

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission Hearing
Brandon, MB

April 18, 2007

Hog Production Industry Review

My name is **Bruce Dalgarno**. My wife, Carol, and I, together with our son, Andrew, farm at Newdale, Manitoba. We grow canola, oats, barley, winter wheat, spring wheat and perennial rye grass.

We do not own hogs or any other type of livestock, nor do we have an investment in any livestock facilities.

I think that this moratorium put onto the hog industry was a bad decision by the government of the day. Actions like this should only be based on good science to have any credibility. If they aren't, then you have nothing to substantiate your claim. This moratorium was not based on good science.

We farm beside a 2500 sow farrowing barn and I can honestly say that I have not had any problems with it. We actually farm on three of the four sides of the barn. We had the opportunity two years ago to receive some of the manure from the barn as a form of fertilizer for one of our fields. The barn operators filed the appropriate Manure Management Plan with the province and this Plan was developed with my input regarding our cropping plans. The fertilizer from this hog barn is a naturally occurring product which means that farmers who use it don't have to apply chemical fertilizers to the fields. This naturally occurring fertilizer also has a considerable dollar value to farmers using it on their field crops. Assuming 80 lbs. of N, it could be worth as much as \$40.00/ ac. for the N, \$8.00 - \$10.00 / ac. for the P plus the value of the micronutrients. This manure can easily be worth \$50.00 - \$60.00 / ac. Hog barns also use feed grains from the area. The feed mills may be located in Winnipeg, Brandon or Souris but the wheat and barley that is used in the feed ration comes from a farm somewhere. In my experience hog barns also enhance the local municipality in many ways. They not only pay considerable amount of property taxes. This particular hog barn also employs approximately 12 local people.

This moratorium was not based on good science and that bothers me as a crop farmer. Every crop farmer could be affected if government decided to put a moratorium on pesticides, for example, while a similar review was done on a whim.

Good rules already exist and are followed. Plans have to be filed every year and are. Any action like this being taken by government should only be done based on good science relevant to Manitoba. This decision was not based on good science.

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