

MAY 08 2007

To: Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
 Attn: Cathy Johnson

Cathy, the milk board has informed me that the prov. gov. plans to implement more environmental restrictions/regulations on farmers. Cathy my family has farmed in Manitoba since the late 1800's and our farms have respected the environment long before it became an issue. We know how to manage the manure on our farm and at the cost of fertilizer and fuel, we are extremely careful and do not waste any. The general public causes more environmental damage as they drive to the golf course and on trips. Perhaps these activities should be more closely regulated. An inquiry should be done on what cottage owners do with their sewage! If the gov. wants farmers to adhere to draconian regulations, then the gov. must provide up to 100% of the cost to the farmers as we can not afford any more additional costs. A recent study shows that

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(Commission Secretary)

Manitoba farmers contribute only 1% of the phosphorus in the environment, yet we are unfairly targeted as the main contributors and are expected to pay the price to clear up 99% of the problem. The NDP's government answer was to ban hog expansion, all that the ban did was move the expansion down into the U.S. northern states and have effectively given up any input into the industry while the hogs are still in the same watershed. This hog ban must be removed in order for Manitoba's to participate in the hog industry growth. The additional costs the government wants farmers to absorb is unfair. Other business can pass additional costs onto consumers while farmers can not pass the costs on. If the public wants farmers to adhere to these new rules, then the public must be prepared to pay. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Scott and Debra Gilson
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