BRIEF PERSONAL HISTORY BRYAN FERRISS - BOWSMAN/S.K. Valley

Own & operate a 350 sow F/W unit with our son Jason who owns 50 2. of P.C.E.C., we own 1300 acres of farmland as well.

I have farmed with my parents since 1969 & we have never operated without hogs, starting with a small grow-finish & slowly growing to where we are today, with our last barn being added in the early '80's.

My wife Donna & I, as well as my parents, Dad 85, Mom 82 have lived all our lives 100 feet from the front of our barns & still do today.

Donna & I have raised 3 children, and if it wasn't for our hogs we would not be farming today. We also have 3 grandchildren and we keep telling our kids that if we had known grandchildren were going to be this much fun, we definitely would have had them first.

My presentation today will be much more personal than technical as I will try to tell you how we manage, as we see it, our environmental footprint, if you will, of our family business.

NUTRIENT & MANURE MANAGEMENT.

Because we were an existing operation when the new manure management regulations were brought in we are still allowed to winter spread

as our barns are liquid manure but all pits are concrete under the slats. Because of the design we have approximately 30 days storage within our pits.

We have always from the beginning, maintained a buffer from all ditches & in summer incorporate with a cultivator, as soon as possible, for obvious reasons, to capture nutrients & reduce odour.

In the winter months we spread on fields that are a minimum of ¼ mile up to ¾ mile from the closest ditch, on the drainage side of the field. What I mean by that, is all surface water in our area, and the valley as a whole for that matter, runs S.W. → N.E. so we know which direction any snow melt will flow.

The soils in the Valley are naturally lower in phosphorous so the nutrient uptake & corresponding yield increase by the crop is significant and at nearly $1000/MT. for nitrogen & over $600/MT. for phosphorous, today, the financial benefit to our grain production from manure application is huge. As well, with 300 sows & 1300 acres of land there is no any risk of over application.

GROUND WATER SUPPLY / QUALITY

All of our water supply ~~for~~ for both the barns & our houses comes out of the same dugout, which is replenished every year by surface runoff.

Our dugout, which is about 150 ft. from our barns has been tested several times over the years, and the last time we had it done, about 4 years ago, the fellow doing the testing said it was amongst the cleanest dugout water he had ever tested. So, the people who are advocating that it is virtually impossible to have a hog barn & potable water on the same site, from my family's experience is just simply not true. We have always maintained the same buffer on the ditch that fills our dugout as we do on all the other ditches around our farm.

SOIL QUALITY

Three of the quarters of land we purchased over the years, was sandy loam and some of the ridges had been wind eroded to the point where it was impossible to grow much of any crop at all, and now after nearly 30 years of proper soil management practices, ~~and~~ the first of which is

proper manure application, those ridges grows good a crop as any other areas on that land.

So, clearly, it has been a win/win situation where we have gained from an environmental stewardship perspective and with a direct correlation to the gain on our balance sheet from increased production.

ODOUR

We have neighbours from just across the road from us, to a mile away on nearly every side. We have always had a good shelterbelt of trees around ~~on~~ our building site, which has been very beneficial. We also have done what we could to stop air currents by shooding exhaust fans and drawing ~~pure~~ air from the open side of the yard & exhausting it out the side closest to the shelterbelt. This seems to have been relatively effective as when we ask our neighbours about odour they have said only rarely do they get any odour at all.

DISEASE TRANSMISSION

This is something I will speak too from 2 separate perspectives, one from the stock inside the barn & secondly from my family's health.

We have for the last 15 years, or so, maintained a bio-security with our barns as it relates to visitors, with very little, if any, traffic allowed.

As a producer, it is very troubling to hear that exhaust ~~fans~~ air coming from barns are laced with toxins and various other organisms. I have to tell you that after 38 years of marriage & raising our family "on site", if you will, I just simply do not believe those sorts of comments to be true. As I mentioned before, we live 100' from our barn & raised our family in the same environment. My parents, who are both in their 80's, still live in their own home, "on site", unsupervised without any medication whatsoever. Our 3 children all attended U of M. — Jason - Apiculture, Jennifer now in public health and Jaclyn a a Bio-Systems Engineer with Sask Ag & Food in Saskatoon. My point being, that if there was to be any ill effect on personal health & well being we, as a family, have

not own it.

CLIMATE CHANGE / ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY

The only way that this can be determined, as accurately as possible, is through factually sound, scientifically based research. Our family has participated, in the same way every producer in the Industry in MB. has, and that is through a mandatory check off, of which a portion, is allocated to research projects + development.

To name just a few that has been newly $200,000/year committed to MCMMI, as well $750,000 donated to the new VCLE research centre at U of M. over the last 36 months with another $600,000 committed over the next 36 months.

As well, we've heard it said that MB. does not have the capability of raising more hogs, which if you have driven through the Parkland region of MB. is difficult to understand, because pretty much all you're going to see is miles and miles of not much more than miles + miles. The opportunity for agricultural diversification + economic growth within my Industry, I believe is large.

This region can grow some of the best quality, highest yielding feed grains anywhere in MB. and with a feed conversion of 3:1 for every pot load of market hogs that is finished here it replaces 3 loads of feed grain from being trucked elsewhere.

A significant reduction in G.H.G. ie Carbon emissions from fuel, as well a reduction over time in highway maintenance & repair. At a cost of, I believe, $1.5 million a mile for re-surfacing that savings could be spent in other areas of need ie: health care or education or even environmental grants or incentives to the large urban centres, ie WPG., so that our urban cousins can have waste management systems that would be improved from where they are today.

Thank you.

Bryan Pauls