

CEC submission
May 7, 2007

I am submitting some final comments on the presentation given by the MB Pork Council on April 27, 2007. I am appalled by some of the things they had to say and cannot let the comments go unnoticed.

I will refer to the numbers from the chapters listed in the binder presented by the them.

2.1 Nutrient Management

The Myth about 9 million pigs being produced in MB. Not once has anyone ever said there were 9 million pigs on-farm at any one time. It has been stated that there was 9 million pigs produced in MB in 2006, period.

2.1.2 Toxic Waste

If people who work in pig barns, slaughter factories as well as the pig themselves, can either die or become very sick from breathing in concentrated urine and feces, it doesn't take a scientist to determine the waste is toxic. Manure may have been used for thousands of years as fertilizer, but never ever to this degree.

2.1.3 Uncontrolled Growth

It is no myth that the growth of this industry has been uncontrolled. All you have to do is look at the numbers in 1999 and compare them to 2006 to see the drastic increase. It is also no coincidence the increase coincides with the end of the single desk system.

2.1.3, 2.3.2, 3.1(2)

I am absolutely furious that these people continue to label me and all the other people who are trying to open the eyes of the public to the practices of the pork council and the factory hog industry as activist groups, so-called environmental groups, and anti-hog industry citizens. I personally was forced by these people to stand up to them and fight. Fight for my home and the right to breath air that is not polluted with the stink of hog manure or particles of toxic matter. I didn't work for the past 30 years to get where I am to just back down to the all mighty pork council when they come along with their intimidation tactics. I have learnt in the past 36 months that they do not tell the truth, they twist and turn it every direction until it suits them. They do not care who they trample. All they are concerned about is profit.

2.5.2 1.5% phosphorus

Not true. Downplaying amounts again.

2.7.2 Complaints

The reason the complaints are so low is that in small farming communities if one person who was not a hog farmer or did not belong to or want to join “the club of factory farms”, the majority of the community would shun them. I have personally met a small hog farmer who has had this exact situation happen to them. The community councils also consist of hog farmers, their relatives or friends. The people living in these communities are well aware of the politics of the area. If they want to continue to live there, they must remain silent.

2.7.3 Odour

Finally, they have spoken the truth about something, they do have a problem with odour.

3.1

Submissions, the people who are opposed to the stink in their communities, the factory barns next to their generations old farmsteads, etc. Does anyone honestly think these people will stand up and speak? How many of them have already been degraded, photographed, intimidated and threatened? A small percentage will speak up. They are speaking for all of those who will not. Does that make the few that do, activists, environmentalists, or any one of the 100 names these corporations have for people who are not silent. NO, we are just people who will not stand by and let these people bully us anymore.

I am not relying on emotional debate. I will agree however, that there is no true factual documentary evidence sourced in Manitoba to prove claims of gross or widespread environmental degradation by the industry. Why, because any of the research done in this province is funding either wholly or in part by the hog industry. It has been stated in the environmental assessment report done by EarthTech for the Olywest project that there has been no studies done on several important issues. How can there not be any research done? Does that not seem odd to anyone?

Once again, all I can stress is that you please review all the information, particularly from the real people who do not have anything to gain. Really scrutinize the reports from the pork council as they love to play with numbers and facts to twist them to make the public think everything is just beautiful.

If this industry is allowed to proceed as it has in the past, this province will be doomed.

Sincerely,

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