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To The Clean Environment Commission.
My name is John Bannister I am the chair of the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba environment Committee.

Lake Winnipeg is at the moment the focal point of the discussions surrounding phosphorus and how everyone can take their part to clean up the lake and stop any further damage to its future health.

Although the focus appears to be directed at the hog industry the outcome of the clean environment commissions recommendations to government will affect the whole agriculture industry.

The hog industry is governed by the most stringent rules to protect the environment and any more rules added to the present ones will impose great hardship on the industry. Dairy farmers care for the environment by following the rules that are now in place to protect the environment. Considering the price of fertilizer at the present time the majority of the dairy farmers are making full use of their manure to offset some of the high costs associated with crop requirements.

Some of the practises used by dairy farmers limit the use of more phosphorous than is needed.

- 1 Any farm with more than 300 animal units is subject to the manure and mortalities regulations which govern winter spreading and the excess use of fertilizer
- 2 Most farms make use of soil analysis to determine the correct amount of fertilizer to be used on different crops.
- 3 Nutritionists making up the dairy rations are more aware now of the excess use of phosphorous minerals in the ration make up and are using phosphorous more on the basis of needs rather than add lib access.

At Dairy Farmers of Manitoba we have annual General and Forum meetings and two district meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall. In the past we have brought speakers in on such topics as the Environmental Farm Plan, New manure and Mortality Regulations and proposed new Nutrient Management Regulations to educate producers in keeping up the good work they do in managing the water and environmental issues associated with Dairy Farming.

On a personal note I farm in partnership with my wife and two sons in Lockport milking 100 cows and all the young stock associated with this herd. We came here from the UK 13 years ago where Nitrogen regulations were already in place then, and considering the population of the UK the number of livestock units there and the physical size of the country I cant see any reason why Manitoba cant fix our problem in a short time without resorting to excessive regulations and pauses such as we have seen on the pork industry and keep lake Winnipeg from being overloaded with nutrients.

I hope from all the feedback you have had the commission will be able to recommend to government that the regulations are sufficient and strong enough if carried out by everyone and enforced properly.

J. Bannister 7/5/07