

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at St. Claude Recreation Centre Hotel

St. Claude, Manitoba

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

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

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Alf Poetker, Engineer	779
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NO EXHIBITS MARKED

1 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:15 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies  
4 and gentlemen. Thank you for your patience. We  
5 are now ready to get going.

6 My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the  
7 Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment  
8 Commission. I'm also the Chair of this panel.  
9 With me on the panel are Mr. Edwin Yee and  
10 Mr. Wayne Motheral.

11 I have a few opening comments just to  
12 set out the parameters of our review. The Clean  
13 Environment Commission has been requested by the  
14 Minister of Conservation to conduct an  
15 investigation into the environmental  
16 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba. The  
17 Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us to  
18 review the current environmental protection  
19 measures in place relating to hog production, in  
20 order to determine the effectiveness of those  
21 measures for the purpose of managing the industry  
22 in an environmentally sustainable manner.

23 Our investigation is to include a  
24 public component to gain advice and feedback from  
25 Manitobans. This will be by means of public

1 meetings in the various regions of Manitoba.

2 We have also been asked to take into  
3 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to  
4 manage hog production in a sustainable manner.

5 Further, we are to review the contents  
6 of a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation  
7 entitled "An Examination of the Environmental  
8 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

9 At the end of our investigation, we  
10 will consider various options, and make  
11 recommendations in a report to the Minister, on  
12 any improvements that may be necessary to provide  
13 for the environmental sustainability of hog  
14 production in this province.

15 To ensure that our review includes  
16 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel  
17 has undertaken to hold 17 days of meetings in 14  
18 communities throughout the agricultural part of  
19 our province. These meetings will continue  
20 through April, or through March and April, with  
21 the final public meeting currently scheduled for  
22 April 27th in Winnipeg.

23 It is open to any groups, or  
24 individuals, to make a presentation to this panel  
25 on issues related to our mandate. For the most

1 part, presentations are to be limited to 15  
2 minutes. Exceptions will be made in some cases  
3 where a presenter needs more time, provided that  
4 the presenter has arranged with our staff prior to  
5 the presentation.

6 Those making presentations will be  
7 asked to take an oath promising to tell the truth.  
8 Presentations should be relevant to the mandate  
9 given to us by the Minister and to the issues  
10 described in the Guide to Public Participation in  
11 this review. If a presentation is clearly not  
12 relevant, it may be ruled out of order. And if it  
13 is clearly repetitive, it may also be ruled out of  
14 order.

15 Members of the panel may ask questions  
16 of any presenter, during or after the  
17 presentation. There will be no opportunity for  
18 any others to ask questions or to cross-examine  
19 presenters.

20 In addition to the public meetings,  
21 the Clean Environment Commission is engaging  
22 consultants to assist us in this review. The  
23 results of those research endeavours will be  
24 posted on our website upon receipt. For the most  
25 part, those will be in late June. Individuals,

1 anyone who is interested, will be invited to  
2 provide comment on any of the reports, if they so  
3 wish. A reasonable, albeit brief period of time,  
4 will be allowed for these comments.

5           Written submissions will also be  
6 accepted. Information as to how to submit written  
7 suggestions is available on our website. The  
8 deadline for those submissions is May 7th.

9           We also realize that many people are  
10 reluctant to make presentations in public for a  
11 variety of reasons. To that end, we have engaged  
12 a student from the University of Manitoba to meet  
13 with, or talk on the phone, with people who would  
14 rather not speak at the meetings. These meetings  
15 will be kept in confidence. Information as to how  
16 to contact her is available at the back of the  
17 room, and also on our website.

18           Some administrative matters. If you  
19 wish to make a presentation today, and have not  
20 already registered to do so, please register at  
21 the table at the back of the room. As is our  
22 normal practice, we are recording these sessions.  
23 Verbatim transcripts will be available online in a  
24 day or so. You can find the link from our  
25 website.

1                   In respect of cell phones, I would ask  
2   that they be turned off, or at least that the ring  
3   tones be turned down. If you must take a call, I  
4   would ask that you leave the room. And, finally,  
5   I would ask that you not engage in any  
6   conversations in the audience while people are  
7   making presentations. Thank you.

8                   We have a number of people who have  
9   registered to present this afternoon. The first  
10   person on the agenda, I'm not sure is here. Is  
11   Liz Clayton here? No. Then the next person who  
12   is registered is Mr. Rick Prejet. Is he here?  
13   Please come up to the table at the front, please.  
14   Would you please state your name for the record?

15                   MR. PREJET: Richard Prejet.

16   RICHARD PREJET, having been sworn, presents as  
17   follows:

18                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and please  
19   proceed.

20                   MR. PREJET: Good afternoon, ladies  
21   and gentlemen. My name is Richard Prejet. I am a  
22   hog producer from Notre Dame de Lourdes.

23                   I would like to start by giving a  
24   brief background of myself and the companies that  
25   I am a partner in: Porcherie Lac du Onze and

1 Porcherie Notre Dame.

2 I was born and raised in Notre Dame de  
3 Lourdes on a grain and dairy operation. After  
4 completing Grade 12, I moved to Winnipeg to take  
5 my diploma in agriculture at the University of  
6 Manitoba, with the intention of somehow, one day,  
7 returning to Notre Dame to farm.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prejet, could you  
9 just speak a little more slowly so that our  
10 reporter can keep up?

11 MR. PREJET: During my agriculture  
12 course, I had the privilege of meeting with  
13 Mr. Bruce Campbell of Landmark Feeds. And seeing  
14 that farming was out of the question at this time,  
15 I decided to accept his offer to become a dairy  
16 specialist with Landmark Feeds. I was with  
17 Landmark for seven years, and all the while had  
18 the intention of returning to farming. During  
19 this time, Elite Swine was being developed. And I  
20 soon saw that the hog industry might be the only  
21 way for me to return home and be involved in  
22 agriculture.

23 So in 1989, my wife, Roseline, and I  
24 moved to Notre Dame and built a 150 sow, farrow to  
25 feeder, operation that we expanded to 200 sows in

1 1990. And being highly leveraged, those first few  
2 years were very difficult. Of course, there was  
3 very little time, since I ran the operation on my  
4 own.

5 In 1993, I was approached to become  
6 involved in a 1,200 sow operation in southeastern  
7 Manitoba. Since the last few years had been  
8 somewhat difficult, we decided to accept, much to  
9 the disappointment of our family, friends,  
10 community, and ourselves. This, in turn, was the  
11 catalyst to the development of Porcherie Lac du  
12 Onze, or LDO, as we call it.

13 A group of local residents approached  
14 my wife and I to see if there would be the  
15 potential to build such an operation in Notre Dame  
16 to keep us there, all the while creating  
17 employment in the area. These local residents  
18 were all very strong, community-oriented families,  
19 who were willing to take the risk to make things  
20 happen in Notre Dame. Today, LDO and PND are  
21 operations with sales in excess of \$10 million.  
22 We employ 17 full-time staff and have a payroll in  
23 excess of \$600,000.

24 We purchase a large percentage of our  
25 supplies and services from local companies, and

1 are very active in supporting the local activities  
2 in the community, as is evidenced by our donation  
3 of \$100,000 to the Wellness Centre, which is  
4 currently under construction in Notre Dame.

5 In fact, the existence of LDO and PND  
6 has led to further hog industry developments in  
7 our area, and to other contributions to things  
8 like the Wellness Centre, as well as in other  
9 community projects and activities.

10 All this to say that, in our  
11 community, the hog industry has been a success  
12 story; the economic and social impact have been  
13 very positive.

14 Over the last 25 years, I have seen  
15 many changes in the hog industry.

16 For the last several years, our  
17 operation has filed Manure Management Plans  
18 completed by someone who is properly trained. In  
19 our first years, manure application wasn't done in  
20 balance with the crop being grown. Now we monitor  
21 nutrient levels, paying special attention to  
22 phosphorus levels. Every field is tested before  
23 application. Manure is analyzed several times and  
24 applied at recommended agronomic rates. All  
25 manure is injected with a dragline system to

1 reduce nitrogen losses, reduce odours and minimize  
2 damage to the roads. We follow up with lab  
3 analysis and monitor soil tests in the following  
4 years. There is a very tight window for  
5 applicators to get their work done in the fall.  
6 Therefore, we have to use past experience, and the  
7 expected levels of some nutrients, to formulate a  
8 management plan, but we adjust from year to year.

9           As for odour, we have implemented  
10 measures to reduce or control it. We cover our  
11 lagoons, as required. We keep in touch with our  
12 closest neighbours and encourage them to let us  
13 know if odours become a problem. This is where we  
14 need mutual trust. Both our neighbours, and us,  
15 know that there will be odours at times. But as  
16 long as everyone understands that this is part of  
17 the reality of living in the country, along with  
18 the noise of tractors and the dust of combines,  
19 then a compromise is usually easy to reach. I  
20 personally live one mile from one of our sites,  
21 and don't want to live with the constant smell of  
22 hogs, so I make sure that it is controlled and  
23 kept to a minimum.

24           Groundwater quality and supply is  
25 something else that we monitor. Water samples are

1 taken at least once or twice per year, and the  
2 results are submitted to the Department of  
3 Conservation. Our employees track weekly water  
4 consumption and are encouraged to use water  
5 wisely. Fixing leaking water nipples and  
6 minimizing soaking times are part of the norm.

7 As time goes on, and more  
8 evidence-based research is available, Porcherie  
9 Lac du Onze will continue to review and revise its  
10 methods and adopt new technologies, as  
11 appropriate, to improve manure management, control  
12 odours and protect water quality.

13 In the last 25 years, I have also been  
14 witness to a number of negative incidents. We've  
15 had to deal with such things as public municipal  
16 meetings. And I personally have been attacked and  
17 accused. It is disappointing to see that some  
18 people resort to such tactics. I am sure you have  
19 heard, and will hear, all kinds of comments at  
20 these presentations about the hog industry and the  
21 people involved in it. It seems that the more  
22 extreme the lie, the more chance that some part of  
23 it may become believable.

24 Please keep in mind that the majority  
25 of people in the hog industry in Manitoba are

1 good, honest people that have strong farming  
2 backgrounds and strong attachments to the land and  
3 the environment. It is important that we support  
4 and encourage these people to continue to provide  
5 high quality pork that meets the demands of our  
6 country and the world, instead of creating  
7 roadblocks.

8 We must also acknowledge the  
9 tremendous amount of work and research that has  
10 occurred, and continues to occur, in the hog  
11 industry to protect the environment.

12 Environmental regulations have been  
13 put in place. We need to allow time for the  
14 regulations to have an impact on the end result.  
15 We need to continue to monitor the situation, on  
16 an ongoing basis, and to enforce these regulations  
17 to ensure compliance by all. We do not need to  
18 stop the hog industry from growing for a minority  
19 who attempt to bypass those rules. That would be  
20 like taking all vehicles off the road because some  
21 people drive over the posted speed limit.

22 We need to be reasonable and use  
23 common sense. It seems that most of the rules and  
24 regulations that have been put in place are  
25 because of the fear of a massive expansion by

1 large corporate giants. Although some claim that  
2 they want to protect smaller operations and family  
3 farms, these are exactly the type of operations  
4 that are being pushed out. So who is going to  
5 survive the future in an over-regulated hog  
6 industry? Who is going to be willing to attend  
7 heated council meetings?

8                   Picture this: A husband and wife have  
9 a son and daughter-in-law that want to farm. The  
10 size of the farm is too small to support two  
11 families, and the parents are too young to retire.  
12 Land is either too expensive or not even for sale  
13 in the area. Dairy and poultry are near  
14 impossible to get in to. Wouldn't a couple of hog  
15 barns be a perfect fit? Big enough to hire some  
16 full-time help to have some time off once in a  
17 while, fertilizer at a fraction of the cost of  
18 commercial fertilizer, and with a nutrient plan  
19 even better than the commercial fertilizer.

20                   But the father sees the hassles of  
21 getting a permit and the friction it may cause in  
22 the community. And even if he does get it built,  
23 the ongoing time and money to invest in filling  
24 out forms, meeting all the rules and regulations  
25 for manure management, Canadian Quality Assurance,

1 traceability, workplace health and safety, dealing  
2 with opposition and controversy, et cetera, it all  
3 seems quite overwhelming. The son and his family  
4 move away to the city and the parents sell the  
5 farm to a neighbour. This scenario is all too  
6 common.

7           Again, we need to use common sense.  
8 Not having rules and regulations is not an option.  
9 But adding to what we presently have is too much,  
10 and the end result may be a nonexistent hog  
11 industry. But for a small group of vocal  
12 opponents, it appears that this is the only thing  
13 that would finally satisfy them.

14           The right to farm must be protected,  
15 not by producing more rules and regulations to  
16 allow farming, but by not creating rules and  
17 regulations that make it impractical, or nearly  
18 impossible, to farm in the first place.

19           Hog farmers are good honest people who  
20 want to get things done and do them right. Hog  
21 farmers are not criminals waiting for an  
22 opportunity to break the law. Hog farmers need  
23 support and access to resources and expertise.  
24 The type of information and support that is  
25 accessible, through organizations such as the

1 Prairie Swine Centre, the University of Manitoba  
2 and Manitoba Pork Council.

3 One of the recommendations to the  
4 government should be to support these  
5 organizations that are experts in the hog industry  
6 and the work that they do.

7 Another recommendation to government  
8 would be concerning reviewing land use planning.  
9 Forming planning districts is a great idea, but a  
10 world of troubles can be created. For example,  
11 expansion may be permitted in select areas, but  
12 those areas may not have the required resources,  
13 i.e., water, clay base, sufficient spread acres  
14 and labour within a reasonable distance. Existing  
15 grain farmers who would like to build may not be  
16 able to because they live in a restricted area.  
17 So if they can't build close to home, where they  
18 can keep an eye on the operation and use the  
19 manure to fertilize their own land, then a very  
20 viable option is gone.

21 Another problem is in municipalities  
22 where the pressure from the anti-hog people has  
23 been so great that good, honest, level-headed  
24 councillors have been treated as liars and  
25 servants to the hog companies, and have decided:

1 "I don't need this BS", and have stepped down,  
2 only to be replaced by anti-hog people. In many  
3 cases, good people, who may run for council, will  
4 be discouraged for the fear that someone may apply  
5 for a permit to build a hog barn. What we end up  
6 with, in the end, is a situation where the hog  
7 industry is cut off at every turn. New operations  
8 will not be built, older operations will not be  
9 replaced, and the whole service industry  
10 surrounding the hog industry will slowly begin to  
11 waste away.

12 In conclusion, we have an opportunity  
13 here to show Manitobans what the hog industry is  
14 all about. As much as I disagree with the pause  
15 that our government has placed on the hog  
16 industry, I believe that the study into the  
17 sustainability of the Manitoba hog industry will  
18 reveal that Manitoba hog producers, in  
19 collaboration with the organizations  
20 aforementioned, are managing the Manitoba hog  
21 industry in a responsible and appropriate manner,  
22 and in accordance with the best practices  
23 recommended by experts.

24 I also believe that when this is over,  
25 we will be positioned to grow in the primary

1 production, as well as the processing industries.  
2 And this, in turn, will fuel the Manitoba economy  
3 for the benefit of all Manitobans.

4 Thank you. I would be glad to answer  
5 your questions.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
7 Mr. Prejet. That was a very well put together  
8 presentation. I would just like to ask you a  
9 couple of questions about these two different  
10 operations. Can you tell us a little bit about  
11 LDO and PND?

12 MR. PREJET: LDO is a sow operation, a  
13 nursery operation. We have 3,200 sows in  
14 inventory in that company. And Porcherie Notre  
15 Dame is our finishing branch. We have five  
16 finishing barns, 100 head finisher barns.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: They each have 100?

18 MR. PREJET: They each have 100.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, I particularly  
20 noted your comments, near the end of your  
21 presentation, about the land use planning process.  
22 And we have been made aware, in other meetings,  
23 and in some of the other research that we have  
24 done to date, that there are concerns in this  
25 area. How could it be changed? I mean, some of

1 the concerns you raise in here I know all too  
2 well. And I'm sure that Wayne does from his days  
3 as a municipal politician. I know that they are  
4 very real problems, but those are more problems  
5 with people, rather than systems or systemic  
6 problems. Are there ways that we might recommend  
7 changes to the systemic matters that would help  
8 the process?

9 MR. PREJET: Yes. A very good  
10 question, and it's a tough one, because I expected  
11 to be questioned on those comments. And the only  
12 thing I can think of is, if I understand it  
13 correctly, is that there is no appeal process. So  
14 that if the municipality decides that there will  
15 not be expansion in a certain area, or what have  
16 you, there is no way for that producer to follow  
17 up on that. The answer is "no", and that's it.  
18 So the only way you can get around this, the thing  
19 I don't want to encourage, and I was worried about  
20 making these comments here, is I don't want to  
21 make it sound like we want to take the power away  
22 from local government. To run everything right  
23 out of downtown Winnipeg, I don't think, is a very  
24 good idea. So we need to maintain decision-making  
25 powers locally. But somehow there needs to be

1 kind of a balance there so that we can bring back  
2 some common sense and be able to field some of  
3 these decisions. Because really at this point,  
4 right now, whoever is on council is what it comes  
5 down to, and that's going to be unfortunate in a  
6 lot of situations.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And just one question  
8 on the appeal process. Do you see that appeal  
9 process -- it couldn't be through the council,  
10 could it? Would it be an arm's length government  
11 body?

12 MR. PREJET: Yes. I mean, I am not  
13 going to say that I have all of the answers on  
14 that one. Something needs to be done on that  
15 question, but it probably needs to be a local  
16 government. Somehow the local government maybe  
17 has to answer to somebody.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: So is there the Farm  
19 Management Practices Board?

20 MR. PREJET: I'm not sure. I would  
21 have put more thought into this. But there are  
22 other people who can answer this question better  
23 than me.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: But some kind of an  
25 appeal process?

1 MR. PREJET: That's correct, yes.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Where, if you were  
3 turned down by the council, you would be able to  
4 have an appeal?

5 MR. PREJET: That's right. I mean,  
6 you can't -- that is something that you will have  
7 to cross. Because not every -- you would always  
8 have an appeal process. There has to be some kind  
9 of application process. And whoever is going to  
10 deal with this appeal, they would say, well, there  
11 is definitely something wrong in the fact that  
12 this got turned down. In other situations, they  
13 were turned down for very good reasons, and we  
14 don't want to waste our time on appeals for  
15 projects that should have been turned.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr. Prejet.  
17 I certainly feel for you when it comes to local  
18 government. And I can talk to you a long time  
19 about that, because I have been involved in it  
20 quite a bit.

21 But with the new Planning Act, of  
22 course, the local governments must come up with  
23 the local livestock operation policy. And from  
24 what I understand, several municipalities are  
25 reluctant to do that right now because of this

1 particular hearing going on right now. I think  
2 they wish to see what becomes of this hearing  
3 before they start doing operation policies. But  
4 municipalities have always fought for that final  
5 say in land use planning, and I don't know how  
6 that's ever going to change. I've always thought  
7 that when things go right, you like to take credit  
8 for it. And when things go wrong, you want  
9 somebody else to look after it. I think that's,  
10 in a lot of cases, in a lot of local councils  
11 where there has been friction, and it's tough when  
12 it's local people. So I don't know what the  
13 answer there is.

14 In your operation, getting back to  
15 your operations, do you have your own injection or  
16 spreading equipment, or do you have that hired  
17 out?

18 MR. PREJET: We have that hired out.  
19 Actually, there is a local fellow who started a  
20 business last year. And this is his first year.  
21 He is doing pretty much all of the hog operations  
22 in and around the area.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: We have been hearing  
24 that around, that there are some excellent people  
25 that do that.

1 MR. PREJET: Yes, definitely.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: Your water, like your  
3 groundwater quality, and everything, all of your  
4 water comes from wells?

5 MR. PREJET: Yes, they are all dug  
6 wells, 50 to 100, and plus. Feet.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: And they are  
8 sufficient?

9 MR. PREJET: Yes. Volume is  
10 sufficient, yes.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that general in this  
12 area?

13 MR. PREJET: In this whole area it  
14 changes very rapidly. And that comes back to the  
15 comments about land use planning and these  
16 comments. The water is very, very variable in  
17 this area in Notre Dame. And you could be digging  
18 here and find 100-gallons a minute, and go  
19 one-half hour over and can't find anything. So  
20 that has been the case, in the last three years,  
21 we have had three different sites that we have  
22 barns on. So we dig around and find the one.  
23 Number one, have you to find the water.  
24 Number two, the land has to be for sale.  
25 Number three, the clay has to be in the soil. And

1 so it is pretty tricky to put up a barn in our  
2 area.

3 MR. MOTHERAL: And it is generally  
4 good water?

5 MR. PREJET: Yes, the quality is  
6 generally pretty good.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: We are hearing a lot in  
8 some of our -- in our hearings so far about the  
9 possibility about separating the liquid and the  
10 solids from the manure. Have you ever thought of  
11 any of that to possibly make it easier for your  
12 nitrogen and phosphorus combinations? Because  
13 within the phosphorus regulations, you may not be  
14 able to put on enough nitrogen.

15 MR. PREJET: Yes. Almost,  
16 approximately, a year ago, I spent ten days in  
17 Quebec looking at different things. But one of  
18 the things was the manure separation system, and  
19 what have you. And I think I visited five or six  
20 different systems that were either under  
21 development, or on the verge of being sold  
22 commercially, and what have you. So we spent a  
23 lot of time looking for that. Because exactly,  
24 for the reason that I said a while ago, if you  
25 want to do an expansion, it would be tough to find

1 places where, you know, you have enough spread  
2 acres, or what have you. So we looked into that.

3 And we have, actually, had one  
4 gentleman, in particular, who came out, I think,  
5 three times to Manitoba to make a presentation to  
6 sell the system. This particular system, the  
7 company is HET. I forget what it stands for right  
8 now. But Mr. Paul Boudreau came out. And in the  
9 end, for three sites, we were looking at having to  
10 spend \$2 million to put in the system. And  
11 roughly about \$100,000 a year to maintain it and  
12 use the polymers, and what have you, to have the  
13 separation happen and so on. And that was one of  
14 the systems that seemed like it was going to work,  
15 that was actually working, and what have you.

16 All of the other systems, we didn't  
17 get exact pricing because they never made up  
18 presentations and so on. But we talked to people  
19 over there. And there was concerns with  
20 reliability and the cost. Almost all of them, it  
21 came down to cost. But we didn't get any exact  
22 costs for our situation in Manitoba. We know in  
23 Quebec they were all very expensive systems.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: One more question, do  
25 you have -- do you have, obviously, sufficient

1 spread fields for your manure? Do you own it all  
2 or do you have to rent acres out for that?

3 MR. PREJET: We don't own many acres  
4 all together there. Most of the land that we  
5 spread on are people who have invested, a couple  
6 of families who are fairly large grain farmers,  
7 and the rest take the manure.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Just one more question,  
9 and I won't spend much time. How many acres do  
10 you need -- because these aren't very large  
11 operations here, how many acres do you need to  
12 spread that?

13 MR. PREJET: Well, on our finisher  
14 sites, we are probably looking at 700 to  
15 1,000-acres year, probably, somewheres around  
16 there. Our sow barn runs somewhere in the area of  
17 about 400-acres a year. And our nursery site  
18 would probably be somewheres around that 300,  
19 400-acres a year, or so.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: So a total of around  
21 about --

22 MR. PREJET: About 2,000.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

24 MR. YEE: Mr. Prejet, you have  
25 mentioned that there has been many positive and

1 social impacts, as a result of the hog industry in  
2 your community. Are there other operations, other  
3 than the LDO and the PND, besides those operations  
4 in the community?

5 MR. PREJET: Yes. There are a number  
6 of larger and smaller operations. There has been  
7 quite a few producers that, you know, have around  
8 400 or 500 finisher hog or 100 sows, or what have  
9 you, that have been around the area for a very  
10 long time. And, actually, a number of people that  
11 will be presenting here today are the producers in  
12 our area there. So, yes, there is quite a number  
13 of producers.

14 And, you know, one thing that hit us,  
15 we were talking about the hog industry a couple of  
16 years ago at the rink. And we kind of started  
17 looking around at all of the parents that were  
18 involved in the hockey team. We figured about 80  
19 plus percent of the people, the children were  
20 children of people directly involved in the hog  
21 industry. And so it kind of hit home when we saw  
22 that.

23 MR. YEE: You mentioned also in your  
24 presentation that you use covers on your lagoon.  
25 Are those straw covers or synthetic?

1                   MR. PREJET: We've got both, actually.  
2    One site we straw cover, and that's in the permit  
3    we have in the R.M. of South Norfolk. In the R.M.  
4    of Lorneside, we have a lagoon that we had bought  
5    the negative air pressure cover. And that's back  
6    a few years ago now. It's a fairly small lagoon.  
7    The cost was fairly high for that size of lagoon,  
8    but we thought it would be a good time to see if  
9    they would work, and if they are durable, and what  
10   have you.

11                  MR. YEE: Do you find any advantage on  
12   the synthetic cover over the straw?

13                  MR. PREJET: Yes. There is no  
14   question that it seals it off completely. The  
15   straw, the problem that you have -- there is a  
16   few, I guess. But keeping the cover on it  
17   properly. You know, the winds pick up, you know,  
18   a percentage of the lagoon will open up. And, you  
19   know, what we usually do is go back a few weeks  
20   later and top it up again, kind of thing. So we  
21   get pretty good coverage with straw. But then  
22   you've got to deal with the accumulation of straw  
23   down the road, and those kind of things. If you  
24   have a clay-based lagoon, it's not too bad. But  
25   if you have a lagoon with the synthetic liner in

1 the bottom, and you have to go back and pull out  
2 the straw, that could become a challenge. I  
3 haven't done it yet, but I'm sure it is going to  
4 be a challenge.

5 MR. YEE: You mentioned also, in your  
6 example about the husband, wife, son and daughter,  
7 trying to get into maintaining the lifestyle in  
8 the agricultural field. But a statement that you  
9 made, I just want some clarification here, you  
10 mentioned dairy and poultry is nearly impossible  
11 to get into. Is that just because of the economic  
12 costs?

13 MR. PREJET: A few things. Like when  
14 I was trying to get into farming back then, I  
15 looked at dairies, because we wanted to be in  
16 Notre Dame. But you couldn't move the quota.  
17 Like, you had to buy the barn. The quota is  
18 attached to the barn in dairy, and it's the same  
19 thing with poultry, so that was one problem. And  
20 then the second problem was, yeah, the cost. Back  
21 then it wasn't quite as bad, although it is all  
22 relevant to time, I suppose. But now, of course,  
23 paying whatever, \$27,000 per 1,000 kg for a dairy,  
24 I'm not sure. And it is pretty tough to get going  
25 today in a decently sized dairy operation.

1                   MR. YEE: Just one last question. And  
2 we've had this discussion at several other  
3 presentations, it was, again, about the whole  
4 permitting process. You mentioned it is a hassle  
5 getting a permit. I don't mean to put you on the  
6 spot, but what's your opinion? Do you have an  
7 opinion, in terms of how that can be improved, or  
8 is there a better way of getting permits, or  
9 making the regulatory burden less of a hassle on  
10 producers?

11                   MR. PREJET: You are talking about all  
12 the way back to the technical review and  
13 everything else?

14                   MR. YEE: Yes, the Technical Review  
15 Committee and the whole conditional land use, all  
16 of that, is there way of improving that that you  
17 can see?

18                   MR. PREJET: Really, I think, in the  
19 end, like we've been through it here the last time  
20 with the Technical Review Committee, and  
21 everything else. Although, at that time the  
22 planning district wasn't in place, or anything.  
23 And the R.M. said: Would you go through the land  
24 use permitting process anyways? And we said,  
25 yeah, we will through it. And I found the biggest

1 problem was just time. It just drags on,  
2 especially during the summertime, and everything  
3 else. And, you know, just the staffing to address  
4 the technical reviews, and so on and so forth.

5           The other part of it, I mean -- and  
6 again, the whole public hearing thing for the  
7 municipalities, I mean, I am not in council, never  
8 been on there, but it must be hell in there, you  
9 know. Because these people on the council are  
10 just trying to do the right thing. And they get  
11 attacked pretty hard at times. I have heard a lot  
12 of horror stories about that. And I don't know  
13 how to get around that one. There has to be  
14 public meetings. And people have questions and  
15 comments to make, so that's a tough one.

16           But I think time is the thing that,  
17 you know, right now, and again we haven't built in  
18 a few years, but probably if you are going to  
19 build now, you probably got a year or so, probably  
20 two year's lead time to really get the project up  
21 and running, at least not far from that. By the  
22 time you do your own planning and prepare  
23 everything, and get it in and then wait for an  
24 answer back from all the levels of government.

25           MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Prejet.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I have a couple more  
2 questions. These two companies, you have said  
3 that people in your community came together and  
4 suggested that you join them in setting this up.  
5 So are these two companies largely or completely  
6 owned by people in the Notre Dame area?

7 MR. PREJET: That's correct, yeah,  
8 it's all people in the community or relatives of  
9 these people who are living either in Winnipeg or  
10 elsewhere so that's basically all locally owned.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks. And  
12 you're the manager of it or the operator?

13 MR. PREJET: I'm one of the owners,  
14 and I'm the general manager, yes.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Following up on Wayne's  
16 question about the amount of land you need, with  
17 the new phosphorus regulation, how will that  
18 change the amount of land you need?

19 MR. PREJET: Well, we are still kind  
20 of working through that, and working with some  
21 people on really getting a feel for this. But  
22 right now for our area, it appears that it is not  
23 going to have a huge impact, because the  
24 phosphorus levels are relatively low in our area.  
25 So we don't think it is going to be -- there will

1 be an increased number of acres required, but we  
2 have those available, so right now it is not a  
3 huge concern for our area.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Wayne?

5 MR. MOTHERAL: Just a municipal  
6 question, kind of. How compatible are the two  
7 municipalities in handling these things? Are they  
8 similar, or are there any problems with one in  
9 particular to the other?

10 MR. PREJET: Between the  
11 municipalities in our area?

12 MR. MOTHERAL: I mean you've got two  
13 operations. And they are in different  
14 municipalities; is that right?

15 MR. PREJET: That's right, yeah.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just wondering if  
17 you've had more problems with one than the other?  
18 I may be putting you on the spot.

19 MR. PREJET: No. Actually, the R.M.s  
20 in our area have been quite good. They ask good  
21 questions. They give you the opportunity for --  
22 like, in our last construction project in the R.M.  
23 of South Norfolk, you know, we were struggling  
24 with this whole thing. So the organizers were  
25 quite nice, and they gave a chance for people who

1 were opposing the operation and for ourselves to  
2 bring in people to speak on our behalf, you know,  
3 like experts, to talk about what we are doing.  
4 And that was exactly what happened. It was a good  
5 process to go through because we were able to  
6 bring in our engineer and be able to bring in  
7 our -- what's it called -- agronomist, or  
8 whatever, for the Manure Management Plan to  
9 explain what we are doing, what we are planning,  
10 how the barns will be built, and all of these  
11 things. And the opposition has the chance to do  
12 the same thing. So that way you are not under  
13 kind of a public pressure cooker in front of  
14 everybody kind of a situation. So the councillors  
15 were able to hear the story from both sides, in a  
16 very relaxed action. So that worked really well,  
17 actually.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
19 Mr. Prejet. Next up is Mr. Normand Prejet. Would  
20 you please introduce yourself for the record?

21 MR. PREJET: My name is Normand  
22 Prejet, and I'm from Notre Dame.

23 NORMAND PREJET, having been sworn, presents as  
24 follows:

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may

1 proceed.

2 MR. PREJET: First of all, my  
3 presentation here is going to deal with the impact  
4 of our hog operation on our farm and our  
5 community, so it is more about our own family  
6 farm.

7 Before I start on what I have written  
8 here, I am a graduate of the University of  
9 Manitoba, Bachelor of Commerce, so my background  
10 is business and marketing.

11 My boys, three boys farming with me,  
12 all went to the University of Manitoba in the  
13 Department of Agriculture. So we are farming  
14 with, I think, a fairly good educational  
15 background. And I think that that's the future  
16 for farming. It's a big business.

17 Our farm base is located approximately  
18 six and a half miles southeast of Notre Dame,  
19 along Highway 245 to Carman. Our operation  
20 consists of approximately 2,100-acres of grain  
21 land, as well as a hog feeder operation. And this  
22 operation markets approximately 18,000 hogs  
23 annually. My wife, Liliane, and myself have been  
24 farming for 30 years on this family farm. And we  
25 now farm with our three sons, being fifth

1 generation producers.

2 Liliane, myself, as well as our three  
3 boys, all attend the University of Manitoba. I  
4 studied business management, and they focused on  
5 agriculture. They, therefore, have a good grasp  
6 of animal husbandry and soil science. When all  
7 three boys decided to farm, we knew that expansion  
8 into the livestock sector was the only way to  
9 provide for three or more families. So began our  
10 move into the hog industry.

11 I recall an article written by a  
12 non-farmer, who stated that grain farmers should  
13 get a real job, instead of working three months of  
14 the year. Well, I can assure you that our  
15 operation has little time for leisure and that  
16 young, hard-working individuals, like our three  
17 boys, are very valuable assets, not only to our  
18 operation, but to the our community.

19 Our eldest son, who is here today, is  
20 now married. And his wife, originally from Miami,  
21 is a doctor of veterinary medicine practicing in  
22 Notre Dame. Our second son is also married. And  
23 his wife, originally from Bruxelles, teaches in  
24 the area. This ability to retain young people is  
25 vital to the survival and prosperity of our small

1 rural community.

2 Over the years, I have seen a number  
3 of projects in our community; namely, a new hockey  
4 arena, a new recreation hall, a new church. And,  
5 more recently, our community raised \$1.5 million  
6 for a new health clinic presently under  
7 construction. These projects were made possible,  
8 in large part, to a healthy and prosperous  
9 agricultural sector. In and around Notre Dame,  
10 that includes grains and oilseeds, dairy, beef, as  
11 well as hogs. Our hog operation also contributes  
12 to local taxes, which, in turn, support public  
13 services. This particular operation is  
14 contributing approximately \$6,000 annually to the  
15 rural municipality, and approximately \$7,000  
16 annually to the local school division. And we are  
17 talking only about the hog barns.

18 During its construction, it required  
19 the services of local contractors for concrete,  
20 buildings, electrical, plumbing, not to mention  
21 the ongoing services required from trades people  
22 and feed mills, et cetera. So when certain  
23 individuals state that the hog industry provides  
24 little benefit to their community, think again!

25 Another long-term benefit provided by

1 our hog operation is our ability to reduce  
2 commercial fertilizer on our land. We are now  
3 able to inject manure on approximately 350 acres  
4 of grain land annually, with what we consider  
5 natural material. Although the application costs  
6 are about the same as the costs of commercial  
7 fertilizer, we have discovered that the manure  
8 continues to provide nutrients beyond any  
9 fertilizer we could buy, and that its slow-release  
10 process provides fertilizer value for two more  
11 years. That's not to mention the improved  
12 conditioning or texture of the soil. We estimate  
13 that at today's cost of nitrogen, the value of  
14 this nutrient alone is upwards of \$30,000 per  
15 year. With this in mind, why would we waste such  
16 a valuable resource?

17 Now that I have touched on the human  
18 resource and economic factors, let me deal with  
19 some of the environmental issues. Our farm  
20 operation is certainly doing a better job of  
21 monitoring its grain land than we ever did before  
22 we had the hog operation.

23 We are now soil testing our land to  
24 24-inches and injecting hog manure, which is also  
25 tested for nutrients at a provincial laboratory,

1 according to a Manure Management Plan registered  
2 with the Province.

3 Some of the other environmental  
4 protection measures adopted in our hog operation  
5 include:

6 The construction of manure storage  
7 that's been lined, tested and approved by Manitoba  
8 Conservation.

9 The construction of a fence around the  
10 manure storage to protect wildlife, as well as  
11 protect the liner from damage.

12 The installation of four monitoring  
13 wells around the manure storage with an outside  
14 party collecting and submitting samples for  
15 analysis, and reporting to Manitoba Conservation  
16 on an annual basis.

17 The application of a straw cover on an  
18 annual basis to minimize odours.

19 The planting of shelterbelts around  
20 the barn site.

21 The testing of well water on an annual  
22 basis.

23 The installation of wet/dry feeders  
24 that has reduced water consumption and manure by  
25 an estimated 20 percent to 25 percent.

1                   The installation of water metres which  
2 monitor water consumption in every room in each  
3 barn.

4                   We are right now presently in the  
5 process of upgrading our handling of dead stock,  
6 and have applied to the Natural Farm Stewardship  
7 Program, for assistance under the Environmental  
8 Farm Plan. And once we are approved, we will be  
9 purchasing a cooling storage unit for this  
10 operation so that our dead stock can be handled  
11 more efficiently.

12                  In summary, our hog operation has had  
13 a very positive impact on our farm and our  
14 community. It's helping us to retain human  
15 resources in our community, provides economic  
16 benefits for both our farm and the community,  
17 whether directly or indirectly.

18                  Although environmental issues are  
19 always a question mark, we are attempting to be  
20 the best stewards of the land and provide the best  
21 possible animal care. Our farm and family has a  
22 vested interest in protecting the quality of the  
23 air and water, since we are the closest residence  
24 to the barn site. Our children, and hopefully our  
25 grandchildren, will be living in this environment.

1 And we plan to continue to make it as safe as  
2 reasonably possible. Why would we do otherwise?  
3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Prejet.  
5 You said that when your sons -- is it all three  
6 sons that are on the farm?

7 MR. PREJET: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: When your sons  
9 indicated that they wanted to join you in farming,  
10 you concluded that the only way to do so was to go  
11 into livestock. Has that proved to be a good  
12 business decision?

13 MR. PREJET: Yes, it has. We had  
14 started on a smaller scale, back in '97, '98, when  
15 my first son came out. And we actually took over  
16 an operation that belonged to my brother, who just  
17 made a presentation. And he ran the sow barn for  
18 a few years. It became quite difficult because  
19 the hog barn was -- the sow barn itself was a  
20 little small. And when my second son came  
21 farming, we built one finishing barn. And we were  
22 unable to share labour between the two barns. It  
23 has to do with disease. So presently our sow barn  
24 is shut down, and we have expanded our finishing  
25 operation.

1                   THE CHAIRMAN: So this is a very broad  
2 question, and it may apply to you, and it may  
3 apply to the whole industry. So, in general, is  
4 hog production, hog farming, a reasonably  
5 lucrative endeavour?

6                   MR. PREJET: Probably for our farm it  
7 is, simply because we look at the hog operation as  
8 something that's going to help us to rebuild some  
9 of our land.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN: But currently it's  
11 supporting you, your wife, three sons and their  
12 families in a reasonable lifestyle?

13                  MR. PREJET: Yes. My -- obviously, my  
14 family is still very young. My oldest boy has a  
15 grandson. But my children do not have children  
16 themselves, so the families are not large. So for  
17 the time being, this operations able to -- is able  
18 to supply for those two or four families. My  
19 youngest boy is not married.

20                  THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21                  MR. MOTHERAL: I was very interested  
22 to note -- Mr. Prejet, by the way, an excellent  
23 presentation. It does bring the economics into  
24 the situation. And it has been suggested, in  
25 several of our visits in these environmental

1 hearings that have been put on, that sometimes  
2 economics have to come into the picture. We are  
3 hearing that more and more.

4 The monitoring wells that you do have  
5 around your storage lagoon, and you say they are  
6 tested by an outside party, was that a condition  
7 or was that by your choice?

8 MR. PREJET: You know, I really don't  
9 know, because we never did the collection  
10 ourselves.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: I see.

12 MR. PREJET: I think it has to be done  
13 that way.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

15 MR. PREJET: No. I don't think we  
16 would collect them ourselves. These wells are  
17 locked. And I don't know if we even have the keys  
18 to get into them. We have not been into them. I  
19 don't know. That is a condition, probably.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: That is something that  
21 I will know by the time the day is out. That's  
22 all I have. Thank you very much.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

24 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Prejet, just a  
25 quick question. I noticed that you gave us a list

1 of things that you include as part of your  
2 procedures in terms of environmental stewardship.  
3 The question I am going to ask, because I have  
4 heard this from a number of other presenters, is  
5 the food aspect, the feeding of the livestock,  
6 that they use enzymes to better update the  
7 phosphate. Do you do any special feed  
8 formulations, and do you use the enzymes to  
9 utilize the phosphates?

10 MR. PREJET: Well, our feed is being  
11 supplied by outside feed mills, so we are in the  
12 same situation as these other producers who are  
13 buying the feed. That's all can I say.

14 MR. YEE: No, that's fine.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
16 Mr. Prejet. Thanks for coming out here. We are  
17 going to have to take another short break. I am  
18 sure it will only be a few minutes. Thank you.

19 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 P.M. AND RECONVENED  
20 AT 2:27)

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's resume now. I  
22 just wanted to explain the delay. Lisa, our court  
23 reporter, was driving from Killarney this morning,  
24 as were the rest of us, but she witnessed a fairly  
25 serious car accident, and gave evidence to the

1 fire and paramedic people that showed up at the  
2 scene. And then just about a half an hour or so  
3 ago, an RCMP officer showed up and wanted to ask  
4 her for a witness statement as well, so that's the  
5 reason for the delay. We thank you for your  
6 indulgence. And we will now continue.

7 The next person on our agenda for this  
8 afternoon is Alf Poetker. Would you please state  
9 your name for the record?

10 MR. POETKER: My name is Alf Poetker.  
11 ALF POETKER, having been sworn, presents as  
12 follows:

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please  
14 proceed.

15 MR. POETKER: Mr. Chairman, members of  
16 the panel, ladies and gentlemen.

17 I'm a professional civil engineer with  
18 primary experience in water and wastewater  
19 treatment, waste management and environmental  
20 services. My experience in waste management  
21 provided me the opportunity, in the 1990s, to  
22 become involved with large livestock operations.  
23 Specifically, with the onset of more rigorous  
24 Manure Management Regulations, the requirement for  
25 professional services in obtaining approvals for

1 various facilities became commonplace.

2 I grew up on a typical family farm in  
3 southwestern Manitoba. It included grain and  
4 forage production, a beef cattle operation, a  
5 modest dairy, poultry for meat and eggs, and a  
6 small hog operation. In keeping with the common  
7 practices of the day, livestock was pastured or,  
8 otherwise, free-roaming outdoors in the summer and  
9 confined to barns in the winter. Manure was  
10 manually removed from the barns on a daily basis  
11 and hauled to a nearby manure pile. Mixed with  
12 snow, the manure pile became fairly high by the  
13 spring, shrinking considerably every year as the  
14 snow melted and the water oozed out and drained  
15 away. Some manure was spread on nearby frozen  
16 fields from time to time.

17 Changing times brought changing  
18 practices. Cattle were housed in open barns,  
19 allowing the manure to be built up with frequent  
20 addition of straw bedding. Manure was removed  
21 during the summer months, and typically spread on  
22 the fields as a fertilizer resource. However,  
23 while undertaking a planning study for one of  
24 Manitoba's planning districts in the early 1980s,  
25 I observed an open housing barn and feedlot which

1 was located in a sheltered ravine, next to the  
2 creek channel. Spring run-off regularly  
3 over-topped the channel and washed away much of  
4 the manure that accumulated over the winter.  
5 Another producer informed me that he had much the  
6 same convenient arrangement, though I did not  
7 observe his operation. At the same time, many  
8 pasture animals had their watering holes along the  
9 creeks and in sloughs or dugouts with connections  
10 to the creeks. This became a point of  
11 concentration of animal manure.

12           Again, times changed. The  
13 establishment of ever-larger livestock operations  
14 brought about a regulatory framework that began to  
15 address the management of such operations. Under  
16 the Manitoba Planning Act, which underwent a major  
17 change in 1976, large livestock operations within  
18 an established planning district were typically a  
19 conditional use. This meant that a public hearing  
20 was required, at which the planning board heard  
21 representations from the producer and from  
22 affected citizens, and then set certain conditions  
23 for the operation. This would be in addition to  
24 the normal limitations imposed by the zoning  
25 bylaw. The planning board would often seek advice

1 from a Technical Advisory Committee made up of  
2 representatives from various government  
3 departments. In order to assist producers and  
4 regulators alike, a series of comprehensive  
5 guidebooks for livestock production and manure  
6 management was developed, to include hog, poultry,  
7 and cattle production. Participants in the  
8 preparation of these guidebooks included people  
9 from government departments, municipal  
10 associations, citizen groups and livestock  
11 production and marketing organizations. The  
12 guidebooks assisted producers in developing sound  
13 practices in the management of their operations,  
14 and assisted authorities having jurisdiction in  
15 evaluating and approving conditional use  
16 applications.

17                   The evolution of the regulatory  
18 framework, together with the increasing cost of  
19 inputs into livestock production, resulted in  
20 producers becoming more strategic in the  
21 management of their operations.

22                   In 1994, the Province of Manitoba  
23 introduced a major change to the Livestock waste  
24 regulation. Manitoba Regulation 81/94 introduced  
25 a number of requirements for storage, transport

1 and application of manure to land. Setbacks and  
2 limits were prescribed. And any operation greater  
3 than 400 animal units in size was required to  
4 obtain a permit for storage and disposal of  
5 manure. The permits imposed further environmental  
6 requirements.

7 In 1998, the Province introduced the  
8 Livestock Manure and Mortality Management  
9 Regulation. It incorporated and expanded on many  
10 of the features of the Livestock Waste Regulation  
11 which it replaced. In its tone and language, it  
12 treated manure as a resource rather than as a  
13 waste. Producers with operations greater than 400  
14 animal units were required to file annual Manure  
15 Management Plans in advance of applying manure to  
16 agricultural land. Such plan was to provide  
17 details, as required by Manitoba Conservation, so  
18 that the director could be satisfied that the  
19 application of manure would not cause pollution of  
20 surface water, groundwater or soil; and that no  
21 manure would escape from the boundary of the  
22 agricultural operation.

23 The regulation introduced a  
24 prohibition on winter spreading, thereby requiring  
25 most large producers to build new storage

1 facilities. Such facilities required a permit,  
2 which, for the most part, introduced the need for  
3 professional services to ensure that the storage  
4 was designed and built to securely store the  
5 manure for an extended period of time.

6 Another major change was to limit the  
7 amount of nitrogen applied per acre of land. This  
8 often required the producers to apply the manure  
9 over a larger area than had been used in the past.  
10 It required an investment in equipment to  
11 transport the manure over greater distances,  
12 offset, in part, by a reduction in the need for  
13 commercial fertilizers.

14 Producers are also typically  
15 innovative. Borrowing an idea from the  
16 irrigators, they began to install pipelines into  
17 their fields so as to pump the liquid manure  
18 directly from the storage to pivot outlets in the  
19 fields. Connected to tillage equipment via  
20 high-pressure hoses, it is possible to inject the  
21 manure directly into the soil. This minimizes the  
22 odour and maximizes the nutrients which get bound  
23 up with the soil. With modern GPS and GIS  
24 technology, this also enables the producer to  
25 manage the nutrients to the needs of the soil and

1 the specific crops which are planned for that  
2 field.

3 In 2003, the Director introduced a  
4 number of additional requirements via a directive  
5 which required the use of professional engineers  
6 for design and certification of manure pumping  
7 systems, storage facilities and distribution  
8 pipelines. A major amendment to Regulation 42/98  
9 was introduced in 2004, which incorporated these  
10 additions and provided more detail and rigor to  
11 the categories of manure management in the  
12 regulation. It also introduced a timetable  
13 whereby these requirements would apply to  
14 livestock operations greater than 300 animal  
15 units, down from 400.

16 In 2006, Regulation 42/98 was again  
17 amended, now providing a timetable for the  
18 management and limitation of applying phosphorus  
19 to land. Again, producers have been proactive,  
20 anticipating this change. Management of  
21 phosphorous is already underway. It includes  
22 genetic research, and development into livestock  
23 to reduce phosphorus in manure, development of  
24 feeds with lower phosphorus fields, crop rotation  
25 selection, and rotation to better utilize

1 phosphorus in the soil. I believe this regulation  
2 now provides an effective tool to limit the  
3 development of large livestock operations where  
4 there is an inadequate land base for the spreading  
5 of manure.

6           Crop production and land tillage  
7 practices have changed significantly over the  
8 years. 50 years ago, many producers would fallow  
9 their fields one year in three, or even every  
10 second year. Repeated cultivation to control  
11 weeds resulted in leaving the soil vulnerable to  
12 wind and water erosion. Similarly, the practice  
13 of straw burning was more common at that time,  
14 removing the trash from the soil and promoting  
15 erosion. Since phosphorus is typically bound up  
16 with the soil, and is mobile particulate form,  
17 this practice provided the opportunity for  
18 phosphorus to be carried by wind and water into  
19 the rivers and lakes.

20           At various times, opinion has shifted  
21 from believing that nitrogen is the main cause of  
22 algal proliferation in our waterways, to believing  
23 that phosphorus is the controlling factor. For  
24 now, it appears that phosphorus is winning the  
25 battle for our urgent attention. And the sudden

1 discovery of major algal development in the Lake  
2 Winnipeg north basin has triggered a sense of  
3 urgency, if not panic, to deal with the problem.

4 My guess is that these algae have been  
5 flourishing for some time and that we have Google  
6 Earth to thank for the graphic display that has  
7 brought it to wider public attention.

8 I believe that the problem of massive  
9 algal blooms is not the result of the recent  
10 proliferation of large hog operations in Manitoba.  
11 Opinions vary on the percentage of responsibility  
12 which the hog industry has on this problem: From  
13 a low of one percent, which I understand  
14 approximates the percentage of phosphorus which  
15 this industry generates, to a much higher  
16 percentage, which represents the opinion of some  
17 as to the relative mobility of phosphorus from  
18 this industry.

19 I believe that in the past,  
20 notwithstanding a smaller industry, the  
21 opportunity for phosphorus movement into our  
22 waterways, from former management practices and  
23 lack of regulation, has contributed to the  
24 concentration of nutrients in Lake Winnipeg.

25 But let's not forget all the other

1 contributors who, by some estimates, contribute up  
2 to 99 percent of the phosphorus to the lake. 50  
3 years ago, when producers typically concentrated  
4 manure in leaching manure piles, the towns and  
5 cities of our Province typically provided only  
6 token treatment of their wastewater, and  
7 phosphates in detergents were considered to be a  
8 marvelous way to get our laundry fresh and clean.  
9 Today, we see what that did to our lakes.

10           But nature is wonderfully resilient.  
11 I believe we sometimes give ourselves too much  
12 credit in terms of our ability to change things at  
13 the macro level. In last Sunday's Winnipeg Free  
14 Press, it was reported that a prominent national  
15 politician visiting the city claimed that we could  
16 save Lake Winnipeg by simply changing the name of  
17 our Prime Minister in the next federal election.  
18 I'm afraid that won't do it, and I'm not  
19 politically partisan, one way or the other.

20           I do believe that the current level of  
21 responsible management of livestock operations,  
22 and the strategic application of manure to the  
23 fields, will have a long-term, beneficial effect  
24 on our environment going forward, but it won't  
25 happen overnight, and the producers can't do it

1 alone. It requires patience and partnership.

2                   It will take time for Lake Winnipeg to  
3 heal itself, as we manage our own environment in a  
4 responsible and sustainable way. We need the  
5 partnership of our cities, as they work together  
6 with other levels of government to reduce their  
7 contribution of nutrients, which are often  
8 discharged directly into the water environment.  
9 And we absolutely need the participation of our  
10 neighbours to the south, to the east and to the  
11 west.

12                   Federal and Provincial Governments  
13 help cities in the financing of their wastewater  
14 facilities. I appeal to those governments to also  
15 assist producers in the financing and development  
16 of costly infrastructure in order to manage  
17 livestock manure in the manner required by the  
18 regulations.

19                   A few quick takes, if may, as I  
20 conclude. The 2006 amendment to Regulation 42/98  
21 gives authority for the temporary suspension of  
22 permits for hog manure storage facilities, while  
23 the Clean Environment Commission undertakes this  
24 review. A notable exception to the suspension is  
25 the development of facilities acceptable to the

1 Director for providing anaerobic digestion of the  
2 manure. When I inquired about the details, I was  
3 informed that they would be systems used to  
4 produce methane for the generation of electricity.

5 Coincidentally, last Friday, the  
6 Winnipeg Free Press reported on a pair of Ontario  
7 farmers who won a \$50,000 award for the  
8 development of an anaerobic digester for manure  
9 from their dairy farm. The methane from the  
10 digester is used to run a generator for about 14  
11 hours per day, reportedly saving the operation  
12 almost \$2,500 per month in their electricity bill.  
13 Unfortunately, the article told only half of the  
14 story. What it did not mention is the cost of  
15 developing and running the digester and generator.  
16 After factoring in capital amortization, debt  
17 servicing, maintenance and operation, and  
18 equipment replacement costs, the electricity cost  
19 savings may be largely or totally offset.

20 A pilot study into the generation of  
21 methane from hog manure, conducted at the  
22 University of Manitoba's Glenlea Farms by graduate  
23 students in the 1970s, found that the energy  
24 inputs exceeded the energy outputs, and that did  
25 not even account for the cost of the equipment.

1 So as a word of caution, Manitoba may be well  
2 positioned as a province of water power and wind  
3 power. Hog power is not likely to follow any time  
4 soon.

5 Last fall, I attended a technical  
6 conference of the Canadian Water Resources  
7 Association, held in Winnipeg. The topics of  
8 water quality, Lake Winnipeg, and phosphorus  
9 control predominated. The latter covered  
10 phosphorus from urban and industrial wastewater,  
11 from agriculture and from natural areas. I was  
12 looking for some answers as to the mechanics of  
13 phosphorus movement from agricultural fields to  
14 our lakes, especially given the soil, fertilizer  
15 and crop management practices of today.  
16 Unfortunately, it seems that research in this area  
17 is very limited.

18 The Government of Manitoba is prepared  
19 to spend money on this review by the Clean  
20 Environment Commission. They are prepared to  
21 impose a the moratorium, which represents a cost  
22 to the industry. I would suggest that some  
23 focused research and consultation with the  
24 industry on the management of phosphorus and the  
25 identification of the mechanisms and extent of its

1 movement from fields to water courses would serve  
2 both the industry and the province to the  
3 betterment of the environment for us all.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
6 Mr. Poetker, for a very thought-provoking  
7 presentation. I have a few questions that come  
8 up. You talked earlier, in the first paragraph,  
9 on the last page, you say:

10 "I appeal to governments to assist  
11 producers in financing and  
12 development,"

13 et cetera. Are you aware of what programs are in  
14 place, at the present time, in this respect? Are  
15 there any?

16 MR. POETKER: I believe there was  
17 something by PFRA in the development of manure  
18 storage facilities, but I think that it's expiring  
19 or has expired.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And then a little later  
21 on, in the same page, you talk about the anaerobic  
22 digester, and you reference the one in Ontario. I  
23 believe the Manitoba Government, at the same time  
24 that they made the announcement on the hog barn  
25 pause, also announced three pilot projects on

1 anaerobic processors. Are you familiar with  
2 those?

3 MR. POETKER: No, I'm not.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: You're not. Okay. We  
5 are not terribly familiar with them yet. We will  
6 be briefed on them at some point. I know that  
7 they are out there somewhere, but exactly the  
8 nature of them, I'm not sure.

9 In your final sentence you talk about  
10 "focused research and consultation". Is there --  
11 well, I am sure there is. We have heard from  
12 other presenters today, and in the past week or  
13 so, there is a lot of research going on. What  
14 research, or are you familiar with what research  
15 would best attract government money to look into  
16 phosphorus management in this industry or in the  
17 whole agricultural industry?

18 MR. POETKER: Well, at the conference  
19 that I mentioned, I was listening for information  
20 about the movement of phosphorus from the fields  
21 to water, because phosphorus, unlike nitrogen, is  
22 not soluble, so I believe that it must move in  
23 particulate form. I think the management  
24 practices of the producers now are so different  
25 than they were in the past that erosion from the

1 fields, water movement carrying particles of soil  
2 is much less prominent now than it used to be.

3 We don't have the kind of wind storms  
4 that I remember when I was younger. And so if  
5 people say that phosphorus is still continuing to  
6 move from the fields, and now with the management  
7 of phosphorus in the regulation, I would like to  
8 see some research done, some live research on the  
9 fields, to see if phosphorus is, in fact, moving  
10 from agricultural fields into our streams.

11 Because right now we are hearing people saying  
12 that it's -- some say one percent. I have heard  
13 someone say as high as 14 percent. That's a very  
14 big difference. And I think some good research  
15 would tell us what it is. And it would also help  
16 us -- if we find that there are some mechanisms  
17 that are causing phosphorus to move, then it would  
18 help us to manage that and to try to prevent that  
19 in the future.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And if I understand  
21 your presentation, if I understand correctly what  
22 you are saying, earlier when you talked about the  
23 movement of nutrients into Lake Winnipeg, are you  
24 suggesting that this recent boom in algal blooms  
25 started some time back, that it is sort of a

1 long-time movement of nutrients into the lake.  
2 And with better nutrient management now, that a  
3 few years down the road it might pick up, is that  
4 your suggestion?

5 MR. POETKER: That is my suggestion.  
6 I heard an interview with a fisherman last summer  
7 who said that he saw those algal blooms many years  
8 ago in the north basin. And there are many things  
9 that we see from the perspective of space, now  
10 that we have cameras up there, that we may not  
11 have seen in the past.

12 I believe that the contribution of  
13 nutrients has been happening for a long time. The  
14 City of Winnipeg built a major sewage treatment  
15 plant in the 1960s. They did not do nearly the  
16 same level of treatment before that. And many of  
17 the towns built their sewage treatment facilities  
18 only in the late fifties and sixties, as well. So  
19 nutrients have been contributed, and continue to  
20 be contributed. The City of Winnipeg does not  
21 practice nutrient removal from their wastewater,  
22 even to this day. They manage their systems  
23 better, much better than they used to, but the  
24 nutrient management is happening in the  
25 agricultural sector.

1                   And you say in a couple of years or in  
2 a few years. I think it will be beyond my own  
3 lifetime. 50 years, perhaps. It takes a long  
4 time. But the lake is resilient. I think that  
5 with cleaning up of the south shore of Lake Eerie,  
6 there has been a remarkable recovery of Lake  
7 Eerie. And I think that that can happen here,  
8 too, and will be happening over the next 40 or 50  
9 years. But I think if we expect a quick fix --  
10 and I was just being facetious about the  
11 politician's remark, but that's the way the  
12 newspaper reported it. If our next Prime Minister  
13 is Stephane Dion, Lake Winnipeg is safe. And it  
14 isn't going to be that simple, and certainly not  
15 that fast.

16                   THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know how long or  
17 at what cost Lake Superior recovered?

18                   MR. POETKER: I was talking about Lake  
19 Eerie.

20                   THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, it slipped my  
21 mind. Yes, Lake Eerie.

22                   MR. POETKER: I don't know what the  
23 timeframe was. But it was within the time of my  
24 professional career that major sewage treatment  
25 started to happen from the industries on the south

1 shore of Lake Eerie.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I do remember news  
3 stories about rivers that were so polluted they  
4 would catch on fire.

5 MR. POETKER: I've heard that.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: On the rivers leaking  
7 into Lake Eerie. Wayne?

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Chairman. My first comment is just a comment.  
10 You touched my heart when you said that manure was  
11 manually removed from the barns on a daily basis  
12 and hauled to a nearby manure pile. That's the  
13 particular reason why I never became a livestock  
14 farmer. I stuck to grain.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: And only had to work  
16 three months a year.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, only three months  
18 a year.

19 Mr. Poetker, at the very end of your  
20 presentation, you speak about the need for more  
21 research on phosphorus moving in soil. That very  
22 research is being done. And maybe you're not  
23 aware of it. I am sure you probably are. The  
24 Deerwood Soil and Water Association, in southern  
25 Manitoba, have an organization that are

1 continually seeking funds to do this. They were  
2 doing it on an ongoing basis. And they spoke of  
3 their research of phosphorus, their ability to  
4 know that phosphorus is coming off of fields into  
5 streams. And they are very concerned that even at  
6 natural levels, and the variations that come from  
7 year to year, don't make sense with anything  
8 that's coming from fertilizer or manure. They are  
9 really scared. And there is more phosphorous  
10 coming from wooded lands than there is from the  
11 other areas. And maybe you have heard some of  
12 that.

13 MR. POETKER: Well, I have heard some  
14 of that. And as you said, they are continuing  
15 that research. So that's why I hope that through  
16 this presentation, and through your work, that you  
17 can encourage the government and recommend that  
18 they also honour the work of these associations  
19 with their financial support, as well.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

21 MR. YEE: I have a question for you,  
22 Mr. Poetker. In regards to your comment about the  
23 appeal to government to assist producers in  
24 financing and development of costly infrastructure  
25 to manage livestock manure, do you have something

1 specific in mind in terms of the infrastructure?  
2 Are you referring to new technologies, or storage  
3 facilities, or what sort of infrastructure are you  
4 referring to?

5 MR. POETKER: I find that the  
6 producers are very innovative in terms of the  
7 technologies, but it does cost a lot of money.  
8 And one of the producers who spoke here this  
9 afternoon mentioned that the cost of using -- of  
10 applying manure is not that different than the  
11 actual cost of buying commercial fertilizer, and I  
12 have heard people say that before. And I believe,  
13 too, that there is a benefit, nonetheless, of  
14 using manure as a resource because it has a soil  
15 mineral character that mineral fertilizer does  
16 not.

17 But it does cost a lot of money to  
18 build storage facilities. When the '98  
19 regulations came out with the prohibition of  
20 winter spreading, and I'm not saying they  
21 shouldn't have done that, but many people had to  
22 build large storage facilities in order to keep  
23 that manure in storage all winter long, and that  
24 costs a lot of money. That costs a lot of money  
25 to put in the equipment, the pipelines to the

1 fields. I think that's a great idea. And the  
2 equipment to knife it into the soil. So buying  
3 that equipment and installing that infrastructure  
4 is costly to the producers. And, goodness knows,  
5 they work on close margins.

6 MR. YEE: Thank you very much.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
8 your presentation today, Mr. Poetker.

9 Next up, Edward Hofer, Phillip Hofer  
10 and Brad Schnell. Gentlemen, would you please  
11 introduce yourselves for the record?

12 MR. P. HOFER: Hello. I'm Phillip  
13 Hofer.

14 MR. HOFER: I'm Edward Hofer from  
15 James valley colony.

16 MR. SCHNELL: And I'm Brad Schnell.  
17 EDWARD HOFER, PHILLIP HOFER, BRAD SCHNELL, having  
18 been sworn, present as follows:

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.  
20 You may proceed. Who is going first?

21 MR. P. HOFER: I am Phillip Hofer.  
22 And we have got our speech spread up in the three  
23 because of our families, and we can't spend all  
24 day writing reports. So I will speak on behalf of  
25 our history. And then my brother, Edward, will

1 speak on manure applications and land usage  
2 because he has been -- that's been his profession.  
3 And then we have somebody with us. It's Brad  
4 Schnell. He has been helping us manage our Manure  
5 Management Plan our manure and our agricultural  
6 land.

7 Hello. My name is Phillip Hofer, from  
8 James Valley Hutterian Colony from Elie, Manitoba.  
9 I'm here to speak on behalf of my family. I have  
10 five children; two boys and three girls. I also  
11 want to speak on behalf of the other 25 families,  
12 who also live here at our colony. Our colony is  
13 one of the oldest colonies in Manitoba. It was  
14 established in 1918, when we moved here from South  
15 Dakota. As you may know, we are part of a  
16 Christian faith, a church that was founded in the  
17 early 16th Century during the Reformation. We are  
18 generally known as Anabaptists, because we believe  
19 in adult baptism.

20 Our better-known religious cousins are  
21 the Amish, as well as the Mennonites. The main  
22 difference between us and the other Anabaptists is  
23 our choice to live in what we call  
24 "Gutergemeinschaft", which we understand to mean a  
25 full and voluntary Christian community centered on

1 the teachings of Jesus, having all things in  
2 common, as it states in the book of Acts, chapter  
3 two, verse 44:

4 "Now all who believed were together  
5 and had all things in common."

6 Our forefathers had many hardships and struggles  
7 moving from South Dakota to Manitoba. Winters  
8 were very harsh and cold, which made it especially  
9 hard on their livestock, their horses, cattle,  
10 hogs, sheep and poultry. They soon realized that  
11 their animals needed to be established -- to be  
12 sheltered against the harsh climate.

13 In 1930, sows only farrowed only once  
14 a year and chickens only laid seasonally, which  
15 made eggs and pork a special commodity.  
16 Hutterites made improvements.

17 And by 1940, chickens started laying  
18 almost year-round and pigs farrowed both in early  
19 spring and late fall.

20 We see ourselves as part of Manitoba's  
21 progressive and hard-working country people,  
22 trying to make our living in agriculture. For  
23 example, in our dairy, we have been doing  
24 selective breeding of purebred Holsteins for the  
25 past 42 years, and have managed to become one of

1 the highest producing herds in Manitoba, with good  
2 environmental practices.

3 Here at James Valley, as in most  
4 colonies in Manitoba, we rely a great deal on the  
5 income of our hog farm. We have 620 sows,  
6 farrow-to-finish, high health nucleus where we  
7 produce female offspring and implemented a high  
8 biosecurity program, as well as C.Q.A. and T.Q.A.  
9 validation programs.

10 We have learned, over the years, that  
11 it is very important to be good stewards of the  
12 land, that we keep our drinking water and  
13 environment clean and healthy so that we can pass  
14 on our to community way of life for many more  
15 generations.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.  
18 We have heard of C.Q.A. What is T.Q.A.?

19 MR. HOFER: T.Q.A. is a program  
20 established that was by the same group of people.  
21 It is trucking to handle our animals safely and  
22 make sure that during the transportation the  
23 environment and temperature and everything is  
24 being controlled when the livestock is on the  
25 road.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 MR. E. HOFER: Hi. My name is Edward  
3 Hofer from James Valley Colony. Thanks for  
4 letting me say a little something today.

5 My job at the colony has been Water  
6 Plant Operator for the last ten years. I've had  
7 my Class 1 Certification since 2005. I took the  
8 course at Red River College.

9 Since 1998, I have also been looking  
10 after our manure storage, handling, pump-out and  
11 injection, which we do ourselves with our own  
12 equipment.

13 I remember 16 years ago when I had a  
14 job of hauling our manure from our barns. Back  
15 then we had underground pits which had to be  
16 pumped every three to six weeks, depending on  
17 which barn it was. We just spread it out, winter  
18 or summer, rain or shine.

19 Well, folks, I am pleased to tell you  
20 that we've come a long way with our Manure  
21 Management Program since then. It all started in  
22 1997, when we built our new earthen storage  
23 facility one mile northeast of our yard. All of  
24 the manure from our 600 sow, farrow-to-finish  
25 operation, over 14,000 layer chickens and 45 head

1 dairy barn is pumped or hauled to this storage  
2 facility.

3 In 1998, we invested in some drag  
4 hose, including one mile of drag hose, and we  
5 built our own injector cultivator, and wheels and  
6 pumps, and whatever.

7 In the fall of '98, we pumped out our  
8 storage for the first time, with no flow meter,  
9 and we covered about 100-acres.

10 The next thing I felt was needed to do  
11 a better job was a flow meter. That year we  
12 increased it to about 300-acres. Since then, we  
13 have continually kept on increasing our applied  
14 acres and improving our equipment.

15 In the year 2000, we put in an  
16 underground 8-inch PVC line three-quarters of a  
17 mile north and west across Highway 248.

18 We filed our first Manure Management  
19 Plan with the Province in the year 2001.

20 In 2005, we hired a company called  
21 Agritrend. They specialize in fertility  
22 management and manure management. Since then, our  
23 agent, Mr. Brad Schnell, has been a big part of  
24 our team. Brad does the soil testing. We plan  
25 and submit our plans together, and it has worked

1 out very well. Brad manager all our land, not  
2 just the land involved with the manure.

3 Just last year, we installed another  
4 8-inch PVC pipeline which runs two and a quarter  
5 miles south west off our yard. This pipeline was  
6 engineered and approved by Cochrane Engineering  
7 and Manitoba Conservation. We put this pipeline  
8 in due to the new phosphate regulations and to  
9 increase our land base.

10 Last year, we also reworked our  
11 cultivator, made it wider, and put on a good  
12 chopper manifold, so that it would be easier to  
13 cover more ground and inject more acres.

14 So we have invested a lot of money in  
15 our Manure Management Program. It would only be  
16 fair to say that we pride ourselves in doing a  
17 good job, and that we take this end of our  
18 business very seriously.

19 We have also benefited greatly from  
20 these management practices. We are seeing better  
21 yielding crops, reduced fertilizer costs and  
22 healthier soils. In 2006, the canola on our  
23 manured land yielded 19-bushels an acre more than  
24 the canola fertilized with commercially fertilized  
25 land.

1                   And in the last five years, I've seen  
2     attitude for manure really change, from it being a  
3     waste, and now people look at it as a real  
4     resource.

5                   The next thing I want to talk about is  
6     the colony's water supply. Our water supply comes  
7     from a series of shallow wells along Scott drain.  
8     Three of these wells are located right at James  
9     Valley, and another four are located one mile west  
10    of our yard. As we all know, shallow wells are  
11    very prone to contamination. So, therefore, it is  
12    very important to take great care of our  
13    fertilizing and manure handling in this area.

14                  We could be -- who would be the first  
15    people affected if our manure was mismanaged? We  
16    would be. Our children and our seniors and  
17    livestock all drink this water. Therefore, being  
18    environmentally conscious is very important, and  
19    having good management practices in place is  
20    crucial.

21                  Are we good stewards of the land? My  
22    answer would be: Yes. Of course, there's always  
23    a little trial and error along the way, and some  
24    learning curves, but all in all, I feel we  
25    exercise due diligence wherever possible.

1                   We are a fourth generation farm. And  
2 if we do a good job and the good Lord allows it,  
3 hopefully there will be four more generations.  
4 Thank you.

5                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.  
6 The eight inch pipelines that you've run, is this  
7 to move the manure out into the field?

8                   MR. P. HOFER: Yes, from the storage.

9                   THE CHAIRMAN: That's similar to what  
10 Mr. Poetker was talking about earlier in his  
11 presentation?

12                  MR. P. HOFER: That's it, yes.

13                  THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.  
14 Mr. Schnell?

15                  MR. SCHNELL: Yes, my name is Brad  
16 Schnell. And I'm an agronomic consultant working  
17 for James Valley Colony on their Manure Nutrient  
18 Management Plan, as well as their overall cropping  
19 plans.

20                  We have been working together since  
21 the spring of 2005. I was hired to assist them to  
22 be environmentally sound in using their manure as  
23 a valuable cropping input. What I will cover  
24 today is the steps on their farm that they go  
25 through to apply their manure using

1 environmentally sound practices.

2           And I guess I will give you just a  
3 little bit of background on myself. I, too, grew  
4 up on a family farm in the Sanford area. I have  
5 worked in that southeastern Manitoba area. I went  
6 to university and went into agriculture. I worked  
7 in the Landmark-Steinbach area as an agronomist  
8 for many years. I did a lot of nutrient  
9 management planning, or manure nutrient management  
10 planning, before the word was -- before that  
11 phrase was even coined because, again, of course,  
12 there is a lot of livestock in that area. So my  
13 background goes back a number of years in the  
14 livestock areas of being an agronomist and working  
15 together with manure.

16           What I would like to talk about today  
17 is basically James Valley, and taking a look at  
18 what we do in terms of the Manure Nutrient  
19 Management Plan, and how much effort goes into  
20 putting together a Manure Nutrient Management  
21 Plan. What I want to cover is:  
22 Crop planning,  
23 filing a Manure Nutrient Management Plan,  
24 GPS soil testing,  
25 submit Schedule E, which is crop planning and the

1 soil test.

2 And then going back to manure analysis and  
3 application.

4 And then, basically, looking at field programmers  
5 that we have to do once that manure is in place.

6 And then the livestock analyzer that we use.

7 I hope that shows up well enough.

8 But, basically, this is what is called a field  
9 profile that we use. And what this is, is we  
10 record all of our fields. And I've been working,  
11 as I say, since 2005, but we have more data than  
12 this. But, basically, here you can see we have  
13 the 2005 crop, the 2006 crop, and now what we are  
14 planning for 2007, as well as the target yields  
15 that we are trying to achieve on their farm.

16 And when we back up and look at what  
17 we have to do as far as the Manure Nutrient  
18 Management Plan, we almost have to start planning  
19 a year in advance of what crops we put in. That  
20 way we know that in those fields that we don't  
21 have a crop like corn or sunflowers that comes off  
22 late. And then we can't do that because there is  
23 a very narrow window. So you want to try and put  
24 something on it that when we are heading for those  
25 fields that come off at the right time. So there

1 is a lot of planning that goes ahead. And the  
2 fields that go into manure, you usually want to  
3 use a crop that has a fairly high uptake of  
4 nutrients and will use those nutrients wisely.

5 So if you look here, we are going to  
6 be talking a little bit about field number 12,  
7 which is Lavoie. I am sort of going to go through  
8 that one particular field. And if you look at  
9 that, basically, we've got field number 12 is 305  
10 acres. And this coming year we are going to put  
11 it into canola. We have got a 55-bushel target.  
12 The previous year was oats. And the previous year  
13 to that was canola.

14 When you are doing a Manure Nutrient  
15 Management Plan, we, as I say, plan what crops are  
16 going to be growing in there. By the 10th of any  
17 year, we have to have our Manure Nutrient  
18 Management Plan in place. And this is just one of  
19 the lead copies into that. I have got a bunch of  
20 it here. And, you know, to photocopy it all and  
21 show it to you -- but, basically, this is part of  
22 their Manure Nutrient Management Plan and their  
23 cropping plan.

24 So you have to submit, by July 10th of  
25 every year, a plan and know what crops are going

1 where. And this is the Schedule E, which is  
2 probably the main guts of what we have to do. We  
3 have got to take and identify, before we actually  
4 put on the manure, what fields we are going to put  
5 it on to and have a plan in place. In this  
6 particular year, we had field number 2, Bonhomme,  
7 field number 11, Larson, and field number 12,  
8 Lavoie.

9 I will just run through Lavoie a  
10 little bit. We, basically, have to send that in  
11 and identify that before we actually have to put  
12 manure in place on that. We also have to send in  
13 with that roughly what our manure levels are in  
14 there. So we do a manure analysis every year of  
15 what our manure actually has in place. And in  
16 this particular one, we have got, roughly, if you  
17 do the calculations, I don't want to go into a lot  
18 of detail on it. But with the ammonia and the  
19 release from the organic matter, we have 24 pounds  
20 per 1,000-gallons. So, again, we are looking at  
21 what kind of nutrients are in there. We also have  
22 analysis on the phosphate as well.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: I have a question. And  
24 I know this could be a common thing, it's the  
25 first time I have heard it, where you have one

1 lagoon that covers the chickens, the hogs and the  
2 livestock, is that true?

3 MR. SCHNELL: Yes.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: What difference does  
5 that make in the analysis of your fertilizer,  
6 like, the fertilizer value?

7 MR. SCHNELL: That's a really good  
8 question. You know, the different ones are  
9 definitely different. Like, the hogs, they have  
10 got a farrow to finish operation. So it's pretty  
11 much the overriding factor in there, because it  
12 does produce the most manure. Where they have got  
13 a smaller dairy and then they have chickens.  
14 Chickens have a higher concentration of nitrogen  
15 and phosphorus. So at the end of the day, when  
16 it's all -- and then dairy cattle have a lower  
17 concentration. So when I see what has happened,  
18 it almost comes back about what the hog levels  
19 are, just because of their mixes, one is lower and  
20 one is higher.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: I was just curious.  
22 I've never heard of that before. You still have  
23 to tested. I had an uncle years ago who used to  
24 say: Oh, the roses need chicken manure.

25 MR. SCHNELL: And as I say, not a

1 lot -- you know, a good question there, but carry  
2 on?

3 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes.

4 MR. SCHNELL: So, yes, basically, you  
5 have got manure tests for each one. And what they  
6 actually try to do is they actually try to test --  
7 when we go to each field, like you saw the three  
8 different fields on there, we try and actually  
9 test. As we go to each different field, and start  
10 pumping on to a different field, we take another  
11 test. And then we actually program -- you will  
12 see a little bit later that we program that in  
13 into each field. They start pumping into a  
14 different field. And you see that with a  
15 different program we pump that on to the different  
16 fields. And we, actually, do a complete test of  
17 all nutrients, plus micro-nutrients as well.

18 Once we have submitted the plan and  
19 then we have that in place to the Government, and  
20 have submitted our plan, we then have to wait for  
21 the crop to come off in the fall time. And then  
22 we then go out and soil sample. And we use GPS  
23 coordinates that we come back to the same place  
24 every year. And, as you can see on here, this is  
25 where we have marked "X"s. And that's so,

1 basically, when we come back out to that field, we  
2 will have as consistent results as we possibly can  
3 have. But we do come back and do a good job of  
4 monitoring that field. And, basically, we know  
5 exactly where we have tested so that each year we  
6 can come back again.

7 Just interesting enough, on this  
8 particular one, if I could show on here a little  
9 bit. But when Edward was talking about these  
10 wells, I believe the wells are -- where exactly  
11 are they?

12 MR. P. HOFER: Just in the mix there.

13 MR. HOFER: The little white spot.

14 MR. SCHNELL: Right about there. So  
15 we are putting manure on the fields. And the  
16 wells are close at hand, so we want to make sure  
17 that we are doing a good job of what we are doing.  
18 And they are monitoring their water at all times,  
19 as well. By the way, there is a lot of land in  
20 through here. The colony is here. And then they  
21 have a lagoon up there, and the land is all around  
22 there, their water sources and their colony. I  
23 think you've got a map there, as well, that sort  
24 of points that out there, as well.

25 MR. P. HOFER: I just kind of threw

1 that map in at the last minute. I didn't really  
2 think about it.

3 MR. SCHNELL: Once we take this  
4 sample, then we take a look at the nitrogen levels  
5 that are in that field. Because at this point in  
6 time, we are filing for nitrogen, and that's how  
7 we do a Manure Nutrient Management Plan. In the  
8 next two years, we will, basically, have to start  
9 monitoring our phosphate and doing a phosphate  
10 application, as well. We will be starting to  
11 submit that this coming year and abiding by the  
12 laws as they come into place here.

13 But, again, as you can see here, we do  
14 a complete soil test. And then we monitor what's  
15 in the nitrogen and then we file our plan  
16 accordingly. So now we have got to resubmit  
17 Schedule E which, basically, here is Lavoie again.  
18 So we file that on. And we take a look at the  
19 crop we are going to grow and the nitrogen that's  
20 in the soil. And then we file that and we work  
21 that out back that we can put on X amount of  
22 gallons. In this particular case, 7,000 gallons  
23 or 7,500-gallons. And then are we going to start  
24 doing that application.

25 I then send out to Edward a work order

1 applicator's log, and say: This is the field we  
2 are going to do it on and what rates and that.  
3 And then Edward has that. And you can see it's a  
4 working copy. And he writes on what he actually  
5 has done, and where he has applied manure. And in  
6 it particular case, he didn't quite finish off the  
7 field, so you can see, you know, "no manure on the  
8 east 80". And he submits that or, you know, we  
9 work together on that. And we actually came out  
10 that we put on roughly 6,888 gallons, when all was  
11 said and done. So we put a monitor on that. And  
12 they have got, basically, a monitor as to how many  
13 gallons they are pumping and record. And then we  
14 work together to make sure we get that filed.

15 We then have to send in a confirmation  
16 sheet that is submitted to Manitoba Conservation.  
17 So once we are finished, then, basically, we map  
18 it out and show them what we have done, in what  
19 field, the rates. And we tell them, you know,  
20 that we have completed the job in that particular  
21 field.

22 This is a field programmer. And what  
23 we do is we take it sort of the next step.  
24 Because, as we said, manure is a very valuable  
25 resource. It's not a waste. It's not anything

1 else. But it's a very, very valuable resource.  
2 And what you can see here now is we are targeting  
3 for canola on this field at 55-bushels. The soil  
4 test is in the middle. So when I'm making the  
5 recommendation, I can see what's in the soil.

6           You can see that I have then plug in a  
7 fertility recommendation of just a little bit of  
8 phosphate as a starter and a little bit of sulphur  
9 as a starter. And that's all we are going to use,  
10 basically, because we have cold, wet soils. And  
11 in the springtime, we still see a little bit of a  
12 benefit, on a yield basis, by putting a little bit  
13 of a starter on it. Because we do want as good a  
14 crop in there, as we possibly can, to make sure  
15 that it is using up all of the nutrients that we  
16 have applied.

17           In our calculations at the top, we  
18 plug in 6,000 gallons, as you see on the top part.  
19 And it, actually, estimates a manure application  
20 going through it, 160 pounds of nitrogen is what  
21 we put on. The phosphorus is 55 pounds. It's  
22 available. About 168 pounds of potash. 12 pounds  
23 of sulphur. And then you can see all of the other  
24 nutrients, as well as the micro-nutrients. We put  
25 on boron, copper, iron, manganese, and a little

1 bit of zinc, as well, goes into that.

2 And then you can see, basically, then  
3 we have got from a seed placed, we then make a  
4 recommendation for 15-pounds of phosphorous and  
5 the 15 pounds of sulphur. And then that's the  
6 program in place. And we are doing an  
7 agronomically sound job of that so, basically,  
8 what the crop is going to remove from the -- from  
9 the soil, okay.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: Basically, when you  
11 soil test the following year, do you, basically,  
12 use up all of that phosphorus? Or do you find  
13 that your levels in the spring are constantly or  
14 are you continually building up?

15 MR. SCHNELL: With phosphorus, it's an  
16 interesting nutrient that we do add. In most  
17 cases we add a little bit more than what the crop  
18 uses, just based on how the manure is situated.  
19 And it depends on which -- you know, whether  
20 you've got just a straight sow barn, a nursery  
21 barn or a feeder operation. And they all vary  
22 slightly.

23 So in a lot of cases, if the guys are  
24 using phytase and that, and I think somebody asked  
25 the question: Are they using a feed additive?

1 Most of the guys are trying to bring their  
2 phosphate values down, basically, that they don't  
3 have phosphate in the soil, but it also helps  
4 their feed efficiencies, as well.

5           So, in most cases, though, we are  
6 probably putting on a little bit more than what  
7 the crop is going to remove. But we do have a lot  
8 of -- I don't know if I want to get into a lot of  
9 detail. But we have got a lot of calcium in our  
10 soil that ties up phosphorus quite readily. And  
11 it turns it into, basically, a form that's not  
12 available, you know, to the crop at all, so it  
13 ties it up very rapidly.

14           So a lot of times our soils aren't  
15 very quick to build because we have got this -- if  
16 you look in our soil sample, we have got about  
17 4,870 parts per million of calcium, which is  
18 almost 10,000 pounds. You've got to multiply  
19 parts per million by two to get the pounds. So  
20 that calcium ties up and rapidly bounds to  
21 phosphate that we apply and, basically, makes it  
22 into a phosphate rock that's not available. So  
23 our soils aren't very quick to build.

24           So, basically, what we do is we work  
25 out -- and this we do for every field, we work out

1 a -- you know, we have a soil test. We work out a  
2 fertility program for everyone, whether we have  
3 manure or don't have manure. I am just going  
4 through this one. We actually have a program  
5 inside that, actually, does the calculations. We  
6 know it's what's in the manure and know how many  
7 gallons. And that nicely puts that together for  
8 us so that we can monitor what we have done or  
9 what we have applied.

10 In this part of our program, too, is  
11 we have what's called a soil analyzer. And we  
12 have multiple years of soil tests in here. And  
13 this one says that we have the 2005, 2006, 2007.  
14 We can watch what's happening with our phosphate  
15 levels and our other nutrient levels. And it  
16 helps me to make a recommendation that, you know,  
17 I can look back and see, oh, the soil is doing  
18 this and doing that, and where it is actually  
19 going in terms of its nutrient values.

20 We also have what's called a livestock  
21 analyzer, where the top, basically, says it is a  
22 600 sow, farrow to finish, operation. And the  
23 lagoon capacity is roughly 6.5 million-gallons.  
24 And in the calculator at the bottom, basically, we  
25 put into it and say there is 14,000 layers, and

1 roughly 600 sows, farrow to finish, and 600 dairy  
2 cows. And then it, actually, tells us what the  
3 output of those animals are. And it, basically,  
4 says it is going to produce how many gallons of  
5 output of manure on a daily basis. So then when  
6 we empty the lagoon, it starts again filling it  
7 back up. And you can see at the top, because we  
8 empty it in the fall, it is, give or take,  
9 11 percent full, there should be about 720 -- or  
10 721,000-gallons in there, at this point in time,  
11 roughly.

12           And then we also have the manure  
13 applications, since I started recording them, on a  
14 field-by-field basis, and what went on to them.  
15 And you can see on August 31, 2005, we did 17  
16 North Waldheim Road and put on so many gallons,  
17 and it was on so many acres. And we have got a  
18 complete log of all of the fields that we have  
19 done to date.

20           And, basically, that's what I wanted  
21 to talk today about. You know, we do a good job  
22 of handling our Manure Nutrient Management. We do  
23 a good job of having to crop planning. We file  
24 the Manure Nutrient Management Plan. We have to  
25 do the GPS soil testing. We have got to then

1 submit our Schedule Es. And we have to look at  
2 the crop plan and soil tests and submit that so  
3 that it does adhere to the Government regulations.  
4 We also do the manure analysis and the  
5 applications. And then we just keep track of  
6 things well with our field programmer and our  
7 livestock analyzer.

8 Now, I guess, in conclusion, you know,  
9 James Valley Colony is committed to an  
10 environmentally sound practice in using their  
11 manure as a valuable resource in their operation.  
12 They have been living there and raising their  
13 families for almost 90 years now, and remain  
14 committed to sustainable agriculture for  
15 generations to come.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Schnell.  
18 Do all hog operations have to keep similar records  
19 and file similar reports?

20 MR. SCHNELL: Anything that has to --  
21 I think Mr. Poetker said earlier that, basically,  
22 anything over 300 animal units has to file a  
23 Manure Nutrient Management Plan and, basically, do  
24 similar to what I just said, that they have to  
25 submit, you know, the plan before July 10th and go

1 through all of those steps.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: And, I guess, this is  
3 just an economy of scale. The larger the  
4 operation, the more of this paperwork they would  
5 have to do?

6 MR. SCHNELL: Yes. In reality,  
7 everybody has to be in compliance with the rules  
8 and regulations. It is just 300 animal units ones  
9 that have to file. But in reality, everybody has  
10 to be in full compliance with the rules and  
11 regulations that are there.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm aware of that. I  
13 guess what I'm thinking of is just the costs to  
14 operations of doing this. Either they have to  
15 have somebody in their family or on their farm who  
16 can do this and keep these records or they engage  
17 somebody like you; is that correct?

18 MR. SCHNELL: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And is it a significant  
20 cost? I don't want you giving away proprietary  
21 secrets, or anything. But is it a fairly  
22 significant cost to an operation to engage all of  
23 the experts that they need to comply with these  
24 regulations?

25 MR. SCHNELL: I don't know. I don't

1 know if I'm the right one to answer that.

2 MR. P. HOFER: It pays off to have it  
3 done. We even do it on the land that is not used,  
4 you know. It is an extra cost, but hopefully we  
5 capture it with better maintenance.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: No. I don't have any  
8 questions.

9 MR. YEE: Yes, I have a few questions,  
10 I guess. And I think what Mr. Sargeant was  
11 getting at is that, in terms of this, it looks  
12 like a pretty sophisticated analysis. We  
13 understand that over 300 animal units you need to  
14 file a Manure Management Plan and the crop plan  
15 and the soil tests, and the manure is analyzed and  
16 the soil is analyzed. But do you think people  
17 have similar programs to the field programmer or  
18 the livestock analyzer? Do they apply such  
19 technology or do they just do it based on the  
20 manure management and the soil?

21 MR. SCHNELL: You are asking me?

22 MR. YEE: Yes. I think this looks  
23 like a very sophisticated program. And I am  
24 wondering if other hog operators have access to  
25 this type of program or do they do a similar type

1 of analysis?

2 MR. SCHNELL: Well, I think, in  
3 varying degrees, yes. There are other people out  
4 there, like myself, that do do good jobs for the  
5 individuals. A lot of the producers do have  
6 somebody that, you know, helps them file their  
7 plans and all of that. And different people pay  
8 more attention to that. The nice part of what I  
9 am doing is, like, I am sort of trying to tie the  
10 cropping value into it, as well as the manure end  
11 of things, and just looking at it as an overall  
12 approach.

13 MR. YEE: One of the things I've  
14 noticed in the data, I like to look at data a lot,  
15 there is an aluminium value of 18 parts per  
16 million in the manure, and it jumps up to 172  
17 parts per million in the soil. And I guess the  
18 question, and I know it's been asked before, is  
19 there potential for metal loading in the soils, as  
20 a result of manure spreading? And we do have any  
21 such data? I know you are collecting data over  
22 several years here. Are you showing any signs of  
23 metal build-up in these soils?

24 MR. SCHNELL: At this point in time, I  
25 would say no. You know, we can get into a bit of

1 discussion on it after. But at this point in  
2 time, I would say no.

3 MR. YEE: And I know it is probably  
4 not a requirement of the Manure Management Plan,  
5 but do you analyze soils on fields that aren't  
6 spread fields as background?

7 MR. SCHNELL: Basically, in here, we  
8 have a soil sample on all of our fields. And we  
9 watch all of their nutrient values and levels and  
10 that, yes, we do.

11 MR. YEE: All right. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
13 gentlemen.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just admiring the  
15 complexities of farming.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Next on the agenda,  
17 Raymond Timmerman. Could you please state your  
18 full name for the record?

19 MR. TIMMERMAN: Raymond Timmerman.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Timmerman, please proceed.

22 RAYMOND TIMMERMAN, having been sworn, present as  
23 follows:

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: Okay, my name is Ray.  
25 I said Raymond, but it is Ray mostly, Timmerman.

1 I farm southwest of Treherne on about 1,600 acres  
2 of farm land. I farm in partnership with my wife  
3 Leona and two sons, Dallas and Justin.

4 And our farm is a third generation  
5 mixed operation consisting of annual crops, a  
6 cow/calf operation and finishing, hog finishing  
7 operation.

8 I would just like to add that my  
9 eldest son, he graduated from university -- from  
10 high school and started farming when he was 18. I  
11 have a second son that graduated with a master's  
12 degree in soil, environmental soil science, at the  
13 University of M and is right now employed with  
14 Manitoba Department of Agriculture. He is a  
15 manure management specialist. And my other son,  
16 Justin, our third son, graduated with a degree in  
17 agronomy from the University of Manitoba. And he,  
18 at the present time, has a consulting business,  
19 along with his partner in her operation.

20 When our eldest son, Dallas, began  
21 farming, we expanded our farm or operation.  
22 Raising hogs has been and continues to be a  
23 financial benefit. This income means we have a  
24 better cash flow and helps provide us with a  
25 comfortable living. My father used to say or use

1 the term that mortgage lifters when referring to  
2 the hogs. And I think he's right. And certainly  
3 the hogs has definitely been a benefit in our  
4 operation.

5 We strive to build a sustainable  
6 farming business that will continue to be not only  
7 economically viable, but also environmentally  
8 viable. With the cost of inputs and living  
9 expenses rising, increasing our current hog  
10 enterprise is a necessity. And expansion in our  
11 hog sales means we would realize more income to  
12 help cover those higher costs on our farm.

13 Pigs or hogs are being raised in two  
14 conventional barns and four hoop structures. We  
15 are not a big hog producer. We probably market  
16 somewheres around 2,000 hogs. And we produce both  
17 liquid and solid manure. The manure is applied to  
18 our land, following the recommended set-backs from  
19 our creeks, cities and wells.

20 Site-specific soil sampling is done  
21 prior to manure application to determine not just  
22 which field, but where within the field the manure  
23 should be applied. And this is where our son  
24 Justin is involved. Being an agronomist, he's  
25 responsible for the testing of soils and making

1 sure that they are applied at the right amount and  
2 in the right place. We use a GPS system to be  
3 able to pick out spots in our fields that need  
4 more application of manure.

5 With financial funding from the Canada  
6 Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program, after  
7 completing our Environmental Farm Plan, the  
8 regular manure testing will be implemented on our  
9 farm. Composting of the solid manure will also be  
10 implemented on our farm, making it affordable,  
11 more affordable, for us to spread the composted  
12 manure on land that is farther from the yard site.  
13 The cost of moving that manure gets pretty  
14 expensive if you don't compost it. And we have  
15 been doing it for the last couple of years. And  
16 we are going to increase all of our manure, our  
17 cattle manure as well.

18 Livestock mortalities are composted on  
19 the farm. And this year we were in the process of  
20 improving our structure for dead livestock  
21 composting on the site.

22 A significant portion of our annual  
23 crops, which include peas, barley and wheat are  
24 grown as feed for the pigs. Peas works well in  
25 our rotation. It allows us to zero till and seed

1 the following cereal crop into the low residue pea  
2 stubble; therefore, dramatically reducing soil  
3 erosion and carbon emissions. Barley, the main  
4 ingredient for our hog operation, and to our pig  
5 ration, is the most competitive cereal crop,  
6 allowing us to reduce our chemical and mechanical  
7 methods of our weed control.

8 In 2003, we received the Family of the  
9 Year award from our local Conservation District.  
10 This award was given to us by our peers, who  
11 recognized the work that we have done, and  
12 continue to do in soil and water management on our  
13 farm. This acknowledgment -- this award  
14 acknowledged that we, as a family, showed  
15 responsible farm practices. And some of the  
16 practice we do, and this is maybe not in the hogs,  
17 but in our cattle operation, we have done some  
18 repairing and fences around slews and lakes. We  
19 have a fairly good-sized lake. We have fenced it  
20 so we have a riparian area. And we use off-site  
21 water systems. And we've been doing that now for  
22 17 years. There hasn't been one of our cows drank  
23 out of any one of our dug-outs.

24 On an annual basis, we have our well  
25 water tested, since this water is used not only

1 for our livestock, but for our own personal  
2 consumption and use. With the proper livestock  
3 manure management, along with proper well  
4 maintenance, we have always, and continue to  
5 drink, our groundwater due to the acceptable  
6 nutrients and bacteria levels.

7 With our awareness in executing the  
8 proper management techniques, we are meeting our  
9 goal of being within government regulation  
10 allowances of soil and water nutrient levels.  
11 Everything we do today is to save and improve the  
12 land, water and air quality, so that they are here  
13 for the next generation tomorrow.

14 Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much,  
16 Mr. Timmerman.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just curious, this  
18 is not much to do with it, which conservation  
19 district are you?

20 MR. TIMMERMAN: LaSalle/Redboine  
21 Conservation District.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: And that's fairly new,  
23 isn't it?

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: Fairly new, yes, about  
25 three years ago.

1                   MR. MOTHERAL: Have you benefited by  
2 using that program, the Federal Environmental  
3 Protection Plan, where you make your own -- you  
4 evaluate yourself? Have you found that very  
5 useful?

6                   MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes, I do. And, by  
7 the way, I was probably one of the first ones  
8 taking it, because they wanted people interested  
9 in taking it from different groups. I thought it  
10 was really good, really valuable, because you  
11 assess yourself. And by going through the  
12 workbook, you start to realize that, yeah, there  
13 are certain things there that you are doing. You  
14 don't even realize that you are doing it to  
15 improve the environment. And there are other  
16 areas where you can make some nice little changes,  
17 which doesn't really mean that you have to go for  
18 funding. You can do this at very little cost.  
19 But we also do take advantage of some of the BMPs  
20 to help us, particularly in the soil and water  
21 management area.

22                   MR. MOTHERAL: We have been hearing  
23 very good reports on that.

24                   MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes.

25                   MR. MOTHERAL: And it is an

1 opportunity to give yourself a pat on the back  
2 sometimes, too.

3 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes, I agree. But it  
4 does make you realize that you are doing not that  
5 bad a job. There are also areas of improvement,  
6 but there are also areas that you are doing a good  
7 job.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Timmerman, that's all.

10 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Timmerman, I  
11 gather, because you have somewhat of a mixed  
12 operation, you have both cattle and hogs, and so  
13 you are dealing with both solid manure and liquid  
14 manure?

15 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes.

16 MR. YEE: Would the liquid manure be  
17 of greater amount than the solid manure that you  
18 have to deal with?

19 MR. TIMMERMAN: Pardon me?

20 MR. YEE: The liquid manure is greater  
21 than the solid?

22 MR. TIMMERMAN: No.

23 MR. YEE: It's the other way around?

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: No. Our liquid manure  
25 is probably only from about 600 pigs.

1 MR. YEE: Okay.

2 MR. TIMMERMAN: Where the rest of it  
3 comes from is the hoop barns, straw-based. And  
4 our cow cattle manure is all straw-based.

5 MR. YEE: So you are composting the  
6 solid and spreading it?

7 MR. TIMMERMAN: We have been doing it  
8 for about three years with the hogs. We are going  
9 to start to do it with the cattle, too.

10 MR. YEE: And as far as the manure,  
11 you are also composting that?

12 MR. TIMMERMAN: The liquid manure?

13 MR. YEE: Yes.

14 MR. TIMMERMAN: No. The liquid manure  
15 is applied on the land, spread on the land.

16 MR. YEE: Is that by injection?

17 MR. TIMMERMAN: No. Because we are  
18 under 300 animal units, we were able to apply it  
19 by spreading.

20 MR. YEE: Right, okay. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
22 Mr. Timmerman. Can we get a copy of your  
23 presentation today? She did get a copy of it  
24 already?

25 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes. She got ten

1 copies of it.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, good, thanks. Next  
3 up is Real Comte. Would you please state your  
4 name for the record?

5 MR. COMTE: Real Comte.

6 REAL COMTE, having been sworn, presents as  
7 follows:

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please  
9 proceed.

10 MR. COMTE: Ladies and gentlemen, my  
11 name is Real Comte. I own and operate a hog,  
12 grain and oilseed farm in Notre Dame. I have a  
13 100 sow, farrow to finish, operation with 800  
14 acres. I am the fourth generation on this  
15 centennial farm.

16 The hog operation started in 1974 with  
17 a 300 feeder pig finishing barn and 480 acres. It  
18 currently houses 1100 pigs and is a 100 sow,  
19 farrow to finish, operation. There is also 525  
20 cultivated acres and 245 acres of woodland. We  
21 are not a large operation because we expand only  
22 when we see there is an interest from the next  
23 generation. Financially, the advantage of having  
24 pigs and grain is for the diversification and  
25 steady cash flow that it provides. When the price

1 of pigs are up positive, the price of grain goes  
2 down, and vice versa. Without these two  
3 enterprises, farming would not be a reality for  
4 me. This was also the case, even for my father  
5 back in the seventies.

6 The water supply for the barn and  
7 house is from the same source. It is a 55 foot  
8 deep well, which is 30 inch wide casing, and is  
9 made of fiberglass. The water comes from quick  
10 sand, which is approximately 30 feet beneath the  
11 surface. It is hard water, so a softener is used  
12 to remove iron at the house. The water has been  
13 sampled yearling for the last 33 years and has  
14 remained unchanged. This proves to me that our  
15 farming practices are not polluting the water  
16 source in any way.

17 Manure provides the fertilizer for the  
18 grain, which we grow and is then fed back to the  
19 pigs. We also add granular fertilizer in the  
20 spring only, before seeding, to top off whatever  
21 nutrients are missing from the manure. This is  
22 done with consultations with an agronomist where  
23 we purchase our inputs.

24 Our soil is sampled every two year to  
25 make sure there is no excessive buildup of

1 nutrients like phosphate and nitrogen. We  
2 currently have 130 days of storage, manure  
3 storage, in concrete pits beneath the barns. We  
4 have also broadcasted our manure ourselves with a  
5 liquid manure spreader. By spreading the manure  
6 ourselves, we are able to apply the manure on the  
7 least productive spots of the fields. The manure  
8 is always incorporated within 24 hours of  
9 spreading, with a cultivator. We set realistic  
10 targets and yield potential for our crop  
11 production. And we have noticed, over the  
12 years, a big improvement in our soil production  
13 output.

14                   The immediate future for the farm,  
15 alongside with the financial support of the  
16 Manitoba Stewardship Program, will see better  
17 improvements to our farming practices. Manure  
18 will no longer be broadcasted on the soil but,  
19 rather, incorporated directly into the ground.  
20 This will increase the nitrogen level in manure  
21 and also eliminate nuisance odours. Another  
22 improvement will be the use of a GPS and auto  
23 steer to the tractor to limit the over-applying of  
24 fertilizer.

25                   Our farm has 275 acres of woodlands,

1    which remain untouched.    Therein lives a great  
2    deal of wildlife.    We, as a family, enjoy the  
3    woods for all its natural beauty and recreational  
4    pastimes.    We have no intention of ever clearing  
5    these areas.

6                    The family farm can compete and thrive  
7    in the hog industry.    We will expand, as the  
8    children get old enough and become interested in  
9    continuing the tradition.    We take great pride in  
10   preserving our environment for the sake of future  
11   generations, as it was taken care of for me.    More  
12   unnecessary regulations can jeopardize the future  
13   by burdening the process down with red tape.    More  
14   should be done to get the abusers of the system,  
15   and not the innocent.

16                   The Manitoba Pork Council is already  
17   very active in informing the hog industry of  
18   proper management.    The C.Q.A. program is one of  
19   those programs that ensures all pigs are produced  
20   humanely and safely.    I would like to thank the  
21   CEC for providing us this time to bring forward  
22   our concerns regarding these hearings.    I hope  
23   that we have positively influenced your decision  
24   in this matter.

25                   THE CHAIRMAN:    Thanks very much,

1 Mr. Comte. Do you think that the current  
2 regulatory regime is sufficient or that it is too  
3 much?

4 MR. COMTE: I think that it is  
5 sufficient as it is now.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: So you can work with  
7 the current regime?

8 MR. COMTE: Yes.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Including the  
10 phosphorus regulation?

11 MR. COMTE: Yes.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: But you probably would  
13 rather not see any additional regulations?

14 MR. COMTE: That's correct, yes. I  
15 think that we take great pride in making sure that  
16 it's taken care of for our future generations.  
17 And with consulting agronomists, on a yearly  
18 basis, and others in the industry, that the  
19 regulations right now are sufficient.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr. Comte.  
22 Just for a point of clarification, in your one  
23 sentence you say when you were incorporating it.  
24 You know, when you were injecting it into the  
25 ground, you say:

1                    "This will increase the nitrogen level  
2                    in manure and eliminate nuisance  
3                    odours."

4        I didn't quite get that.

5                    MR. COMTE:    Right now the manure is  
6        broadcast on to the soil.    By incorporating it in,  
7        there is a lot of nitrogen evaporating.    And by  
8        incorporating it in, it would be more beneficial  
9        for me.    It would pay off for me to actually  
10       incorporate it.

11                   MR. MOTHERAL:    It is the same amount  
12        in the manure, it is just better utilized when it  
13        is incorporated?

14                   MR. COMTE:    Yes.

15                   MR. MOTHERAL:    That's all I wanted.

16                   MR. YEE:    Just one quick question,  
17        Mr. Comte.    I noticed that you are broadcast  
18        spreading your manure.    Have you had many  
19        complaints of odour as a result of this type of  
20        spreading?

21                   MR. COMTE:    Not to my face.    But I  
22        have certainly had concerns, yes.    But I think  
23        it's even a nuisance for us.    I think it's more of  
24        a nuisance for ourselves, as well as everybody  
25        else.

1                   MR. YEE: So would there be a great  
2 deal of increase in cost if you were to till it?  
3 Not till it in, but inject it in?

4                   MR. COMTE: The spreader that we  
5 currently have has the attachments already  
6 available to be able to put a knife injector on it  
7 as it is. So with the funding of the new farm  
8 plan, which would pay a third of it, it would be  
9 feasible to put the attachment on the spreader at  
10 very little cost.

11                  MR. YEE: Thank you.

12                  THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
13 coming out here this afternoon, Mr. Comte. Next  
14 up is Liz Clayton.

15                  MS. CLAYTON: Just one second. I am  
16 trying to get the power point up and running. I  
17 have some notes and some pictures. Yeah, I guess,  
18 by way of introduction --

19                  THE CHAIRMAN: Just wait a moment,  
20 please.

21                  MS. CLAYTON: Oh, I haven't sworn to  
22 tell the truth.

23                  THE CHAIRMAN: Let's get the  
24 technology dealt with first, and then we will take  
25 care of that. Please state your name for the

1 record?

2 MS. CLAYTON: My name is Elizabeth  
3 Clayton.

4 ELIZABETH CLAYTON, having been sworn, presents as  
5 follows:

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please  
7 proceed.

8 MS. CLAYTON: Okay. So my name is  
9 Liz, and I am what I understand to be an  
10 increasingly rare statistic, and that's a person  
11 who has moved into, rather than away from, the  
12 country. The de-population of the prairies is one  
13 of the greatest challenges facing our rural  
14 communities. And from reading the papers out  
15 here, it is apparent that a lot of R.M.s are  
16 looking at ways to attract, and keep, new people  
17 and new ideas to you're communities.

18 My partner, Henri, has brought  
19 machinist skills to the community. And I have a  
20 background in volunteer management and media. And  
21 I have money to invest from selling my home in  
22 Winnipeg. We plan to design and develop, with the  
23 help of our friends from the University of  
24 Manitoba, an energy-efficient, sustainable  
25 Northern Greenhouse for the production of fresh

1 green food year-round.

2                   So when we decided to move to the  
3 country, we started spending our weekends  
4 exploring Manitoba and as far away, actually, as  
5 Eastern Saskatchewan, looking for the perfect  
6 piece of land. A place that reflected traditional  
7 notions of "country". You know, a place with a  
8 big sky and maybe some rolling hills and lots of  
9 pastureland and bush and cows and maybe even some  
10 hay fields. You know, this kind of picture comes  
11 to mind when you think of the beautiful  
12 countryside. And that's a farm just north of  
13 Treherne.

14                   So this is what we were looking for.  
15 But in so many areas of Manitoba, we found  
16 something that looked more like this when we were  
17 looking for a place to settle. As we know,  
18 intensive livestock operations have been springing  
19 up all over the countryside.

20                   And just looking at the numbers here,  
21 we have had a great proliferation, since 1996,  
22 when we went from the single desk system to more  
23 of a vertically integrated system. So from 1996,  
24 we only are 3.2 million hogs. And then 2001,  
25 about five years later, 5.4 million. And then in

1 2006, we had 8.63 million. So we have had a huge  
2 increase in the amount of hogs in our Province of  
3 Manitoba.

4           Sometimes the operations are in the  
5 middle of nowhere, much as this one is, and  
6 sometimes they are right on the edge of sizable  
7 towns. Anyway, we kept looking until we found the  
8 perfect place. And we did find a place in the  
9 R.M. of South Norfolk. Here is the corner where  
10 we turn off to head to our place. It is the  
11 corner of Highway 305. That's about one mile east  
12 of our land. And these are the Tiger Hills in the  
13 background there. And this is the road going up  
14 in front of our house, and Tiger Hills, once  
15 again, looking towards the escarpment.

16           And the bush here, on this side, is  
17 the riparian zone that surrounds the Boyne River  
18 that winds its way through to the Stephenfield  
19 Provincial Park and then into the Stephenfield  
20 Reservoir. And that supplies this town of St.  
21 Claude and Carman with their drinking water. And  
22 so this is giving an idea of the escarpment there.  
23 We have got the Tiger Hills. This is the Boyne  
24 River down below. And here is the Stephenfield  
25 Lake.

1                   So, anyway, we are very lucky because  
2 now we are doing what a lot of people only dream  
3 of doing. And that's, you know, unplugging from  
4 the city and setting up a permaculture homestead  
5 on 33 acres. Our land is zoned agriculture, but  
6 it is not suitable for any sort of large scale  
7 agriculture because of the bush, the drainage, the  
8 river and the escarpment, the topography. And we  
9 are on the edge of the Manitoba Escarpment, which  
10 was the old lakeshore of Lake Agassiz, about  
11 20,000 years ago.

12                   But in the spring the run-off filters  
13 through our property, and then it rushes into  
14 streams that flow into the Boyne River. Here is a  
15 picture of the Boyne River overflowing. And  
16 that's from the Stephenfield Conservation District  
17 website, and that's from 2004.

18                   And here is it overflowing the road  
19 that just crosses right by our section from  
20 Highway 305. And here it is behind our house, on  
21 the neighbour's land, flowing through. So as you  
22 can see, drainage is really a problem. This river  
23 can really grow and run off. I am kind of keeping  
24 an eye on it right now because, you know, we are  
25 kind of heading to that season.

1                   Out here, the soil is pretty sandy,  
2                   and it doesn't take long for that soil to get  
3                   absorbed into the ground. We are at basement  
4                   level. And this is what happens. This is a  
5                   stream that runs through the coolie that runs  
6                   right through our place. This is taken on the  
7                   September long weekend of last year. And as can  
8                   you see, it is pretty much dried up, so the river  
9                   is compromised. It doesn't flow through the late  
10                  summer a lot of the time.

11                  According to the Manitoba Sustainable  
12                  Irrigation Discussion Paper that was released in  
13                  November 2001, they were reporting something  
14                  called the Wet Sands area, which is considered a  
15                  high-risk area for aquifer protection.

16                  And the river itself, here is a map of  
17                  it, okay? Here is a picture of the conservation  
18                  district that shows the general lay of the land.  
19                  You can see the escarpment running through. And  
20                  the Boyne River and numerous tributaries that run  
21                  into it. Now, in this area there are about four  
22                  hog operations, at this point, with one more on  
23                  the books, so we will get to that shortly.

24                  When the CEC confirmed that this  
25                  examination of the sustainability of the hog

1 industry in Manitoba wouldn't be limited to just  
2 environmental concerns, specifically water quality  
3 in Lake Winnipeg, but also be looking at all of  
4 the impacts of this industry, I was really  
5 relieved that we could maybe have an opportunity  
6 to put some of the other impacts of this industry  
7 on the table here today.

8                   So moving right along here, this  
9 document here is from Conservation Manitoba, "An  
10 Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of  
11 the Hog Industry in Manitoba". Fairly recent, it  
12 came out in 2006. And from that we have here a  
13 look at the location of permitted manure storage  
14 facilities from April 2006.

15                   So as you can see, there is a huge  
16 dark section. Excuse the scale. Okay, there is a  
17 huge section down there, and that's around  
18 Steinbach, Hanover, La Broquerie. Here we've got  
19 a little bit of an intensive process going on just  
20 south in the Lorne District. We have quite a few  
21 hog barns starting to show up here. And we have a  
22 few in South Norfolk, where I live.

23                   But I am just wondering, you know,  
24 just to consider: How would you like to own, you  
25 know, a family farm right in this area here, where

1 we have got a whole ton of hog barns? We  
2 travelled that way on Highway 12 last spring to  
3 visit some friends several times last year. And  
4 the odour -- it was after April 10th, and the  
5 odour was omnipresent, and it was absolutely  
6 overwhelming. It was not pretty driving down  
7 there. Dozens of steel barns are visible from the  
8 highway. It's called "hog army".

9           And we spent the night in a charming  
10 guest house, in a beautiful meadow, surrounded by  
11 poplar trees, thunderstorms raging, a beautiful  
12 spring night in June. It was, like, the most  
13 romantic, beautiful setting. But the smell wafted  
14 in from all directions, all day long, and it was  
15 totally enough to gag a maggot. It was just  
16 terrible.

17           So as a person with money to invest,  
18 ideas and energy to share, this would be the last  
19 place I would set up a small farm. I was sad that  
20 the people we were visiting had lived there for 27  
21 years, and had invested their lives into  
22 developing their property, but had no choice but  
23 to stay in the middle of all of that.

24           The Manitoba Pork Council can empty  
25 their deep pockets on the public relations spin

1 all they want, but it won't change the fact that  
2 these large-scale operations, with anaerobic  
3 liquid storage and lagoons, smell really bad. How  
4 bad do they smell? Well, it's hard to measure  
5 odour. It's almost as hard to measure odour as it  
6 is to measure quality of life. But we can now  
7 measure how important odour elimination is  
8 becoming, which is an indicator of quality of  
9 life.

10 And here we have a slide of the  
11 burgeoning air freshener industry, where we see  
12 that it is up \$600 million since 2003. These are  
13 American numbers, by the way. 40 percent of the  
14 people who buy these products didn't start until  
15 six years ago. Now, this could be the result of  
16 constant advertising. You know, every time you  
17 hear on the T.V. you are hearing about Febreze.  
18 But there is a generation that is considered to be  
19 ultra-sensitive to any kind of odour. And I would  
20 be really interested to see what they will be  
21 looking for in a property when they become buyers.  
22 I'm from an older generation, a little earthier,  
23 perhaps, and even I have some issues with odour.  
24 But this new generation, I don't know.

25 Odour is a real bugaboo for the hog

1 industry. The footprints of these ILOs extend far  
2 beyond the land that they are built on. And  
3 besides the soil and water issues, the odours  
4 downwind are unmeasurable and unpredictable, and  
5 unpleasant. And I'm not talking about that sweet  
6 barnyard smell of nicely rotting manure. If you  
7 are surrounded by fields that are part of the  
8 Manure Management Plan, you are subjected to what  
9 is called "nuisance odour" every spring, summer  
10 and fall.

11 And although Conservation has called  
12 for an end to winter spraying some time ago, in  
13 this report that's mentioned here, barns of under  
14 400, built before the regulations, are allowed to  
15 continue with winter fertilizer application until  
16 2010. And judging on the amount of winter  
17 spreading going on this week, there are quite a  
18 few farms in my area with the grandfathering  
19 clause intact.

20 There has been a lot of talk about  
21 science, and keeping this whole inquiry very  
22 scientific. And the government has list add whole  
23 pile of hog-related research projects that they  
24 have funded, and that is in this document here.

25 And we are going to move to a slide

1 here. This is the amount of money that has gone  
2 into scientific research here in Manitoba,  
3 according to this document. ARDI Funding to the  
4 pork industry, between 1998 and 2006, it was over  
5 \$3 million. And that was money contributed to the  
6 industry for research by the government, which is  
7 us, the taxpayers.

8 Generally, it works out to -- looking  
9 at the different types of experiments and the  
10 types of projects that they use here, there are  
11 certain different categories. And 26 percent of  
12 the government funding went to manure management  
13 and odour-related research here in Manitoba.

14 And 74 percent, actually, just went to  
15 other aspects of the hog industry, hog feeding,  
16 hog health and other projects that just generally  
17 go to profit, the industry, funded by the  
18 government, aka, the taxpayers.

19 And further, too, there is some more  
20 contributions, as well, here where the government  
21 contributes to the Manitoba Livestock Manure  
22 Management Initiatives nearly \$1 million a year.  
23 And private industry, of course, also adds to the  
24 fund.

25 There is a lot of support from

1 taxpayers to enable -- that's a lot of support  
2 from taxpayers to enable an industry that has  
3 grown to 8.3 million pigs. Perhaps some of those  
4 research dollars could be diverted into seeking  
5 new and emerging food production systems, like  
6 northern greenhouses, and not growing an industry  
7 that is already established.

8           There are programs for special  
9 breeding and special feeding. But there is no  
10 research being done in these reports here of all  
11 of the research being done to measure the impacts  
12 of bacteria and virus-fighting antibiotics  
13 vaccinations that the hogs excrete, then mix and  
14 ferment in an anaerobic environment before the  
15 liquified is applied.

16           There is no doubt about the desire of  
17 the industry at large to make all of the bad stuff  
18 go away. Here a study that found,  
19 scientifically -- oh, yeah, here, is a study that  
20 found, scientifically, that the odour inside homes  
21 measures to be more than the odours that are  
22 emanating from a hog barn. It's from the Pork  
23 Producer Magazine in Iowa. And it says:

24           "Recent odour studies produce  
25 encouraging results. It's a 16-month

1 study around Iowa hog farms, by Iowa  
2 State University, and it found that:  
3 Activities inside the home cause more  
4 odour problems for rural residents  
5 than neighbouring hog barns. They  
6 found inside the home ammonia levels  
7 higher than outside levels. And they  
8 point to the inside sources being  
9 litter in a cat box, someone was  
10 smoking inside one of the homes, and  
11 other pets were kept inside the  
12 house."

13 So this is a peer-reviewed scientific study. And  
14 I don't know who has a home that smells like that.  
15 I am sure that no one in this room could say  
16 that's the case.

17 So there is a desire -- actually, it  
18 is almost funny when you start looking at the  
19 amount of research that's being done and the  
20 things that are for sale to prevent odour. It's  
21 almost like 19th Century snake oil salesmen. A  
22 whole side industry has sprung up, with gadgets  
23 like electron beams and radio waves that break up  
24 the content. But you can stir it up all you want,  
25 because when you break it down, the raw

1 ingredients of decomposition, the ammonia, the  
2 urea, and 166 other ingredients, like hydrogen  
3 sulfide and sulphur dioxide, are all still there.

4           At the end of the day, at the end of  
5 the dollar, there isn't really a darn thing you  
6 can do about the smell with the current ILO model.  
7 Because of the liquified slurry, and the anaerobic  
8 lagoons, and the need to transport manure to sites  
9 where the nutrients can be properly and thoroughly  
10 used up by the crops. Even if manure comes out  
11 sweet from all of the feed programs that are going  
12 on, when it is liquified and stored in the dark  
13 without air, it changes into something else. That  
14 smell is something that good science can't fix, no  
15 matter how many peers review it.

16           A generation of Manitobans have had  
17 their daily lives impacted by ILOs going upwind of  
18 them. And a generation of urban people visiting  
19 the country in the spring for rest and relaxation,  
20 for a breath of fresh air, or a Sunday drive, or a  
21 visit, or lunch sometimes, have a hard times  
22 driving with the windows open.

23           So out of respect for the farmers and  
24 the townspeople who were here on this land first,  
25 odours suppression should have been a requirement

1 from the very beginning, and not a catch-up  
2 measure only now getting some action, slowly, and  
3 when it's affordable. Lagoon coverage should have  
4 be a condition in the annual Manure Management  
5 Plans, effective as soon as possible, for all  
6 existing operations that operate with the liquid  
7 manure system. And also the sub-soil liquid  
8 injection manure systems should become mandatory,  
9 as well.

10 At present, there are no odour  
11 regulations for the livestock operations by  
12 Manitoba Conservation because odour is the  
13 responsibility of the R.M. And while we are  
14 talking about foresight, according to the Manure  
15 Management Plan, the Province only introduced the  
16 notion of well-water testing in 2002, according to  
17 this report. And that requirement only came into  
18 effect in 2004. So there were a lot of hogs here  
19 when the Province started to look at the  
20 regulatory framework for the industry more  
21 closely, and there is a lot of catching up to do.

22 Perhaps the people who run the  
23 Manitoba Pork Council, or even Conservation  
24 Manitoba, don't live in the country and are  
25 unaware of the proliferation of something called

1 midnight farming. Now that I live out here, I  
2 find a strange amount of work going on in the  
3 middle of the night, or on weekends starting at  
4 4:15, or Friday afternoons. And from the sights  
5 and the smells, it is mostly about manure  
6 management. Mixed farming, traditional farming,  
7 honest farming, is a daytime, right out in the  
8 open, kind of public event. But some of this  
9 factory farming is very, very quiet. No people,  
10 no animals, no farm gate, no visitors because of  
11 biosecurity.

12           So why is the hog industry so  
13 beleaguered? After hearing the Manitoba Pork  
14 Council's soothing and "good science and manure  
15 management" approach, you begin thinking: Gee,  
16 you know, these guys are doing everything right.  
17 They don't even get a break. They get more  
18 regulations. They get more inspections. They  
19 have to fill in annual manure management reports.  
20 And, by gosh, they can't even build or expand  
21 right now because of this temporary pause on  
22 building. And not only that, you can plan a barn,  
23 following all of the regulations and still get  
24 shot down by an R.M. after that onerous and  
25 off-putting, uncontrollable factor called a public

1 hearing for a conditional use permit. Mr. Peter  
2 Mah, of the Pork Council, says that it's not fair  
3 to the hog industry. Proponents can do everything  
4 right, but still get turned down at that stage of  
5 the process.

6 Well, let's look at how effective that  
7 process has been to the hog farm development.  
8 Here is some more science. This is an estimate,  
9 actually, based on memory of residents of the  
10 number of projects stopped at the R.M. level  
11 through the public hearing process since 1996:  
12 Seven. The number of projects successfully  
13 established and operating here in Manitoba right  
14 now: 1400. So as you can see, it certainly  
15 looks, with the odds being 200 to 1 in favour of  
16 the proponent, that the public hearing actually  
17 does work for the proponents, the stats say yes.

18 And contrary to the image that the  
19 Pork Council paints, the challenges of learning  
20 and interpreting and employing all of these  
21 regulations isn't always the case of a struggling  
22 independent farmer starting from scrap. With a  
23 vertically integrated industry, the hog farmer has  
24 the experience of experts to advise him through  
25 many stages of this process, particularly the

1 regulatory stages.

2                   Now, I am tired of getting assaulted  
3 by being incapable of understanding the science,  
4 or making a reasoned conclusion, by an  
5 industry-funded lobby group that works full time  
6 to promote and grow their industry with an annual  
7 spin budget of \$3.5 million. That, to me, is a  
8 special interest group.

9                   There is an article that I have here  
10 on this desk that I have made really messy really  
11 fast. Here it is. Western Producer, January 25th  
12 of this year, by Ron Friesen, in which Peter Mah  
13 advised the government to not make policies based  
14 on "public opinion". So I suppose policies based  
15 on back-room deals and the "economy of the moment"  
16 would be better for the future of our province?  
17 He said that "public opinion" is based on  
18 "subjective and often biased, piecemeal,  
19 anecdotal, and founded on a "not in my backyard  
20 perspective". And that's maybe true, but why is  
21 that? The Pork Council has deep pockets to work  
22 within. They can afford to buy media, place ads,  
23 golf with the government. And they have been  
24 telling the Manitoba public exactly the same  
25 message, over and over again, since 1996, that the

1 hog industry is wonderful for everyone. And if  
2 the public doesn't buy it, maybe that's because  
3 they see with their own eyes and smell with their  
4 own noses. And Mah complains that "special  
5 interest groups" are on a witch hunt. But from  
6 all of the intolerant literature that I read from  
7 people who don't support the constant and infinite  
8 growth of this industry, I feel that he is on a  
9 witch hunt.

10 So I will tell you what I have learned  
11 since January 4th of this year. And that's when I  
12 first read in my community paper, "The Treherne  
13 Times", that a Conditional Use Permit had been  
14 granted to Biopork Enterprises Limited following a  
15 public hearing on December 12th. When I read in  
16 the paper about the public meeting, I saw that it  
17 was only attended by the proponent, Mr. Barry  
18 Watson from BioPork, and Gary Plohman of the  
19 Technical Review Committee, and the R.M. Council.  
20 There was no other public there.

21 And seeing that the section involved  
22 was kitty-corner to my section, I was concerned.  
23 So I called the R.M. office and asked them to see  
24 me all of the information about the public  
25 hearing. They responded by sending me just some

1 media minutes.

2                   Finally, late in January, I did  
3 receive the Technical Review Committee report in  
4 the mail. And I was kind of stunned to discover  
5 the scope of this project because the place where  
6 I was just getting settled into, where I hoped to  
7 spend the rest of my life, was going to have 19  
8 barns, the pigs rotating every 120 days, a total  
9 of 16,000 pigs a year, will be moving in uphill  
10 and upwind from me. With no odour control  
11 because, as it says here, the manure will be  
12 composted on site, handled as a solid and, as a  
13 solid, there would be no odour. And mortalities  
14 would be composted on site. Now, I could not find  
15 the numbers for the average mortalities. But if  
16 the barn has a 95 percent success rate, we are  
17 still looking at composting more than 800 pigs a  
18 year.

19                   So then I went to Treherne to look  
20 through back issues of the Treherne Times to see  
21 if I had missed something about the public  
22 meeting. There was nothing in the paper, for a  
23 month prior to the meeting, so I hadn't. And it  
24 turned out that the R.M. erred, and they did  
25 improper notification. And there was supposed to

1 be a proper public hearing. And it is actually  
2 quite lengthy. And I am really going to cut this  
3 short for time and try to abbreviate as part of  
4 this. I have it all on tape, audiotape. So it is  
5 about three days' worth of phone calls to get to  
6 the truth of the process. And I will be  
7 submitting that, along with my proposal or my  
8 background.

9 Okay. So Regional Planning called the  
10 R.M. It turns out that there should be a public  
11 hearing at some point in our future. But I have  
12 been unable to determine if the application, so  
13 far, has been recalled from Conservation,  
14 Manitoba.

15 Some of the problems in the report,  
16 though, there is no reference to the big picture.  
17 The sites between the Manitoba Escarpment and the  
18 Boyne River, as we just saw, the whole area is  
19 subject to extreme run-off in the spring. That's  
20 not mentioned in the report. And some of the  
21 sections found in the area are actually underwater  
22 in the spring.

23 And when I checked the fields slated  
24 for the Manure Management Plan, I found that every  
25 single field has drainage going to the Boyne

1 River, according to my R.M. map. And one section  
2 included the Boyne River itself.

3           So there were a number of flaws, I  
4 thought, in this Technical Review Committee  
5 process, starting with no public hearing posted,  
6 no acknowledgment to the big picture, and no  
7 reference of run-off, and no reference to the  
8 Boyne River. And as you may know, the Boyne River  
9 supplies water to over 11,000 Manitobans in the  
10 South Pembina Water District, a district that is  
11 very challenged to get water to the citizens and  
12 is on limited supply.

13           The water quality in the Stephenfield  
14 River is compromised, and the capacity of the  
15 reservoir is reduced two-thirds by silt deposits.  
16 And this project requires over 7,000-gallons of  
17 water day.

18           There are some flags on this report  
19 that are put in by the scientists. Some of the  
20 lands spreaded are at nitrogen capacity already,  
21 some have poor soil, but who is going to act on  
22 the flags? The Technical Review Committee does  
23 not review the proponent's proposal for accuracy.  
24 It just checks the plans against Provincial  
25 regulations. So is it up to the R.M. and the

1 Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Hearing to  
2 ask for more due diligence, or is that up to Water  
3 Conservation, or does Conservation just handle the  
4 "water license" and the "digging of the lagoon"?  
5 Does anyone in this process stand back and look at  
6 the land and look at the big picture.

7           Here is the big picture here. As I  
8 sit here, the bush and the marginal land continues  
9 to be cleared to enable more application at the  
10 top of the hills. This is right near a barn in  
11 our Tiger Hills area. Here is the view on the  
12 very top of the Escarpment, where the soil is the  
13 thinnest. This is the very top of it. Miles of  
14 bushland that was protecting the top of the hills  
15 from erosion have been bulldozed. And you can see  
16 the soil is very stony and not very productive  
17 looking there. And this is looking down the hill.  
18 And, I guess, that's to show that the sediment  
19 from these hills here are actually completely  
20 barren, sweeps down the hills during run-offs,  
21 which are very short and very severe. And they  
22 can wash out the bridges and do a damaging job  
23 down below. So I am just going to conclude here.  
24 When I read the vocabulary of this hearing, of the  
25 initiatives and cooperative efforts of the

1 government and the hog industry, I get very  
2 discouraged because I'm an outsider, a "not in my  
3 backyard" kind of person. I am one of the people  
4 who the industry feels simply needs more education  
5 on the "good science" to prove that everything is  
6 hunky dory, that the hog industry is a good  
7 steward of the land and a good neighbour.

8 I found that this was such a very  
9 interesting document, though. It says here that:

10 "The Manitoba Government has a role to  
11 play in ensuring that the growth of  
12 the livestock sector continues to be  
13 viable."

14 And that's on page 5 of this. So the Manitoba  
15 Government wants to continue to grow the industry.  
16 And on page 7 here, it is about manure  
17 application, that:

18 "Our hog industry requires between  
19 474,000 and 742,000 acres of land.  
20 Expansion of the hog industry could  
21 require between 73,700 and 92,900  
22 additional acres."

23 And that, I estimate, to be 20 percent more growth  
24 in the hog industry. So if we're at about  
25 8.5 million now, we will be looking at 10 million

1 pigs. And then after that, two percent a year to  
2 keep up with world population growth.

3 This initiative is being funded, the  
4 government part is anyway, by the taxpayer. And  
5 it proves the absolute imbeddedness of this  
6 industry with our Provincial Government. There is  
7 a number of different studies here. There is a  
8 recommendation on page 12, recommendation 20 from  
9 the Livestock Stewardship Panel, which says that:

10 "Industry and government should pay  
11 greater attention to familiarizing the  
12 public with the in-barn environment  
13 and precautions that are taken to  
14 raise healthy animals."

15 And the government responded with a fact-sheet  
16 series.

17 Water testing, it says here, item 13:

18 "The government is picking up  
19 70 percent of the cost for private  
20 well testing, and 100 percent of the  
21 testing for repeat tests of wells  
22 which positive results."

23 That's a nice bonus. There were programs for  
24 sustainability, and all of these sorts of things.

25 And I have already told you that the government is

1 funding \$4.2 million into the industry.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Clayton, I hesitate  
3 to interrupt you, because we haven't heard too  
4 much from the opponents from the hog industry, but  
5 you are fast approaching twice the allotted time,  
6 so we will give you another moment or two.

7 MS. CLAYTON: Okay. Quickly, this is  
8 an industry where there is a lot of  
9 cross-pollination. These are people who have  
10 worked for the Manitoba Government, or have in the  
11 past: Peter Mah, Andrew Dickinson, formerly with  
12 MAFRI, formerly from intergovernmental affairs.  
13 And Gary Plohman, currently from MAFRI. And  
14 looking here, we see the same people, employed by  
15 the Manitoba Pork industry. So these are -- there  
16 is a lot of cross-over here. And when it comes to  
17 regulations, funding, applications and things, I  
18 am wondering if this is just too close for  
19 comfort.

20 I have some suggestions now. I  
21 suggest that the hog industry should stop  
22 expanding and learn to be healthy and sustainable  
23 at about 8 million pigs. Shelterbelts and lagoons  
24 should be covered. And old ILO systems should be  
25 phased out.

1 All new projects should be based on  
2 the straw-based bio-barn system.

3 A dwelling should be included in a  
4 site plan.

5 R.M. officials and community members  
6 should be part of the Technical Review Committee  
7 process so that the big picture is not missed.

8 A proper chain of custody for water  
9 taken from test wells should be instituted.

10 Measurements and standards for odour  
11 measures should be instituted by Conservation  
12 Manitoba.

13 Public-minded citizens should be  
14 trained and empowered to investigate incidents of  
15 "night farming".

16 A province-wide public information  
17 campaign should be launched with information about  
18 environmental rules and regulations, and a snitch  
19 shine.

20 And the Planning Act should be amended  
21 to map out ILO-free zone that encourage small  
22 farms, mixed farms, market gardens and traditional  
23 beef livestock and dairy operations.

24 I will have to wrap it up there, even  
25 though I have got some more stuff.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.  
2 Have you given us a copy of your written report?

3 MS. CLAYTON: I will print some out.  
4 My printer kind of expired somewhere today.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: We do have a copier  
6 here. We could make one copy today and make more  
7 back at the office.

8 MS. CLAYTON: There was some stuff  
9 that I thought was quite pertinent about the  
10 sustainability of this.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we will read it.  
12 We will make a note of those comments when we have  
13 an opportunity to read the report. Thank you.

14 MS. CLAYTON: Do you have any  
15 questions?

16 MR. MOTHERAL: No questions.

17 MS. CLAYTON: No?

18 MR. YEE: No questions.

19 MS. CLAYTON: No, not a single  
20 question.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Next up is Bill  
22 Harrison. Could we have order in the room,  
23 please? Mr. Harrison, you promised to tell the  
24 truth at the Winnipeg meeting last week, so we  
25 consider that you are still abiding by that

1 promise.

2 MR. HARRISON: Well, I hope so. Thank  
3 you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

5 BILL HARRISON, previously sworn, presents as  
6 follows:

7 MR. HARRISON: First, I would like to  
8 thank the CEC for the opportunity to comment on  
9 the subject of the environmental sustainability of  
10 the hog industry in Manitoba. It's good that the  
11 CEC will listen to critics of the hog industry and  
12 their suggestions for improvement in the  
13 protection of the animals' quality of life, with  
14 the resultant protection and improvement of the  
15 health and our ground and surface waters, our soil  
16 and, of course, that of our air, never mind all of  
17 us.

18 May I assure the hog industry that if  
19 they improve their protection of the above, the  
20 increasingly enlightened health conscious consumer  
21 will accept the increased cost of their pork. One  
22 cannot increase trust in that industry by denial  
23 and putting blame on critics of their  
24 profit-oriented animal management practices. The  
25 consumer has every right to be a vocal partner in

1 the meat they purchase and consume.

2                   The public expects the Provincial  
3 Government, with the help of such communal  
4 processes as these CEC hearings, to ensure that  
5 the hog industry raises the animals under their  
6 care with respect for their natural life processes  
7 and their feelings as living creatures. If the  
8 public perceives the hog industry as being given  
9 too much leeway to abuse the quality of life of  
10 animals under their care by our government, which  
11 is elected, one assumes, to ensure the public's  
12 health is protected, then we have a serious  
13 problem. That is if the hog industry is seen as  
14 contributing to pollution of our waterways, such  
15 as Lake Winnipeg our neighbouring Stephenfield  
16 Lake, we assume it is the Provincial Government  
17 which must enact legislation to minimize and  
18 ideally eliminate this threat. Industry, as well  
19 as individuals, must follow the law, as well as  
20 practice common sense to protect our drinking  
21 water, in particular.

22                   Unpolluted water is key to human  
23 health and welfare. It is the government's job to  
24 ensure all sentient beings are looked after. We  
25 must be assured that what we consume is safe and

1 healthy, whether it's food or water. Industry  
2 constantly reminds us they follow government  
3 regulations. Therefore, it is the Province's  
4 responsibility to regulate the hog industry as  
5 strictly as necessary, whether it's their feed,  
6 the water they consume, the air they pollute, or  
7 the manure they spread.

8           Municipal governments are not required  
9 to bare this responsibility. In my R.M. of Lorne,  
10 our council has ducked the responsibility to look  
11 after the public health by denying to enact a  
12 livestock by-law. Fortunately, the province has  
13 forced our R.M.s to develop such by-laws under the  
14 new Planning Act, so at least we have a beginning.  
15 Hopefully regulations governing ILOs will evolve  
16 and become stricter, so as to enhance water and  
17 air quality and, ultimately, animal and human  
18 health.

19           An example of the failure of the  
20 government system to protect its waterways is the  
21 new by-law in the R.M. of Lorne. Our watershed,  
22 that is the Roseisle Creek Watershed Association,  
23 worked with the R.M. of Dufferin, which surrounds  
24 the Town of Carman, in the last two years, leading  
25 up to Lorne's creation of its own development

1 plan. Dufferin, unlike Lorne, is downstream from  
2 us in our watershed, which includes Roseisle  
3 Creek, the Boyne River, some of Lyle Creek, and  
4 all of them are feeding into Stephenfield Lake.  
5 And the main source for the Pembina Valley Water  
6 Co-op, which feeds treated water to many towns  
7 such as Haywood, St. Claude, Carman, Roseisle,  
8 Miami, et cetera, as well as many farms in the  
9 area. And, of course, many irrigators use this  
10 water.

11 Now, the R.M. of Lorne initially  
12 declined to cooperate with the R.M. of Dufferin  
13 over the latter's concerns with polluted water  
14 coming from our R.M., which is Lorne, with its  
15 rapid growth of ILOs. And due to the combined  
16 efforts of our watershed group, working with the  
17 R.M. of Dufferin and meeting with representatives  
18 of Water Stewardship and Manitoba Conservation at  
19 the Legislature, we managed to achieve some  
20 compromise set-back distances from the R.M. of  
21 Lorne, along the Lyle and Roseisle Creeks, and the  
22 latter being the largest single feed to the Boyne  
23 River, for the construction of new ILOs in Lorne's  
24 development plan. So we got some compromises.  
25 However, since the R.M. of Lorne has not been

1 known to refuse any proposal for a new ILO, and I  
2 see Ms. Clayton has touched on that topic, it has  
3 been known -- I mean, it has not been known to  
4 refuse any proposal to ILOs, we have not given up  
5 on our efforts to improve our watersheds by  
6 persuading them to improve on their by-law.

7           The provincial planning process is  
8 flawed. Three separate hog ILOs, were approval in  
9 our R.M., even though they did not meet the  
10 Province's Farm Practices Guidelines. These were  
11 the Picardie Farm, one-half mile of St. Lupicin,  
12 Martin Grenier barn one mile south of Notre Dame  
13 de Lourdes, and the Charriere barn two miles east  
14 of Lourdes. This has really become a social, as  
15 well as an environmental, issue. No party seems  
16 to take responsibility.

17           Our council originally had no  
18 livestock by-laws, and refused to enact one until  
19 they were forced to by the Province via the  
20 Development Plan. Thanks to the Province for the  
21 baby step.

22           Technician reviews, which the Province  
23 mandates, are simply advisory. Since the reviews  
24 did not say no to the construction, our council  
25 saw this as an approval process.

1                   For example, Picardi Farms' proposal  
2    did not originally meet the Farm Practices  
3    Guideline of too many dwellings within a mile of  
4    the proposed site, according to the Technical  
5    Review Committee. However, they then reversed  
6    their decision when our council arbitrarily  
7    reduced the number of dwellings and, of course,  
8    our council approved the project. When the  
9    neighbours to the proposed project pointed out  
10   this discrepancy to the Farm Practices Board, the  
11   board's response was that they could not deal with  
12   their complaint until after the operation was up  
13   and running. Talk about a catch 22! It is  
14   obvious the government must improve on the  
15   complaints process before ILO projects are  
16   permitted to build. Now, this allow for greater  
17   public input, and the public has a right to be  
18   involved. I mean, we are all neighbours. We all  
19   have to work together in our communities to build,  
20   you know, healthier and safer communities.

21                   In yet another case, just west of  
22   Somerset on Highway 23, an ILO, which had burned,  
23   was ordered rebuilt on the same site by the  
24   insurer, across the road and less than 600 feet  
25   from Mr. Bill Acheson's farm. This is not the

1 barn proponent's fault. Good government could  
2 have intervened and mandated insurance companies,  
3 and they still can, to permit reconstruction of  
4 such barns at another site more equitable to the  
5 neighbour and the barn's owners. This could make  
6 for a better and healthier relationships in farm  
7 communities. Who is driving the planning train,  
8 anyway?

9                   Now, it's known that it takes 4,000 to  
10 5,000 litres of fresh, clean water to produce one,  
11 yes, one kilo of pork. An 8,000 feeder operation,  
12 such as the Picardie site, south of St. Lupicin,  
13 uses approximately 160 million litres of clean  
14 water a year, according to Manitoba agriculture.  
15 This is at a time when scientists are warning of  
16 global warming and prolonged drought. Much of the  
17 water is used to make the hog manure into a slurry  
18 to more easily, and cheaply, spread it on the  
19 land, which can and does create hazardous run-off  
20 and soaking into aquifers. This must change!  
21 Government must mandate composting manure systems  
22 as a real beginning to protect our ground and  
23 surface waters.

24                   And, at this time, I would like to  
25 thank Mr. Timmerman for his comments regarding

1 that he is, at this time, doing some composting,  
2 at least in his cattle manure. But I would  
3 hope -- and I understand that there is a project  
4 going on near Treherne, a couple of young hog  
5 producers are working with the Province now to  
6 develop a better method of composting hog manure  
7 from their biotech barns. I wish them luck, and I  
8 hope that will be the future for our Province.

9           Straw bedding systems must be used,  
10 such as in the biotech barns, or the pure lean  
11 pork hog production system. And I don't know if  
12 their website is still active. But I understand  
13 they had a little problem because they weren't as  
14 profitable as the liquid manure system barns.  
15 They never became terribly popular.

16           Now, liquid manure pits, even with  
17 plastic liners, are known by engineers to seep up  
18 to 10 percent into the earth and aquifers below.  
19 No, they don't leak. This does not have to  
20 happen. If jurisdictions in Europe, the U.S., and  
21 even in Quebec, can produce high quality pork  
22 profitably by using above ground manure storage  
23 tanks, using manure composting, not using  
24 antibiotics when an animal is sick, not using sow  
25 grates and by using straw bedding, then what is to

1 prevent our government from gradually legislating  
2 the same processes here in Manitoba?

3 Corporate hog producers must catch up  
4 with the rest of the enlightened world. They  
5 ought to wake up to consumer choice. They just  
6 might find compliance, cooperation, and  
7 environmental sensitivity will profit them more  
8 than resistance and denial and their expensive  
9 good science. Let us work together, consumers and  
10 producers, to create a more environmentally  
11 sustainable, tastier and health healthier meat so  
12 this debate can go away.

13 We cannot prove the environmental  
14 sustainability of the hog industry while we're  
15 constantly adding new barns; just like a fireman  
16 cannot put out a fire if we keep adding fuel to  
17 the fire.

18 Please, let's make this pause into a  
19 permanent moratorium. I heard last week the Pork  
20 Council said that they were at probably about nine  
21 million hogs now in the province. So if we go  
22 back to 2006 where at the beginning of 2006, where  
23 the number was 8.3 million, so that exponentially  
24 we can expect that by early next year there will  
25 be ten million hogs in Manitoba, and that should

1 be enough.

2 So, again, please let's make this  
3 pause into a permanent moratorium. Nine to ten  
4 million hogs in Manitoba is much more than enough.  
5 The hog industry should not have to be reminded  
6 that had over-production leads to lower prices and  
7 even collapse of the market. And how is that  
8 sustainable?

9 Thank you very much.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Harrison. You commented about -- you  
12 referenced, I think, it was three different barns  
13 that were allowed to go ahead, even though they  
14 didn't meet the Best Practices -- the Best  
15 Management Practices or was it just the farm  
16 practices?

17 MR. HARRISON: Just the farm  
18 practices.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: The farm practice  
20 guidelines?

21 MR. HARRISON: Yes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: How would you suggest  
23 that that problem be fixed?

24 MR. HARRISON: That's a good question.  
25 It probably won't be a simple one. There is no

1 simple answer to that. I think that there should  
2 be more public consultation. I don't expect that  
3 the board, your board, can make all of the  
4 recommendations just with this information that I  
5 am giving you.

6 But one hopes that -- you know, that  
7 if the industry sits down together with  
8 environmentalists and, you know, people from  
9 Conservation, people from Water Stewardship,  
10 particularly, and, you know, maybe we can research  
11 and talk amongst ourselves and figure out some  
12 answers to that question.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that that is  
14 one area that we may well give serious  
15 consideration to, the whole approval process.  
16 Because we have heard from concerns from people on  
17 at least two sides, maybe more than two sides, of  
18 that issue. So, you know, any input that you  
19 might give us about how you think that the  
20 approval process might be improved would certainly  
21 be valuable.

22 MR. HARRISON: I would like to do  
23 that. If I could, I can always make up a written  
24 submission as well.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MR. HARRISON: Another written  
2 submission for another time, another meeting.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: We would appreciate  
4 that.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: I am confused myself  
6 sometimes with some of these things, Mr. Harrison.  
7 There is reference to the Farm Practices Board,  
8 and there is reference to Farm Practices  
9 Guidelines. And I do believe that they are, like,  
10 two separate issues.

11 MR. HARRISON: They are two separate  
12 issues.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: Because the guidelines  
14 are there for municipalities to assist them in  
15 their development plans. And also the Farm  
16 Practices Board is a board that handles nuisance  
17 complaints, I believe, is it not?

18 MR. HARRISON: That's right.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I was getting  
20 them -- you were referencing them as though they  
21 were the same thing.

22 MR. HARRISON: No, that was not my  
23 intent.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

25 MR. HARRISON: No. The Farm Practices

1 Guidelines, many of them, actually, have become  
2 law in the new plan before the previous  
3 government, the Conservative Government, had made  
4 the recommendations originally. So nobody  
5 followed them until now. With any new operations,  
6 they all have to follow them as law, not just as  
7 guidelines.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: And just another  
9 comment, too, and I've mentioned this before  
10 today, that with a new Planning Act, the  
11 municipalities must or are mandated to come up  
12 with a livestock operation policy, and many of  
13 them are reluctant right now because of this  
14 review going on.

15 MR. HARRISON: I understand that.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: So we understand that.

17 MR. HARRISON: It's difficult. I  
18 mean, so many things are overlapping. And, you  
19 know, I can understand it. But our council,  
20 unfortunately, took the option to just wait and  
21 wait and wait, until finally the government --  
22 they got involved in the process. And then, at  
23 the same time, the government is trying to say:  
24 Well, you have to do this and you have to do that  
25 with the new changes in the Planning Act. Because

1 when they changed the Planning Act, of course,  
2 that caused confusion because it held up our  
3 process in Lorne and developing of the plan,  
4 because they have been changing as they were going  
5 along. But now, apparently, that by-law has been  
6 passed.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: That's all I have.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

9 MR. YEE: Mr. Harrison, maybe if I can  
10 just get some comments, because you had mentioned  
11 the Planning Act, and indicated one of the useful  
12 things about the amendment to the new Planning Act  
13 was the fact that municipalities now have to plan  
14 their developments in terms of livestock  
15 operations. But one of the things that we've  
16 heard from some municipal councillors is that  
17 there is a downside, as well, because municipal  
18 council no longer can put in by-laws respecting  
19 how manure is managed. Do you have any comment on  
20 that?

21 MR. HARRISON: Well, I would like to  
22 see, actually, some input from councillors -- from  
23 council, I mean. That's another issue. I know  
24 that a lot of power has been taken away from the  
25 R.M. And sometimes, in my R.M., I would have to

1 say, actually, that it is probably a good thing.  
2 But in other R.M.s, it might not be. It is,  
3 again, that balancing act, and it's tough. You  
4 know, it's tough to find a compromise.

5           Again, I don't have a straight, you  
6 know, pat answer to that, of course. I don't  
7 know. But, again, it requires more consultation,  
8 I suppose, from, you know, all of the  
9 stakeholders, as we call them. And, as I say, it  
10 is important the public is heard. It is  
11 unfortunate that all of the public doesn't come  
12 here. And I see the Pork Council is here because  
13 the Pork Council encourages people to come and  
14 give a presentation because their industry is  
15 under attack.

16           And as I travel around, people say,  
17 well, the government do what they want, anyway.  
18 And, unfortunately, they put a word in with the  
19 neighbours that they have. And a few people like  
20 myself, or Ms. Clayton, or myself may come and  
21 have an opinion as a layperson, not as a hog  
22 producer, but somebody who lives in a community  
23 and has concerns about the quality of life and, of  
24 course, the water and the environment, et cetera.  
25 And we want the industry to be sustainable, but

1 most of us feel that there is a limit. There has  
2 to be some limit. If you can just keep expanding  
3 and expanding, as I say, it is like adding fuel to  
4 the fire. How can we examine the sustainability  
5 of the hog industry if we don't take a pause and  
6 see if it is manageable, and if the manure, or  
7 whatever, you know, the threat to our water is  
8 manageable, you know.

9 And to be fair, perhaps we should also  
10 be saying or looking at the other livestock  
11 producers in the industry. I mean, they are out  
12 there doing their business, too. And they also  
13 have manure, you know, a lot of manure, to dispose  
14 of. And maybe it will still come to that. I  
15 don't know.

16 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Harrison.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
18 Mr. Harrison, for coming out this afternoon.

19 MR. HARRISON: Thanks very much.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Next up is Rick Maendel  
21 and Cameron Maendel.

22 Yes, would you please state your names  
23 for the record?

24 MR. R. MAENDEL: Ricky Maendel.

25 MR. C. MAENDEL: Cameron Maendel.

1 RICKY MAENDEL and CAMERON MAENDEL, having been  
2 sworn, present as follows:

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may  
4 proceed.

5 MR. R. MAENDEL: Good afternoon,  
6 ladies and gentlemen. I am here today on behalf  
7 of my community, which is Fairholme Colony of the  
8 Hutterian Brethren Church, Schmiedeleut  
9 Conference. From the Mennonites, our people  
10 learned to farm on the steppes of Russia in the  
11 late eighteenth century.

12 My community makes its living in the  
13 farming and livestock industry. We farm  
14 5,000-acres of mixed crops and grazing; turkey,  
15 hog, chicken and beef production. Raising hogs  
16 generates over half of our income.

17 A farm of this size needs a  
18 substantial amount of drinking water for both  
19 livestock and human consumption. Our well is  
20 situated in the Assiniboine River flat,  
21 approximately 100 metres from the river. This is  
22 also the drinking water source for our community.  
23 Obviously, it is in our best interest to keep our  
24 water clean and safe.

25 It has been over five years since we

1 have applied manure to the fields in our river  
2 flats. It is our choice not to, because we do not  
3 need to. We have an underground irrigation system  
4 covering over 2500-acres of our land; thus, manure  
5 need not be reapplied on the same land for over  
6 seven years. Our manure is injected into the  
7 ground by a cultivator or a disc cultivator.

8           The manure from our turkey operations  
9 stored in composting piles, which we use to  
10 decompose dead stock. When manure has  
11 sufficiently decomposed into dirt, it is spread  
12 over our lightest sand hills and fields to return  
13 fiber into the land and enrich the soil.

14           We practice zero tillage on most of  
15 our agricultural land. Currently, we are in the  
16 process of building a lagoon, because of the  
17 recent history of slurry tank failures, and  
18 although our storage tank passes government  
19 inspections.

20           I voluntarily took a two-year pork  
21 production technician course through Assiniboine  
22 Community College in Elie, and am now a licenced  
23 technician in the pork industry. I am aware of  
24 the environmental concerns facing the hog  
25 industry, and wish to be an active members in

1 conserving and being responsible for the future.  
2 With my experience of working in the barn, and the  
3 technical training that I received, I am better  
4 prepared, more aware and willing to do what I can  
5 to make a difference. My being here in front of  
6 you today attests to that!

7 Another way we try to conserve our  
8 environment is by the use of phytase in our hog  
9 feed to limit the amount of phosphate being  
10 excreted by the animals.

11 Our high school is very involved with  
12 environmental programs that foster awareness of  
13 environmental conservation. For the past seven  
14 years, a team from our school has participated in  
15 the Manitoba Envirothon. This is a hands-on  
16 environmental education competition for high  
17 school students from all over the province. The  
18 students have to do an in-depth study of four main  
19 categories; forestry, wildlife, aquatics and  
20 soils, plus a different subject each year, such as  
21 climate change and point source pollution.

22 In all seven years, our team made it  
23 into the top three! As well, our team was the  
24 Manitoba champion in the 2005 Envirothon, going on  
25 to represent Manitoba at the Nationals in

1 Missouri, USA.

2 In 2005, our community was also  
3 awarded the Conservation Family of the Year Award  
4 in the LaSalle Redboine Conservation District.  
5 These informed students are a significant part of  
6 our future, so teaching them in their youth to be  
7 good stewards of our environment will pay off in  
8 the long run.

9 Finally, our community, in the summer,  
10 looks and feels like a forest or park, with houses  
11 and buildings nestled right in among giant oak  
12 trees, many of which are 75 years old! We believe  
13 in conserving our natural heritage. And we plan  
14 to leave it for the future generations to cherish  
15 and enjoy. Thank you.

16 MR. C. MAENDEL: Hello. My name is  
17 Cameron Maendel. The Fairholme Colony Hog Barn is  
18 committing itself to a sustainable and productive  
19 future for us and for our children. In the last  
20 couple of years, we have taken a number of steps  
21 to ensure better manure management and proper  
22 disposal of dead livestock.

23 Last year, we started to build a  
24 lagoon, even though our current slurry store  
25 system has passed all government inspections. The

1 lagoon is being built to last for one year, which  
2 means we have to empty it out annually. This is  
3 in keeping with the law that was enacted to ensure  
4 that the lagoon is properly maintained and can  
5 easily be fixed if something goes wrong.

6 We regularly take soil samples so that  
7 we can stay within provincial regulations on the  
8 amount of manure we apply to our land. This  
9 manure is used as fertilizer, of course, and its  
10 application is controlled by the flow of the pump  
11 and the speed of the tractor.

12 Previously, we gauged ourselves by how  
13 far the slurry store levels receded in a certain  
14 period of time, but now we have accurate gauges  
15 telling us exactly how much we are injected.

16 About six miles down the road from us,  
17 our neighbours have installed a separator in their  
18 hog barn. This separator is not only made for  
19 hogs, but chickens as well. The end products are  
20 in a solid state, and the liquids are pumped out  
21 into a lagoon. And these solids are good  
22 fertilizer for gardens and lawns. Because they do  
23 stink for a while, they are unattractive to the  
24 consumer.

25 Another option is to purify the manure

1 into pure phosphorus and pure nitrogen, then  
2 turning around and selling it to fertilizer  
3 companies. Unfortunately, this is an expensive  
4 way to go. Our neighbours, who own this  
5 separator, have offered to pump our manure down to  
6 their separator and sort of split the cost of  
7 handling it. However, we have to think about our  
8 herd health and the transfer of diseases.

9           Inside our barn, we try to keep our  
10 pits as clean as possible. And this way, they  
11 stay free of any debris and do not plug up the  
12 sewers. And if that happened, we would have a  
13 spill and contamination of the environment would  
14 take place.

15           Our herd is Canadian Quality Assurance  
16 verified, and we follow its guidelines rigorously.  
17 This program is set up for the consumer and  
18 producer alike. The C.Q.A. requires keeping the  
19 hog barns clean and safe. It was implemented to  
20 help us produce pork in an environmentally safe  
21 manner. Manitoba processors offer decent levies  
22 for herds that are C.Q.A. certified, because it  
23 requires a little extra work. But we feel, in the  
24 end, we are producing a better product.

25           The C.Q.A. program involved adding

1 improvements, such as the newly set up  
2 traceability program, which allows us to trace the  
3 pork chop on the shelf back to the farm. This  
4 program allows producers, vets and processors to  
5 work together, if there is a disease outbreak,  
6 which helps us control any problems that might  
7 arise.

8 To conclude, as hog producers, we are  
9 always looking for viable ways to improve our  
10 manner of animal husbandry here on the farm. This  
11 is where we live and where we want our children  
12 and their children to live in the future. Farming  
13 is not just another job to us. It's our lifestyle  
14 and our vocation, which we want to conduct in an  
15 ecologically viable and sustainable manner.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Can you  
18 tell us a little bit more about your operation?  
19 You described it -- Ricky, in your paper you  
20 described it as 5,000-acres, but then you said  
21 turkey, hog, chicken, beef. How much of each of  
22 those do you have?

23 MR. R. MAENDEL: Beef, we have  
24 approximately 2250 cows, which would be with  
25 calves over 500 head. We have 800 sow piggery,

1 where over approximately half our pigs are raised  
2 offsite by employing three other families that  
3 raise them in biotechs for us.

4 The turkey operation, we have four  
5 barns that are filled three times a year.  
6 Approximately, the turkey quota goes by kgs, it  
7 would be 800,000 pounds or 300,000 kgs,  
8 approximately. All of that is put in stock by us  
9 and used for decomposition. And we have a lot of  
10 land, which is why we use zero tillage, to keep  
11 the soil there. And then we spread that over it.

12 And the pullets, we just raise custom  
13 pullets for layer operations, two sets of year of  
14 11,000.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Yeah. I was just  
17 curious when you were saying that you -- most of  
18 the land you don't spread after -- you spread  
19 every seven years?

20 MR. R. MAENDEL: We don't need to  
21 spread on the same field for seven years because  
22 our irrigation system has twelve inch to eight  
23 inch lines that run underneath from field to  
24 field. And they are all interconnected and we can  
25 pump to whichever field we want.

1                   MR. MOTHERAL: Got you. I missed  
2 that, I guess. And can I ask a question of  
3 Cameron?

4                   THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

5                   MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. We have heard  
6 about the separator process where, you know, the  
7 liquids and the solids are separated. We heard  
8 about that yesterday. And there seems to be  
9 probably, from what we can gather, there maybe is  
10 some future in that possibly. And some people say  
11 it has been working quite well. I will think of  
12 another question in a minute, but I will pass it  
13 on.

14                  MR. YEE: Just a question, I guess, to  
15 Cameron. You are building a lagoon. I was just  
16 going to ask if you were going to employ a cover  
17 or what type of cover?

18                  MR. C. MAENDEL: We haven't really  
19 looked into that yet. And so right now I don't  
20 think we are because it's not a law right now, is  
21 it?

22                  MR. YEE: Right. Thank you.

23                  MR. MOTHERAL: Just one more. I  
24 didn't quite understand this:

25                  "Manitoba processors offer decent

1                   levies for herds that are C.Q.A.  
2                   certified.

3                   MR. C. MAENDEL: They do offer levies  
4 for C.Q.A. certified herds.

5                   MR. R. MAENDEL: Premiums.

6                   MR. C. MAENDEL: Premiums.

7                   MR. MOTHERAL: All right. That's why  
8 I didn't understand it. I will change the wording  
9 here.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, yes. I just  
11 note that I was quite aware of the success of your  
12 students at the Envirothon. A former employee of  
13 the Clean Environment Commission is one of the key  
14 organizers for the Manitoba Envirothon, so  
15 congratulations to them.

16                  MR. R. MAENDEL: Thank you.

17                  THE CHAIRMAN: The last person on our  
18 list for the afternoon is Harvey Harland. Would  
19 you please state your name for the record?

20

21                  MR. HARLAND: Harvey Harland.

22 HARVEY HARLAND, having been sworn, presents as  
23 follows:

24                  THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please  
25 proceed.

1                   MR. HARLAND: Yes. My name is Harvey  
2 Harland. I am an interested agriculturist. And I  
3 live across -- in the R.M. of Victoria, across the  
4 road about half a mile down from Oak Ridge Colony.

5                   I have two purposes today. I want to  
6 sort of give you an indication -- they have  
7 requested me to give you an indication of how I  
8 observe what they do as farmers, and how they  
9 handle their livestock waste program.

10                  Now, the Oak Ridge Colony has about  
11 600 sow, farrow to finish, operation. They have  
12 150 beef cows. And then about, I think, 10,500  
13 layers. And, approximately, a 500,000-pound  
14 turkey quota.

15                  They have two large slurry tanks that  
16 they store their hog manure in. I believe it is  
17 just the hog manure that is stored in there. And  
18 they inject that into the soil approximately, I  
19 think, 350-acres twice a year. They do this under  
20 the management, the same Agritrend group that you  
21 saw here earlier today. So anything that they do  
22 with their livestock, and their fertilizer  
23 management, is through that same consulting firm  
24 as what the James Valley Colony did.

25                  They farm about 5,000-acres there,

1 4,500 to 5,000. And they do this application of  
2 manure on the basis of what the nutrients require  
3 from one year to the next.

4 And they also are -- in my view, I  
5 would class, from what I have observed there and  
6 see, that they are probably very top quality  
7 stewards of their management of their waste  
8 material.

9 Now, the other thing that I wanted to  
10 mention today, I have been involved -- I have been  
11 involved in the grain business and the feed  
12 business in Manitoba since 1960. I have had an  
13 awful lot to do with grain selling and grain  
14 production and grain regulation. But I want to --  
15 I want to illustrate here that some of the things  
16 that I think are most important in why we have had  
17 such large expansion in the livestock industry in  
18 Manitoba? And, basically, it simply comes down  
19 to: What are the facts of what has happened in  
20 Manitoba? And I understand, by swearing in this,  
21 to tell the truth and that you are interested in  
22 the facts.

23 Now, back a number of years ago we had  
24 the crow rate change. And since the crow benefit  
25 has been paid out to the farmers, and the massive

1 number of dollars that went into the adaptation  
2 programs for Manitoba, and you can get the exact  
3 numbers from the Manitoba Adaptation Council as to  
4 what extra money went into Manitoba to change from  
5 marginal land going into grain production to other  
6 things like pasture and hay lands, and things that  
7 there is only one or two species of animals one  
8 can have. And that's the beef animal.

9           And also the grain will become feed  
10 grain because we can't compete in this province.  
11 We are in the center of the country and with the  
12 crow benefit gone, we have got a history, and we  
13 will live with it forever, as having the highest  
14 cost of trading export grain out of this province.  
15 And it's right now \$50 to \$60 a tonne for grain to  
16 go any direction out of Manitoba. Therefore, the  
17 fact is that it's going to stay in Manitoba and be  
18 fed to meat animals and meat birds.

19           And so this province is moving very  
20 quickly from one of grain export to one of meat  
21 and vegetables. And we are seeing that getting  
22 more and more into vegetable production and more  
23 potatoes and more pork and more beef. In fact, it  
24 is the only province -- I happen to be on the  
25 Manitoba Beef Enhancement Council. And it is the

1 only province in Canada right now that is still  
2 increasing somewhat in beef production. So we  
3 have moved into that phase.

4 Manitoba, as I said earlier, is no  
5 longer competitive with Saskatchewan and Alberta  
6 and Ontario for exporting grain. So that's the  
7 main point of my presentation today. I don't have  
8 a written report for you, but I think I spoke  
9 slowly enough so that it can be recorded.

10 But I want to take -- two small things  
11 here at the end is that to me, having been  
12 involved in this business for the number of years  
13 that I have, it is inconceivable to me that one or  
14 two inches of pig poop could do any particular  
15 harm to the water supply in this province.

16 And I'm absolutely convinced that when  
17 the analyses are done and the whole industry comes  
18 down to understanding and hitting right to the  
19 facts, that there's the possibility of  
20 contamination under the guidelines that we have,  
21 and if we do increase them, we will, that this  
22 industry can't stop but expand. This industry  
23 cannot stop from expanding. And we have to  
24 understand that.

25 And to wrap it up, I want to say that

1 I know that there is an awful lot of apprehension  
2 out in rural Manitoba for having the autonomy  
3 taken away from the municipalities. But I am  
4 going to say that I do believe that eventually we  
5 are going to have to have some kind of an appeal  
6 for not only one side, but maybe even the other,  
7 to a government body to appeal decisions that have  
8 been made by municipalities.

9 So with that, I would like to say  
10 thank you, and that's it for me.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
12 Harland. Wayne?

13 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

14 MR. YEE: No, I'm fine.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your  
16 comments. That brings us to an end of the  
17 afternoon presentations. We will be reconvening  
18 at 7:00. We have at least a couple of people who  
19 have indicated they wish to speak this evening.  
20 So we will see you back here at 7:00, if you are  
21 so inclined.

22 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 5:02 P.M. AND RECONVENED  
23 AT 7:03 P.M.)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies  
25 and gentlemen. Can I ask you to take your seats,

1 please, and we will get the evening underway.  
2 Welcome back. We have three people who have  
3 indicated they wish to make presentations this  
4 evening. The first is Mr. Herb Watson. Please  
5 state your name for the record?

6 MR. WATSON: Okay. My name is Herb  
7 Watson.

8 HERB WATSON, having been sworn, presents as  
9 follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please  
11 proceed.

12 MR. WATSON: Good evening, everyone,  
13 ladies and gentlemen.

14 I decided to ask to present tonight  
15 because we do have hogs on our farm. And we also  
16 are in the potato business. And we are doing  
17 something which we feel is somewhat unique with  
18 the potatoes and the hogs.

19 I will just give you a little bit of  
20 background on how we got started in the hog  
21 business. My wife is there, the gray-haired,  
22 good-looking lady. Anyway, she has been a very  
23 big part of our farm for many, many years. So she  
24 was also a part of getting back into hogs in 1994.  
25 And we got back into hogs because of the decision

1 to do away with the crow rate, and we thought that  
2 we were going too have to add value to our grain  
3 in order to be sustainable over time. That may or  
4 may not be true, but that was why we got into  
5 hogs.

6 So we built two shelters. We chose to  
7 go with straw-based shelters, simply because of  
8 low capital costs. And some of the other side  
9 benefits which have come along are, you know, we  
10 thought that those buildings could be used for  
11 something else. It turns out that the odour is  
12 less, in our opinion. And it is natural  
13 ventilation, and it is healthy for the stock  
14 people that look after the hogs.

15 At first, we built two shelters in the  
16 fall of 1993. And Shirley and I looked after the  
17 pigs in those two shelters for that winter. And  
18 then the next summer, we built six more and we ran  
19 eight for a while. And currently we have 20  
20 shelters. We have an environmental permit for  
21 4,500 hog places. And we currently sell 13,500  
22 hogs, give or take a few. We turn 4,800 about  
23 three times a year. We have been turning it three  
24 times a year.

25 So it has gone from quite a small

1 enterprise to, for us, quite large. But there is  
2 many big systems of hogs in the province, which  
3 still make us look pretty small.

4           However, it is a big part of our  
5 income for our farm. We've been Canadian Quality  
6 Assurance since the year 2001. And I fully  
7 support the Canadian Quality Assurance Program,  
8 and think it's very important for sustained high  
9 quality hogs coming out of Manitoba.

10           In the summer of 2005, we expanded  
11 from 12 shelters to 20. And when we did that, we  
12 needed to get an environmental personality to do  
13 that, and so we started planning that a couple of  
14 years previous to that. And, anyways, we did get  
15 the permit for 4,500 hog places.

16           We make a Manure Management Plan,  
17 that's part of the permit, an environmental  
18 permit. And we comply with the provincial  
19 regulations. And that was the request of our  
20 local council. They said: Well, we don't mind if  
21 you go ahead with this project, as long as you  
22 comply with the provincial regulations, so that  
23 was their say in the matter.

24           So, anyway, to comply completely with  
25 that, we built a composting pad, which is 40,000

1 square feet. So all of the manure that comes out  
2 of these shelters is composted. This composting  
3 pad, I think, has 10,000 yards of clay. Because  
4 we are on very sandy soil, so this was part of the  
5 compliance. And it's designed so that it's  
6 slanted in to a French drain from the length-wise  
7 to the center. And then on the long-wise, it  
8 drains towards the ends where there is catchment.  
9 They are really retention ponds. So any run-off  
10 from the manure that's composting is caught in  
11 those catchment basins.

12 We also have six monitoring wells,  
13 which are checked on an annual basis, to see if  
14 there is any nutrient leaching from the barns, and  
15 so we're quite new with that. And, currently,  
16 there hasn't been any sign of any leaching at all.  
17 We have done testing previous to that. Over the  
18 years, John Malbon, who worked for the Department,  
19 had an engineer come out and drill holes. And  
20 when they tested on the holder barns, they found  
21 nothing.

22 Anyways, just to go on from there, the  
23 manure is cleaned out of the hog barns with a  
24 loader. And then it is loaded on to semis and  
25 placed on this composting pad. The rows of manure

1 are 10 feet wide and 6 feet high. And those rows  
2 are then turned with a special compost turner.  
3 And depending on climate conditions, they need to  
4 be turned from three to five times before you end  
5 up with mature compost. This process takes from  
6 90 to 120 days, again, depending on climate  
7 conditions, mostly rainfall. If it is really dry,  
8 it doesn't work as good as if it rains. And you  
9 can add water to help the process along.

10 So, anyways, the monitoring results  
11 are checked once a year. And the results from  
12 those monitoring wells, or those numbers, are sent  
13 to the Manitoba Conservation Department.

14 We have been working closely with  
15 Dr. Katherine Buckley, who has a research program  
16 going on at our place right now. And she works  
17 out of the Brandon Research Station. So we are  
18 doing, basically, what she tells us to do. And  
19 she has experience in compost, although I think  
20 it's cow manure that she has been working on since  
21 1998. So she really believes in this project and  
22 believes in enhancing soil organic matter. So  
23 that's kind of how the hog operation is operating,  
24 and how we manage the manure.

25 Now, the composting, and this wasn't

1 part of the plan when we started into hogs, but  
2 now what's happening to the compost manure is  
3 we're selling it to the potato operation. Because  
4 when Simplot came to Portage, we went into the  
5 potato business. And we currently have  
6 1,000-acres of compost under irrigation. So the  
7 compost is sold to the potato company.

8 The potato company runs under the name  
9 of WM Ventures. We're a 50 percent shareholder in  
10 that potato company. And my sister's family, the  
11 Metcalfs, are the other 50 percent. My son and my  
12 nephew manage the potato operation.

13 Now, what happens is we -- just to  
14 give you an idea of how we arrive at costing out  
15 this compost, we -- the pigs bear the cost of  
16 cleaning the barns out, so all that is, is a  
17 loader. And then from there on, we keep track of  
18 all of the costs that are incurred at making that  
19 compost, and the potato company pays for it. They  
20 pay for the composting operation. They pay for  
21 the transportation of the compost from the site to  
22 the field. When it's going to be spread on for  
23 potatoes, they pay for the spreading. And even  
24 after all of those costs are incurred by the  
25 potato company, they still are \$30 to \$50 ahead.

1 If you price the nutrients' value of the compost,  
2 it is the same as we would pay for commercial  
3 fertilizer to do the job.

4           The finished compost looks like black  
5 dirt. It's very humous, that's the difference.  
6 So we -- what happens, then, to get spread on  
7 those fields is we have a consulting group. It's  
8 two or three guys. Actually, the guy who owns the  
9 company's name is Trevor Thorton. They call  
10 themselves Crop Care Consulting. And we hired  
11 them the first year to help us with potatoes,  
12 because we knew nothing about them and we needed  
13 help. So what they do is they test the -- they  
14 analyze the nutrient value of the compost, and  
15 they also soil test the land. And then they have  
16 a good -- we target the yield of the potatoes that  
17 we want, given normal conditions, and then they  
18 spread compost and fertilizer to the level that we  
19 need to in order to obtain that yield of potatoes.  
20 And the potatoes are all irrigated.

21           So in the summer of 2006, it was a  
22 long growing season, hot weather, so the potatoes  
23 had all of the things that they needed. And they  
24 were -- we would do leaf tests all through the  
25 summer. And they were running out of nitrogen, so

1 we added a little bit more nitrogen through the  
2 water, the irrigation water, just so that we would  
3 get the full potential of the crop, so that worked  
4 very well.

5           And the thing that -- I think the  
6 compost, you know what, I am not really familiar  
7 with all of the analysis of the compost, but it is  
8 lower in phosphate and nitrogen. So in order to  
9 use all of the nutrients possible, it is important  
10 enough to have nitrogen available, so there is  
11 commercial nitrogen applied.

12           The crop rotation with the pools is  
13 wheat, potatoes and then an oilseed. They are  
14 talking about putting a legume into the rotation.  
15 The potato harvesters have choppers to chop the  
16 vines. And then they are spread evenly out over  
17 the field. And that acts as an organic residue,  
18 and it stops erosion.

19           The addition of this compost is pretty  
20 important, we feel, on potato fields. As you  
21 know, the potato fields have got a track record of  
22 erosion, and so the addition of organic matter is  
23 pretty important.

24           Again, Katherine Buckley, from the  
25 Brandon Research Station, is doing trials, and so

1 we cooperate with her. And each year we have a  
2 test strip that has compost and a strip that  
3 doesn't have compost and only commercial  
4 fertilizers. And all of the results have been  
5 very positive towards yield and quality of the  
6 potatoes. There has been an increase. And so  
7 it's just a combination of two things that's  
8 working very well.

9 Our land management strategy, in terms  
10 of erosion, is we try to get the very best fields  
11 for potatoes, because that's one of the things  
12 that we believe makes it work. So the very best  
13 field, in our opinion, would be a field that has  
14 quite good internal drainage, but yet has the  
15 ability to hold -- the water holding capacity is  
16 quite high. So we have picked out a lot of  
17 fields. And our hog operation is along the  
18 escarpment, but the potato operation is along the  
19 river, so most of our irrigation water is coming  
20 out of the river.

21 So what would happen, in terms of  
22 tillage, after the potatoes is if it was a lighter  
23 piece of land, after we're finished harvesting, we  
24 wouldn't work it at all until the following  
25 spring, just before it was seeded. If it is

1 heavier land, and there is no risk of erosion,  
2 then we would work it.

3 We feel the integration of livestock  
4 and crop production, in our case, is sustainable.  
5 The hogs have made money. They haven't made money  
6 in the last 15 months or so. The potatoes have  
7 made us money. We had a really terrific year last  
8 year. And I think part of any livestock, or  
9 farming operation, to be sustainable, it needs to  
10 be environmentally sustainable and also  
11 financially sustainable. Because you can't have  
12 one without the other, in our opinion. And so  
13 we've kind of got a unique situation, I think,  
14 that's working for us.

15 I thank you for allowing me to  
16 present. And if there is any questions, I will  
17 try and answer them.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Watson.  
19 It sounds like an interesting operation. Tell me  
20 about hoop shelters, or biotech shelters, as  
21 compared to the more conventional barns? What are  
22 the pros and cons?

23 MR. WATSON: Well, you know, I have  
24 never managed or been -- I have been involved with  
25 conventional hog barns. In my humble opinion, I

1 believe that, you know, we need some sort of  
2 conventional facilities to have baby pigs in. But  
3 once the pigs are 50 pounds and up, they can be  
4 very economically raised in hoop shelters.

5 Now, they can also be raised very well  
6 in conventional barns. The system that would be  
7 very different is the manure system. We work with  
8 straw and manure, and they work with liquid  
9 manure.

10 I think the thing that's happening,  
11 like 20 percent of the hogs going to Maple Leaf in  
12 Brandon are out of hoop shelters. And they feel  
13 seemingly very happy with our pigs. So I think  
14 it's quite possible to have a good quality pig  
15 come out of a hoop shelter.

16 I think the thing that's driving the  
17 hoop shelters, more than anything, is the high  
18 cost of new conventional barns. And it's my  
19 understanding that those costs are almost  
20 prohibitive. So hoop shelters are a way that can  
21 work. And I think that they can be very  
22 economical. The management would be very  
23 different.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any -- the  
25 amount of labour that goes into running one, as

1 opposed to the other, would it be similar?

2 MR. WATSON: Well, you know what, our  
3 labour runs about \$5.30 a pig. And I think that  
4 you probably have people in your audience that  
5 could tell you what the labour was for a  
6 conventional farm. But my understanding is that  
7 we are right in the ballpark there.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And just the nature of  
9 the work, is one more difficult than the other?

10 MR. WATSON: Well, I think it depends  
11 on how you have your facility set up. We have two  
12 guys that predominantly look after our hog  
13 operation. They come to work at eight o'clock in  
14 the morning and finish at five o'clock, and are  
15 usually done Friday at noon. They come in for an  
16 hour a day over the weekend, just to make sure  
17 that the water and feeders are working. So we've  
18 worked really hard at making it kind of a pleasure  
19 to come to work. Because if you don't do that,  
20 you don't get people to do the work. So, you know  
21 what, I think if you talk to our employees, they  
22 would be pretty happy.

23 But I think that there was a couple of  
24 tough months. Now, in the winter time, you are  
25 out in the cold instead of inside. And certainly

1 this winter was a test. But I think that we made  
2 it through quite good. And we just provided lots  
3 of good, warm clothing and do everything that we  
4 possibly can to make it kind of pleasurable for  
5 our people.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And the cold stretch  
7 this winter, was it any particular challenge for  
8 the hogs?

9 MR. WATSON: No. You see, if you get  
10 delivered 50 pounders when it's 30 below, then you  
11 have to do some special management things to make  
12 them come through that cold weather. The hogs  
13 that are established there, the way that they stay  
14 comfortable is the manure is actually composting  
15 in the shelters so that there's heat. So as long  
16 as they are provided with lots of good, dry straw,  
17 then they just lay on top of there. And you dig  
18 down in that straw and it's 100-degree. So they  
19 just find a level that's comfortable for them. So  
20 they get up and eat and drink and then they just  
21 go back and lay down.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr. Watson.  
24 I got some questions that you may find -- put it  
25 this way, I've never raised pigs.

1 MR. WATSON: All right.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: I'm certainly learning  
3 a lot about them in the last month, I'll tell you.  
4 The compost that you have, do you spread it in  
5 combination with other fertilizers on your  
6 potatoes?

7 MR. WATSON: Yes.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Now, if you're growing,  
9 like, I am just saying 1,000-acres of potatoes,  
10 how far will that compost, do you spread that over  
11 your entire acreage or do you just do a certain  
12 portion of it?

13 MR. WATSON: Well, if we have enough,  
14 we do the entire acreage. And you know what, we  
15 are just a year away, or a year and a half away,  
16 to expanding to the level that we are at now in  
17 the hog business. And we think we will have  
18 enough to do that 1,000-acres, so it will be real  
19 close.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, I guess it's too  
21 early to tell. I was going to ask you if you find  
22 your soil tills and structure is improving over  
23 the years?

24 MR. WATSON: Well, I think it is too  
25 soon to tell. But you know what, from all that

1 you read and understand from adding compost to  
2 land, it definitely will. The one thing I missed  
3 in my presentation, because I don't like reading  
4 it, is there is -- the compost takes three years  
5 to let all of the nutrients out. It doesn't  
6 happen all in one year. So we spread that compost  
7 on the potatoes to take care of certain nutrients  
8 that are required by the potatoes in the first  
9 year. So, therefore, for the next two years,  
10 there is still nutrients coming for the crops  
11 following the two years that there are not  
12 potatoes.

13 And we aren't grain farming any more,  
14 but one of the fellows we rented land to got  
15 7,000 pounds of sunflowers last year on last  
16 year's potato ground.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Wow, that's a lot of  
18 sunflowers.

19 MR. WATSON: Yes.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: I've only heard of that  
21 once before. I think somebody at Morden beat  
22 that. I think they got 3,800. You use all of your  
23 own compost. If you didn't have your potato  
24 enterprise, is there a possible sale for that  
25 compost? And is there a possible value added in

1 that if you didn't have that?

2 MR. WATSON: Well, I think there --  
3 now that we have a bit of a history, and a bit of  
4 a track record, certainly this crop consulting,  
5 these Crop Care people are looking at it. And  
6 they don't only work for us, they work for other  
7 potato farmers. So it is looking like there would  
8 be a sale to other potato farmers.

9 Now, I don't know the economics of  
10 spreading it on grain land. Maybe there is  
11 economic -- I mean, there is no doubt that it  
12 would work, but I don't know how the numbers shake  
13 out.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: And just one more  
15 question. And I have forgotten what it was. I  
16 will think of it later. I will give Edwin a  
17 chance.

18 MR. YEE: Mr. Watson, whereabouts is  
19 your hog operation located?

20 MR. WATSON: If you know where  
21 Rathwell, Manitoba is, it's two miles south and  
22 two miles west.

23 MR. YEE: And your potato acreage is  
24 nearby or in close proximity?

25 MR. WATSON: Well, the biggest part of

1 the potato operation is nine wells south of the  
2 Assiniboine River. We do have a dug-out, which is  
3 in an aquifer, which we usually have 130-acres.  
4 One circle of potatoes is close to where that  
5 dug-out is, within two or three miles.

6 MR. YEE: So are the transportation  
7 costs relatively high for your compost, getting it  
8 from your hog operation to your crops?

9 MR. WATSON: Well, we haul it in  
10 gravel trailers, semi gravel trailers. And you  
11 know what, I can't tell you the breakdown or cost.  
12 My son could tell you that. But it isn't  
13 prohibitive for that distance.

14 MR. YEE: So there is a potential to  
15 use it on crops further away, as well?

16 MR. WATSON: I think so, yeah. And as  
17 fertilizer costs continue to escalate, because of  
18 the petroleum, it just becomes more and more  
19 feasible.

20 MR. YEE: Thank you very much.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. I remember the  
22 question. It's back to the organic composting  
23 again. Would that compost then be suitable for a  
24 registered organic grower to use?

25 MR. WATSON: That would be a

1 Dr. Katherine Buckley question. I think it would.  
2 And the only reason I say this is because I have  
3 had phone calls from, I think it was Kroecker  
4 Farms, who do grow some organic potatoes, about  
5 what we're doing. And they didn't ask to buy it,  
6 but they wanted to know about the soil. But to be  
7 sure on that, I would --

8 MR. MOTHERAL: No. That's fine. I  
9 was just looking at the potential.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
11 Mr. Watson. Mr. Gerry Maendel. Please state your  
12 name for the record?

13 MR. G. MAENDEL: Gerry Maendel.

14 GERRY MAENDEL, having been sworn, presents as  
15 follows:

16 MR. G. MAENDEL: Yes. I'm Gerry  
17 Maendel from New Rosewood Colony. I'm a  
18 journeyman electrician on the farm. We have a  
19 farrow to finish, 550 sows. We have 20,000 layer  
20 chickens. We have 20,000 starter chickens, or  
21 whatever you call it. And we have 50 dairy on the  
22 farm.

23 And four years ago we had to build a  
24 lagoon. And we got a contractor to build a  
25 lagoon. And we built it to eight million gallons.

1 And we filled it up. And it took us about two  
2 years to fill it. And we got a custom applicator  
3 to empty it out after those two years. And we  
4 covered about 1,000-acres, around there. And we  
5 did all of the manure management. We have to do  
6 exactly the James Valley Colony. Excuse me, like  
7 they showed. We don't have the same guy, but we  
8 have to do everything they do. We get something  
9 from the area here. So you can see that we are  
10 concerned about all of that.

11 And when we emptied it, we really  
12 thought about, rather than spending hundreds of  
13 thousands of dollars, we will look into a  
14 separator. And we didn't like when we agitated,  
15 it washes out the banks. And we have heard a lot  
16 of stories about that, washing off banks and  
17 damaging our lagoon. And we spent too much money  
18 to build it. And we spent \$100,000 to empty it,  
19 to inject it, and that came up to quite a bit of  
20 money. And we didn't want to spend that every  
21 year or so.

22 So we looked into that separator. And  
23 we looked a long time. And we found one at  
24 Wawanesa, basically what we wanted. We made an  
25 appointment to come down. We went there,

1 actually, when they were emptying out the lagoon.  
2 We wanted to see how we were doing. He told us:  
3 We promise you are not going to go home. If you  
4 haven't bought any injection system, or anything,  
5 you will do that. So we went there with all of  
6 our higher-ups from home.

7 So when we went there, they were  
8 emptying out with an irrigation system. And  
9 everybody knows, you can't empty out a lagoon with  
10 an irrigation system, because two miles off you  
11 couldn't be around that irrigation system,  
12 emptying out the hog lagoon. And we had to drive  
13 right up there to smell the lagoon. The smell,  
14 you couldn't say was really bad. You could stand  
15 it. And right there we were so impressed.

16 And he took us over to the lagoon  
17 where they were emptying it out and he said: I  
18 have to show you some other things. So he jumps  
19 out of the truck, washes his hands in that lagoon.  
20 And we seen where they suck it out of the lagoon  
21 while they were doing it. He washed his hands,  
22 shook them off a bit. He even took his hands up  
23 to our noses. It smelled sour quite a bit, but  
24 nothing really. And we, actually, went home and  
25 we decided we have to do something about that. So

1 we got on to it. So we actually put one in.

2 I have all of the proof there. And it  
3 cost us close to half a million dollars to put it  
4 in, and it works very good with hog manure. We  
5 could almost say perfect. It is exactly what we  
6 wanted. But the smell isn't quite as gone as the  
7 one in Green Acres because we have all those  
8 chickens. And we're the first ones in North  
9 America -- the first one in the world, I think,  
10 yeah, it is the first one in the world, that tries  
11 to separate with that separator chicken manure.

12 So now they are doing so many test  
13 results because they promised us that they will  
14 get the smell down, too, where the other colony is  
15 with that chicken manure. They haven't yet, but  
16 they are really working on it. In spring they  
17 want to shock the lagoon with the separator with  
18 the chemicals that we have to put in. And they  
19 are all environmentally friendly. And we kind of  
20 are going ahead and really concerned about it.  
21 And I really didn't like what that lady said  
22 before. If you can't get the smell down, I would  
23 say the smell is down quite a bit less than half.  
24 But theirs is extraordinary compared to this. And  
25 anyway, it's very good.

1                   And our teacher, she got into an  
2   environment program, too. They are doing waste  
3   water, and you name it, at the Oak Hammock Marsh.  
4   She wanted me to read this. They are really  
5   proud, the children, what they are doing. And it  
6   says here:

7                   "Our Grade 7 and 8s entered a contest  
8                   on Manitoba Youth Stewardship and an  
9                   Environmental Sustainability Showcase  
10                  at Oak Hammock Marsh and won a  
11                  platinum plaque on the research on how  
12                  we address our waste management. We  
13                  had to address three points:  
14                  Sustainable life on earth between  
15                  environment, human health and  
16                  well-being and economy. We improved  
17                  water and soil quality by planting  
18                  various plants, managing and watching  
19                  growth rate for four to five weeks.  
20                  The pictures in our album show how  
21                  various plants prosper from the dry  
22                  solids. The pictures also show the  
23                  difference before solid separation.  
24                  And after, feel free to browse through  
25                  the album and ask questions."

1 They actually made a small separator like we had  
2 with wood and that. And the people were so  
3 impressed with that separation, I guess, that  
4 that's how they won it. Because they actually did  
5 a showcase there right there showing how to  
6 separate the manure.

7 Oh, yeah, I forgot about the main  
8 thing. And on the record here, it says that's why  
9 we actually did it, because that monkey was on our  
10 back still about all of the phosphorus. And  
11 rather than spending all of the money, we take  
12 90.6 percent of the phosphorus out of that stuff  
13 that is in the lagoon. Most of the time we got 96  
14 and 94 percent. But they put down -- the  
15 government people or whatever, they put down 90.6.  
16 But the solids, we tie them up now.

17 But we are waiting for an option to  
18 come up. There is one right near our farm there,  
19 a mushroom plant that went broke. We are waiting  
20 for that. It is \$100,000, or something, for a new  
21 one. For what we wanted, that's exactly what we  
22 want. So we want to compost it and sell it.

23 We approached the greenhouses in  
24 Winnipeg and landscapers. They are very  
25 interested in the product. As soon as we compost

1 it, what are you doing? Even our gardener said:  
2 We are not going to have enough for him. So we  
3 even decided we might buy a bagger and bag it and  
4 sell it. We're not there yet.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: So can you tell us a  
6 little bit more about this separating machine?  
7 How does it work? Is it a press or a centrifuge?

8 MR. G. MAENDEL: No. First it goes  
9 through one screen and takes out the really big  
10 solids. Then it goes into a separation process.  
11 We put three chemicals in there. They are all  
12 environmentally friendly. They don't tell the  
13 secret, really, what it is or not. But it is  
14 really no secret. All of the towns use that  
15 process, I think. And then it goes into the  
16 second screen, where it is processed. And that  
17 takes out most of it, the phosphorus and that.  
18 Then it goes into a fan separator that really lots  
19 of people have. And that really just dries it out  
20 and it comes out dry.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is this equipment  
22 manufactured?

23 MR. G. MAENDEL: All over. Ours was  
24 manufactured in New Brunswick, or something. But  
25 it's just that the guys that own it come from

1 there, so they make -- most of the stuff is made  
2 with stainless steel. There is not really that  
3 much to it, really. And the screens come from  
4 Germany, I think, or something.

5 MR. YEE: Mr. Maendel, is there a  
6 certain capacity for this separator or it can  
7 handle a large capacity or volume?

8 MR. G. MAENDEL: Oh, yeah. We could  
9 go up to -- we could handle, they said, for sure a  
10 2,500 sow operation with the one we have now.

11 MR. MATHESON: 100-gallons a minute.

12 MR. YEE: Yeah. My understanding,  
13 from some of the other presenters, or what I have  
14 already read, or heard in some cases, if you have  
15 a small operation it is not economical because,  
16 you know, your operation is too small to use the  
17 separator versus if you have a separator with that  
18 capacity, you can handle much more.

19 MR. R. HOFER: Half a million dollars  
20 separator, they have a lot to pay for.

21 MR. G. MAENDEL: There is another  
22 thing I want to say. If our industry shuts down,  
23 our colony, it's 60 years old. And our hog barns  
24 are 35 years old. We could never make it with our  
25 hog industry. We have to build a new system. And

1 if we are going to -- we have to expand, you know,  
2 we have to with the grain prices. Now they are  
3 not bad, but we have to put it to our hogs to do  
4 it, we figure, now.

5 MR. YEE: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maendel, I missed  
7 it at the outset. What colony are you from?

8 MR. G. MAENDEL: New Rosedale Colony.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: New Rosedale. Where is  
10 that?

11 MR. G. MAENDEL: As the crow flies  
12 here, north west from here.

13 MR. MATHESON: It is on the 305  
14 Highway.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
16 coming out tonight. Mr. Robert Davy.

17 MR. DAVY: Good evening, Mr. Chair.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you please state  
19 your name?

20 MR. DAVY: Robert Davy.

21 ROBERT DAVY, having been sworn, presents as  
22 follows:

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, please.

24 MR. DAVY: Thank you very much,  
25 Mr. Chair, and Board of Representatives.

1 I will be short and sweet. We are  
2 just here, basically, to make a point on behalf of  
3 the R.M. My name is Robert Davy, as you've heard,  
4 newly elected reeve of the R.M. of Lorne.

5 I make this presentation today because  
6 our municipality is concerned about restrictions  
7 against the hog industry and the new directions  
8 this may take.

9 We are all very aware of the  
10 environmental changes occurring around us. We  
11 believe that the government and the municipal  
12 regulations we will protect our potable water and  
13 aquifers for generation to come.

14 We must educate the public, both urban  
15 and rural, regarding the changes that have  
16 occurred.

17 We have many producers in the R.M. of  
18 Lorne who inject hog manure for odour, better use  
19 of fertilizer, with no loss of benefit. Some of  
20 these producers are not obligated to inject  
21 because they are under 300 animal units, but pay  
22 the extra costs because they feel it is a small  
23 price to pay for insurance and prosper from the  
24 natural fertilizers.

25 The Rural Municipality of Lorne is

1 restricted from growing specialty crops, such as  
2 sunflowers and beans because of a lack of heat  
3 units. The main crops grown in the R.M. of Lorne  
4 are cereal crops and livestock are necessary to  
5 subsidize the farm operations.

6 New regulations, like proposed  
7 phosphate rules, will hinder many operations in  
8 expanding, or where they can build, especially in  
9 the marginal higher classes of soils.

10 Planning districts are used as  
11 controls for land use, but let us not forget that  
12 the people still own their land, and this should  
13 not become a dictatorship.

14 I think it is very hard for a hog  
15 farmer to be proud of how they make their living  
16 in this province. We, in the R.M. of Lorne,  
17 believe that they are good stewards of the land,  
18 and should be allowed to make their living doing  
19 so.

20 I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Davy. I  
22 have got a couple of questions. One just to show  
23 my ignorance. What do you mean because of the  
24 lack of heat units?

25 MR. DAVY: On the Escarpment, which

1 entails the majority of the R.M. of Lorne, from  
2 the eastern part of the escarpment is where the  
3 R.M. of Lorne begins. We're, I believe, eight  
4 miles wide and we're 36 miles long in size. The  
5 majority of the whole R.M. is up in the  
6 Escarpment. We're at anywhere from 1,400 to  
7 1,700, 1,750 above sea level, and we are a cooler  
8 climate. We are marginal soils. We are very  
9 rough terrain at the western part of the R.M.,  
10 also in the eastern part of the R.M., but in  
11 between we have got some good arable land.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you for  
13 that. I would like to ask a question that we  
14 really didn't address at all in your presentation  
15 tonight. And we haven't had too many municipal  
16 reeves here before us. And that's just with  
17 respect to the approval process and the role that  
18 municipalities play in that process. Do you have  
19 any concerns about how that process works?

20 MR. DAVY: As I said at the beginning,  
21 I am newly elected, so I'm learning.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

23 MR. DAVY: I do have some personal  
24 concerns. I didn't want this presentation to get  
25 into detail. We just basically wanted to make a

1 point on behalf of our R.M.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fair enough. I  
3 won't put you on the spot.

4 MR. DAVY: Good, thank you.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: I wish I would have had  
6 that statement a few years ago when I was a  
7 municipal councillor.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: You can only use it for  
9 so long, because then you are no longer newly  
10 elected.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: As a newly elected am  
12 public official, I guess you could say, you have  
13 found it quite demanding, as far as the public  
14 perception, of what's going on in the area? Would  
15 you run again? Maybe that's not fair.

16 MR. DAVY: Do you know some of the  
17 history?

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Actually, I do, so  
19 that's why it's not fair.

20 MR. DAVY: It's been quite demanding,  
21 Wayne, to be quite honest. It came at a time that  
22 we had some issues that we were all not prepared  
23 for in the Municipality of Lorne. Many of the  
24 incumbent had been through some of the issues with  
25 another site. And when I walked in, I never

1 even -- I had gotten oriented on the Friday. And  
2 on the Tuesday of the next week, we had a public  
3 hearing.

4 My first meeting was a public hearing.  
5 And we couldn't hold a hearing in chamber. I  
6 hadn't held a regular R.M. meeting. And I was the  
7 newly elected reeve. And I was chairing a public  
8 hearing that we had to rent the hall out. There  
9 was a big concern and there was a big push with  
10 First Nations and being in their area, and it was  
11 coming from the federal government. We got into a  
12 lot of heat over that.

13 The hall was just about filled,  
14 probably a good half of it, to two-thirds of it,  
15 was First Nations people. And we understand their  
16 position and their point. Their First Nations  
17 land is all within our jurisdiction. And they  
18 were coming over to our jurisdiction and wanting  
19 to have some say and some clarification and make  
20 their point heard. And they made it heard quite  
21 loud and clear. And that was my first experience.  
22 And then it mushroomed from there. And it has  
23 quieted down right now with the pause that's been  
24 taken, no doubt.

25 The particular site, just for your

1 information, was supposed to be in the hopper.  
2 And we could not get anybody from the Department  
3 of Natural Resources, or Mr. Struthers, to  
4 acknowledge our questions in order to get an  
5 answer back. And, finally, we did get the phone  
6 call. And it was five after 12, on a Friday  
7 afternoon from a subordinate that was to pass on  
8 the message that, two and a half weeks after we  
9 had been trying to get ahold of somebody and get  
10 some answers and talk to somebody, as we are all  
11 part of government. And we are a lower form of  
12 government, but we still should all work together.  
13 So we had the message passed on to us that it had  
14 just been passed in the legislature that morning  
15 at 10:30 and was now part of the pause, and that's  
16 where everything stopped.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Right. And I wish you  
18 well in the future. And one statement you did  
19 make that I thought that really touches us all is  
20 the education part. And I know that we need to --  
21 that's a must. And it is probably going to be  
22 even part of our recommendations. Who knows. We  
23 don't know that yet. But education has got to be  
24 part of everything, and I actually wanted you to  
25 know that. And there are some good things going

1 on in the country right now regarding that. So,  
2 anyway, I wish you well in the future. And thank  
3 you for the presentation.

4 MR. DAVY: Thank you, Wayne. A small  
5 little addition that I would like to make, that  
6 I've been made aware of, and kind of a nice piece  
7 of education, is residential water on an acre of  
8 land seems to grab a lot of people. And you have  
9 heard those comments before, 20,000-gallons. And  
10 people on the street, even in our own backyards,  
11 and in our small communities, haven't heard that.  
12 And when they hear somebody is applying  
13 3,000-gallons or 5,000-gallons an acre, they  
14 figure this is the end of the world. It is not  
15 even a quarter inch of water. And the crops are  
16 certainly absorbing this. And mother nature is  
17 going to be using it in its process. Thanks.

18 MR. YEE: Mr. Davy, just one question,  
19 more for my clarification, and I will give you  
20 some background here. We have heard from some  
21 presenters, from a municipal perspective, in terms  
22 of the Planning Act. You made a statement here  
23 that planning districts that use these controls  
24 for land use should not forget the people own  
25 their land, and this shouldn't be a dictatorship.

1 But the presentations we have heard, more or less,  
2 indicated that some municipal officials felt that  
3 they wanted more control than what the Planning  
4 Act provided in terms of the Conditional Land Use  
5 permitting. What's your opinion on this, or how  
6 is this reflected in this statement that you've  
7 made?

8 MR. DAVY: Well, that's something we  
9 are all struggling with. Everybody wants more  
10 control. But when you do get that control, we  
11 have to live in these communities. And we all see  
12 each other and we all know each other by our first  
13 names. And you start taking those  
14 responsibilities and making those decisions, and  
15 as you should well understand, it becomes very  
16 political. It becomes verbal. It becomes human  
17 nature for people to begin -- how would I say  
18 that -- attempting to disrupt your lives at times.  
19 And you wonder if it's all worth it.

20 Because, at the best of times, as  
21 Wayne can probably vouch for, the positions we  
22 hold in municipal government are no more than a  
23 voluntary position. If anybody thinks they are in  
24 it for the money, they had better go work on the  
25 calculator a little bit harder, because that's not

1 why you're there. You are trying to do the best  
2 you can for your community and grow from that.  
3 But it's a question of, I wonder  
4 personally, that's personally, if we're the right  
5 people that should be making that decision,  
6 whether some of these operations should be going  
7 ahead or not. Like you go through the technical  
8 review, and you see all of the requirements, and  
9 then you go to the department of natural  
10 resources, and you go to the Environment Act. We,  
11 as municipal officers, already have too much on  
12 our plate. And we're already talking about, there  
13 is no way we can handle these presentations and  
14 these meetings in a day. At one time it used to  
15 be done in half a day. We are finding that it's  
16 overload. Our time is being on committees. And  
17 we, with our resources, are not unlimited. We  
18 have very little time for our own. It is very  
19 demanding.

20 I don't know in small municipalities  
21 it is proper to have the municipal government  
22 having the last say. And that's my personal  
23 opinion, sir. I am not speaking for any of my  
24 councillors here or anybody else.

25 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Davy.

1                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
2 Mr. Davy, for coming out tonight.

3                   MR. DAVY: Thank you very much.

4                   THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody else  
5 in the audience tonight who wishes to make a  
6 presentation? This is the last chance here in St.  
7 Claude. Okay. Well, we will bring the evening  
8 sessions to a close. We will reconvene tomorrow  
9 in Emerson at 1:00.

10                   Thank you all for coming out here this  
11 evening, and some of you this afternoon. We have  
12 had a very full and enlightening day here in St.  
13 Claude. Thank you and good evening.

14 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:53 P.M.)

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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.

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Lisa Reid