

EXHIBIT NUMBER: StC-
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(Commission Secretary)

My name is Ray Timmerman. I farm in partnership with my wife, Leona and our sons Dallas and Justin. Our third generation farm is a mixed operation consisting of annual crops, cow-calf and hog finishing enterprises.

When our oldest son Dallas began farming we expanded our hog operation. Raising hogs has been and continues to be a financial benefit. This income means we have a better cash flow that helps provide us with a comfortable living. My father used to say the term "mortgage lifters" when referring to raising pigs. We strive to build a sustainable farming business that will continue to be not only economically viable but also environmentally viable. With the costs of inputs and living expenses rising, increasing our current hog enterprise is a necessity. An expansion in our hog sales means we would realize more income to help cover those higher costs on our farm.

Pigs are raised in two small conventional barns and 4 hoop structures, producing liquid and solid manure. The manure is applied to our crop land, following the recommended setbacks from our creek, sloughs and wells. Site specific soil sampling is done prior to manure application to determine not just which field, but where within the field the manure should be applied. With financial funding from the Canada-Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program, after completing our Environmental Farm Plan, regular manure testing will be implemented on our farm. Composting of the solid manure will also be implemented on our farm, making it more affordable for us to spread the composted manure on land that is farther from the yard site.

Livestock mortalities are composted on the farm, and this year we will have a proper constructed deadstock composting site on our farm.

A significant portion of our annual crops, which include peas, barley and wheat, are grown as feed for the pigs. Peas allow us to zero-till seed the following cereal crop into the low residue pea stubble, therefore dramatically reducing soil erosion and carbon emissions. Barley, the main ingredient in the pig ration, is the most competitive cereal crop, allowing us to reduce chemical and mechanical methods of weed control.

In 2003, we received the Family of the Year award from our local Conservation District. This award was given to us by our peers who recognized the work that we had done and continue to do in soil and water management on our family farm. This award acknowledged that, we as a family, showed responsible farm practices.

On an annual basis, we have our well water tested, since this water is used not only for our livestock, but for our own personal consumption and use. With proper livestock manure management along with proper well maintenance, we have always and continue to drink our ground water due to the acceptable nutrient and bacteria levels.

With our awareness and execution of proper management techniques, we are meeting our goal of being within government regulated allowances of soil and water nutrient levels.

Everything we do today is to save and improve the land, water and air quality so they are here for the next generation tomorrow.