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Clean Environment Commission  
Hog Production Industry Review  
Public Hearing - Arborg Manitoba  
March 8, 2007

**Presented by: Allan Caners (Farmer & Agri-business)**

Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel:

My name is Allan Caners.

I take this opportunity to address this public hearing today because I operate an agri-business directly related to the hog industry. I own equipment and custom apply liquid hog manure on annual crop and forage land. I also am a grain farmer.

I would like to address the application of liquid hog manure to farm land, and know that this liquid waste is an economical and environmentally sustainable implement for increasing crop production, it also provides an efficient waste management service for the hog industry.

The nutrients in hog manure in many cases replaces commercial fertilizers, and provides a value to the farmers.

I know that getting the maximum value out of liquid hog manure requires applying manure at proper rates and using good application methods. I am also well aware that over application and improper application can lead to nutrients leaching into the groundwater or throughout overland flow.

Our business relies on a GPS system that gives accuracy to every application.

The Best Management Practices for manure application is very essential for our business; because it gives our customers the accuracy of application.

The following steps that our business takes ensures accuracy and keeps errors of application at a minimum and/or nil.

- manure nutrient analysis are required prior to application,
- soil testing is required to determine the amount of nutrients that the soil requires,
- matching crop nutrient demand to the nutrient applied must be done to get optimum crop results
- using a GPS gives us the best accuracy of application for each field.

. keeping good records and monitoring those records closely is very important to keeping the soil and water quality healthy.

The intensive hog farmers, or corporate hog factories as many refer to, are so regulated by the Province of Manitoba.

A Manure management plan must be filed with the Province of Manitoba prior to each manure application and that has to be approved prior to spreading. The process also sees random audits done on fields to monitor accuracy of application.

It is of utmost importance that the Clean Environment Commission study the effect of nutrients specifically nitrogen and phosphorus entering into our water, but you must do so, by not only attacking the intensive hog farmers, but you must consider all aspects of agriculture small or large, yes as well the small family farm.

Everyone has a part to place in making sure that the soil and water remains healthy for future generations. You must also monitor large industrial corporations, as well as study the effects of municipal and cities lagoon discharge and waste disposal sites.

You are playing with the minds of intensive hog farmers and their future is being held at ransom. The public has a perception and has painted a dismal picture of the way they feel that the hog industry has contributed to the pollution of Lake Winnipeg.

I would like to think that this industry has been regulated way more than any other in the Province. I feel that those regulations were set to give direction to the industry of which I am sure is complying well within the regulations, and not only because they got regulated, but because they reap the benefits of clean water and healthy soil, this is their future, this guarantees them economical sustainability, one that will see them farming the land for future generations.

My only hope is that the government of the day isn't going to succumb to public pressure with a provincial vote looming in near future but rather the decision will be made by the scientific data collected to determine the polluters including every sector of the population and not just the people who are producing a safe meat product for all consumers.

Thank you for allowing me to make the presentation.