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Good afternoon (or evening) members of the Clean Environment Commission panel, and ladies and gentlemen of the audience.

My name is Edward Stahl. I stand here today as a representative of the Grass River Hutterite Colony, and our hog industry in this province. Our colony is located 4 miles east of Glenella, Manitoba. Our Colony has a population of 104 people which is made up of 24 families. Hog production is a very important business on our colony and has been for almost 40 years.

We farm 2800 acres of land and run a 550 sow farrow-to-finish operation. We have 50 dairy cattle and between 8 and 9 thousand layer hens.

The public often thinks of Hutterite colonies as BIG farms and FACTORY-sized barns. When they see the large manure storage tanks or slurries and lagoons they generally think that there is a higher risk of contamination, however, larger operations tend to be managed better than smaller operations. This was found in a recent survey conducted by the Government of Canada.

Using our colony as an example, on a per family basis we run 22 sows per family or 5 per person. We farm 116 acres per family or 26 acres per person. These numbers are less than a quarter section of land. So Hutterite colonies are quite small compared to single farm operations when you take into account the number of families involved. We can operate at this scale because the overall size and diversity of our operation makes it economical for us to do so. Nowadays, individual farmers will tell you that you need at least 120 to 140 sows per family or 6 to 800 acres of land in order to turn a profit.

I would now like to talk a little about the manure management practices on our colony. We manage our manure in accordance with Manitoba's regulations and, to help us develop our manure disposal plans, we hire professional agrologists, the Agri-Trend group which, in my opinion, are one of the most respected in the prairie provinces. They do our soil analysis and we apply manure according to their testing and recommendations. We hire commercial manure applicators who use GPS technology to apply the manure at the recommended rates with virtually no risk of over-application in any one area.

We also incorporate a product called Maxizyme Plus into our pigs feed to reduce phosphorus and ammonia levels in manure. It is made by a company In Quebec called Numac and they have done an incredible amount of research to prove its effectiveness. Maxizyme contains scientifically selected naturally occurring micro-organisms and microbial enzymes which enhance fermentation in the pig's digestive system and intestinal tract to break down the feed and reduce phosphorus and ammonia levels which is good for the pigs, barn staff, neighbouring farms, and the environment.

By incorporating better manure management practices and introducing innovative ways of reducing nutrient levels in manure, we are reducing the risk of nitrates, phosphorus and bacteria entering our surface and groundwater systems. We have tested the water from two of our wells recently and found that neither had any levels of nitrates and phosphorus and E-coli. One well is located about 50 feet from the river and the other happens to be in an area which draws water from beneath land that has received manure for the last 35 to 40 years. These water supplies are vital to the life and livelihood of our colony and we DO CARE about the environment.

To illustrate this, I would like to point out to you that in the last four years, Grass River Colony has spent over $600,000 to store our manure and wastewater in accordance with provincial standards. This is over **$5,000 for every man, woman and child on the colony.** A recent report prepared by the Fraser Institute said that it would cost Canadians about $90 billion (or about $3,000 per Canadian) to build or upgrade DOMESTIC wastewater treatment systems to meet Canadian standards but that Canadians were reluctant to pay for this. This demonstrates that the hog industry DOES care about the environment and we are willing to spend more of our hard-earned dollars into protecting it than the average Canadian.

From the economic perspective, hog producers in Manitoba spend over $450 million annually in feed costs, $205 million in fuels and hydro, $150 million in building and building supplies and $115 to $120 million in wages. The pork industry creates over 15,000 jobs in our province which include jobs in barns as well as the feed industry and in the areas of veterinary health, building and construction and, of course, environmental management. Manitoba hog producers have invested $20 million in new technology and independent environmental research. We also contribute over $1 billion to

our provincial economy and it is the largest source of farm cash of any agricultural commodity in Manitoba. We are also one of Canada's largest hog production and pork-exporting provinces. Pork exports now generate more money for the provincial economy than Manitoba Hydro does through export sales of electricity.

Manitoba hog producers are putting our province on the export sales map because we are gaining the reputation of consistently producing high quality pork in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable way. We produce enough pork to meet our own needs and do not need to import which is a good thing for Manitobans.

In closing, I wish to leave you with a short take-home message. Why would farmers invest their life-savings and spend 15 to 20 years of their lives to pay for their farm only to destroy the land and water which is the foundation of their livelihood by using poor manure management practices?

I want to thank you for your time and support and God Bless You all.

Edward Stahl
Grass River Colony
Glenella MB

(204) 352-4167 ext 219
cell 841-0060
Fax 352-4409