

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at the Ukrainian Catholic Hall

Dauphin, Manitoba

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 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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NO EXHIBITS MARKED

1 TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:05 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies
4 and gentlemen. I call the proceedings to order.
5 I would like to welcome you all here to Dauphin
6 for the public meeting here in the City of
7 Dauphin. My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the
8 Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment
9 Commission, and I'm also the Chair of this panel.
10 With me on the panel are Wayne Motheral and Edwin
11 Yee.

12 I have a few comments, by way of
13 opening comments, that I would like to make and
14 then we will proceed with presentations from
15 people who have indicated they wish to make
16 presentations.

17 The Clean Environment Commission has
18 been requested by the Minister of Conservation to
19 conduct an investigation into the environmental
20 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba. The
21 Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us to
22 review the current environmental protection
23 measures in place relating to hog production, in
24 order to determine their effectiveness for the
25 purpose of managing the industry in an

1 environmentally sustainable manner.

2 Our investigation is to include a
3 public component to gain advice and feedback from
4 Manitobans. We have been asked to take into
5 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to
6 manage hog production in an environmentally
7 sustainable way.

8 Further, we are to review the contents
9 of the report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
10 entitled, "An Examination of the Environmental
11 sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba".

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

18 To ensure that our review includes
19 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
20 has undertaken to hold 17 days of meetings in 14
21 communities throughout the agricultural part of
22 Manitoba. Today, I believe, is the eighth day of
23 these hearings. The meetings will continue
24 through March. Although, actually, this is the
25 last meeting for March. They will continue in

1 April, with the final meeting currently scheduled
2 for Winnipeg on April 27th.

3 At these meetings, it is open to any
4 group or individuals to make a presentation to the
5 panel on issues related to our mandate. For the
6 most part, presentations are to be limited to 15
7 minutes. Exceptions may be made, in some cases,
8 where a presenter needs more time, as long as that
9 person has indicated that to us before their
10 presentations. Those making a presentation will
11 be asked to take an oath promising to tell the
12 truth.

13 Presentations should be relevant to
14 the mandate given to the Commission by the
15 Minister. If a presentation is clearly not
16 relevant, it may be ruled out of order. And if a
17 presentation is clearly repetitive, that also may
18 be ruled out of order.

19 Members of the panel may ask questions
20 of any presenter during or after the presentation.
21 There will be no opportunity for other presenters
22 or the public to ask questions or cross-examine
23 presenters.

24 In addition the public meetings, the
25 CEC has engaged consultants to assist us in this

1 review. The results of those research endeavours
2 will be posted on our website upon receipt, which,
3 for the most part, will be in late June. Anyone
4 who is interested is invited to provide comment on
5 any of those reports, if they so wish. A
6 reasonable, albeit brief period of time, will be
7 allowed for this.

8 Written submissions will also be
9 accepted. Information on how to submit written
10 suggestions is available at the table by the
11 entrance. Deadline for written submissions is
12 May 7th.

13 We also realize that many people are
14 reluctant to make presentations in public, for
15 whatever reasons. To address that, we have
16 engaged a graduate student from the University of
17 Manitoba to meet with, or talk on the phone with,
18 people who would rather not speak at public
19 meetings. These conversations or meetings will be
20 kept in confidence. Information on how to contact
21 her is available on our website, and also at the
22 table by the entrance.

23 Finally, some administrative matters.
24 If you wish to make a presentation today, and
25 haven't registered, I would ask that you indicate

1 to Joyce at the table at the back of the room or
2 at the entrance.

3 Also, as is our normal practice, we
4 are recording these sessions. Transcripts,
5 verbatim transcripts, will be available online in
6 a day or so. You can find the link from our
7 website.

8 In respect of cell phones, I would ask
9 that they be turned off, or at least that the ring
10 tone be turned down. If you must take a call,
11 would you please leave the room? And, finally, I
12 would ask that you not engage in any conversations
13 in the audience while people are making
14 presentations.

15 Thank you. So far, I believe, we have
16 had six, seven people that have indicated that
17 they wish to make presentations this afternoon.

18 The first is Mr. Harry Harris. Would
19 you please come up to this table? Would you just
20 take a seat, Mr. Harris? Mr. Harris, would you
21 please introduce yourself for the record?

22 MR. HARRIS: My name is Harry Harris.
23 I'm the manager of the Alonsa Water Conservation
24 District.

25 Harry Harris, having been sworn,

1 presents as follows:

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

3 Please proceed.

4 MR. HARRIS: Well, good afternoon,
5 ladies and gentlemen. Is it okay if I just stand
6 up and address you like this?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, he can give you a
8 cordless mike.

9 MR. HARRIS: Can everybody hear me
10 clearly? Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I
11 would like to thank the Commissioner for the
12 opportunity to speak.

13 Before I get into the presentation
14 itself, I would like to preface my remarks with a
15 few comments. At first glance, being from Alonsa,
16 which is primarily a beef cattle producing area,
17 this might not seem to be terribly relevant on the
18 face of it. But I think you will find that there
19 are some very relevant issues when it comes to the
20 soil types in the southwest region.

21 My Board has noticed several
22 inconsistencies in the section that had been used
23 to monitor water quality in the past. As you will
24 know, they have set up watering stations, but none
25 of them which are representative of our district.

1 And also, from both the Federal and the Provincial
2 Government, we have been getting a lot of these
3 Best Management Practices pushed towards us, and
4 they seem to be very heavily skewed towards
5 livestock production.

6 And there seemed to be some problems
7 with that, in that we live in an area with
8 calciurias underlay soils, which just eat up
9 phosphorus, so we are in a very low phosphate
10 environment. And the major crop in the Alonsa
11 Conservation District is alfalfa, which requires
12 no nitrogen.

13 So if the stated goal is to get an
14 immediate 10 percent reduction in the phosphorus
15 and nitrogen going into Lake Winnipeg, we saw some
16 inconsistencies with the idea that farmers with
17 livestock were being targeted as the people who
18 have to take the measures to try to reduce that
19 in-flow, when we couldn't actually see where it
20 was coming from.

21 So we decided that it was important to
22 get a set of data for our local area, so we took
23 16 tests last year. And I am going to give you a
24 brief summary of those results. And I would add
25 that this is just one set of results. And so,

1 scientifically, this has very little backing. But
2 I think you will find some interesting results,
3 all the same. And we do intend to continue this
4 process, and to expand it in the coming years.

5 This is a map showing the Alonsa
6 Conservation District, which comprises 1,300
7 square miles on the west side of Lake Manitoba,
8 roughly from Sandy Bay Reserve, in the south, to
9 Toutes Aides Bay, in the north. And you see can,
10 from the little red dots on the map, if you look
11 at it closely, I know it is pretty hazy with the
12 light from the windows, but the samples are very
13 heavily skewed from the north end to the south end
14 of the District, and that's because that's where
15 the major drainage area is within the Alonsa
16 Conservation District.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Can you go back to that
18 last slide there, please? I didn't quite get what
19 the whole district is of Alonsa. Can you point it
20 out? Oh, I see, the brown one. Where is the
21 outline of the Alonsa District?

22 MR. HARRIS: The Alonsa Conservation
23 District is right here to Toutes Aides Bay, which
24 will be right at the top here, so basically this
25 area here.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay, that's fine. I
2 just didn't know if I could get a perspective.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. HARRIS: Now, you might want to
5 take a good look at this part. This is the north
6 part of the Alonsa Conservation District, which is
7 primarily in the R.M. of Lawrence. And you can
8 see that the area surrounded with the brown lines,
9 there is an area around Magnet, which is
10 intensively farmed for crops, that's class two and
11 three land, and that is mostly cereal and pulse
12 production.

13 Above that, in the Tame Hay area, it
14 is almost all cattle ranching and hay production.
15 Over on the Alonsa site, it is mostly Crown land,
16 with almost no agricultural use, with very light
17 grazing. Keep those in mind when we get to the
18 actual results.

19 In the south end -- by the way, the
20 drainage in the north part is from south to north.
21 Everything is going north to Toutes Aides Bay. In
22 the south part, everything goes from west to east.
23 West, where you have got community pastures in
24 McCreary and Alonsa, to Lake Manitoba. There is a
25 small area of fairly arable land down by Amaransk,

1 but most of this is hay and cattle, a grazing
2 area.

3 Now, we tested for a wide range of
4 criteria. The first thing we are going to look at
5 is the results of E. coli. From a health
6 viewpoint, this has some considerations after the
7 Walkerton tragedy. And, basically, it's very hard
8 to see any trend in these results. I have no
9 idea, for instance, why the Rorketon Drain, which
10 you see the second column over, why it's twice as
11 high as anywhere else. Although the Rorketon
12 Bridge, this one here, this is further up the same
13 drain closer to the lake, so there is a diluting
14 effect as you move downstream. When we go to the
15 south readings, you can see some of them are
16 actually nil.

17 I am just going to go back to that
18 previous one again. This one here, the second one
19 here, Crane River, is a natural waterway. There
20 is no agricultural use at this particular site, so
21 there is a natural level of E. coli in Manitoba.
22 It's probably wildlife related. So not all of
23 this is livestock related in any way, shape or
24 form.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Harris, what are

1 the measures, parts per million?

2 MR. HARRIS: Those are just actually
3 the numbers, one, two. Usually zero is drinking
4 water is considered what you want. So natural
5 run-off water in Manitoba would not be safe for
6 human drinking.

7 These are the south readings.
8 Mellonville Drain was an interesting case. This
9 is the second one, again, over here. You see it's
10 zero. This is an agriculture drain, but what you
11 would probably call your best case scenario for an
12 agricultural drain. It is water at the downstream
13 end of the drain, which is filtered through a huge
14 marsh system called the Clark Marsh. And as you
15 can see, that's actually zero. But several other
16 drains, not as well thought out as that one,
17 actually measure zero or are very low on the
18 scale.

19 This is the Mellonville Drain right
20 here. And just to show you, the dark blue lines
21 are in-flows into Lonely Lake. The pale blue is
22 the only out-flow. And this is the fish hatchery
23 we have here. Last year, we encountered some
24 serious problems with our fish hatchery, which we
25 thought was related to the quality of water coming

1 out of Lonely Lake. But that would seem to not
2 make sense, if you think that the in-flow water
3 from the Mellonville Drain, at least, was pretty
4 much free of bacteria.

5 Sulfate is an interesting case.
6 Sulphur, as you know, from other studies, it is
7 fairly mobile and would tend to go to the lowest
8 point in your system. So the closer you get to
9 the lake, generally the higher the sulphur levels
10 would be, and that is borne out. These results
11 tend to be fairly high in the north end.

12 Everything drains into Toutes Aides Bay, which is
13 a highly salinized area. Those of you who know
14 it, would know that. And the sulphur levels are
15 fairly high in this area.

16 But, again, take a look at Crane
17 River, a completely natural system. It's more a
18 function of the bedrock than anything else. So
19 you are probably not going to really see much
20 results from taking sulphur samples, except from
21 just an area of interest viewpoint.

22 On the other hand, Toutes Aides Bay,
23 where three of those systems empty into, you can
24 see each one of them, from this aerial photograph,
25 has a significant salination problem. These areas

1 are showing water coming in that is carrying
2 particulate matter from the south. Particularly
3 this one here, Dufous Creek, which is the
4 extension of the Hamelin Drain. The Hamelin
5 Drain, being the one that drains that main
6 cropping area around Magnet.

7 I have taken a boat in here before.
8 And you can literally step up in the boat and
9 stand up in the lake and just barely get your feet
10 wet on one side of the boat. And on the other
11 side, you can't even touch the bottom. That's an
12 idea of just how much it has built up over the
13 years.

14 The south sites are pretty much the
15 same thing. It depends where you are and what the
16 bedrock type is. There is one interesting
17 exception to this, though. And I thought, while
18 you guys are taking into account water quality,
19 there are other factors, other than agriculture,
20 even in the rural landscape. And I bring your
21 attention to here, the Duggan Drain, which is
22 already a high figure, downstream here it comes
23 the North Leifur Drain. And so this one here, it
24 jumps up significantly.

25 And I am just going to show you what I

1 think might be the reason for that. The North
2 Leifur Drain flows right passed a gypsum mine.
3 This gypsum mine has had a leaking berm for over
4 two years, which no one has taken responsibility
5 for. This picture is taken in January of 2006.
6 This is open water, in the middle of January,
7 seeping through the berm from the flooded pit.
8 Gypsum is a hydrated form of calcium sulfate.
9 And, obviously, we are going to be getting sulfate
10 levels coming into the drain.

11 Now, down to the two more relevant
12 nutrients: Phosphorous and Nitrogen. Fairly
13 obvious from here. Again, the Hamelin Drain and
14 Dufous Creek are showing, by far, the highest
15 levels of phosphorous. Keep in mind, those do not
16 come from livestock areas. They come from crop
17 areas. So we are not getting agriculture off the
18 hook here, by any means. But I think that if
19 we're looking at what the primary cause of
20 agriculture's input into our water systems are,
21 it's not livestock production, it's crop
22 production. And that will show up even more when
23 we get to the nitrates.

24 Here is the south end. You see, there
25 is no crop areas. It's pretty steady right across

1 the board. Roughly a quarter of the level that
2 you see coming off of the Hamelin Drain system.
3 Now, these are the same scales, by the way. Now,
4 all of these maps are the same scales, north to
5 south.

6 And, I think, this is probably the
7 most telling graph of all that we have in here.
8 Again, the Hamelin Drain and Dufous Creek. I am
9 just going to care this to the south end. The
10 same scale. And just to put that into
11 perspective, the orange, or brown, it looks here,
12 there is two readings. The blue is the other 14
13 readings combined. So I think what we're looking
14 at here is a fairly obvious trend that nitrogen
15 and phosphorous are not coming from areas with
16 beef cattle production.

17 Now, as I said, I know this is a hog
18 industry review. We don't have hogs in our
19 particular area. But I'm thinking that this has
20 relevance to this whole geographic area. Because,
21 basically, the underlying soil types are the same.
22 And you're not going to get phosphorous, in
23 particular, running off from fields where it's
24 been applied on to alfalfa, because it is eaten up
25 so quickly in the first year. The only way you

1 get a nutrient like phosphorous is going to come
2 off the field is if that field is bearing. And I
3 think that is a lesson that we can learn from this
4 set of results.

5 Again, I will state that's one year's
6 results. And I don't like to make too big a
7 federal case on one set of results, but we are
8 planning to expand this program. And we're not
9 trying to hide anything at all. But these are the
10 results that we have gotten so far. And I am
11 hoping that you find them at least somewhat
12 interesting.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Harris.
14 Who did the surveys for you? You did it?

15 MR. HARRIS: Yes. And the testing was
16 done by Enviro Test Laboratories in Winnipeg.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: So your role was just
18 to gather the water?

19 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And then Enviro Test
21 did the actual testing?

22 MR. HARRIS: Absolutely, yes. I did
23 put -- with the copies of my presentation, there
24 is one set of the raw data, if anybody is
25 interested in actually going through the Enviro

1 tests results, which are quite detailed and
2 complex. We spent about \$2,300 on testing for the
3 16 sites. And that doesn't include my gathering
4 costs. And we are going to have to take a few
5 extra sites next year, probably 20.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Mr. Harris, what was
7 the driving force that spurred you to do this
8 project?

9 MR. HARRIS: I think the Agricultural
10 Framework Policy Program, the way it was being
11 directed towards livestock producers. We were
12 seeing on a lot of programs being offered, like
13 exclusion fencing, and riparian protection for
14 livestock, and programs like that. And we were
15 thinking: Are those really sources of nutrient
16 flow from our area or not? And what we would like
17 to do, as a conservation district, is and an MRAC,
18 Rural Agricultural Council, has added programs
19 like this. We would like to tailor programs to
20 what might actually work. And what might be
21 accepted by the producers in our area, rather than
22 taking a menu that was prepared in Ottawa and
23 saying: Here, what would you like to do with
24 this?

25 Because there are financial costs to

1 producers involved with all of these programs. It
2 might be 25 percent. It might be 23 percent.
3 And, in some cases, 50 percent. And in today's
4 tight economic environment, in agriculture, we can
5 see that the uptake is going to be very poor on a
6 lot of these programs, if they don't seem to be
7 relevant to the areas where they are being
8 offered. And I think that that was our primary
9 incentive.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. Another
11 question, you test the water that's out of these
12 drains, et cetera, et cetera, going into a body of
13 water. Were there any soil tests taken of the
14 soil where this water was coming from?

15 MR. HARRIS: There would be a record
16 of soil tests in the area.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: I think in order to
18 make this really valid, I think you need to do
19 that, too. And that's just my own opinion. I
20 think you need to know what the soil levels, or
21 the N and P levels are in the soil at the time,
22 actual soils, et cetera. This is just for future
23 testing.

24 MR. HARRIS: Right.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: It's just a suggestion.

1 MR. HARRIS: Well, when it's done,
2 this is done in the springtime, this set of
3 results. And it would be a rather wet environment
4 to collect soil tests. And then you have this
5 whole source point, too, which ones are
6 contributing.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: I know. You had -- you
8 are concerned with the livestock industry. And
9 you have answered that question. I think that's
10 all.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Edwin?

12 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Harrison, just a
13 couple of questions here. I realize that this
14 data set is from April of 2006. Do you sample --
15 have you sampled previously?

16 MR. HARRIS: This is the first time.
17 But we do want to have a program.

18 MR. YEE: So you are going to look at
19 trends over a period of time?

20 MR. HARRIS: Yes, we are looking at
21 trends.

22 MR. YEE: And keeping the same
23 monitoring stations?

24 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

25 MR. YEE: And monitoring for the same

1 parameters?

2 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

3 MR. YEE: Well, Wayne had already
4 asked you the question about soils. But I was
5 thinking in terms of sulfates, which are a little
6 different, but I think you said that was the
7 gypsum leaching. And I think you could look at
8 the soils in the wintertime, as opposed to the
9 springtime. So are you planning on doing sampling
10 in the spring and other seasons?

11 MR. HARRIS: Yes. As far as the soil
12 testing goes, I have been with the Conservation
13 District for 17 years. And when I see a soil test
14 with high sulphur levels, I can tell you where it
15 came from, it has to be somebody close to the
16 lake.

17 MR. YEE: And do you also have any
18 fecal coliform data?

19 MR. HARRIS: Yes. The data is all
20 there.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Harrison.

23 Next is David Manchur. And would you
24 please state your name for the record?

25 MR. MANCHUR: My name is David

1 Manchur. I'm a farmer and resident from Gilbert
2 Plains, Manitoba.

3 DAVID MANCHUR, having been sworn, presents as
4 follows:

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may
6 proceed.

7 MR. MANCHUR: Good afternoon. My name
8 is David Manchur. My two brothers and I are
9 investors and managers of a 4,000 head hog
10 finishing operation called Northview Feeders in
11 the R.M. of Gilbert Plains. I would like to thank
12 the Clean Environment Commission for coming out to
13 this area to hear comments from the public
14 regarding the sustainability of the hog industry
15 in Manitoba.

16 Northview Feeders began operations in
17 1998, and was started by several investors from
18 Gilbert Plains, Grandview and Daughin, almost all
19 of whom are farmers. As grain producers, we
20 wanted to diversify our operations by going into
21 hog production. Rather than build a dozen small,
22 inefficient hog barns, we pooled our resources and
23 built a larger, more efficient hog production
24 facility. A 4,000 head finishing operation is
25 about the smallest size hog finishing operation

1 that provides the economies of scale that are
2 required to be viable. This size production unit
3 is required to achieve efficiencies in labour,
4 trucking and other costs. Larger operations are
5 also able to have the finances to meet the extra
6 costs associated with meeting the requirements of
7 government regulations.

8 There is a popular misconception that
9 smaller operations are a more desirable approach
10 to farming. In fact, larger operations provide
11 greater economic benefits for both owners of the
12 agricultural enterprise and the area in which they
13 are located. Larger operations are better able to
14 comply with increasingly stringent government
15 regulations and, actually, cause less
16 environmental damage than multiple smaller
17 operations. Larger operations provide for better
18 care and nutrition for animals than smaller
19 operations.

20 Small-scale hog operations, like
21 small-scale cattle and grain operations, cannot
22 provide farm families with the financial security
23 that they require and are thus not sustainable in
24 the long term. My report will summarize the
25 economic benefits of modern hog operations, as

1 well as our ability to meet and exceed
2 environmental regulations.

3 The construction and operation of a
4 hog operation can contribute greatly to the local
5 and provincial economy. The Northview Feeders hog
6 project had capital expenditures of \$1.1 million
7 in 1988, with many local business and tradespeople
8 participating in its construction, including the
9 supply and installation of concrete, building
10 supplies and equipment. The operation also
11 generates considerable economic activity on an
12 ongoing basis.

13 From a direct employment standpoint,
14 two jobs have been created. These employees have
15 steady, secure employment which allows them to
16 raise a family and contribute to our community.
17 Local business and tradespeople benefit from
18 thousands of dollars being spent annually for
19 repair and maintenance, propane, supplies and
20 services. Local ratepayers in the R.M. of Gilbert
21 Plains benefit directly from our barn, as over
22 \$7,500 of property tax revenue is generated for
23 the R.M. As well, an additional \$4,400 is
24 generated for the school division from the
25 collection of taxes. The federal and provincial

1 income tax base is also enhanced with over \$20,000
2 of annual income tax payments being budgeted by
3 our operation.

4 The most significant economic impact
5 generated from our operation relates to the
6 largest item on our budget, which is feed, and the
7 prime component of that feed, which is barley. In
8 the last fiscal year, approximately \$680,000 was
9 spent on feed made in Dauphin at Agassiz Feeds.
10 Over 130,000 bushels of barley was purchased
11 locally, processed locally, and utilized in our
12 barn. And employment was created in the
13 manufacture and delivery of feed, as well as
14 providing a local market for deliveries of barley
15 by grain farmers.

16 The hog industry is highly regulated
17 and environmentally sustainable. In terms of
18 environmental sustainability, hog operations are
19 environmentally friendly and must meet many
20 regulatory requirements. And I would like to
21 discuss how our operation is environmentally
22 sustainable.

23 The operation was constructed
24 according to the requirements in the Livestock
25 Manure and Mortality Management Regulations,

1 LMMMR. The earthen manure storages required a
2 permit to be issued by Manitoba Conservation prior
3 to construction. A soil investigation and a
4 storage design was done by a professional
5 engineer, who supervised construction.
6 Inspections during construction were done by
7 Manitoba Conservation staff and the consulting
8 engineer. The engineer certified that the
9 storages complied with the siting and construction
10 requirements outlined in the Regulation.

11 Although monitoring wells were not
12 required by Manitoba Conservation, Northview
13 Feeders installed monitoring wells, at our own
14 cost, at different locations around the earthen
15 manure storages. Samples are collected and
16 checked by an independent third party on an annual
17 basis. The results of the water samples have
18 shown that there are no problems with seepage from
19 the storages. And I must add, that our earthen
20 manure storages are inspected on an annual basis
21 by Manitoba Conservation staff.

22 Manitoba Conservation requires that
23 the livestock operations that use over 25,000
24 litres per day have a Water Rights License.
25 Northview Feeders has received a license and files

1 actual water consumption volumes on an annual
2 basis. The operation also submits an annual water
3 analysis report of water from the operation's
4 drinking water source, which is a drilled well
5 located approximately 2,000 feet from the barn
6 site. The reports have shown no indication of any
7 contamination of the water.

8 Northview Feeders is required to and
9 has always filed an annual Manure Management Plan,
10 MMP. This involves the soil testing of all
11 application fields, testing of the manure for
12 nutrient analysis, and then applying the correct
13 amount of manure to meet the crop requirements for
14 the following year. The manure is applied in the
15 fall to fields as a fertilizer and eliminates the
16 need for commercial fertilizers. This is a very
17 sustainable practice. The LMMMR has nitrogen and
18 phosphorous limits that ensure that nitrogen does
19 not leach into groundwater and phosphorous does
20 not affect surface water.

21 There have been some concerns that the
22 regulations are not being enforced. Although
23 understaffed, I believe Manitoba Conservation does
24 do sufficient audits to ensure the regulations are
25 being adhered to. Northview Feeders has been

1 audited by Manitoba Conservation, who did soil
2 tests spread fields near the barn to determine
3 nitrogen levels. The results showed that the
4 levels were well below the legal limits specified
5 in the regulation. Also, soil test results taken
6 for the annual MMP have shown that phosphorous
7 levels are not a concern, and are below limits
8 where application rates would have to be
9 phosphorous based. There was actually one spread
10 field that had a crop of wheat growing last year
11 that showed a phosphorous deficiency in the tissue
12 analysis of the wheat! Northview Feeders uses
13 phytase in its rations, which reduces phosphorous
14 excretion by the pigs. This, along with the ample
15 spread acres, prevents phosphorous buildup in the
16 soil. The density of hog operations in our area,
17 as well as most areas of the province, is such
18 that there is room for considerable expansion of
19 the hog industry. The province has regulations in
20 place now that would ensure expansion of the
21 industry in a sustainable manner.

22 Our operation is also concerned about
23 odours and the impact on neighbours. When
24 selecting a location, a site was selected such
25 that the closest neighbour was almost one mile

1 from the barn. I live approximately one quarter
2 mile away. Since the greatest source of odours is
3 generally considered to be from the earthen manure
4 storages, the storages are covered with
5 approximately 8 to 10 inches of barley straw every
6 spring. This ensures that the surfaces are
7 covered and minimal odours are released from the
8 storages until being emptied in the fall. Manure
9 application is done by custom applicators that
10 inject the manure below the surface of the soil.
11 To ensure complete coverage of the manure, and to
12 further reduce odours due to the manure
13 application, a tillage operation is done with
14 24-48 hours after the manure injection. A treed
15 shelterbelt was also planted around the site to
16 help diffuse odours, which may leave the site. A
17 clean, well-managed barn also helps reduce odour
18 generation.

19 The LMMM Regulation requires that
20 mortalities be disposed of by burial,
21 incineration, composting, or delivery to a
22 rendering plant. It also states that the
23 mortalities must be secure and continuously
24 frozen, or refrigerated, if not disposed of,
25 within 48 hours of death. Northview Feeders has a

1 refrigerated storage shed for mortalities, which
2 are picked up by the Rothsay Rendering on a
3 regular basis.

4 In conclusion, new livestock proposals
5 have to go through many regulatory hoops to ensure
6 that they are properly sited and are
7 environmentally sound.

8 The Planning Act requires that
9 operations over 300 animal units have a technical
10 review conducted by a Technical Review Committee
11 to obtain a condition use permit. A public
12 hearing is held to hear any concerns residents may
13 have. Even if all of the required permits and
14 siting criteria is met, the R.M. Council can still
15 turn down the conditional permit request. The Act
16 also stipulates that R.M.'s have a livestock
17 operations policy, which states where the
18 livestock operations may or may not locate within
19 the municipality.

20 The LMMMR ensures that the hog
21 proposal does not cause any environmental
22 concerns. Manure storages must be permitted,
23 designed and certified by a consulting engineer,
24 and monitored for seepage. Annual Manure
25 Management Plans must be filed to ensure manure is

1 applied at agronomic rates, which do not exceed
2 nitrogen and phosphorous limits that could cause
3 groundwater and surface water quality concerns.
4 Winter spreading of manure is not allowed.
5 Mortalities must be disposed of properly.
6 Producers are required to submit annually the
7 results from samples of drinking water provided to
8 their livestock.

9 The Farm Practices Act is in place to
10 protect neighbours against nuisance issues, such
11 as odours that are caused by unacceptable farm
12 practices.

13 A Water Rights License is required
14 whenever a livestock operation draws more than
15 25,000 litres per day. Actual water consumption
16 volumes must be submitted annually.

17 I believe that the hog industry is
18 very sustainable in Manitoba. What can be more
19 sustainable than growing crops such as barley,
20 canola, wheat, feeding them to hogs, thus adding
21 value to the crops, and providing a high protein
22 feed source for human consumption, taking the
23 manure from the hogs and applying it back to the
24 fields in an environmentally friendly rates, and
25 then growing more crops?

1 Approximately 15 years ago, the
2 federal government eliminated the freight subsidy
3 on grain, known as the Crow rate, and encouraged
4 farmers to diversify. There has been considerable
5 consolidation in all agricultural sectors since
6 then, and yet hog production is the only
7 enterprise that is currently faced with a
8 moratorium. Myself, my partners, and my fellow
9 producers in the hog business, feel that this is
10 unjustified. And, in light of the facts presented
11 in my report, it is my hope that the CEC will come
12 to the same conclusion.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Manchur.
15 You're both injecting the manure, as well as
16 tilling it?

17 MR. MANCHUR: Yes. The tillage
18 follows immediately after injection.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that typical?

20 MR. MANCHUR: Yes, that has always
21 been a typical practice, I think, for most
22 farmers, and certainly for our farm.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: To do both?

24 MR. MANCHUR: Yes.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

2 Mr. Manchur, it appears as though you have pretty
3 well everything covered here. I mean, it almost
4 is -- I can't even hardly ask any questions. You
5 have done a great job of putting this report
6 forward.

7 You went through a conditional use
8 hearing when you were putting this particular
9 enterprise up, did you?

10 MR. MANCHUR: Actually, there were no
11 restrictions from our R.M. At the time we were
12 constructing, we did not have to go through that
13 process.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: Oh, you didn't. Okay,
15 I was just wondering that. So the municipality
16 had their plan in place before this was -- this
17 came up?

18 MR. MANCHUR: Actually, their
19 conditional use process came into effect after our
20 barn was constructed.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Oh, I see.

22 MR. MANCHUR: In our R.M. So
23 presently, except for the moratorium, then new
24 producers would have to go through that process.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: Your municipality, does

1 it have its own planning or is it in conjunction
2 with other municipalities?

3 MR. MANCHUR: It is part of the
4 Mountainview Planning District, so there is
5 municipal planning in place.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. The new
7 phosphorous regulations that just recently came
8 out, obviously, it doesn't seem to be a problem
9 with your operation because you feel as though
10 your phosphorous levels are low enough and will
11 never climb high?

12 MR. MANCHUR: Yes. I'm not familiar
13 with the details of the levels or the science
14 there. I know, from a practical standpoint, that
15 we have sufficient spread acres that eliminate our
16 concerns with phosphorous levels. And the testing
17 we've done on our nutrient levels in our manure
18 seems to indicate that we don't have a spread
19 problem right now.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: You have more than
21 enough acres for spreading, then?

22 MR. MANCHUR: That's correct.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. Are there any
24 custom applicators? I hear you have custom
25 application with the injection. And we have heard

1 that before, in several other areas of the
2 province. Would that be a business? Would there
3 be a business there for somebody to do this? Is
4 there enough popularity for it?

5 MR. MANCHUR: Well, I'm guessing right
6 now that there is a fairly good balance between a
7 number of applicators and those that require the
8 services, like the hog operatives. Obviously, if
9 there was an expansion in the hog business, then
10 that would provide opportunities for new hog
11 applicators to get into business. It is a very
12 highly capital intensive business, the manure or
13 the hog application business.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: I think that that's all
15 I have.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I will just follow up
17 on one of the questions that Mr. Motheral asked
18 you. You didn't have to go through a conditional
19 use hearing?

20 MR. MANCHUR: No, we did not.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: So there was no T.R.C.,
22 Technical Review Committee, report? Was that
23 necessary for your --

24 MR. MANCHUR: I am not totally sure on
25 those details. I know we followed whatever

1 permitting process was required by Manitoba
2 Conservation.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.
4 Edwin?

5 MR. YEE: I have no questions.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: I think I took them
7 all.

8 MR. YEE: Yes, I had a few, but you
9 covered them. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
11 Mr. Manchur.

12 MR. MANCHUR: Thank you. Next is
13 Larry Powell.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Please state your name
15 for the record?

16 MR. POWELL: My name is Mr. Powell.
17 I'm from Roblin.

18 LARRY POWELL, having been sworn, presents as
19 follows:

20 MR. POWELL: Thank you for this
21 opportunity. We, the undersigned, and I'm wording
22 it that way because I believe the members of the
23 Commission will now have a hard copy of a summary
24 of my presentation signed by members of the group
25 that I represent for Citizens for Family Farms.

1 We reside in the vicinity of the Town of Roblin.
2 In 2000, operating as Citizens Against Factory
3 Farms, we banded together to struggle against a
4 secretive plan for a massive complex of hog
5 factories in our community.

6 We collected extensive research from
7 around the world, and soon discovered this kind of
8 development to be a misguided method of food
9 production and a blight on many hitherto happy
10 communities.

11 In our experience, factory hog barns
12 create, number 1, health problems. Reputable
13 medical institutions, like the Centres for Disease
14 Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,
15 and the Canadian Medical Association, all warn
16 that the long-standing overuse of antibiotics in
17 raising the animals that we eat, like the pigs we
18 produce "assembly-line-style," compromises the
19 effectiveness of these drugs in fighting serious
20 human infection. The National Institute of
21 Environmental Health Sciences was set up 40 years
22 ago as part of the U.S. Surgeon-General's office.
23 It published a study just a few months ago. And
24 I'd like to read to you the abstract from that
25 study, if I may.

1
2 "The industrialization of livestock
3 production and the widespread use of
4 non-therapeutic antimicrobial growth
5 promotants have intensified the risk
6 for the emergence of new, more
7 virulent or more resistant
8 micro-organisms.
9 These have reduced the effectiveness
10 of several classes of antibiotics for
11 treating infections in humans and
12 livestock. Recent outbreaks of
13 virulent strains of influenza have
14 arisen from swine and poultry raised
15 in close proximity. This Working
16 Group considered the state of the
17 science around these issues, and
18 concurred with the World Health
19 Organization, called for a phasing-out
20 of the use of antimicrobial growth
21 promotants for livestock and fish
22 production. We also agree that all
23 therapeutic antimicrobial agents
24 should be available by prescription
25 only for both human and veterinary

1 use."

2 Number 2, environmental pollution.

3 The slurry produced by millions of hogs is
4 escaping from our lagoons and spread-fields into
5 our waterways. Knee-jerk denials from industry
6 notwithstanding, this slurry is a significant
7 culprit in the eutrophication of lakes, rivers and
8 streams. How could it not be?

9 And there is a picture that you will
10 have there. Sorry I wasn't able to project it. I
11 will explain what that picture shows. It was
12 taken in the hills east of the R.M. of Roblin. On
13 the hills there, you can see a very fine white
14 line, which is the tip of a roof of a hog barn.
15 In the middle of the picture is a spread-field.
16 And in the foreground, there is water in the ditch
17 by the road, which is certainly well nourished, by
18 the look of it. And it is totally green.

19 Now, I didn't come here armed with a
20 scientific study showing the cause and effect in
21 that photo. I came hopefully to appeal to
22 people's common sense, and to assume that it would
23 seem logical to assume that some of that -- those
24 nutrients, they are not magically stopping at the
25 roadway or on the fence line. They are getting

1 into ditches like that and, therefore, into our
2 environment.

3 The last official census by the
4 Government of Canada shows the human population to
5 be 31,612,897. Manitoba's hog population, at the
6 end 2000, according to the Canada Pork Council,
7 was 8,803,000. Now, the most conservative
8 estimate I've read is that each hog produces four
9 times the waste of a human being. Therefore,
10 Manitoba's hogs produce the waste equivalent to at
11 least 35,212,000 people. That's well more than
12 the human population of the country.

13 Now, what I would like to point out is
14 that the human sewage problem is serious, as well.
15 I have a front page copy of a McLeans magazine.
16 And it's called: "From Sea to Stinking Sea".

17 "200 billion litres of raw sewage are
18 dumped into our waterways every year.
19 It's a national disgrace."

20 Now, if we have those kinds of
21 problems with our human sewage, I'm asking you to
22 consider the extrapolation that I have just made.
23 Yes, as I've just said, I would ask you to
24 consider what I've just said about hog waste and
25 draw your own conclusions. And please don't

1 misunderstand me. I fully recognize that all of
2 our society contributes to this problem, and all
3 of our society must face these responsibilities
4 equally.

5 Five years ago, a study -- and I am
6 turning to the water question now. Five years ago
7 a study by the "Agrifood Research and Development
8 Initiative" of the Government of Manitoba
9 concluded that total drinking water consumption by
10 hogs is a close approximation of total waste
11 production. A general assumption within the
12 industry has been that waste production equals
13 water consumption.

14 Now, I can't quote a study on my next
15 part here. But if one assumes people and hogs
16 drink an equal amount of water, which I believe
17 would be a conservative assumption on my part,
18 then Manitoba's hogs also consume more water than
19 the entire human population of Canada.

20 And I have a newspaper clipping here
21 on the water problem. It's a quote from David
22 Schindler, who is an internationally respected
23 water scientist from the University of Alberta.
24 His quote is:

25 "Western Canada is due for a

1 multi-year drought that will make the
2 dirty thirties look puny."

3 And to quote a recent major study by
4 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
5 United Nations, again on the water topic, that
6 study is ominously entitled: "Livestock's Long
7 Shadow":

8 "The world is moving towards
9 increasing problems of freshwater
10 shortage, scarcity and depletion, with
11 64 percent of the world's population
12 expected to live in water-expressed
13 basins by 2025."

14 Number 3, conflict of interest. The
15 history of hog factories near my home, and
16 elsewhere, is rife with tales of corruption among
17 approving authorities. And this includes
18 attempts, successful or otherwise, by elected
19 officials to benefit financially if these
20 industries go ahead.

21 Number 4, secrecy. It was apparent in
22 my community that the public was not supposed to
23 know too much, if anything, about a network of hog
24 factories that were planned nearby until much of
25 the planning was developed and land deals were put

1 into place. I learned, not from any member of my
2 R.M. council, but over coffee in Roblin, that
3 certain council members were showing overseas
4 investors properties in the vicinity that could
5 serve as sites for a network of huge hog
6 factories.

7 Number five, coercion. At least four
8 people linked to our citizens' group were
9 threatened with either loss of jobs or business if
10 they spoke out publicly. One of those individuals
11 decided not to join the group, as a result of
12 this. And others opted to keep a low profile, not
13 daring to write letters, or to take a public
14 position. We talked to several other people in
15 private who agreed with us, but either through
16 fear or natural inclination, did not take an
17 active part.

18 Number 6, a flawed approval process.
19 Technical Review Committees are notorious for
20 their bias towards proponents, and their neglect
21 of evidence of negative environmental
22 consequences.

23 In conclusion, or nearly conclusion, I
24 know the Pork Council does quite often say how
25 much misinformation is being spread about their

1 industry. That is why I have made every effort to
2 confine my observations to my own personal
3 experiences as chair of our citizens' group. And
4 if anyone should know what those experiences have
5 been, surely I should.

6 The rest has been gleaned from the
7 most reputable sources I could find. So if the
8 council, or the government, for that matter, does
9 not see fit to believe me, then I guess I would
10 invite them to disbelieve the Centres for Disease
11 Control, the World Health Organization, the Food
12 and Agriculture Organization, or the Canadian
13 Medical Association.

14 In closing, and I guess it is really
15 in closing this time, I implore you, the Clean
16 Environment Commission, to please recommend to the
17 Government of Manitoba that the existing
18 moratorium on hog barn development be kept in
19 place indefinitely. I further request that you
20 recommend the moratorium be extended to the 17 or
21 so applications that were pending when the
22 original announcement was made.

23 And, thank you, I appreciate the
24 opportunity to appear today.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Powell.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Not yet.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

3 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Powell, in the 17
4 applications pending, are these within this
5 municipality or are they province wide?

6 MR. POWELL: They are province wide,
7 yes.

8 MR. YEE: And has your group been
9 involved in terms of any permit, conditional use
10 permits, for hog operations in the municipality?

11 MR. POWELL: Is it involved?

12 MR. YEE: Yes, there is a public
13 hearing component to that. Has your group
14 presented at any public hearings about conditional
15 use?

16 MR. POWELL: No, I can't speak about
17 that. I don't remember. You are talking about
18 the experiences I listed with the hog barn
19 proposals in 2000, is that what you are referring
20 to?

21 MR. YEE: Well, that and, yes, there
22 is a statement you also made about how the
23 Technical Review Committees, there is a conflict.
24 And they often don't having the right information
25 or are presenting the right information. And I am

1 just wondering, from your own experiences of the
2 group, if they have been involved in such a
3 hearing process?

4 MR. POWELL: Yes, I think -- I am
5 going by memory here, so I wouldn't want to say
6 with any certainty. But I think maybe, in that
7 case, I am gathering my information from
8 elsewhere, from outside the area. It runs in my
9 mind that there was -- there may have been a
10 Technical Review Committee hearing. And this I'm
11 not certain on, but it was -- it wasn't very
12 widely advertised. Now, I stand corrected on
13 that, but I'm pretty sure of that. The only other
14 example that I could give, and I would be happy
15 to, is the one that I skipped over here. But
16 that's not my own experience, that's someone
17 else's.

18 MR. YEE: Okay, thank you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Powell, have you
20 given us or could you give us copies of the
21 McLeans article and the Schindler article?

22 MR. POWELL: Yes, I sure could. I
23 have given them to Joyce, actually.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, you have.

25 MR. POWELL: I am sure you will be

1 getting them.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that's fine.

3 Thank you very much, Mr. Powell.

4 MR. POWELL: Okay, thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: David Kynoch. Just
6 before we start, I would like to remind people not
7 to engage in conversations, please, while we are
8 in the proceedings. Would you please state your
9 name for the record?

10 MR. KYNOCH: David Kynoch.

11 DAVID KYNOCH, having been sworn, presents as
12 follows:

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Go ahead,
14 please.

15 MR. KYNOCH: Good afternoon, members
16 of the CEC panel. I would like to thank all of
17 you first for the opportunity to speak to you
18 today on our hog industry and the importance that
19 it has on our very existence.

20 My name is David Kynoch. And I'm here
21 today to speak on behalf of multiple colonies
22 here: One which is Rolling Acres, Riverside,
23 Grass River and Parkview. Some of these will also
24 speak on their own behalf, as well.

25 I am also involved in the hog industry

1 myself as a sales representative, and was
2 fortunate enough to have been raised on our own
3 family hog farm.

4 These three colonies, actually four
5 colonies, are made up of many families that rely
6 on the hog industry as an integral part of their
7 daily lives. It is a major source of income that
8 allows them to support their families and future
9 generations. Regardless of the number of animals
10 raised on these colonies, they are truly the
11 version of a family farm. They vary from 15 to up
12 to 22 families on these farms, which are all
13 supported entirely by their own agricultural
14 industry.

15 I am sure, from this, you can see just
16 how important the agricultural industry is to them
17 for their own existence and for future
18 generations. Who is more concerned about the
19 stability of the agriculture than a farmer? Who
20 is a better steward of the land today than a
21 farmer? We know that what we do today has an
22 adverse effect on the future of our children, as
23 well as any chances they have to thrive in this
24 agricultural industry.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I just interrupt

1 for a second? Do you want to say "an adverse
2 effect" or just an effect?

3 MR. KYNOCH: Just an effect is fine.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: You said "adverse".

5 MR. KYNOCH: And one of the instances
6 that I have, it is an added cost that the farmers
7 utilize is the use of separators for their manure
8 systems, as well as the incorporation of a product
9 called phytase in their feeds to lower the
10 phosphorous levels on their land. Just as a note,
11 these are additional expenses that we are not able
12 to recuperate on the farms, but just for the
13 sustainability of our environment.

14 As farmers, we work very hard to
15 produce the best possible products we can for our
16 consumers. Canadians are well known for raising
17 some of the best pork products on the market
18 today. This is only attained by taking the best
19 care of our land and ensuring that the correct
20 animal practices have been followed.

21 We support the government in their
22 efforts to protect the surface and groundwater
23 supply. The Manitoba pork industry relies heavily
24 on the use of good quality water, not just for our
25 animals, but for future generations that will rely

1 on the same land.

2 We do realize that there are some
3 people out there that do not follow the set
4 regulations or that farms do operate in areas with
5 little regulations. These people damage the
6 environment and seem to give other, more efficient
7 and environmentally friendly farms a bad
8 reputation in the public today.

9 We also concern ourselves with
10 nutrient management by testing our soils to ensure
11 that the proper amounts of nutrients are applied.
12 We know that phosphorous is a naturally occurring
13 mineral. It is an important mineral in the
14 production of our crops. And we focus on the
15 amounts of phosphorous in the soil, as too much of
16 it increases algae blooms, which threatens plants
17 and organisms in our lakes and streams. That
18 being said, only about 13 percent of the
19 phosphorous that has contributed to Lake Winnipeg
20 comes from the agricultural industry, and of that
21 13 percent, one percent comes from our hog
22 industry. I don't understand how someone could
23 actually single out our hog industry when such a
24 small percentage of the phosphorous can actually
25 be linked to the hog industry.

1 Hog producers are not the only
2 contributor to this growing phosphorous level.
3 They also come from such areas such as industry,
4 human waste in cities, natural deposits,
5 dishwasher detergents, and lawn fertilizer. I
6 have yet to see any regulations that restrict the
7 cities on their levels as strongly as the farms
8 have been. In everyday life, we have the ability
9 to remove the phosphorous levels in our households
10 by simply using phosphorous-free laundry
11 detergents, dishwashing soap and lawn fertilizers,
12 as well as what we wash our vehicles with.

13 In 1970, the government banned the
14 production of detergents containing more than 25
15 percent phosphate. Exempt from this ban were
16 detergents used in dishwashers, car washers and
17 manufacturing. Now, here we are, 37 years later,
18 and wondering what has happened to our Lake
19 Winnipeg.

20 We are all concerned about the
21 protection of our environment. And over many
22 generations, it has become evident that our
23 attitudes have changed. There is no question that
24 we must be more careful with the use of our
25 environment and the water resources, but "we" must

1 also include all contributors to this growing
2 concern. If every pig in Manitoba was to be gone
3 today, does anyone think that it would make a
4 difference on the nutrient load on the land? What
5 we do not put down in organic form would just end
6 up being in synthetic fertilizer. And for a
7 generation of people who are asking every day to
8 have organic food products, why would our
9 government limit this very resource, this very
10 valuable resource, hog manure, to such a large
11 extent? If we expect to fix this problem, we need
12 to involve more than one percent of the source.

13 Thank you for your time and
14 consideration on my comments.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kynoch.

16 MR. KYNOCH: You're welcome.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

18 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Kynoch, I realize
19 that these colonies will likely be presenting
20 today, but I just wanted to get an idea of whether
21 they are all within this area. Whereabouts are
22 they located?

23 MR. KYNOCH: We have some north of
24 Neepawa. Actually, they are all north of Neepawa.

25 MR. YEE: Okay, thank you. I will

1 wait until they do their presentations to ask for
2 the specifics.

3 MR. KYNOCH: Thank you.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: You mentioned,
5 Mr. Kynoch, that there are bad eggs in every
6 industry.

7 MR. KYNOCH: Yes, of course.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: And they sometimes send
9 out a bad reputation. In that sense, do you
10 think -- and there are inspections. There are
11 inspections of lagoons. There is inspections of
12 that. You have to soil test and things like that.
13 Should there be, or what kind of fine is there
14 right now, if anybody is -- if anyone does not
15 comply with these regulations? I know, in the
16 past, that I have heard that the fines are not
17 large enough, and that it's all part of the
18 business expense, which doesn't get you anywhere.
19 Do you feel as though these fines should be
20 larger, then, to try and phase out all of those
21 bad eggs?

22 MR. KYNOCH: I think that to get a
23 better handle on this, like I said in my last
24 paragraph, is that we are looking at one percent
25 of the phosphorous levels that have been

1 contributed to Lake Winnipeg from farms. I think
2 that if we actually want a real solution to
3 understanding this phosphorous and get a control
4 on it, that we need a team effort from everybody
5 out there, not just the hog producers. I think
6 that the hog producers have worked very hard.

7 I think that, yes, you know, if we
8 have, in practice, done it wrong that there should
9 be fines. But I think that this should take into
10 consideration every aspect of our daily lives,
11 including cities, waterways, golf courses,
12 absolutely everything there is out there, rather
13 than working on one percent of the issue.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I take it that
15 was a yes.

16 MR. KYNOCH: Yes.

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

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

20 MR. KYNOCH: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Next we have Byran and
22 Jason Ferriss. Please introduce yourself for the
23 record?

24 MR. FERRISS: I'm Bryan Ferriss. And
25 I own and operate Porkchop Enterprises Ltd., both

1 in Manitoba, my son Jason, who is a co-owner in
2 the company.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ferriss.
4 I apologize for mixing up your name because it is
5 written differently on the agenda.

6 BRYAN FERRISS, having been sworn, presents as
7 follows:

8 MR. FERRISS: As I said, my name is
9 Bryan Ferriss. And I operate a company with our
10 son, Jason, in Bowsman, which is in the middle of
11 the Swan River Valley, about 120 miles northwest
12 of here. We operate a 350 sow, farrow to
13 weanling, operation. And we also have 1,300 acres
14 of cropland, as well.

15 I have farmed with my parents since
16 1969. And we have never operated without hogs,
17 starting with a small grow to finish and slowly
18 growing to where we are today, with our last barn
19 being added in the early eighties. My wife,
20 Donna, and I, as well as my parents, my dad is 85
21 and my mom is 82, have lived all our lives
22 100 feet from the front of our barns, and still do
23 today.

24 Donna and I have raised three
25 children. And if it wasn't for hogs, we would not

1 be farming today. We also have three
2 grandchildren. And we keep kidding to our three
3 kids that if we had known grandchildren were as
4 much fun as they are, we definitely would have had
5 them first.

6 But at any rate, my presentation today
7 will be much more personal than technical. And I
8 will try to tell you how we manage, as we see it,
9 our environmental footprint, if you will, of our
10 family business.

11 The first topic is nutrient and manure
12 management. Because we were an existing operation
13 when the new Manure Management Regulations were
14 brought in, we are still allowed to winter spread,
15 which we do, as our barns are liquified manure,
16 but all pits are concrete under the slats.
17 Because of the design, we have approximately 30
18 days storage within our pits.

19 We have always, from the beginning,
20 maintained a buffer from all ditches and in summer
21 incorporate with a cultivator, as soon as
22 possible, for obvious reasons, to capture
23 nutrients and reduce the odour.

24 In the winter months, we spread on
25 fields that are a minimum of a quarter mile up to

1 three quarters of a mile from the closest ditch,
2 on the drainage side of the field. And what I
3 mean by that, is all surface water in our area,
4 and the valley, as a whole, for that matter, runs
5 southwest to northeast, so we know which direction
6 any snow melt will flow.

7 The soils in the valley are naturally
8 lower in phosphorous, so the nutrient uptake and
9 the corresponding yield increase by the crop is
10 significant. And at nearly \$1,000 a metric tonne
11 for nitrogen, and over \$600 a metric tonne for
12 phosphorous, today, the financial benefit to our
13 grain production from manure application is huge.
14 As well, with 300 sows and 1,300 acres of land,
15 there is not any risk of over-application.

16 Groundwater supply and quality. All
17 of our water supply, for both the barns and our
18 houses, comes out of the same dugout, which is
19 replenished every year by surface water runoff.

20 Our dugout, which is about 150 feet
21 from our barns, has been tested several times over
22 the years. And the last time we had it done,
23 about four years ago, the fellow doing the testing
24 said it was amongst the cleanest dugout water he
25 had ever tested. So the people who are advocating

1 that it is virtually impossible to have a hog barn
2 and potable water on the same site, from my
3 family's experience, is just simply not true. We
4 have always maintained the same buffer on the
5 ditch that fills our dugout as we do on all the
6 other ditches around our farm.

7 Soil quality. Three of the quarters
8 of land we have purchased over the years has been
9 sandy loam. And some of the ridge had been wind
10 eroded to the point where it was impossible to
11 grow much of any crop at all. And now, after
12 nearly 30 years of proper soil management
13 practices, the first of which, in our opinion, is
14 proper manure application, those ridges grow as
15 good a crop as any other area on that land.

16 So, clearly, it has been a win/win
17 situation, where we have gained from an
18 environmental stewardship perspective, and with a
19 direct correlation to the gain on our balance
20 sheet from increased production on those eroded
21 lands.

22 And now the odour. We have neighbours
23 from just across the road from us, to a mile away
24 on nearly every side. We have always had a good
25 shelterbelt of trees around our building site,

1 which has been very beneficial. We also have done
2 what we could to stop air currents by hooding
3 exhaust fans and drawing inlet air from the open
4 side of the yard, and exhausting it out to the
5 outside, closer to the shelterbelt. This seems to
6 have been relatively effective, as when we ask our
7 neighbours, and we do from time to time, about
8 odour, they have said consistently that only very
9 rarely that they do get any odour at all, but at
10 times there is some odour. And we get some odour
11 as well in our house.

12 But I have to tell you that the only
13 time in our house that we get any odour in our
14 house, or mom and dad's house and our house, which
15 are about 50 feet apart, is when it's going to
16 rain. And it must be, I guess, the change in the
17 low pressure area or something. I don't know what
18 it is. I have to tell you that we can forecast
19 rainfall better than Revenue Canada can, or
20 Environment Canada, hands down.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Revenue Canada just
22 takes a different kind of rain.

23 MR. FERRISS: Yes, that's right.

24 Disease transmission. This is
25 something that I will speak to you about from two

1 separate perceptions: One is from the stock
2 inside the barn and, secondly, from my family's
3 health.

4 We have, for the last 15 years, or so,
5 maintained bio-security within our barns, as it
6 relates to visitors, with very little, if any,
7 traffic allowed.

8 As a producer, it is very troubling to
9 hear that exhaust air coming from our barns are
10 laced with toxins, and various other organisms.
11 And I have to tell you that after 38 years of
12 marriage, and raising our family "on site", if you
13 will, I just simply do not believe those sorts of
14 comments to be true. And, as I have mentioned
15 before, we live 100 feet from our barn and have
16 raised our family in the same environment. My
17 parents, who, as I have said, are both in their
18 eighties, still live in their own home, "on site",
19 unsupervised without any medication whatsoever.
20 Our three children all attended University of
21 Manitoba: Jason in agriculture, Jennifer now in
22 public health, and Jaclyn, a bio-systems engineer
23 with Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food in
24 Saskatoon.

25 My point being, that if there was to

1 be any ill effects on personal health and
2 well-being, we, as a family, have certainly not
3 seen it. And I realize when I make that statement
4 that there is a lot more criteria to good health
5 than just that. But to some degree, I believe
6 that God has blessed us with good health. But I
7 also believe that with the heavy shelterbelt, as I
8 said, around our building site, if, in fact, there
9 were toxins, or any other things coming out of
10 that barn, that we would have had to have absorbed
11 some of that, and we would have seen some sort of
12 effects from that over all these years, we would
13 have to believe.

14 With regards to climate change and
15 environmental liability, the only way that this
16 can be determined, as accurately as possible, in
17 my opinion, is through factually sound,
18 scientifically based research. Our family has
19 participated in the same way every producer in the
20 industry in Manitoba has, and that is through a
21 mandatory check-off, of which a portion is
22 allocated to research projects and development
23 through the Manitoba Pork Council.

24 To name just a few, there has been
25 nearly \$200 a year committed to the Manure

1 Management Initiative, as well as \$750,000 donated
2 to the new NCLE Research Centre at the University
3 of Manitoba, over the last 36 months, with another
4 \$600,000 committed over the next 36 months. And I
5 would have to say that, over the years that that
6 check-off has come through, the industry has, at
7 times, not been generating any profit whatsoever.
8 And that 80 cents a hog, or 19 cents a weanling,
9 amounts to a fair bit of money. And when you are
10 looking at a shortfall on your balance sheet, very
11 often, I have to tell you, in all honesty, that
12 probably the families that sit around those tables
13 have done with less so that those research
14 projects could be funded on behalf of industry, as
15 a part of what we share in it.

16 As well, we have heard it said that
17 Manitoba does not have the capability of raising
18 more hogs. Which, if you have driven through the
19 parkland regions of Manitoba, is difficult to
20 understand. Because pretty much all you're going
21 to see is miles and miles of not much more than
22 miles and miles. The opportunity for agricultural
23 diversification and economic growth within my
24 industry, the hog industry, I believe, is very
25 large.

1 This region can grow some of the best
2 quality, highest yielding field grains anywhere in
3 Manitoba. And with a feed conversion of
4 approximately 3 1 for every pot-load of market
5 hogs that are finished here, it replaces three
6 loads of field grain that is being trucked
7 elsewhere.

8 A significant reduction in greenhouse
9 gas, i.e. carbon emissions from fuel being
10 expended on highway tractors, as well as a
11 reduction, over time, in highway maintenance and
12 repair, at a cost of what I have heard at about
13 \$1.5 million a mile for re-surfacing, that savings
14 could be better spent in other areas, or even on
15 healthcare or education or even environmental
16 grants or incentives to the larger urban centers,
17 i.e. Winnipeg, so that our urban cousins can have
18 better waste management systems that could be
19 improved from where they are today.

20 And I have to say that as well, with
21 regards to those savings, that there is no
22 question, as agriculture, that we can certainly
23 appreciate consideration of some of those
24 expenditure of funds, which will help us afford,
25 down the road in the future, with regards to

1 handling environmental concerns and that sort of
2 thing.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ferriss.
4 Bear with me a moment. Something popped in my
5 mind as you were making the presentation. I just
6 have to find it now. Oh, yes, when you talked
7 about your particular experience with soil
8 quality, and you said that a lot of the land, or a
9 significant part of the land that you have
10 purchased over the years was sandy loam, from
11 which there was a lot of wind erosion. And you'll
12 have to forgive me, I'm not a farmer.

13 So the management of this particular
14 soil with manure was the large that you were able
15 to reconstruct the soil?

16 MR. FERRISS: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: And you don't have a
18 wind erosion problem anymore?

19 MR. FERRISS: Not anywhere near it.
20 I would say that probably about five percent of
21 that 480 acres was wind eroded, in that it is a
22 bit rolling and the tops of the knolls were blown
23 off, and there was several acres in certain areas.
24 And our management practice, over the years, has
25 been to cover as much of it as we can, not to

1 spread it too heavily, but heavily enough that you
2 do get an increase in yield, but to cover as much
3 of the area as we possibly can.

4 But, given the fact that our operation
5 is a farrowing operation, our manure has much more
6 water content than what you would get out of a
7 grow to finish operation. So we don't have the
8 nutrients in it that you would on a per gallon
9 basis, as I said, from a grow to finish operation.
10 But the problem initially was that you couldn't
11 grow a good enough crop to stabilize those ridges
12 previously, because it would only get about this
13 high, and you could literally see a pop can 50
14 feet away. And over the years to date, as I said,
15 now those ridges grow as good a crops as any of
16 our best productive lands. So it has been
17 beneficial, as I said, on those parts.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: You said that the
19 weanlings' manure doesn't have as much nutrients,
20 but it is still enough for your needs?

21 MR. FERRISS: Yes, it is.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 MR. YEE: Oh, yes, Mr. Ferriss, you
24 mentioned you had a 450 sow operation. And I am
25 just trying to get my hands around or my head

1 around this. The economies of scale, what would
2 you consider -- I gather that your operation is
3 economical for you. Is there a breaking point in
4 which the operation is too small, in your mind, to
5 support the financial economic viability of the
6 operation?

7 MR. FERRISS: That's a very good
8 question. There are so many variables that,
9 obviously, would play into that, the liability or
10 debt is one thing. And the fact that we have been
11 there as long as we have been. Jason represents
12 the third generation, quite frankly, is helpful,
13 there is no doubt about that.

14 The second thing that we have done,
15 just recently in the last two years, well, it is
16 two years ago just now, we have switched away from
17 the conventional market into the niche market.
18 And we are currently breeding wild boar with a
19 conventional cross, and supplying breeding stock,
20 as well as slaughter animals, for that market. We
21 have hooked up with a company in Alberta. And it
22 has been very beneficial for us. We get paid a
23 premium for what we do.

24 To get back to your question, could
25 you start and be viable today with a 300 or 350

1 sow, farrow to weanling, operation? I have to
2 believe if the will is there, I think you probably
3 could. It might require some off-farm employment.
4 I have never personally worked off-farm since we
5 came back to farming. The wife worked for three
6 years until she was pregnant with Jason, our first
7 son, and has since then not worked off the farm.
8 It was our choice for her to be there with our
9 family. But as I said, that's a tough question,
10 without sitting down and doing a lot of work on
11 it.

12 MR. YEE: Thank you. I appreciate
13 that answer. Just one other question. You also
14 mentioned that you were established prior to the
15 Manure Management Regulations, so you do spread in
16 the wintertime. Do you file a Manure Management
17 Plan?

18 MR. FERRISS: No. We aren't required
19 to because of the fact that we are under 300
20 animal units.

21 MR. YEE: Well, I gathered that. I
22 just want to know. So you don't do any of the
23 soil testing?

24 MR. FERRISS: Actually, we haven't
25 tested our manure. We are planning on doing it in

1 2007. And the rationale behind that is because we
2 soil test. And we have never seen our phosphorous
3 or nitrogen in the soil come up. Well,
4 phosphorous hasn't moved at all. The nitrogen
5 does vary a little bit from year to year, but you
6 will see that when there is manure application or
7 not.

8 And so, as I said before, we spread
9 our manure as far as we can, because we want to
10 cover as many areas as possible to get that one
11 year bang for your buck, if you will, rather than
12 concentrate too heavily in one area.

13 MR. YEE: So you do test your soils?

14 MR. FERRISS: Yes, we do.

15 MR. YEE: Is there any need to add
16 synthetic fertilizers?

17 MR. FERRISS: We haven't had to add
18 synthetic fertilizers for, I would say, five
19 years. And I would have to say that, in all
20 probability, we have sacrificed some yield because
21 of that. But from risk management tool, we don't
22 have that fertilizer to put on the fields in the
23 fall. And our crops have -- we've grown 42 acres
24 of canola without fertilizer. We do some in the
25 fall as well. But it's just to give us some

1 nutrients from the manure again in the summertime.

2 So there is no question that that plays into it.

3 But from a personal perspective, the
4 choices that we made, do we believe, honestly and
5 truly, that we have made the right choices, as far
6 as the way, that we manage our farm? Yes, we do,
7 yes.

8 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Ferriss.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Would it be a
10 particular hardship if regulations were changed,
11 and you had to file a Manure Management Plan or
12 you couldn't winter spread?

13 MR. FERRISS: That, again, is a very,
14 very good question. And that's something that I
15 would have to tell you, in all honesty, that Jason
16 and I have talked about. I can't see us quitting
17 the industry just because of that. Would it
18 create some hardship for us? Yes, it would, there
19 is no question about that. And I guess it would
20 depend upon a lot of variables that no one knows
21 for sure. And that is whether there will there be
22 any government assistance to help producers to
23 make that adjustment, when that might come? Given
24 the fact that if we can maintain the contract that
25 we have in a niche market where our profit levels

1 are somewhat higher than the conventional hog
2 market, would it be beneficial, there is no doubt
3 about that.

4 I guess, as much as anything, as well,
5 what we have talked about doing, because of the
6 fact our dugout is about a five million litre or
7 five million gallon dugout, it's quite large,
8 actually. It carries almost two years, or better,
9 worth of water. We have looked at the possibility
10 of doing testing. Because we are on heavy clay,
11 right where our building site is, to drain the
12 dugout, block the inlet, and do the upgrading that
13 would be required to convert it to a lagoon. And
14 put the proper cover on it, whether it's straw, or
15 a plastic cover, or whatever the case might be,
16 drill a well right close to the barn, and then go
17 that, as far as water supply is concerned.

18 The reason that we went with dugout
19 water initially was because groundwater, unless
20 you get down below -- right in our area where we
21 are, unless you get down to below about 200 feet,
22 it has a very high sulfate level. And you tend to
23 get scarring in the little pigs, and that sort of
24 thing, because of that.

25 So we, actually, drilled a well of

1 about 150 feet, and ran it for about a year and a
2 half, about two years. And we started to try to
3 manifold our dugout water in with it. And then we
4 finally just expanded the dugout and said that we
5 have had enough of this. We are going to go with
6 groundwater because there were just too much
7 problems. But we know that if we go deep enough,
8 we can get good potable water there, yes.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there much
10 competition, or threat of competition, in your
11 niche area?

12 MR. FERRISS: Well, it's like
13 anything else. It's like lentils. I mean, if you
14 are one container short, the market is good. If
15 you are one container over, it goes into the tank.
16 So you have to be very, very careful. We are
17 confident that these fellows that we are hooked up
18 have a good enough handle on this. I mean, their
19 market is Japan. It's a fresh restaurant trade
20 over there for the meat. So is there room for
21 other producers? That's not for me to say.
22 That's for him to say. We are just very thankful
23 we've had the opportunity to be a part of that,
24 that's for sure.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

1 MR. MOTHERAL: You have just about
2 covered them all. I am just curious, I am
3 interested, where do your weanlings go?

4 MR. FERRISS: Actually, our weanlings
5 are either finished here in the southern part of
6 the province or else out to Alberta.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I was curious
8 with the winter spread, too, you are grandfathered
9 in because of the regulations. And I was going to
10 ask also about what would you consider if the
11 regulations came in, and you answered that.

12 How many acres -- it says here that
13 you are farming 1,300-acres. And I know that 350
14 sow weanlings are not going to give you probably
15 sufficient nitrogen, that's for sure, over the
16 1,300 acres. But you did say that you did summer
17 fallow some acreage for your spreading. How many
18 acres do you figure you can do with a year's worth
19 of supply in manure?

20 MR. FERRISS: Well, that's a good
21 question, you know. I have really never kept
22 track of the number of acres. I would have to
23 believe probably 30 to 40 in a summer, like in a
24 year, as far as the total year's spread is
25 concerned. But, again, that's just a guess.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: And you say you don't
2 use any dry fertilizer at all?

3 MR. FERRISS: No, we haven't.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

5 MR. FERRISS: I shouldn't say none.
6 We basically take two crops in the summer fallow.
7 And on our stubble crop we do about 40 in, or
8 45-gallons, as far as nitrogen is concerned on
9 most fields. On some fields we don't, on some
10 fields we do. But on summer fallow -- on any
11 other land we use no phosphorous whatsoever. And
12 on summer fallow we use absolutely no fertilizer
13 whatsoever.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: I couldn't help but
15 hear you when you are talking about knolls, and
16 all of that, because I came from a farm also. And
17 sometimes I remember saying that an American
18 farmer told me one time, he said: I was only an
19 inch of rain away from being a good farmer last
20 year. And I have noticed that in my high ground,
21 a lot of the reason why it's been growing these
22 last few years is because of our wet cycle that we
23 have been having, and that has a lot to do with
24 it.

25 MR. FERRISS: I have to tell you that

1 that is absolutely true. We are very blessed to
2 be living where we are. And that's not to say
3 that everybody else that lives in rural Manitoba
4 isn't. But so far, in our valleys, with our
5 rainfall here. Our land is relatively new as
6 well. When I started farming in '69, we opened
7 up, and I mean opened up, we took a portion off of
8 three-quarters of the 1,300-acres that we are
9 currently farming. So we still have a high degree
10 of organic material. And also there are some
11 farms that have been farming for longer
12 generations and that, and some of the farms
13 haven't got that left in their soil.

14 We have started, as well, doing some
15 acreage, 150 acres we've seeded down to alfalfa.
16 I know this has very little to do with the hog
17 industry, but we would very much like to seed an
18 annual alfalfa, where you could seed it and plow
19 it down that fall, and to have that as a standard
20 crop for the weed control, and all of that sort
21 thing.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
23 Mr. Ferriss. Before I call Mr. Whitaker, I just
24 want to take a two-minute break and grab a glass
25 of water, and then we will get right back.

1 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 2:35 P.M.

2 AND RECONVENED AT 2:39 P.M.)

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Could I have you resume
4 your seats, please? When I said a couple of
5 minutes' break, I'm serious, okay? Please
6 introduce yourself for the record?

7 MR. WHITAKER: John Whitaker.

8 JOHN WHITAKER, having been sworn, presents as
9 follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please
11 proceed. Please go ahead.

12 MR. WHITAKER: Good afternoon,
13 everyone. My name is John Whitaker. And together
14 with the family, we raise beef cattle east of
15 Erickson, about 100 kilometres south of here, on
16 the other side of the park.

17 I have been on a couple of panels
18 recently, which also tried to assess the
19 environmental sustainability of hog production in
20 Manitoba. The first one was the Livestock
21 Stewardship Panel in 2001.

22 And the second one I was on the Clean
23 Environment Commission hearings on the second
24 shift for the Maple Leaf Hog Plant in Brandon in
25 2003. And this hearing is not known for having

1 addressed hog production but, actually, it did.
2 On the first day of the hearing, we had a request
3 from Glen Koroluk, who was with Hog Watch, at the
4 time, to expand the scope of the hearing to
5 include hog production. And his argument was that
6 the second shift for the Maple Leaf Hog Plant
7 would -- a reasonable consequence of that would
8 increase hog production in Manitoba and,
9 therefore, the hearings should also consider hog
10 production, and we agreed with him. And so we did
11 agree to increase the scope of the hearings to
12 include the hog production in the Assiniboine
13 River Watershed.

14 But in the case of both of these
15 panels, we were unable to evaluate properly the
16 environmental sustainability of hog production
17 because of missing information, and we recommended
18 studies to correct this. And I hope the
19 information that we were missing is going to be
20 available to this panel.

21 Now, the essence of our
22 recommendations was a study, which would measure
23 nitrogen and phosphorous in the surface and
24 groundwater emanating from fields to which hog
25 manure had been applied. We already know that

1 nitrogen and phosphorous levels are trending
2 upwards in our rivers, with dire consequences for
3 Lake Winnipeg, but the source of this additional
4 nutrient has not been adequately traced back to
5 the field level.

6 The study would involve selecting
7 perhaps 10 hog operations representing the
8 variability found in the current industry, and
9 measuring nitrogen and phosphorous levels in
10 run-off water from manure spread fields, with
11 sampling concentrated during the spring melt and
12 during heavy rainfall events. Grain farms using
13 commercial or synthetic fertilizer would serve as
14 controls, and would facilitate a comparison to
15 rate the hog industry against conventional grain
16 production. Of course, additional controls would
17 also be useful, should similar data be available
18 from forage production, pastures, and from areas
19 of natural vegetation. And measurements of
20 nutrient escape to groundwater, as well, would
21 complete the picture.

22 Until such a study is done, and we can
23 assess the relative contributions of several
24 styles of agriculture to the increasing nitrogen
25 and phosphorous levels found in our rivers, as

1 well as the contributions from other sources, like
2 municipal sewage lagoons, it will be difficult for
3 the panel to do its job.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
6 Mr. Whitaker. In your second paragraph, you say:

7 "We weren't able to evaluate the
8 environmental sustainability because
9 of missing information..."

10 Now, the missing information, is all
11 of it as listed out in the next couple of
12 paragraphs?

13 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, from my
14 perspective, it is. Now, there was another issue
15 back then, and that related to the odour coming
16 from hog barns. And we had people coming from
17 before us who said that their lives had been
18 devastated from the odours from a neighbouring hog
19 barn. And then we had other people saying they
20 noticed no odour at all. And I think a study has
21 been done on that. And I don't know if that has
22 been presented to you or not, but it was simply
23 interviewing neighbours from varying distances
24 from hog barns as to the odour. And so that may
25 have been covered. But, to me, the missing piece

1 is still what is happening with that run-off
2 water.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: One of the academics
4 that we have engaged to do some literature
5 research, or a review for us, is an expert in
6 odour. And we haven't seen it yet, but we will be
7 seeing probably a fairly comprehensive review of
8 what's been done or the studies. What that would
9 be, I can't say at this time, but we will see it.
10 Edwin?

11 MR. YEE: Now, Mr. Whitaker, this is
12 probably more of a comment than it is a question.
13 With respect to your proposed study here of 10 hog
14 operation, would you also consider that soil type,
15 and analysis of currently available nutrients in
16 the soils, and the distribution on these 10
17 operations throughout the province with varying
18 soil types?

19 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, for sure. When I
20 say it should be representative of the industry,
21 it should cover the range of soil types, as well.
22 And, essentially, we're looking at a study of
23 nutrient dynamics here and how hog manure
24 interacts with the soil and how much, if any of
25 it, ends up in run-off.

1 MR. YEE: Thank you.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, Mr. Whitaker,
3 you're right, we don't have enough information,
4 and that's something that we are going to be
5 pursuing, for certain. But on the run-off of
6 phosphorous and nitrogen, or whatever, phosphorous
7 mostly, right now today, off of agricultural land,
8 there is a group, the Deerwood Soil and Water
9 Association, that are doing some excellent work on
10 that. And, actually, they came in front of our
11 panel almost pleading for more money, lobbying for
12 money, so that they could finish their research.

13 But these are the kinds of things that
14 they are doing. And they are finding the levels
15 of phosphorous coming off of fields, in field
16 situations. And they are quite surprised that,
17 without any fertilizer at all, without any hog
18 manure, or without any kind of added phosphorous,
19 that the phosphorous levels coming from wooded
20 areas and grasslands areas is phenomenally high.
21 They don't know where these tests are going to go,
22 but it shows that there are a lot of areas where
23 phosphorous can come out of soils.

24 MR. WHITAKER: Are fields receiving
25 hog manure part of the Deerwood study?

1 MR. MOTHERAL: No, they aren't. But
2 they are using the levels of phosphorous studies
3 right now.

4 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, the Deerwood have
5 been doing those samples. And, I guess, the
6 embarrassment is that that's all we have got.
7 Now, they are doing good work, but it's not
8 enough.

9 MR. YEE: Obviously, they have taken
10 the same initiative as the Alonsa Conservation
11 District. And I don't know if Harry Harris is
12 still here, but they are trying to find out if
13 there is any phosphorous pollution, mostly from
14 the beef industries. And they have just started
15 their work there, so I would imagine they are
16 going to continue with something, too.

17 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, that was
18 encouraging what Harry had to say, that the
19 conservation districts are taking it on, as well.
20 So that would should be an encouragement to you to
21 get these numbers.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: Hopefully, yes, that
23 could be one of our recommendations, but we don't
24 know that. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,

1 Mr. Whitaker.

2 Next is Mr. Irvin Gross. Would you
3 please state your name for the record?

4 MR. GROSS: Irvin Gross.

5 IRVIN GROSS, having been sworn, presents as
6 follows:

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, go ahead.

8 MR. GROSS: Good afternoon, or
9 evening, members of the Clean Environment
10 Commission panel, and ladies and gentlemen of the
11 audience.

12 My name is Irvin Gross, manager of
13 Rolling Acres Hutterite Colony. We are a new
14 colony, which began farming in 1995, but only
15 started residency in January of 2005.

16 Our community is located between two
17 villages; two miles south of Birnie, or two miles
18 north of Eden, and 12 miles north of Neepawa, in
19 the R.M. of Rosedale. Our community currently has
20 65 members, which is 16 families. Our livelihood
21 is almost entirely dependent on livestock
22 production, which includes a 1,250 sow hog
23 production unit, which produces 30,000 weanlings
24 annually, of which 16,000 to 18,000 are finished
25 at home, and the remaining are sold as isowean

1 pigs. We also have a 200 cow/calf herd, where our
2 calves are sold as finished livestock.

3 In addition to our livestock, we grow
4 oilseeds, cereals and forages on 5,300 acres of
5 land, of which 800 acres are rented.

6 I would like to take this opportunity
7 to enlighten you, and the audience, about the way
8 we operate our colony, in the context of the
9 issues you outlined in your presentation guide.
10 In doing so, I hope I can dispel some of the myths
11 and misconceptions that the public has about the
12 hog industry, and show you that the hog producers
13 are responsible stewards of the land.

14 Nutrient management. As I stated
15 earlier, we are a new colony, but we are very
16 receptive to new technologies and techniques when
17 it comes to hog production practices.

18 In accordance with Manitoba's Nutrient
19 Management Regulations, we contract an independent
20 third party, Agri Trend Agrology Ltd., to test our
21 soil, water and manure regularly, and to make
22 recommendations on manure application rates to
23 improve overall crop fertility. Ron Curtis, our
24 agri-coach from Agri Trend, who is here with us
25 today, provides us advice on how to balance the

1 nutrients from our manure, and supplemental
2 commercial fertilizers, with crop plant nutrient
3 needs, in order to minimize the nutrient loss and
4 maximize crop fertility and yields.

5 We view manure as a valuable resource
6 for our crops. Just like commercial fertilizer,
7 we are concerned with the way we manage our
8 nutrients because over-application can negatively
9 affect our crops, our financial bottom line, and
10 our environment.

11 Our field are soil tested every year,
12 and we use the information to make science-based
13 decisions for manure application.

14 Manure management. Manure management
15 on larger livestock operations is tightly
16 regulated under the Manitoba Livestock Mortalities
17 and Manure Management Regulation. This regulation
18 is relatively new to Manitoba and provides strict
19 rules on how our manure and mortalities are
20 handled.

21 While smaller livestock operations are
22 still exempt from the rules, larger operations,
23 like ours, are required to file an annual Manure
24 Management Plan.

25 Using our colony as an example, part

1 of our plan requires that our fields be soil
2 tested at depths from 0-6, 6-12 and 12-24 inches,
3 as recommended by Agri Trend, which is more than
4 the minimum requirement for a manure plan. We
5 also test our manure for each field, so that we
6 can track the rate at which manure is being
7 applied. Furthermore, all of the manure is
8 injected to reduce nitrogen loss and to reduce
9 odours.

10 In addition, all of the equipment that
11 we use to seed crops, fertilize, spray herbicides
12 and fungicides, and inject manure, is equipped
13 with the latest GPS technology and auto steer,
14 which prevents over-lapping and over-application
15 of manure and chemicals. Larger operations are
16 more likely able to purchase this technology than
17 smaller operations; therefore, we are better
18 equipped to manage the environmental risks.

19 Groundwater supply. A good supply of
20 good quality water is vital to the livelihood of
21 any agricultural operation, and our community is
22 no exception. In Manitoba, we are fortunate that
23 groundwater supplies are managed by the Manitoba
24 Water Stewardship under the Water Rights Act. The
25 department carefully considers and balances the

1 water needs of all users in an area, with the
2 aquifer's ability to recharge and issues water use
3 licences only if the supply can meet the demands.

4 Currently, domestic uses, or small
5 agricultural operations which use less than 5,000
6 gallons per day, are exempt from licensing.

7 However, larger users are required to have a Water
8 Rights License. We have a Water Rights License
9 from the Province of Manitoba, which allows us to
10 use 25,000 gallons of water per day from the
11 Birnie aquifer. Our community currently uses
12 about 15,000 gallons per day, on average. We are
13 as concerned as anyone about the ability of our
14 water supply to continue to meet our quality and
15 quantity needs well into the future.

16 Soil quality. With regards to soil
17 quality, I am pleased to say that our land is in
18 better condition now than it was before. By
19 applying manure to the land in accordance to
20 regulations and crop needs, our land is producing
21 higher yielding, better quality grain.

22 Yearly testing shows that the soil on
23 our land are in better condition after, than
24 before, the manure application. And we are a
25 minimum till farm, and so we return as much

1 residue into the land as possible, and we don't
2 burn straw. The organic and moisture contents in
3 our soil are improving and, with this, so are the
4 crop yields.

5 Remember, our land is our future. We
6 need to be able to produce 200,000 bushels of
7 grain annually to feed our livestock.

8 Odour. Odours are inherent in any
9 agricultural operation, whether it is from dairy,
10 cattle, poultry or hogs. Odour is one of the
11 biggest concerns that the general public has about
12 hog operations. But please be aware that the hog
13 industry has made huge advances in technologies
14 and farm practices in those areas, which tend to
15 cause problems, such as manure storage, handling
16 and disposal.

17 Injecting manure into the ground
18 significantly reduces the amount of odour produced
19 when compared with surface spraying techniques.
20 As an example, our neighbour, who is also our
21 councillor, visited us this last fall to see when
22 we would be injecting manure on the land, and we
23 told him that we were already finished. Well, he
24 was pleasantly surprised. You see, odours can be
25 managed.

1 Groundwater quality. I can't stress
2 enough the importance of water quality to us and
3 the value of our manure as a natural fertilizer
4 source. We use manure wisely to reduce commercial
5 fertilizer costs and to minimize risks to
6 groundwater quality. However, the cost of
7 properly storing manure and applying it doesn't
8 come cheap. We estimate that it costs us about
9 \$60,000 annually to apply manure in accordance
10 with provincial regulation.

11 Furthermore, to help increase public
12 confidence in the protection of our groundwater
13 supply, our manure is stored in two concrete
14 above-ground tanks, each having a holding capacity
15 of three million gallons. These tanks alone cost
16 us about \$800,000, which works out to about
17 \$12,300 for every man, woman and child in our
18 community. This is a long, long-term investment
19 for our community, and we are here for the
20 duration.

21 Let us compare this with the
22 \$100 million price tag that the City of Winnipeg
23 will have to bear to upgrade their wastewater
24 treatment system. This works out to only about
25 \$200 for every man, woman and child in Winnipeg.

1 I think you would find it hard to convince people
2 in Winnipeg to spend \$12,000 each for the sake of
3 the environment, but the hog industry in Manitoba
4 is already doing it. I think this demonstrates
5 our commitment to the environment and our water
6 resources.

7 And groundwater quality is important,
8 not only just to our members and neighbours, but
9 also to our livestock. If our groundwater supply
10 was ruined, we could never haul enough water to
11 meet our needs. With the amount of time, money
12 and effort we would have to invest in our
13 buildings and operations, we are as concerned
14 about the contamination as anyone, regardless of
15 the source.

16 This is why we work with accredited
17 agrologists to help us with the hog production and
18 manure management decisions and have invested in
19 excellent manure storage facilities.

20 Surface water quality. Surface water
21 quality can be easily affected by all kinds of
22 activities that take place on or near a surface
23 water body.

24 At our site, we protect our surface
25 water bodies, as small as they are, by injecting

1 manure only in the fall. We do not winter spread.
2 And we have adequate storage so that we can store
3 manure throughout the winter and spring months,
4 without having to interrupt or delay our seeding
5 program in the spring.

6 Our cattle use water troughs, as we
7 have no large water bodies nearby. Our cattle do
8 not have access to creeks in which they might want
9 to wade into.

10 Disease transmission. Our barns have
11 high health herd standards, which requires that
12 everyone must shower in and shower out for the
13 health of both the livestock and the workers.
14 These protocols are strict to prevent the
15 occurrence of diseases.

16 In addition, at Rolling Acres, we have
17 a two site system to reduce the risk of
18 transmitting diseases between animals of different
19 ages, one barn for farrowing and a separate barn
20 for finishing. Hog mortalities are frozen and
21 picked up at the site by Rothsay's Rendering once
22 a month.

23 Environmental liability. As you can
24 see, meeting or exceeding the regulation has been
25 very costly in our community. We are very

1 concerned about keeping our location as pure as
2 when we got there, because our future generations
3 will be required to clean up our mess if we leave
4 one.

5 Our goal is to maintain an
6 economically feasible community, but also to keep
7 it environmentally friendly. Common sense is an
8 important factor in accomplishing this. And most
9 situations dictate that common sense be used.

10 Let's work together to put in
11 reasonable, workable and affordable solutions for
12 the hog industry.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Gross.
15 Edwin?

16 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Gross, you have
17 mentioned in your presentation that you are
18 growing oilseeds, cereals and forages on 5,300
19 acres, of which 800 acres were rented. I would
20 imagine that is sufficient spread field for your
21 manure at this point in time?

22 MR. GROSS: Yes.

23 MR. YEE: Do you see any difficulties
24 with the latest amendment for the phosphorous regs
25 in terms of impacting your spread fields?

1 MR. GROSS: Well, the tests we have
2 been doing, and any time we have done soil tests,
3 it has never shown up that the phosphorousous
4 levels, or nitrogen levels, has gone up even after
5 a year of cropping and after putting manure down.

6 MR. YEE: So you wouldn't foresee any
7 problems with being compliant with the new
8 phosphorous regulations?

9 MR. GROSS: It depends how strict they
10 are applied, I guess.

11 MR. YEE: Okay. And in terms of
12 the -- and I realize your other comment that you
13 made about you being able to maintain an
14 economically feasible community, but do you see
15 more stringent regulations affecting your
16 operation?

17 MR. GROSS: Yes, I would.

18 MR. YEE: That's all I have. Thank
19 you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: To what extent or how
21 would they affect your operation?

22 MR. GROSS: Well, if they kept banning
23 livestock, or building for livestock, and if they
24 got stricter with injecting of the manures, we
25 could probably or possibly run out of acres and

1 have to truck it a long ways.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Wayne?

3 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. Mr. Gross,
4 I had forgotten -- I have heard a lot about hogs
5 in the last month or so. Isowean, what does that
6 mean?

7 MR. GROSS: Isowean is a pig under 21
8 days.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. It wasn't some
10 complicated ISO, or something. You also had one
11 statement here, and that's with regards to soil
12 quality:

13 "I am pleased to say that our land is
14 in better condition now than it was
15 before."

16 Before what?

17 MR. GROSS: Before we started applying
18 manure.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I thought that's
20 what you meant. What is the shelf life, or what
21 would you call it, of an above-ground storage
22 tank? Is there a guarantee that they will last so
23 many years?

24 MR. GROSS: I was talking to a company
25 out of the States, and they are putting a 25-year

1 guarantee on it.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: When they put a
3 guarantee on it, if something happened, would they
4 pay for the clean-up?

5 MR. GROSS: I don't know about the
6 clean-up.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: It's interesting
8 because we get lots of area, for instance, in the
9 Red River Valley, where there is sufficient clay
10 for your manure. But you are in an area where you
11 are required to do that? You are required?

12 MR. GROSS: Yes. Our R.M. requires
13 above-ground. They don't allow lagoons.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
15 Mr. Gross. Edward Stahl. Please introduce
16 yourself?

17 MR. STAHL: My name is Edward Stahl.
18 EDWARD STAHL, having been sworn, presents as
19 follows:

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Go ahead.

21 MR. STAHL: You have got to excuse me
22 because I don't have my best voice today. But,
23 otherwise, I will try my best.

24 So I wanted to say good afternoon to
25 you members of the Clean Environment Commission

1 panel, and to the ladies and gentlemen of the
2 audience.

3 My name is Edward Stahl. I am here
4 today as a representative of the Grass River
5 Hutterite Colony. And not only for the colony,
6 but for the hog producers up in this area, and for
7 the hog industry, as a whole, in this province.

8 Our colony is located four miles east
9 of Glenella, Manitoba, and we do farming in
10 Glenella, Manitoba. Our colony has a population
11 of 104 people, which is made up of 24 families.
12 And the hog production is a very, very important
13 business in our colony, and it has been for almost
14 40 years.

15 We farm 2,800 acres of land and run a
16 550 sow, farrow to finish, hog operation. We have
17 50 dairy cattle and between 8,000 to 9,000 layer
18 hens.

19 The public often thinks of Hutterite
20 colonies maybe not only as big farms, but they
21 think of them as big factory-sized barns, or big
22 farms that have dug up all of the land around the
23 neighbouring areas. And when they see the large
24 manure storage tanks or slurries and lagoons, they
25 generally think that there is a higher risk of

1 contamination. But whether you have a small
2 slurry or a big slurry, you still have to follow
3 the rules and regulations to apply manure,
4 according to the Manitoba regulations. And there
5 is a recent survey that was done recently by the
6 Canadian Government that states that larger
7 operations tend to be managed better than smaller
8 operations.

9 And just to use our colony as an
10 example about those factory-sized barns, or
11 factory farms, on a Hutterite colony we have more
12 than a few colonies. So on our colony, for
13 example, we only run 22 sows per family or five
14 per person. And we farm 116 acres per family or
15 26 acres per person. So we, actually, farm less
16 than a quarter section of land per family. So
17 Hutterite colonies are quite small, compared to
18 some of the privately owned farms, when you take
19 into account on a per family basis. Nowadays,
20 individual farmers will tell you that you need,
21 at least, 120 to 140 sows per family, or 600 to
22 800 acres of land, in order to turn a decent
23 profit.

24 I would just like to talk a little bit
25 about what we do on our colony for manure

1 management practices. We manage our manure in
2 accordance with the Manitoba regulations. And to
3 help us develop our manure disposal plans, we do
4 hire a professional agrologist. In our case, it
5 is Agri Trend Agrology Ltd, which is one of the
6 most respected, not only this province, but in the
7 prairie provinces. They do our soil analysis.
8 And we apply manure according to their testing and
9 their recommendations. We also hire commercial
10 manure applicators so that we don't apply our
11 manure ourselves. And they use GPS technology
12 units that they put into it, and they apply the
13 manure at the recommended rates. And with the GPS
14 technology, there is no risk of over-application
15 in any one area.

16 We also spend \$60,000 to \$70,000 for
17 manure disposal, and to hire professional people
18 that we feel we need to hire so that we follow the
19 rules and regulations. Also, the manure that we
20 use on our colony is worth \$90 to \$100 an acre, so
21 it is something that we are not going to be
22 able -- or we are not going to be out there and
23 over-applying, because it is worth a lot of money
24 to us. And we don't need to buy fertilizer when
25 we use our manure on the farm.

1 So we also incorporate a product
2 called Maxizyme Plus into our pig's feed to reduce
3 phosphorous and ammonia levels into the manure.
4 It is made by a company in Quebec called Numac.
5 And they have done an incredible amount of
6 research to prove its effectiveness. What
7 Maxizyme is, it is a scientifically selected
8 naturally occurring micro-organisms and microbial
9 enzymes, which enhance fermentation in the pig's
10 digestive system.

11 And maybe a lot of the audience knows
12 when we have the breweries going through a
13 fermentation process, in order to pull out all of
14 the good ingredients out of the grains, in order
15 to get the best product. So that's what's
16 happening inside of the pig's digestive system is
17 that product pulls more nutrients and more
18 ingredients for the pig's use, so that it utilizes
19 a lot more of the ingredients than it would
20 otherwise. And where a pig would have used maybe
21 three pounds of feed to gain one pound of body
22 weight, it only needs two or two and a half pounds
23 of feed now. So there you are using less feed and
24 you are reducing the phosphorous level and the
25 nitrogen and ammonia levels.

1 I just want to give you a little bit
2 of an example. When we did apply for an
3 application for the new barn, we had our town
4 council, and nobody did object to us building the
5 barn. But we had our reeve comment that the first
6 year when we did apply manure, he said that we
7 could smell it all the way to town. And in the
8 last few years, he had said that you have
9 virtually got to drive right by the field in order
10 to smell that you are applying manure. So we do
11 feel that we are doing a good job. And we are
12 doing everything to ensure that the ammonia levels
13 are under control.

14 By incorporating better manure
15 management practices, and introducing innovative
16 ways of reducing nutrient levels in manure, we are
17 reducing the risk of nitrates, phosphorous and
18 bacteria entering our surface and our groundwater
19 systems. We have tested the water from two of our
20 wells recently, and found that neither had any
21 levels of nitrates and phosphorous and E. coli.

22 One well, in particular, is located
23 about 50 feet from the river. We do have a river
24 that runs right by a colony. And, generally, the
25 public thinks that you've got all of the manure

1 running off into the rivers and into those
2 drainages. So we did do some tests. And we -- on
3 the farm, we have tested our water at least two to
4 four times a year to ensure that there is no
5 bacterias.

6 Another one of the wells happens to be
7 in an area which runs water from beneath the land
8 that has received manure for the last 35 to 40
9 years. These water supplies are very vital to the
10 life and the livelihood of our colony, and we do
11 care about the environment.

12 And to illustrate this, I would like
13 to point out to you that in the last four years,
14 Grass River Colony has spent over \$600,000 to
15 store our manure and wastewater in accordance with
16 the provincial standards. This is over \$5,000 for
17 every woman, man and child on the colony. A
18 recent report prepared by the Fraser Institute
19 said that it would cost Canadians about
20 \$90 billion, or about \$3,000 per Canadian, to
21 build or upgrade domestic wastewater treatment
22 systems to meet Canadian standards, but that
23 Canadians were reluctant to pay for this. This
24 demonstrates that the hog industry does care about
25 the environment. And we are willing to spend more

1 of our hard-earned dollars into protecting it than
2 the average Canadian does.

3 Looking at the economic perspective of
4 the hog industry in Manitoba, hog producers spend
5 over \$450 million annually in feed costs, \$205
6 million in fuels and hydro, \$150 million in
7 building and building supplies, and \$115 to \$120
8 million in wages. The pork industry creates over
9 15,000 jobs in our province. Now, most of those
10 jobs are directly related to the hog industry. So
11 if we look at it, indirectly, you know, there
12 could be a lot more jobs that are involved in the
13 hog industry.

14 Manitoba hog producers have invested
15 \$20 million in new technology and independent
16 environmental research. We also contribute over
17 \$1 billion in our provincial economy. And it is
18 the largest source of farm cash of any
19 agricultural commodity in Manitoba. We are also
20 one of Canada's largest hog production and
21 pork-exporting provinces. Pork exports now
22 generate more money for the provincial economy
23 than Manitoba Hydro does to export sales of
24 electricity.

25 Manitoba hog producers are putting our

1 province on the export sales map because we are
2 gaining the reputation of consistently producing
3 high quality pork in an environmentally
4 sustainable and economically viable way. We
5 produce enough pork to meet our own needs, and do
6 not need to import, which is a good thing for
7 Manitobans, very important to Manitobans.

8 In closing, I wish to leave you with a
9 short take-home message. We know a lot of farmers
10 invest their life-savings into those barns. And
11 they put every penny they have ever owned into
12 purchasing those farms. And the farmers spend 15
13 to 20 years of their lives to pay for those farms.
14 And so to say that they are intentionally going to
15 destroy the land, and their water quality, which
16 is the foundation of their livelihood, and of
17 their income, I think we need to realize that
18 farmers aren't going to destroy the land
19 intentionally after what they have put into what
20 they have.

21 So I want to thank you, again, for
22 your time and for your support.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Stahl.

24 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Stahl, you
25 mentioned in your presentation about the large

1 manure storage tanks. What size are your storage
2 tanks?

3 MR. STAHL: We have four and a half to
4 five million gallons.

5 MR. YEE: And is your operation --
6 what's your nearest neighbour to your colony?

7 MR. STAHL: I guess it would be about
8 a mile to a mile and a half from the colony.

9 MR. YEE: And the nearest town?

10 MR. STAHL: Would be Glenella, which
11 is four miles west of our colony.

12 MR. YEE: So have you had many odour
13 complaints?

14 MR. STAHL: To this day, I don't
15 recall one that we had, so I --

16 MR. YEE: In terms of your manure
17 application, you're injecting the manure? Are you
18 using the injection method to spread the manure?

19 MR. STAHL: Yes. Yes.

20 MR. YEE: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stahl, you
22 mentioned that you use GPS, or the highest
23 technology, in applying your manure. Do you know
24 how widespread that is among larger operators?

25 MR. STAHL: I know that a lot of the

1 farmers in our area are trying to incorporate that
2 idea a lot more, to hire somebody with the
3 equipment, because it is more precise in what you
4 are doing. And it is cheaper to hire them than to
5 put up with the equipment that you have to buy and
6 all of that.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know do custom
8 applicators use GPS?

9 MR. STAHL: Absolutely they use GPS,
10 yes.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. Mr. Stahl, I
12 meant to ask this question, and I forgot to, of
13 the previous speaker, Mr. Gross. You both use
14 Agritrend as your --

15 MR. STAHL: Agrologist.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: For your soil testing,
17 et cetera, et cetera.

18 MR. STAHL: Yes.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: And Mr. Gross said that
20 they chose to do the three samples: 0-6, 6-12,
21 and 12-24 inches for each. That's the way -- I
22 used to work in the Provincial Soil Testing
23 Laboratory, and that was the way that all samples
24 were taken. That's over and above. You don't
25 really need to -- according to your manure plan,

1 you don't really need to do those three, do you?
2 What is the requirement of the Manure Management
3 Plan?

4 MR. STAHL: If I could get Mr. Curtis
5 to answer that for me.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Just identify yourself
7 for the record, please?

8 MR. CURTIS: Ron Curtis. The
9 requirements right now for manure analysis would
10 be 0-24 inch sample. We split it so that we can
11 trace the nitrogen and the phosphate to see
12 whether it is leaching down, moving at all. We
13 want to know where it is so that we can get better
14 uptake.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that your company's
16 practice?

17 MR. CURTIS: It is, too, yes.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Is it common in the
19 industry to do a similar thing?

20 MR. CURTIS: Common in the industry
21 would be a 0-6 sample and then 6-24.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. Just another
23 question on that same subject.

24 MR. CURTIS: Yes.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: I know what they used

1 to cost. And I also know they are probably
2 considerably more today. What does it cost for a
3 soil sample?

4 MR. CURTIS: The ones that we run on
5 all of our fields that we take, we do not -- it
6 depends what you analyze for. We do not analyze
7 just for nitrogen. N, P, K, S, we do a total
8 analysis of all of the settlement, organic matter,
9 nitrates. So the total analysis is approximately
10 \$160.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: That would be for a
12 field?

13 MR. CURTIS: Per field. We would take
14 20 samples in the field, cores, make a composite
15 sample of it, send that away for analysis.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: It used to be \$6.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Now you're showing your
18 age.

19 MR. CURTIS: Things have changed.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, that's a
21 considerable amount. I know that there is a
22 certain value to it that's higher than that, but
23 it just surprises me that it's that high, the
24 cost.

25 MR. CURTIS: We treat the manure the

1 same as fertilizer. We are trying to make the
2 best use of it as a nutrient source, not just as
3 manure.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: I understand that.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
6 Thank you, Mr. Stahl.

7 Now that, brings us to the end of
8 people who have indicated that they wish to give a
9 presentation. Is there anybody else in the
10 audience who wishes to make a presentation this
11 afternoon? Well, we will adjourn, but we won't
12 leave, so that if anybody else arrives and wishes
13 to make a presentation, or one of you changes your
14 mind and would like to say something, please let
15 us know, and we will reconvene and hear you. We
16 will be resuming at 7:00 this evening. We have at
17 least one person who is registered to speak after
18 supper. Thank you.

19 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 3:25 P.M.
20 AND RECONVENED AT 7:08 P.M.)

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening. We will
22 come to order. We have one person, so far, who
23 has indicated that she wants to make a
24 presentation this evening. If there are any
25 others in the audience who would like to make a

1 presentation, please indicate after our first
2 presenter. Kate Storey. Would you please name
3 for the record?

4 MS. STOREY: I'm Kate Storey.

5 KATE STOREY, having been sworn, presents as
6 follows:

7 MS. STOREY: First of all, I would
8 like to apologize that I was a few minutes late.
9 I had a bit of car trouble.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: No problem.

11 MS. STOREY: I am a hog farmer. I
12 considered bringing along a piglet to prove that,
13 but I thought that perhaps you would pay more
14 attention to what I had to say if I didn't have a
15 cute little pig running around here.

16 I am a hog farmer, but I don't run a
17 factory farm. We raise pigs in shelters filled
18 with straw. They are healthy because they spend
19 lots of time outdoors playing pig games, like
20 rooting up sod, wallowing in the mud or digging up
21 straw piles. We sell weanlings, hogs and pork.
22 We make about \$10,000 a year doing that. This is
23 a welcome addition to any diversified farm income.

24 The moratorium on the hog industry
25 expansion does not affect operations like mine.

1 The moratorium only applies to barns that are big
2 enough to threaten the health and welfare of the
3 surrounding community. Farmers can still raise
4 pigs, or expand their farms, or start new
5 operations, as long as they stay below 300 animal
6 units in size.

7 300 animal units is a lot of pigs. It
8 could mean 300 sows or 2,000 hogs. 2,000 hogs, at
9 an average price of \$150, just a guess, just an
10 estimate, and prices change, of course, at that
11 price it would give a farmer a gross income of
12 \$300,000. That would be a quarter of a million
13 dollars, and that should give a farmer a great
14 income, right? Wrong! Factory farming is so
15 inefficient that the farmer ends up with,
16 according to my neighbour, about \$20,000 in his
17 pocket in a good year. And that is with high
18 prices for hogs, low prices for grain, and only if
19 the American dollar is high, and if interest rates
20 stay low. That is all a lot to ask. Most years,
21 \$10,000 could be expected, and maybe \$5,000, or
22 even less for a year's work.

23 Last year it cost my neighbour about
24 \$70 to feed a hog to slaughter weight in an
25 expensive, temperature controlled factory barn.

1 Due to the crowding and lack of sunlight, a
2 variety of antibiotics and vitamins must be
3 bought. There is the bill for power and all that
4 water to keep the manure flowing. Also, the
5 interest rates or the interest payments on that
6 state-of-the-art barn. I would invite the
7 Commission to get up-to-date costs from one of the
8 intensive barn owners that will be appearing
9 before this Commission. I imagine you may have
10 done so.

11 That 300 animal unit operation, with a
12 three quarter million dollar mortgage, and a
13 leaking manure lagoon, averages \$5 to \$10 profit
14 per hog, according to my neighbour. I have heard
15 that 2006 was a good year and profits were up to
16 an average of \$11 a hog on provincial averages.
17 That was last year, I understand, and pork prices
18 are falling rapidly today.

19 In contrast, a straw-based operation,
20 like mine, expends more on feed costs. My pigs
21 are more active and spend at least part of each
22 day outside, even in winter, so they eat more. I
23 estimate that we use \$100 of grain to feed a hog
24 to slaughter weight. But that is almost all we
25 spend. No antibiotics, no vitamins. Maybe a

1 dollar per pig for straw to fill an old shelter
2 that we got for free. A bit for an old building
3 and heat-lamps to shelter winter-born piglets. No
4 loan payments or shareholders to pay. At most, we
5 spend \$120 to raise a hog. And the meat is worth
6 more. A naturally raised hog gets \$50 to \$100
7 premium over factory-fed pork. What this means is
8 that only 100 to 200 naturally raised hogs are
9 needed to make profits comparable to that 2,000
10 hog barn.

11 So it confuses me when I hear factory
12 farm operators complaining that the moratorium
13 will put them out of the pig business. It also
14 confuses me to hear them say they must constantly
15 expand in order to break even. Why would they
16 want to increase their investment in an industry
17 that is putting itself out of business?

18 And why should our society sacrifice
19 water quality just to expand an inefficient
20 industrial hog industry?

21 The environmental impacts of
22 concentrated hog manure are well known. Many
23 people are arguing about the source of the
24 contamination in Lake Winnipeg. It's impossible
25 to be sure how much comes from human sewage and

1 how much comes from the hog manure. However, the
2 hog industry is the only nutrient source that has
3 expanded. Manitoba's human population is
4 certainly not growing. There are almost the same
5 1.2 million people in Manitoba today, and
6 therefore, the same amount of toilet use, as there
7 was a decade ago.

8 There are a lot more pigs, though.
9 There are seven million more pigs today than there
10 were in the nineties, if I read the statistics
11 right, and four to five times as much hog manure
12 leaching into the water. Is it strange, then,
13 that the increase of hog numbers parallels the
14 increase in phosphate concentrations in Lake
15 Winnipeg?

16 Manure can be a valuable asset when
17 mixed with straw on my farm, but it becomes a
18 toxic liability when too much liquid manure is
19 spread on too little land. There are many who
20 will present evidence of the damage caused by too
21 much manure. They will also speak about
22 contaminated wells, rising asthma rates, declining
23 property values, terrible working conditions and,
24 of course, all of that algae in Lake Winnipeg.

25 The municipal councillors will try to

1 counter all of this with stories of all of the
2 taxes that can be made on these barns. But of
3 what value are higher tax revenues if they come at
4 the expense of public health? What good are
5 higher taxes during an outbreak of E. coli from
6 contaminated wells? What good are higher taxes if
7 Lake Winnipeg is too contaminated for drinking or
8 swimming or fishing?

9 It doesn't have to be this way.
10 Farmers can farm. Farmers can make a living
11 raising pigs without keeping them in industrial
12 factory barns.

13 I would like this Commission to
14 consider the whole picture when examining a hog
15 industry in Manitoba. What future is there for
16 factory farming? There are a lot of indications
17 that the hog industry is in for a rough time for
18 the next decade, or even longer.

19 Grain prices are rising. This is not
20 one of the usual market fluctuations, but a
21 reaction to a whole new demand for feed grains.
22 Ethanol production is using up an awful lot of pig
23 feed, and promises to make hog farming
24 unprofitable for the foreseeable future. Why
25 would a hog farmer want to take on more debt when

1 profits are dropping?

2 And that's not all. Many pigs are
3 sold to the U.S. The falling American dollar
4 makes Manitoba pigs increasingly difficult to
5 sell. It also drives up the interest rates on
6 those state-of-the-art hog barn loans. As well,
7 industrial farming, including hog factories, are
8 highly dependent on fossil fuels. As the U.S.
9 loses control of Middle East oil supplies, our
10 fuel prices have nowhere to go but up, putting
11 still more pressure on hog production.

12 Any hog barn that starts up under
13 these negative economic conditions is likely to
14 fail.

15 I believe that the hog moratorium is a
16 blessing in disguise to the hog industry. It will
17 stop the industry from over-expanding at a time
18 when we are heading toward long-term economic
19 challenges. Additional growth would not only
20 increase the risks to health and environment, but
21 it would also weaken the existing industry and the
22 economy of Manitoba. I believe that the Manitoba
23 Provincial Department of Conservation was wise to
24 implement a moratorium on the expansion of the
25 industrial hog industry. And I hope that the

1 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission recommends
2 extending that moratorium indefinitely, for our
3 health, for our environment, and for our economy.
4 Nine million hogs is enough.

5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
7 Ms. Storey. And, if your numbers are correct, I
8 find it totally astounding that these large hog
9 operation factories are operating at such a small
10 margin.

11 MS. STOREY: That information comes
12 from the net profits from the Manitoba government
13 websites. They are net profits for the hog
14 industry in 2006. Maybe there is some large hog
15 barn owners here that might be able to clarify
16 that.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I am not sure that
18 there are this evening.

19 MS. STOREY: That is generally it, you
20 know.

21 MR. PAVELIN: But I believe it.
22 That's why there is mass hog barns because the
23 margin is small, one leads to the other.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, if you are
25 netting about \$10,000 on your very small

1 operation, and some of these aren't doing that
2 much better with 1,000, that sounds like it might
3 be a shaky business.

4 MS. STOREY: I sell hogs for \$250
5 each.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

7 MS. STOREY: I sell sides of pork for,
8 you know --

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you sell, obviously,
10 to some kind of a niche market?

11 MS. STOREY: I sell direct to
12 consumers.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: You sell direct to
14 consumers?

15 MS. STOREY: And direct to consumers,
16 I can make \$60 on a pig. And you have to take
17 costs off of that. But that's the same as Maple
18 Leaf is taking.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: How many hogs do you
20 run?

21 MS. STOREY: I have, right now, six
22 sows. I average about 19 weanlings per sow per
23 year.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: 19 weanlings.

25 MS. STOREY: Per sow per year.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: What age do you sell
2 them?

3 MS. STOREY: We keep some to full
4 slaughter weight. We sell some as weanlings. And
5 it also depends on the price of grain. I think
6 this year a lot more are going to be sold as
7 weanlings.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it sounds like,
9 compared to the size of your operation, you are
10 doing exceedingly well.

11 MS. STOREY: We are not the only ones.
12 If you just want to be a pig farmer, it is
13 possible. My message is that it is possible to be
14 a pig farmer if you want to get income from that.
15 I'm hearing messages from the industrial hog
16 industry that, you know, this moratorium is not
17 allowing people to be pig farmers, and I just
18 don't agree with that.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And you said that you
20 mix your manure with the straw. Do you compost
21 it?

22 MS. STOREY: Yes.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: What do you do with
24 your manure?

25 MS. STOREY: Compost it and then

1 spread it on the fields.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

3 MR. YEE: Yes. Ms. Storey, just for
4 clarification here, you noted that the average for
5 these larger hog producing operations is \$5 to \$10
6 profit per hog. What are you averaging on your
7 farm for profit per hog?

8 MS. STOREY: Depending on if we can
9 sell it direct or not, \$75 average.

10 MR. YEE: And you mentioned that you
11 compost your manure. Do you spread it on your own
12 crops?

13 MS. STOREY: On our own crops, yes.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

15 MR. MOTHERAL: Just for clarification
16 on the one statement:

17 "The 300 animal unit operation with a
18 three quarter million dollar mortgage,
19 and a leaking manure lagoon averages
20 \$5 to \$10 per hog."

21 Are you talking about one you know of or is that
22 in general?

23 MS. STOREY: That information would
24 have been given to me by Elite Swine. I called
25 them up, because I'm a hog farmer, and I asked:

1 What would it cost for me to put -- at the time it
2 was 292 animal unit barn? One of my neighbours,
3 not real close, but six miles away had just built
4 an Elite Swine barn, 202 animal units. And they
5 gave me the figures. The figures were for a
6 \$750,000 loan. They had it all figured out, as
7 far as the profits to expect. Their pigs in,
8 their feed in. I would pay the labour.

9 My loan would cover the construction
10 of a barn at those prices that year, and the
11 manured lagoon. And their sales pitch to me was
12 \$10,000 profit per year, assuming I got -- I
13 raised healthy pigs. But they controlled, you
14 know, the pigs and the feed.

15 The next year that cost was down. And
16 this year, according to the Manitoba statistics,
17 the cost is up. But they are all ranging within
18 the values that I recorded there.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: Maybe you misunderstood
20 my question. I realize the \$5 to \$10 profit per
21 hog. But just before that you said "and a leaking
22 manure lagoon".

23 MS. STOREY: Okay, the leaking manure
24 lagoon came from discussions with Lawrence
25 Manchur. He is in the Department of Agriculture.

1 I think it was Lawrence. There are several
2 Manchurs.

3 Anyway, I called up the Department.
4 And I asked them, at the time, manure leakage from
5 lagoons was being discussed in the community. And
6 what he indicated to me was that an inch and a
7 half leakage was expected and from any clay-lined
8 manure lagoon, that was allowable and expected.
9 That is an inch and a half for the whole area of
10 the lagoon.

11 At the time, I figured out how many
12 gallons that was. It was quite a few. But I
13 don't remember that number. And we were concerned
14 because there was barns going up, and they were
15 possibly infringing on the aquifers in the area.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Elite Swine told you
17 that you could expect a profit of \$10,000 for 292
18 animal unit operation?

19 MS. STOREY: That's what they told me.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: That would have been a
21 farrow operation?

22 MS. STOREY: No, hogs. They would
23 bring weanlings in and finished hogs out.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else?

25 MR. MOTHERAL: I don't think so. I

1 was just wanting to clarify that. It is just that
2 I didn't know whether you meant that most lagoons
3 leak or did you have to have a leaking lagoon to
4 make \$5 or \$10 profit per hog?

5 MS. STOREY: No. I meant leaking
6 lagoons, that they are expected to leak.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
8 Ms. Storey. This is not an argument we've heard
9 before in our hearings. It is nice to hear a
10 different perspective, so thank you very much for
11 coming out tonight.

12 MS. STOREY: Well, thank you very much
13 for taking your time to come out here and for
14 listening to me.

15 MR. PAVELIN: Can I make a comment?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Come up to a mike right
17 here, please, sir? Would you just introduce
18 yourself and where you're from and feel free to
19 make a comment?

20 MR. PAVELIN: I'm George Pavelin. I'm
21 from Dauphin here. I'm just a grain farmer. I
22 want to make a few comments. The water that is
23 polluted anywhere in the world travels around the
24 world, and it is pollution all over, the same with
25 the air. So this pollution has got to do with the

1 whole world. I can clean up my act, but the big
2 picture would mean nothing. If they can drill in
3 the ice up north, and for each year they can see
4 what pollution is in that ice.

5 I just got a comment on dugouts.
6 There is so many dugouts in Manitoba, all over
7 Canada. They are not fenced. And the herd of
8 cattle go out there in the summer, where they
9 drink they urinate and they crap. And this is
10 going into the water. And the chances are that
11 these dugouts are connected to underground
12 streams. And the man down the road, or the ten
13 farmers down the road, wonder why today their
14 wells are contaminated? How come that's not all
15 cleaned up? I mean, this is so obvious. That's
16 just one comment.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 MR. PAVELIN: Because I see these
19 dugouts all over the place, and they are not
20 fenced. And you've got community pastures. And
21 the government talks the talk, but it doesn't walk
22 the walk. They are just as bad as the private
23 guy.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it is a good
25 question, but not in the mandate of this current

1 review.

2 MR. PAVELIN: I just wanted to make a
3 comment.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, what was your
5 last name again?

6 MR. PAVELIN: Pavelin.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pavelin,
8 P-A-V-E-L-I-N?

9 MR. PAVELIN: Right.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish
11 to make a comment or a presentation this evening?
12 Well, that would bring our hearings here in
13 Dauphin to a close, then. Thank you all for
14 coming out. Some of you were here this afternoon
15 as well. We will adjourn. We resume our hearings
16 on April 10th, I believe, in Whitemouth is the
17 next hearing. So thank you all and good night.

18 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 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.

Lisa Reid