14 mean, we are hearing two fairly opposing views on
15 this. You know, we hear from you and from other
16 hog farmers who think that the province should
17 take it over. And that as long as the farmer
18 meets the stated expectations, the license should
19 go through. But then we are also hearing from
20 people like Joe Dolecki that if the people don't
21 want it then democracy should prevail. Any
22 thoughts on that?

23 MR. TOLTON: Well, yeah, I have
24 listened to it. Democracy is a little bit funny.
25 I would have to question that you take out a

1 petition, and you go and you pound on that door.
2 If you don't happen to be the hog farmer there, it
3 is relatively easy to sign it. I have seen my
4 mother sign petitions, and I've asked her
5 afterwards: Why would you sign it? Why would you
6 want it? Well, somebody asked me to sign it. So
7 I don't think their 90 percent is right. And,
8 yes, a certain amount of that percentage is right.
9 But, you know, if many people don't want change,
10 don't want to go and see, see about the change.
11 And if we can paint a bleak enough picture about
12 what's going to happen, of course they are going
13 to be opposed to it.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, we also hear
15 from -- you know, putting aside the petitions.
16 And your observation on petitions probably has a
17 lot of truth to it or a lot of accuracy to it. We
18 also hear from municipal officials who don't want
19 to give up that ultimate authority to say "no".

20 So, you know, we -- I don't know, at
21 this point, how much we will delve into this
22 issue, but I think a reasonable amount. But we
23 are caught between those who would like it to be
24 strictly a provincial decision and municipal
25 officials, and municipal residents who think that

1 some of the power should reside locally. And you
2 don't necessarily need to comment on that. It's
3 just that if you have got any comments and
4 thoughts in helping us to come to our decision on
5 that?

6 MR. TOLTON: Yeah, you know -- I
7 guess, you know, from the municipal -- I suppose,
8 you know, maybe a councillor is looking at it. If
9 you can't make a decision, why are you a
10 councillor? On the other hand, you would think it
11 would ease the burden if you didn't have to make a
12 real controversial decision. And I can think of
13 all of the barns built in 2000, I mean, there were
14 municipalities that were totally against it. The
15 people that were against it -- and being a
16 councillor, I mean, you probably wanted -- maybe
17 you wanted that authority to say "no".

18 And yet I know in Strathclair, they
19 built one of the barns in, I believe, it was 2001.
20 And it was a pretty bad meeting in Strathclair one
21 afternoon. And it was my first experience of
22 being in a meeting at home. I have been at some
23 bad meetings, but they weren't home. And this one
24 was seven miles from my place. Everybody was
25 opposed to it. And yet the other day, I was

1 having coffee and the barn doesn't smell. Nobody
2 smells the barn. And they don't even know that it
3 is there anymore, and they think it is good. And
4 there was some other people that really told me
5 what they thought that day, and it wasn't good.
6 So, I don't know, I guess it is going to be a bit
7 of a push and a pull.

8 Maybe if we have the right land use
9 planning, and the government can stress that when
10 you have a spot for animals, that it's for all
11 animals, it will be better. And we will get
12 science based, and maybe we will get a little
13 knowledge. But it is the last eight or nine
14 years, unfortunately, has been very hard on
15 councillors, hog farmers and maybe residents, as
16 well. But we have to try and do something, and I
17 am not sure what. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
19 Now, is there anybody else in the audience who
20 would like to make a presentation this afternoon?
21 We have had nobody else, sort of, pre-register or
22 register. And so I am inviting anybody else who
23 wants to make a comment. Okay. Well, we will
24 adjourn. We will be here all afternoon. If
25 anybody -- if anybody changes their mind and wants

1 to say something, or if anybody else shows up and
2 would like to make a presentation, we will
3 reconvene.

4 We have three people who have
5 registered to speak after dinner tonight. So we
6 will be back here at seven o'clock for that, but
7 we will be here this afternoon as well. So we are
8 adjourned for the time being.

9 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:32 P.M. AND RECONVENED
10 AT 7:03 P.M.)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening. Can we
12 come to order, please? We have a handful of
13 people that would like to give presentations
14 tonight, so I would like to get our show on the
15 road. First up is Mr. Lyle Keating. Could you
16 come up to this table, sir?

17 MR. KEATING: Can I take that mike
18 off? Hello.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Hang on a second,
20 Mr. Keating?

21 MR. KEATING: Pardon?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you introduce
23 yourself for the record?

24 MR. KEATING: Yes. Hello. My name is
25 Lyle Keating. I'm from Russell. I farm there. I

1 have been farming in 1940, and I am still farming.
2 I built a hog farm in 2001 and it is running
3 normally. And I will talk about it in a minute.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Could you just
5 hold on here? We have to administer an oath, sir.
6 So could you pay attention to the Commission
7 secretary over there.

8 LYLE KEATING, having been sworn, presents as
9 follows:

10 MR. KEATING: Thank you very much.
11 Okay. The first thing I want to talk about is my
12 wife and I -- can you hear me? My wife and I were
13 on a bus trip to the north about three or four
14 years ago. And in Yellowknife, the bus coming
15 back to Edmonton travels north -- travels west on
16 the north side of the lake for several hours.
17 Along that trip, the sloughs were fully green,
18 not -- a bit of algae here and there. They were
19 completely full, except for the deeper ones, and
20 they had lily pads.

21 I questioned -- I questioned, quite
22 strongly, if the troubles in Lake Winnipeg are
23 from some of the sources that are mentioned
24 because, in that country, there was no livestock
25 in it at all. And that's the first thing that I

1 want to talk about. Are there any questions on
2 that?

3 MS. JOHNSON: You have to speak to the
4 panel over there. They are the ones that are
5 going to ask you questions.

6 MR. KEATING: Any questions on that?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: No.

8 MR. KEATING: Okay. The second thing,
9 we built a barn in 2001, and it handles about
10 10,000 pigs per year. It's four barns, with about
11 2,500 to 3,000 hogs per barn. And between the
12 bank and myself, I thought it was a good idea, I
13 thought it would maybe encourage some other people
14 to look at another way of making a dollar. That
15 has backfired because nobody took that up.

16 There is the municipality. And
17 considerable people were on side to start with,
18 but after we got started -- oh, no, it fell out.
19 Where was I? Yes, quite a few people were against
20 it. Most of them didn't come to us and talk about
21 it. But through the municipality, we were quite
22 aware that considerable people were not thinking
23 it was sensible, that it shouldn't be here.

24 Anyways, I will go over the things
25 that have happened since then, as several years

1 went by. We only put in the money that we could
2 afford to lose, and the bank put up two-thirds of
3 it. In another year and a half, we will have the
4 bank paid off. The money that came in all went
5 to -- the people that we rent the barn to pay us
6 \$32,000 per month. That's not chicken feed, it's
7 pretty good-sized money, in my opinion. Anyway,
8 the pay is \$32,000 and that goes straight into our
9 bank loan. And so, in another year and a half,
10 which will be seven years, that is paid off.

11 Now, it will take another -- it will
12 take another six and a third years to pay that
13 off, if I charge my -- charge the same rate of
14 interest at the bank, which I think you fellows
15 will agree is fair.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.

17 MR. KEATING: That's 13 and a third
18 years. Now, there is still the income tax. And I
19 never reckoned that out, but I believe it will
20 take a year and two-thirds to pay the government
21 the income taxes that we have to pay as it goes
22 along. Anyways, it is a 15-year term. I think,
23 fellas, that's pretty good. I think it's pretty
24 good. I don't think it should be thinner. To go
25 into something that takes longer than 15 years, I

1 don't suggest. But anyways, that's our case
2 there.

3 Now, the people that made some money
4 on this, besides myself, is the council, \$28,500 a
5 year. There are four people working at the farm.
6 And they will probably pay \$15,000 income tax.
7 There are the four of them. I don't really have
8 much idea of that, but it's possibly in about that
9 range. And there is a head office probably that
10 has quite a staff, too. This is Genetic Pork.
11 And they probably pay the government \$15,000,
12 maybe more than that, for their staff.

13 Now, the manure people that haul the
14 manure, \$60,000 or \$70,000 a year. So there is
15 some income tax there, maybe another \$15,000 or
16 \$20,000. I don't know. The feed mill, a lot of
17 feed, I'll tell you, fellas. There is five or six
18 truck loads a week of feed that comes into those
19 barns. It's a lot of feed, and I think a little
20 profit.

21 Anyways, our own income tax isn't
22 large right now, because we have depreciation and
23 the mortgage and a number of things that help ease
24 that somewhat. But after some of those are paid
25 off, we will pay considerable income tax.

1 Anyways, I would think around about at least
2 \$200,000 a year to the government. And what I am
3 pointing this out for is because I don't think
4 that things like this, the municipalities can
5 afford to risk not having, unless the pollution is
6 very, very bad.

7 Now, we smell the barn sometimes. We
8 are a mile and a half from it. And if it's a
9 south -- a straight south wind, we will smell it
10 in our yard. Not a very heavy problem for us and
11 no neighbours, that we know about, find it a
12 problem.

13 What else did I have to talk about?
14 In the 15 years we have paid off the barn. We
15 have got -- our money that we put into it
16 ourselves, we have got it back. Now, what we've
17 made is what the barn is worth. We haven't made
18 anything else. And that is very difficult to talk
19 about. You could maybe have some trouble selling
20 it. You could maybe get your money back. Maybe
21 you could sell it for double. It would depend on
22 the market.

23 And this is one of the things that
24 people object to is somebody making a dollar while
25 they have to live with the smell. Our smell isn't

1 too serious. We cover the lagoon with straw. And
2 I don't think it's too serious. Now, other fellas
3 might think it is different.

4 Anyways, I do recognize that the
5 environment is very, very important. And I think
6 if the world had have been watching the situation
7 better, we wouldn't have quite as much worry with
8 warming as they have now. It is very difficult to
9 change. The barn -- the only thing that goes into
10 that barn is the vegetation, barley or wheat. I
11 have trouble thinking that that is going to cause
12 the same kind of troubles as chemicals that we put
13 in the field and exhaust that we burn heavily,
14 burn heavily, I'll tell yeah that.

15 And so, anyways, those are some of the
16 thoughts that I had. Is there any questions here
17 that you would like to bring forward?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: I have none,
19 Mr. Keating. Wayne?

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Not really, no. Just
21 thanks very much for your input.

22 MR. YEE: I have no questions,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
25 coming over here tonight, Mr. Keating.

1 MR. KEATING: Thank you.

2 Next is Roger Desilets. You can sit
3 down, please.

4 MR. DESILETS: Thanks.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Please introduce
6 yourself for the record.

7 MR. DESILETS: Roger Desilets.

8 ROGER DESILETS, having been sworn, presents as
9 follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

11 MR. DESILETS: Good evening, members
12 of the Commission. My name is Roger Desilets, as
13 I have stated. I reside in the R.M. of Park,
14 approximately six miles northeast of the town of
15 Oakburn. My wife, Cathy and I, along with our
16 four children, operate a small farm where we
17 specialize in the production of honey from unique
18 floral sources, mostly alfalfa. We keep our bees
19 along the Riding Mountain National Park. And we
20 also manufacture beeswax candles and a line of
21 natural skincare products. It pays the bills. We
22 have lived in that area since 1983.

23 Our interest in the issue of hog
24 production has come about due mainly to our
25 involvement in opposing two unsuccessful attempts

1 to establish Intensive Livestock Operations in the
2 R.M. of Strathclair. The proposed site was
3 roughly one and one-half miles southeast of our
4 residence, and the spread fields would have been
5 within, well, a half mile of our home and
6 business.

7 In our area, Wolfe Creek is a second
8 class drainage. It provides much of the drainage,
9 directing the water south and east into the R.M.
10 of Shoal Lake, via the Oak River. It joins up at
11 the Oak River, oh, about halfway between Oakburn
12 and Shoal Lake, I guess, about five miles from our
13 residence. Many of the -- at the time of that
14 application, many of the proposed spread fields
15 had straddled Wolfe Creek. And if I can refer you
16 to the topographical maps -- I apologize to the
17 members of the public. I had prepared a
18 presentation, but technology failed us, and so
19 back to paper.

20 And what I wanted to draw your
21 attention to on the topographical maps is where
22 you will see, at one area a little further north,
23 was the proposed site, and it was 593 metres above
24 sea level. And you will see a lake to the
25 southeast, about two and a half miles away. And

1 it is a 570 metres above sea level. That's a
2 difference of 23 metres, or about 70 feet drop, in
3 two and a half miles.

4 The purpose of this presentation is,
5 first, that you can relate our experiences with
6 proponents of the hog industry, and the
7 shortcomings in the process of approving the
8 siting and construction of ILOs and earthen manure
9 storage facilities.

10 And if I can refer the Commissioners
11 to the second set of -- they are stapled together
12 separately, but there is one item named or
13 entitled "page 5", if you have it there. So I
14 hope I haven't overstepped my boundaries in
15 reproducing some of these items, but they were for
16 public use. And we had them made available to us
17 at the Conditional Use Hearing, which we attended
18 in Strathclair. And the reason for showing this
19 page 5 is to draw attention to the 12 parcels of
20 land that are indicated as proposed spread fields
21 for that operation. And you'll see, on the
22 agricultural capability and class, every piece of
23 property that had been proposed for spread fields
24 contains some Class 2 soil, very good soil. And
25 we have excellent soil in our area, but

1 topographical concerns. It is a very rolling
2 area.

3 But you will also see that every
4 proposed spread field also had some Class 6 soils
5 with concerns regarding the water. And there are
6 also various pieces with Class 5 soils also. If I
7 can just elaborate a little bit on this, Class 2T
8 soils, I will just read it for the public, if you
9 don't mind:

10 "CLI subclass T (e.g. 2T) denotes
11 soils where topography is a limitation
12 for agricultural use; either steepness
13 or the pattern of slopes. CL1
14 subclass W (e.g. 6W) denotes soils
15 with excess water other than from
16 flooding limits use for agriculture.
17 The excess water may be due to poor
18 drainage, a high water table, seepage
19 or runoff from surrounding areas."

20 The next page would be page 6. And I do have a
21 point to make with all of this. And on that page,
22 you will see where the asterisks are shown. The
23 recommendations for nutrient applications on the
24 types of soil that we had in that area, Class 2s,
25 3s, 5s and 6s.

1 "Based on Canada Land Inventory
2 system, agricultural capability on
3 spread acres range from Cclass 2T
4 through Class 6W."

5 I will try to skip some of this here. What the
6 Technical Review Committee was recommending, at
7 that time, was fall application, on Class 4 lands
8 which didn't contain anything, should be
9 restricted to only perennial forage crops.

10 "It is recommended that Class 5 lands
11 should be sown to perennial grasses
12 and only spring applications made at
13 lower manure application rates. Class
14 6 lands should not receive nutrient
15 applications, manure or otherwise,
16 regardless of crop grown.

17 The spread acres on SE 35-18-22W, as
18 well as Class 4, 5 and 6 lands should
19 be re-examined by a pedologist..."

20 But the Technical Review Committee recommended
21 that it be examined by a pedologist or someone
22 with equivalent education.

23 I will go on to page 7.

24 "The more productive soils from the
25 spread acres can be found on the..."

1 I won't elaborate on the other parcels of land.
2 They could have higher nutrient application rates
3 but, again, they were recommended at one of the
4 pieces of land, southeast 35, be re-examined to
5 ensure suitability to receive manure.

6 And then they go on to say the level
7 of phosphates varied anywhere from 9 to 49 pounds
8 per acre. Anything over 49 pounds per acre, using
9 the Olsen method, I think, is considered quite
10 high. And phosphate concentrations should have a
11 very close eye kept on that.

12 And page 8, as far as testing for the
13 soils, they suggested that it can be conducted for
14 six feet, with one sample per 15-acres. Well,
15 that's very intensive sampling, but it is for the
16 protection of our water resources, I believe.

17 And, in other words, to determine the baseline
18 nutrient status of the soils prior to manure being
19 applied.

20 Surface water issues is also on that
21 page, the bottom of the page. There is no
22 asterisk on that one. Just give me a moment,
23 please. And don't want to waste the public's time
24 here. Oh, it mentions:

25 "Provincial drainage maps indicate

1 Wolfe Creek, which is classed as a
2 second order drain, runs through land
3 parcels.
4 Provincial drainage maps show the
5 remaining land parcels contain
6 numerous small water bodies (potholes
7 or sloughs). Aerial photos indicate
8 that surface waters in these potholes
9 appear to be generally isolated, but
10 some may potentially connect to other
11 drainage routes."

12 On to page 9, "Geological and Hydrogeological
13 Conditions.

14 "The local geology consists of a
15 relatively thick deposit of glacial
16 till."

17 The local geology in our area, and we are on the
18 south escarpment of the Riding Mountains, by the
19 way, this was located about 11 miles from the park
20 boundary. I think I reside, well, about nine and
21 a half miles to the park boundary.

22 "The local geology consists of a
23 relatively thick deposit of glacial
24 till and clay overburden overlying
25 shale bedrock."

1 It is a fractured shale aquifer in our area.

2 "The overburden thickness is expected
3 to range from approximately 30 metres
4 to greater than 50 metres deep."

5 And that's adequate and substantial.

6 "The lower portion of the glacial
7 till, beneath the 15 to 30 metre
8 depth, may contain gravel/sand
9 lenses."

10 And our information at the time indicated even
11 shallower gravel and sand zones, as is indicated
12 in this report also. They were at anywhere from 5
13 to 20 metres. The 5 metres, being 15 feet, there
14 is not a whole heck of a lot down there for
15 gravel. And we know that water follows those
16 gravel lenses.

17 There is also a flowing well in that
18 area, so our water table is quite high. I don't
19 think it's very well understood, the recharge and
20 discharge, the way an aquifer recharges and
21 discharges.

22 If I could just give you one more map
23 here. By the way, because the issue is water
24 here, I have a map. And again I apologize. It
25 indicates the aquifers within the Province of

1 Manitoba. And one thing I will draw the
2 Commission's attention to is that Riding Mountain
3 is very well indicated. And it is so obvious that
4 Riding Mountain is a major recharge area for the
5 Odanah Shale Aquifer that we reside on. And that
6 Odanah Shale Aquifer -- I will give you the map in
7 a moment -- extends over Riding Mountain, down to
8 Russell, down to Binscarth, down to Hamiota, makes
9 a big semi-circle over to Minnedosa, and it wraps
10 up just on the east side of the Riding Mountain
11 National Park.

12 Okay. After all of this, to page 11,
13 if you would flip to that one. After the
14 Technical Review Committee did their in-depth
15 study, well, with the information that had been
16 provided to them, they make numerous
17 recommendations. And as far as liquid manure,
18 this is what they wrote:

19 "Manure will be applied in the fall
20 with injection equipment."

21 And I think that is generally what is proposed.

22 "Class 6 lands should not receive
23 nutrient applications, manure or
24 otherwise, regardless of crop grown.

25 Class 4, 5 and 6 land should be

1 re-examined by a pedologist."

2 And I remind the public that every item or every
3 parcel of land contained Class 6 soils on it.

4 That every quarter section, half section, should
5 have been examined by a pedologist at the -- at
6 the deep monitoring -- or with the deep monitoring
7 method. And some other proposed spread acres
8 contained shallower land and peat, which would not
9 have been at all recommended for manure
10 application.

11 And so with all of that, where the
12 Committee had recommended to do a proper
13 investigation -- excuse me, I will just refer back
14 to my script. In this instance, the Technical
15 Review Committee appears to have done a thorough
16 assessment of the proposal and had raised a number
17 of flags regarding the need for more in-depth soil
18 testing to determine the suitability of the land
19 to receive liquid manure.

20 Every recommendation in this report
21 was ignored by the Council of the R.M. of
22 Strathclair at the time. And on the second
23 attempt to have this barn, this conditional use
24 permit approved, it happened twice over a
25 four-year period, the application, the second time

1 around, was approved.

2 All presenters at that hearing, at the
3 public hearing, were discounted as heretics.
4 Losers, in this instance, would have included the
5 residents of the R.M. of Park, immediately to the
6 north, because tourism is very much a growth
7 industry in our area. Numerous lakes have been
8 stocked and we are surrounded by water. And
9 especially residents of the R.M. of Shoal Lake
10 would have been impacted. And they would have
11 received all of the drainage from this proposed
12 operation, despite having very little to say in
13 its approval. The R.M. of Shoal Lake, via Wolfe
14 Creek, lies about three miles to the southeast of
15 that proposed operation. This type of unilateral
16 decision by a municipality, regardless of the
17 effect on neighbours and downstream recipients is
18 obviously unjust.

19 Fortunately for all, including our
20 neighbour, our local farmer, who had invited this
21 Ontario corporation to establish itself in our
22 midst, the parent company, Premium Pork, I think
23 many people are familiar with them, declared
24 bankruptcy before the barn could be built. On a
25 positive note, almost the entire council of the

1 R.M. of Strathclair was replaced in the last
2 election.

3 Unfortunately, this all happened only
4 after local community members had spent \$13,000
5 out of our own pockets in legal fees, and
6 thousands of hours battling their own
7 representatives, as well as the unwelcome
8 intrusion by an undesirable industry.

9 I have represented our local
10 organization, the Wolfe Creek Conservation Group,
11 at numerous meetings, pitching the proposal of a
12 water protection zone. We have suggested using
13 the number 45 Highway as the southernmost
14 boundary, as this line is also currently
15 recognized by both the Manitoba Department of
16 Conservation, in outlining hunting areas north of
17 45 is area 23. And it is also used by the
18 Department of Agriculture in Manitoba in its TB
19 testing program. Any cattle north of the 45, I
20 don't know if the program still exists, but have
21 to be tested for tuberculosis.

22 The real issue is much larger than
23 that, and much larger than forming a water
24 protection zone. Although, I still adamantly
25 believe that it should be looked at more closely,

1 as we are on the escarpment of the south -- of the
2 Riding Mountain National Park. But the real issue
3 is much larger than that. We are being told by
4 scientists that the possibility of a water
5 shortage looms on the horizon as global warming
6 progresses. We are being told by the Province of
7 Manitoba that responsible use of our water
8 resources is something that we, as individual
9 citizens, should start thinking about right now.

10 And yet, our Provincial Government, in
11 obvious contradiction, continues to encourage the
12 expansion of Intensive Livestock Operations, each
13 of which is known to use approximately five
14 million gallons of water per year to rinse pig
15 shit from our barns -- from their barns. How many
16 barns of this type do we already have in Manitoba?
17 Will we be able to continue wasting our drinking
18 water in this way, indefinitely? I believe we
19 honestly know the answer to this question is: No.
20 It's time the proponents of this wasteful method
21 of water usage stop thinking of the water under
22 their feet as their own. And it is time the
23 movers and shakers of the hog industry listen to
24 the citizens and their representatives, not the
25 other way around. It is also time to stop

1 defending the status quo, as the world changes
2 around us.

3 Certainly, there are other important
4 issues that come to mind when contemplating the
5 expansion of the hog industry in Manitoba. Rural
6 depopulation is not something to be applauded.
7 Economy of scale, as preached by proponents of
8 ever larger farming corporations, has greatly
9 contributed to this dilemma. The two or three
10 employees needed to operate a barn, or four to
11 operate a barn with 12,500 sows, contribute far
12 less than a family of four needed to operate a
13 farm, in conjunction with a 150 sow, farrow to
14 finish, operation. Many examples of this still
15 exist in Manitoba, but they are finding it
16 increasingly difficult to function with the big
17 guys controlling the industry. The straw based
18 method does not pose the same problems as a liquid
19 manure system.

20 Also, coal-fired boilers as are used
21 in many intensive livestock operations barns
22 should be discouraged in favour of methane
23 recapture. Both the burning of coal and the
24 escape of methane, a valuable source of energy,
25 are contributing to the greenhouse gas emissions.

1 Two problems could be solved at once.

2 The introduction of antibiotic
3 residues and various pathogens into our surface
4 waters, thereby upsetting the ecological balance,
5 has yet to be explored in depth. We have the
6 science to do it.

7 And I would like to just elaborate a
8 little bit on that. Our area is very well known
9 for its migratory waterfowl and nesting habitat.
10 And we have had hunters coming to that area, since
11 the 1950s, from all over the States. We have lots
12 of sloughs in the area. I hesitate to think what
13 pathogens that we know are contained in liquid
14 manure, as well as the antibiotic residues. I
15 really hesitate to think what effect that will
16 have on the aquatic animals and on the migratory
17 waterfowl for only two of the affected species.

18 I could go on, but you've probably
19 heard it all already, as you travel around this
20 beautiful province. Our governments should not
21 encourage a method of food production that will
22 be, obviously, unsustainable in the future. And,
23 again, you know, as we are told, there is a
24 definite possibility of some dry years in the
25 future. And we don't have to look too far in the

1 past to know that it has happened in the 1930s.
2 Just as we are witnessing the closing of schools
3 and hospitals in many of our rural areas, I
4 applaud Hamiota for maintaining theirs. So we
5 will see the demise of intensive hog operations as
6 a thing of the past as our water resources become
7 more scarce.

8 Let's use our common sense now. Our
9 children will thank us for applying foresight to
10 this issue.

11 I thank you for your time and
12 patience.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
14 Mr. Desilets.

15 MR. DESILETS: Did I give you some
16 photos there?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: You did.

18 MR. DESILETS: Yes, okay. So those
19 photos just show the Wolfe Creek and spring thaw
20 and the amount of erosion that happens on a wet --
21 on a winter that has -- you know, with a fairly
22 heavy snow load. You see examples of massive
23 erosion there. And that 70 foot drop in elevation
24 in the two and a half miles is quite a bit,
25 considering that from the -- in the next eight

1 miles, nine miles to Shoal Lake, it only drops
2 another 20 metres.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 MR. DESILETS: Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: We might have a
6 question or two.

7 MR. DESILETS: Yes, please.

8 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Desilets, you have
9 mentioned, and I'll explore this a bit, in terms
10 of we have heard a lot of varying positions on the
11 Technical Review Committee. You seem to agree
12 that they have done a thorough job in the
13 assessment of this particular hog proposal?

14 MR. DESILETS: In this instance, I
15 felt that they had. And especially since they
16 were recommending doing a further evaluation of
17 the land, yes, I felt that they had done a good
18 job.

19 MR. YEE: Okay. And in terms of that,
20 I guess it's the conditional land use hearing
21 process, obviously, you felt there were
22 shortcomings. And we have heard variations on the
23 theme throughout the hearing process. Do you have
24 any recommendations on how that process could be
25 improved?

1 MR. DESILETS: Perhaps sound a little
2 more democratic, as opposed to having a panel of
3 councillors basically fall asleep through our
4 presentations and discount us. I don't know how
5 to correct that problem. I think we have more
6 expertise at the provincial level than we have in
7 the municipal level. Although, local knowledge
8 carries a great amount of weight, but you have to
9 listen. You have to have an open mind. And, you
10 know, I can't say much more than that.

11 MR. YEE: And you mentioned also
12 coal-fired boilers. Can you elaborate? I am not
13 familiar with that.

14 MR. DESILETS: Actually, there are
15 some manufactured right here in Zephyr. And they
16 are good heating systems, but all that does is a
17 boiler heats the water and circulates it to heat
18 the barn. It is just unfortunate to be burning
19 coal and allowing methane to escape. Both are
20 causing a problem.

21 And I know that there have been
22 experiments in Alberta where, as opposed to using
23 an earthen manure storage, or a lagoon, that the
24 method of storage was in tanks. And the methane
25 was recaptured from those tanks and used, I am

1 assuming, to operate a generator to provide
2 electricity and heat for the barn.

3 MR. YEE: And then these types of
4 boilers are only used in Intensive Livestock
5 Operations?

6 MR. DESILETS: No. They are not. No,
7 they are used in quite a few large shops, barns.
8 No, you see them. They are quite common. And,
9 you know, they are as clean as they can be, but
10 we're talking coal.

11 MR. YEE: Right. And one last
12 question, you mentioned the introduction of
13 antibiotic residues and pathogens into our surface
14 waters. Are you speaking of specific surface
15 waters, and do you have any data? What are the
16 data sources?

17 MR. DESILETS: I'm sorry, I don't have
18 any data. But in our presentations, we have
19 employed, or not hired, but had the assistance of
20 botanists and biologists from the University of
21 Manitoba or, sorry, the University of Brandon, or
22 the Brandon University. And they definitely, at
23 that time -- I'm sorry, I don't have it all with
24 me -- indicated that there were some very good
25 scientific studies showing that there are

1 pathogens that survive the time spent in the
2 liquid manure storage lagoons. And when they are
3 then spread on to the fields or injected into
4 fields, that migratory waterfowl then take them up
5 from, you know, eating the grasses and stuff. And
6 it has -- and they have ingested it, and it does
7 show up in those species.

8 MR. YEE: And these studies are
9 available?

10 MR. DESILETS: I will get them for
11 you, if you wish, yes.

12 MR. YEE: Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

14 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask you -- it will
16 be my turn now.

17 MR. DESILETS: I brought up too many
18 points.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: And my interest is in
20 the municipal side, being a former municipal
21 councillor. I understand your frustrations that
22 you have with councillors sometimes, but every
23 municipality handles their planning differently.
24 Many municipalities have a plan, you know, have a
25 development plan.

1 MR. DESILETS: Yes, they do.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: And not all
3 municipalities have the same plan. I would like
4 to recommend to you, in the future, in your R.M.
5 of Park -- I believe you are in the Municipality
6 of Park?

7 MR. DESILETS: Yes.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: That in the new
9 Planning Act that councils must come up with a
10 Livestock Operation Policy.

11 MR. DESILETS: That's correct.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: An LOP. And, of
13 course, there will be public input into that.
14 There will be public meetings to get that, and I
15 encourage you to be part of making that plan.

16 MR. DESILETS: I have been invited to
17 sit on the board to establish the new development
18 plan. The R.M. of Park used to be in the South
19 Riding Mountain District, and they opted out. At
20 the moment, they follow those regulations, but
21 they are in the process of forming their own. And
22 I believe we have to start soon. It should be in
23 by January 2008.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: Many are waiting for
25 the report of this Commission before they start.

1 MR. DESILETS: Right.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: And that's not going to
3 be tomorrow, obviously.

4 MR. DESILETS: No. But I am active in
5 it, and I do take an interest.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: That's good news. And
7 I encourage you to be part of that. It's very
8 important to try and be proactive on that, rather
9 than being in a reactive situation, that's for
10 sure.

11 MR. DESILETS: Right.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: I had one other point
13 to make, and I forget now what it was. I will
14 maybe think of it later, unless you have something
15 to ask?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: No.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: That's fine.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
19 Mr. Desilets.

20 MR. DESILETS: I would like to collect
21 those photos back.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23 MR. DESILETS: And the map.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, certainly. Mickey
25 Hersak. Sir, would you state your name for the

1 record, please?

2 MR. HERSAK: My name is Mickey Hersak,
3 and I farm just southeast of Oakburn.

4 MICKEY HERSAK, having been sworn, presents as
5 follows:

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

7 MR. HERSAK: Well, I am not a lawyer
8 here, but I am an expert witness. And you know
9 this because the presentation is in my
10 handwriting. I am in the low tech area, and my
11 apologies for that. However, I will go through
12 this page by page. And you are welcome to make
13 notes as you go along, and we will have questions
14 later.

15 Again, my name is Mickey Hersak. And
16 I farm northeast 22-18-23, just east of Oakburn,
17 in the R.M. of Shoal Lake. The Oak River passes
18 through this farm, forming a large wetland. And
19 combined with the adjacent natural vegetation and
20 woodlot, is now a well-known nature centre of
21 approximately 100-acres.

22 The river is joined by many creeks and
23 the marsh has become the filter for Shoal Lake, a
24 lake of much improved quality because of the work
25 of local wildlife enthusiasts. Waters from Shoal

1 Lake eventually become the Assiniboine, the Red,
2 Lake Winnipeg, the mighty Nelson, as they flow
3 into Hudson's Bay. So from a very small source,
4 such as Duck, Tokaruk and Tenth Lakes, these tiny
5 water molecules reach the very large oceans of the
6 world. However, some of the water stays back,
7 seeps into the ground to become part of the large
8 Ohdanah Aquifer. Some people spell that O-D and
9 some people spell it O-H-D-A-N-A-H. And that
10 feeds our wells to supply the most essential
11 compound for life: Water.

12 We are truly blessed to be living on
13 the Western Manitoba Plateau and park land, a
14 plateau climbing from the prairie floor in
15 dramatic fashion. It is a land that is
16 spruce-scented and lake dotted. It was once a
17 glacier, later the edge of a very large lake, Lake
18 Agassiz. Today there is a region of rolling
19 terrain, gentle uplands and broad valleys. Here
20 you find spruce, groves of aspens, clear
21 spring-fed lakes, open meadows, wide fields of
22 highly productive land, dotted with ponds and
23 marshes. This diversity gives our region one of
24 the richest and most varied inventories of plants
25 and animals.

1 Consequently, it is little wonder that
2 our first national park was located immediately to
3 the north of us. We are in the park's watershed.
4 The prairie potholes, brimming with water, and
5 ringed with vegetation, are defined as prime
6 habitat. They not only provide homes for many
7 species of waterfowl, song-birds and game, but
8 also provide nature's mechanism for purification.
9 These ecosystems purify the water we drink and the
10 air we breathe! They perform a cycle that has
11 lasted for thousands of years.

12 In recent times, many of the potholes
13 have disappeared, as have the woodlots, including
14 some on my own farm! And, as they disappear or
15 become polluted, the tools that prevent water
16 degradation, also vanish.

17 My land straddles the Oak River.
18 However, its waters are separated politically in
19 adjacent municipalities. So political and private
20 property lands separate myself and my neighbours,
21 and other Manitobans, but geographically we are
22 not separated. Any disruption to the plant or
23 micro-organic life in this local water has
24 wide-ranging effects on others close by or far
25 distances away.

1 Now, there is much to be learned on
2 how we have used our land in the past. The jury
3 is still out on what damage we have done with
4 chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides and
5 herbicides. All of the above applications involve
6 some form of dissolving, and dissolving is almost
7 always water. The intent is always the same. We
8 want greater production and yields and greater
9 income.

10 Witness our results: First,
11 economically, all that we have achieved is
12 over-production and lower prices. And, secondly,
13 environmentally we have done greater damage to our
14 natural resources, be it my ditch or Lake
15 Winnipeg.

16 The hearing this evening is to review
17 the sustainability of our hog production industry.
18 You have asked us to share our views. Here are
19 some of my observations. I am basing my
20 observations on the following.

21 First of all, I have been reading
22 reports and listening to the media.

23 I have been attending hearings on this
24 industry, and other agricultural endeavours.

25 I have travelled extensively in

1 Canada, the Unites States, and abroad, as well as
2 Asia.

3 I have attained two bachelor's degrees
4 and a masters at the university.

5 I have been farming as a fourth
6 generation farmer, and gaining wisdom from my
7 parents and grandparents.

8 I have worked with consultants from
9 the Fresh Water Institute at the University of
10 Manitoba and Manitoba Natural Resources, and I
11 have studied the Water Stewardship Act.

12 Here are some observations that I have
13 come to, and conclude that they were generalities,
14 but there are sufficient documents in various
15 departments to establish this. We know that there
16 have been a great increase in hog production with
17 fewer producers.

18 We know that the major exporting
19 numbers and dollar values are there.

20 And we also know that there has been
21 increases in job creation.

22 Now, these three points sound very
23 positive at first glance. But if you read between
24 the lines, there are some reservations that are
25 being expressed by others, as well as myself.

1 Here are the reservations.

2 1. The economic diversification.

3 This is economic diversification which is not

4 ecologically sound.

5 2. There is only short-term economic

6 gain.

7 3. We have depleted water supplies

8 and aquifers.

9 4. There are questionable working

10 conditions for minimum wage staff.

11 5. There are higher than average

12 bankruptcies in farming, when compared to

13 livestock farming or beef or poultry or grain or

14 oilseed production.

15 6. There are unfavourable social

16 conditions resulting when communities and families

17 are split trying to resolve hog production in

18 their area.

19 7. There are an unusual number of

20 contaminating situations of wells, streams, caused

21 by this industry.

22 8. There is a large cost to local

23 municipalities in terms of infrastructure, only to

24 have abandoned projects a few years down the road.

25 9. There is a failing to properly

1 address the liquid waste problem, whether it's
2 odour, toxicity, or nutrient value as a
3 fertilizer.

4 10. There is little contribution to
5 carry out research by this industry to solve some
6 of these problems.

7 11. We are still applying outdated
8 technology in hog production and marketing.

9 12. We are ignoring the concerns of
10 neighbours and citizens in general.

11 13. And we have little concern for
12 long-term environmental issues. In this case, I'm
13 saying the hog production industry.

14 So these statements are mine. They
15 are open for debate. I welcome discussion to this
16 effect. And I leave you with two questions
17 regarding the hog production industry.

18 And the first question is: Why has
19 the Province of Manitoba ordered a moratorium on
20 large hog barn expansion?

21 Secondly, why did Premier Gary Doer
22 create a Department of Water Stewardship with a
23 cabinet minister? And that's the Free Press, I
24 have it right here, November 5, 2003, front-page
25 story. Now, Mr. Doer's answer was:

1 "I want clear water, clear policy."
2 and that's my answer, too. I too want clear water
3 and clear policy. Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hersak.
5 What type of farm do you have, sir?

6 MR. HERSAK: It was a mixed farm. And
7 now it is, basically, forage, oilseeds and grain.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: In one of your
9 reservations you note:

10 "Failure to properly address the
11 liquid waste problem."

12 And could you expand a little on that, what you
13 mean by that?

14 MR. HERSAK: Well, the people that I
15 have visited and talked to, had various storage
16 tanks, some of which are corroded. And then we
17 have the lagoon type of liquid waste storage,
18 which is sometimes without a liner, and then the
19 liners came in. These storage problems are all
20 around us. They are in the media for example. We
21 had a break in MacGregor, where we polluted quite
22 a few wells. And there are some in the Interlake.
23 And the Province of Manitoba has these well
24 documented.

25 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Hersak, just, I

1 guess, one question in terms of one of your points
2 that you made, that there is a higher than average
3 bankruptcy in farming compared to livestock. Can
4 you clarify that? Are you referring to the hog
5 farm or the grain?

6 MR. HERSAK: Well, I'll tell you,
7 there is a higher risk in all farming. But there
8 seems to be a higher number of bankruptcies in the
9 hog industry, so there is a message there. There
10 are 10 barns in the Killarney area that are not
11 working. There are barns in the R.M. of Stanley,
12 some very successful, that's the Winkler area,
13 some not. If you go between Steinbach and the La
14 Broquerie and that area, there are some successes.
15 But if you drive around there, you will see them
16 empty. In the Interlake, I have a lake place on
17 Lake Winnipeg, too. And the barns are there, and
18 they are no longer working.

19 MR. YEE: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

21 MR. MOTHERAL: No. I don't have any
22 questions.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
24 Mr. Hersak.

25 MR. HERSAK: Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Routledge. Scott
2 Routledge. Could you introduce yourself for the
3 record, sir?

4 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes, I am Scott
5 Routledge.

6 SCOTT ROUTLEDGE, having been sworn, presents as
7 follows:

8 MR. ROUTLEDGE: I have put together a
9 bit of a proposal here. And it is strictly my
10 thoughts on how I see it. And that's how I have
11 titled it: "As I See It."

12 Good evening to the board and staff,
13 ladies and gentlemen. My presentation tonight
14 will be based on "As I See It". I am a producer
15 of grain and cattle in the R.M. of Woodworth. My
16 hometown is Kenton. I will be speaking on two
17 fronts: the first as a producer, and the second as
18 a nutrient management planner.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you just slow down
20 slightly, sir? We have a reporter that may not be
21 able to keep up.

22 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Sorry.

23 I am a producer with great concern for
24 our environment. I started farming 20 years ago
25 as a first generation farmer, along with my wife.

1 I grew up on a small dairy farm where my parents
2 sold cream. And their cropping system was half
3 summer fallow and half crop to produce feed for
4 their cows.

5 I purchased my first land in 1990,
6 after renting for a few years. I have always
7 worked away from the farm, and did the farming in
8 the evenings and on weekends. My wife has also
9 always worked outside the home as an RN. We have
10 three children, who I hope some day will have the
11 chance to continue on farming in our footsteps, if
12 they should choose to do so.

13 I have always been very keen on
14 anything relating to the environment. I switched
15 to direct seeding in 1994 to a one-pass system to
16 conserve water and reduce soil and water erosion,
17 with the benefits of reducing input costs.

18 I have been involved in numerous
19 committees in the past, such as the Manitoba Zero
20 Till Farmers Association, the Manitoba North
21 Dakota No Till Farmers Association, the Soil
22 Council of Canada as a land representative, the
23 Upper Assiniboine Conservation District, the
24 Woodworth Conservation District. And I was highly
25 involved in creating the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

1 Program for Manitoba. And from time to time, have
2 been asked to view projects and give input for the
3 Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council. Our whole
4 focus was on how could we reduce our costs and be
5 good stewards of the land for years to come.

6 Our farm is located one mile straight
7 west of a 2,500 sow barn. For us, the odour has
8 never been an issue. We have only noticed it a
9 few times over the last five years, and that is
10 when the humidity was near 100 percent. The odour
11 is no worse than our cattle feedlot or, for that
12 matter, the odour from human discharge. It is a
13 known fact that fecal and urine wastes have their
14 own fragrance from any output source.

15 We receive manure from two large hog
16 barns on about two-thirds of our land. It has
17 been a blessing in disguise, as I have seen
18 ammonia Nitrogen in 1987, at 10 cents per pound,
19 rise to 50 cents per pound today. That is an
20 increase of 500 percent in agriculture input costs
21 that we cannot sustain. To translate that into
22 dollars per acre: In 1987 for an average crop
23 that requires 100 pounds of nutrient per acre, the
24 cost was \$10 per acre. That same crop today would
25 cost you \$50 per acre of nitrogen alone, which is

1 only part of the nutrients required. I calculated
2 a nutrient blend for canola on my farm this year
3 that would cost me \$88 per acre. These types of
4 input costs cannot be derived from the
5 marketplace. We need every bit of help we can
6 get.

7 We have been putting manure on our
8 land for five years now as crop requirements. I
9 have seen our yields increase by ten bushels per
10 acre across all crops on our farm. We save
11 approximately \$40,000 in commercial fertilizer on
12 1,000 acres per year. That is a real benefit to
13 us as producers.

14 I have also seen land values increase
15 in our area dramatically. The large hog barn
16 operations have not devalued the land. Without
17 manure on our farm, it would be a much different
18 picture financially.

19 As rural depopulation increases ever
20 so fast, we must have a vision for the future to
21 attract the youth to our communities. These large
22 operations have created some employment for the
23 rural people. Not all youth want to migrate to
24 the cities where crime seems to be a growing
25 concern. We have to keep our vision looking

1 forward to the future for our children, and their
2 children to come. We live in a society where only
3 20 percent of our incomes goes to food, and the
4 rest goes to other expenses, mostly recreation.
5 It is a common fact that we all need to eat to
6 survive.

7 As a nutrient management planner, I
8 have varying degrees of education. I have an
9 agri-business degree in agriculture. I have taken
10 several courses to achieve a diploma degree. I
11 have taken the Intense Manure Management Course
12 and am currently working on getting my membership
13 with the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists.

14 Manitoba has the toughest Manure
15 Management Regulations in all of Canada. I am
16 currently doing contract work in Nutrient
17 Management for Elite Swine, New Generation Pork
18 and Genetic Pork out of Quebec. I cover many
19 miles in a week, from Killarney to Swan River,
20 from Austin to just over the Saskatchewan border
21 at Maryfield.

22 Manitoba has varying degrees of
23 nutrients that can be applied to the land, based
24 on soil type and subclasses, as set out by
25 Manitoba Conservation. The Canada Land Inventory

1 soils run from Class 1 through 7, accompanied by
2 13 subclasses in this province. There is no
3 manure allowed on Class 6 and 7 in Manitoba. All
4 of the allowable nitrogen limits are based on
5 nitrogen rates, which are based on land
6 productivity. Recently phosphate regulations have
7 been introduced as to where phosphate levels are
8 regulated by the government.

9 I see approximately over 500 soil
10 samples a year, and have come across only two
11 samples where phosphate regulations would be in
12 place. All limits are on the Manitoba
13 Conservation's website, where it is publicly
14 available to see.

15 I prepare work order applications to
16 crop recommendations based on the Manitoba Soil
17 Fertility Guide for various crops. All livestock
18 operations with 300 animal units or greater have
19 to file a Manure Management Plan annually before
20 spreading. This has to be registered with
21 Manitoba Conservation and soil tests have to be
22 sent to an accredited lab and sent in.

23 Manure samples are collected and sent
24 to the lab. They run tests for different types of
25 nutrients in the manure. After the spread, there

1 is a confirmation sent to Manitoba Conservation,
2 where it is kept on file. This tells them the
3 legals of the land it is spread on, the time of
4 year, the soil class, the subclass, crop grown and
5 total gallons spread.

6 We have seen vast improvements in
7 application equipment as we move forward. All
8 manure is injected into the soil with an Areaway,
9 knives or coulter system. Application is done
10 either through tankers or dragline system. They
11 are both equally effective. Application equipment
12 comes with GPS and gallon metres so that the
13 applicators know how much is applied per acre and
14 where exactly in the field where they are to go.
15 I believe that all of the fecal and urine waste
16 management, be it in livestock or human sector,
17 the hog industry does a superior job in nutrient
18 application.

19 I have enclosed some examples of how
20 we do Manure Management Planning, work orders,
21 nutrient analysis, soil testing, nutrient
22 calculators and the fertility guides for crop
23 removal. The producers receive a copy of this.
24 And this is also kept on file, for years to come,
25 at Manitoba Conservation.

1 In closing, I would encourage
2 expansion of all livestock in Western Manitoba, as
3 we can manage the nutrients. Manitoba has to
4 diversify to keep value-added business in our
5 province, as we cannot rail raw products out of
6 the province, which puts us at a competitive
7 disadvantage to the east and west ports. I feel
8 that the hog industry is getting unfairly treated,
9 as this is a very complex issue involving the
10 soils, water and air. We need to adapt for the
11 future because this is our environment. And I ask
12 the Clean Environment Commission to look at all of
13 the advantages that are promoted by the hog
14 industry in employment, taxes and value-added
15 food.

16 I would like to thank the CEC for this
17 opportunity to speak. Thank you. If there is any
18 questions, feel free to ask.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
20 Mr. Routledge. Just how big is your farm?

21 MR. ROUTLEDGE: We crop 1,000 acres
22 and have 400 acres of pasture and forages.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: 1,000 acres of crop?

24 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: And 400 forage?

1 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes, 400 of forage and
2 pasture.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: And do you run cattle?

4 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: How many?

6 MR. ROUTLEDGE: We have 100 cows, a
7 cow/calf operation.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

9 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Routledge, in
10 terms of your crop area that is farmed, do you
11 use -- do you have sufficient manure fertilizer
12 from that hog operation to use on all of your
13 spread fields?

14 MR. ROUTLEDGE: No. We put hog manure
15 on about two-thirds of our acres.

16 MR. YEE: And you use chemical
17 fertilizers to supplement that?

18 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes.

19 MR. YEE: And you mentioned that, you
20 know, you have looked over approximately 500 soil
21 samples a year, and only came across two that
22 would involve the new phosphate regulations. Are
23 you referring to soil samples in this particular
24 area of the province?

25 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes. It's just on the

1 western side of the province that I deal with.

2 MR. YEE: Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

4 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. I commend
5 you, Scott, on your stewardship of land. I have a
6 soft heart for no tillers. I am a farmer myself.
7 And I went into it three years before you did.
8 And we are still hanging on, except we have had a
9 couple of wet rough years where we had to do
10 something else. But that's just a comment to
11 start it off with.

12 Would you say in the R.M. of
13 Woodworth, are there many intensive ILOs in your
14 municipality?

15 MR. ROUTLEDGE: We have one hog barn.
16 And I would say cattle, there would probably be
17 half a dozen. No, maybe more. I would say 12
18 cattle operations that would fall under the animal
19 units to file Manure Management Plans.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Is it fair to ask you
21 if the municipality, do they have a development
22 plan? If somebody wants to come up with one,
23 would they have a plan in place now for a hog
24 operation to start up?

25 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes, they do.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: And I also put down
2 here that you must be a very busy person. And I
3 always thought that -- when you said you were a
4 nutrient management planner, I think any farmer
5 today could be called a nutrient management
6 planner. And, of course, with the different
7 regulations coming out, we are going to be more so
8 probably in the future.

9 I don't think I have any more
10 technical questions at all. I did see where the
11 manure is by both tankers or a dragline system.
12 And how far does this -- would these tankers be
13 going? How long would they have to transport the
14 product?

15 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Well, at present
16 today, with the tankers and the drag, we are still
17 within a three mile radius. Economically, that's
18 all we can afford to pay because transportation
19 or, I guess nutrient removal from these lagoons,
20 is very expensive.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, that was going to
22 be my next question. How far do you think the
23 limit is for hauling manure by tanker? And you
24 said that three miles is pretty well pushing the
25 limit?

1 MR. ROUTLEDGE: Well, I think
2 economically, I mean, things would change
3 dramatically after that. I know at Mr. Keating's
4 we -- at different times of certain years, we haul
5 five miles. It is not that it can't be done, but
6 it does cost more.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. That's all
8 I have.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
10 Mr. Routledge. Clair English?

11 MR. ENGLISH: My name is Clair
12 English. I live on the last row of sections in
13 the R.M. of Daly. My postal address is Box 6,
14 Bradwardine. I have been farming all of my life.
15 My grandfather, and my father before me, farmed
16 the same land, and now my son is working his way
17 into it.

18 CLAIR ENGLISH, having been sworn, presents as
19 follows:

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

21 MR. ENGLISH: Honoured guests, staff,
22 ladies and gentlemen. I really should not be
23 here. I have been trying to put myself off,
24 saying that I'm unworthy to speak in front of an
25 audience. I'm not a public speaker. But I do

1 have a problem that I just feel needs to be
2 brought out in the open.

3 As I said, I have been farming all my
4 life. As a young lad, I was in 4H. And through
5 that experience, I decided that I wanted to go
6 into the hog business. I got into a fairly
7 good -- what I thought it was a fairly good sized
8 sow weanling operation. I had a friend who took
9 all of my weanlings.

10 And I might say that in 4H I was a
11 champion judge of hogs in Manitoba. And I was
12 awarded a trip to the Toronto Royal. And so this
13 is where I really gained my interest in hogs.
14 However, having to have the best in hogs, I went
15 to the Brandon Winter Fair, bought a sow, brought
16 her home to my premises. She originally came from
17 Alberta, I was informed later.

18 It wasn't too long after that I
19 started losing a lot of my weanlings. I
20 immediately got into touch with Dr. Andy Hodge, a
21 veterinarian from Hamiota here. And he said: Oh,
22 well, it is MMA disease. Your hogs aren't
23 lactating properly. And he said: Give them
24 oxytocin, which I did, still to no advantage. And
25 then he said: Well, you need antibiotics. So he

1 gave me antibiotics. Then he said: You should be
2 buying some type of vet medicine to mix with your
3 grain. I did that.

4 After several years, I ended up with
5 the last few litters. I averaged a saving of one
6 pig per litter. So I phoned Dr. Hodge and I said:
7 Look, Andy, I have got to have you investigate
8 what's going on here. I am either going to go
9 bankrupt or I will have to get out of pigs. So
10 the next day, or two days afterwards, he brought a
11 young chap from the University of Manitoba. They
12 gathered up a bunch of dead piglets, took them in
13 there. A week later he came down and he said:
14 Clair, you have got a problem, and I must say you
15 do have to get out of pigs. Your pigs have got a
16 disease. It's a common disease, but it has built
17 up a resistance to penicillin and four other
18 antibiotics. And he said: There is no way you
19 can afford to keep into it. Okay, I said, I will
20 have to get out. How long do I have to stay out?
21 He said, Clair, with the direct hit of an atom
22 bomb, you might get rid of this problem. But, he
23 said: I think it's for life. I don't see that
24 there is any way you could ever raise pigs again.
25 And he said: Don't discredit the factor that this

1 resistance to drugs might not go into the human
2 chain.

3 Well, I didn't think too much about
4 that. But it sort of sat somewhere back in my
5 lesser thought area, until several years later, my
6 wife started having problems and went to the
7 doctor. And the doctor diagnosed her with having
8 an infection in her kidneys. He put her on
9 antibiotics. She went back after the antibiotics
10 were over. They re-tested her, but same thing, no
11 improvement. So he put her on other antibiotics.
12 And this went on for two or three different
13 spells.

14 Finally, I got to thinking about what
15 Andy told me. So I went into my records, picked
16 out the resistance factor sheet, which I have with
17 me tonight, and showed that to the doctor. He
18 immediately put my wife on drugs that had showed
19 no resistance factor at all. And by the end of
20 that series of that medication, she was
21 100 percent tested clear.

22 Even though I had witnessed this, a
23 person tends to forget. But many years later, 25
24 years after we had to get out of pigs, actually,
25 our daughter was out in Alberta taking a

1 healthcare aide course. We went out to her
2 graduation. She had picked up a job down in the
3 Pincher Creek area on a farm.

4 And so after her graduation, my wife
5 and I drove on to B.C. to visit relatives. And
6 coming home, we decided to go and visit our
7 daughter. We got to the home where she was
8 working, and they said: Oh, we are awful sorry,
9 but your daughter is in the hospital. And so we
10 went down to the hospital. The nurse said to us:
11 Gee, you know, we're awfully concerned about your
12 daughter. She stepped on a nail. She has blood
13 poisoning. We have got her on three antibiotics
14 intravenously and the blood poisoning is still
15 advancing. We just don't know what to do. I
16 said: It looks like I came at the right time.
17 And so I advised them about this resistance. They
18 changed her medication to a drug that we didn't
19 have the resistance in. Three days later, she is
20 back working on the farm.

21 Would you folks in the audience be
22 concerned, or you folks on the panel, if you had
23 the like of this to contend with? I know, sooner
24 or later, I'm going to lose a family member with
25 this resistance. But my question tonight is: We

1 all know that hog barns do use a lot of
2 antibiotics. We do know that they do get into
3 troubles at times with disease, have to sell their
4 herd, disinfect the property, and then get in the
5 fresh herd after things are supposed to be cleaned
6 up. The manure that's on hand from these sick
7 pigs that have been treated with the antibiotics,
8 there has got to be a resistance there. Is that
9 manure treated before it's put on the ground? The
10 hogs are taken to slaughter. That meat, what
11 about it, does it carry that resistance? Do you
12 and I, when we buy a roast of pork, get that
13 resistance? Where does this go?

14 We hear about all of these terrible
15 things, tuberculosis. They have a new form of
16 tuberculosis out there that's very, very difficult
17 to control. The drugs don't seem to be working on
18 it. We hear about the horror stories in the
19 hospital, these super-bugs in the hospital. They
20 haven't got drugs to clean them up. I wonder what
21 bugs these are and where they are coming from?

22 Are we setting ourselves up with
23 having these Intensive Livestock Operations and
24 not having rules and regulations to control what
25 goes on from the barn door? This is one of my

1 major concerns.

2 Another concern I have is with the
3 environment. We have a hog operation east of us
4 in the old Rivers Airbase. And spring and fall,
5 usually on a Friday night, you will drive through
6 passed the Rivers Golf and Country Clubb. And the
7 stench in that ravine of hog manure is just
8 unbelievable! And we have been told that they
9 have been bumping out of a spigot over in that
10 area for years, pumping the manure on to the soil.
11 It's pure sand for 100, 200 feet. And when my dad
12 was farming, he used to talk to people that dug
13 wells 150 feet deep and it never ran out of sand.
14 But this always happens after the environmental
15 officers are closed on a Friday night. And I have
16 phoned it in two or three times. And come Monday
17 morning, I will phone back in and I'll say: Did
18 you get my message? Yes. What did you do about
19 it? We phoned out and they said: Oh, no. They
20 wouldn't be doing something like that. It is
21 true. And are they doing this? Has anybody
22 really taken a check? Is anybody walking over and
23 seeing if they do have an exposed spigot that sits
24 in one place that pumps millions of gallons? Who
25 knows.

1 The size of these pig barns, we don't
2 seem to be able to get anybody in the barns to
3 know how many pigs they have. It is overcrowding
4 concern in them. There is nothing -- nothing will
5 bring on illness more than overcrowding. I don't
6 care where you have it, be it livestock or humans,
7 overcrowding brings disease. It's been well known
8 all along, I think.

9 This is a question. This is not a
10 statement. This is a question. Is there not a
11 reason to be concerned here, and to ask them to
12 open up, with video cameras, any way of finding
13 out whether what the operation is doing inside
14 those located doors?

15 I want to thank you very much for my
16 opportunity. I know this is right off the cuff.
17 I wasn't going to come. I just decided at 5:00
18 tonight that I had to. I haven't got anything
19 written down, but I will try to answer any
20 questions that you might have.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. English. Wayne?

23 MR. MOTHERAL: No. I've heard the
24 story. It's good.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

1 MR. YEE: Mr. English, I just have a
2 quick question, I guess. And I think I know what
3 your answer is going to be. But in terms of the
4 use of antibiotics, my understanding is that there
5 are fairly strict controls now over the use of
6 antibiotics in the hog industry. And we've been
7 told that they follow it right through to the meat
8 processing. Do you still have concerns over the
9 use of antibiotics?

10 MR. ENGLISH: I have heard some horror
11 stories about that, about them having -- the water
12 bowls being filled with blue water from
13 antibiotics being injected in the water. I have
14 heard of feed mills, the trucks coming out loaded
15 with antibiotics in the feed, prepared feed. Do
16 we have -- do we have adequate and proper controls
17 and checks to make sure that there isn't?

18 What I am giving is hearsay. I swore
19 an oath. I am giving hearsay. But is there
20 proper guidelines and proper controls being used?
21 We can all say that we have laws against, but to
22 err is human, especially when there is a dollar at
23 the end of the fishing rod.

24 MR. YEE: Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,

1 Mr. English.

2 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: And thank you for
4 taking the time to come here tonight at the last
5 moment.

6 MR. ENGLISH: My pleasure.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish
8 to make a statement this evening? Okay. Well, I
9 thank all of those who came out this evening and
10 this afternoon to make presentations, and those of
11 you who came out to just observe the process. We
12 will reconvene tomorrow afternoon in Brandon at
13 the Keystone Centre at 1:00. Thank you, and good
14 evening.

15 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:25)

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CERTIFICATE

I, LISA REID, Court Reporter, in the Province of
Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages
are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype
notes as taken by me at the time and place
hereinbefore stated.

Lisa Reid

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