

EXHIBIT NUMBER: HAM-005  
File Name: Hog Review  
Date: April 17, 2007  
Received by: [Signature]  
(Commission Secretary)

Presentation  
to the  
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission  
re  
Manitoba Hog Industry Review

Hamiota, Manitoba, April 17, 2007

My name is MICKEY HERSAK. I farm NE 22-18-23, just east of Dakburn, in the R.M. of Shoal Lake. The Dak River passes through this farm, forming a large wetland, and combined with the adjacent natural vegetation and woodlot, is now a well known nature centre of approximately 100 acres. The river is joined by many creeks and the marsh has become the filter for Shoal Lake, a lake of much improved quality because of the work of local wildlife enthusiasts. Waters from Shoal Lake eventually

become the Assiniboine, the Red, Lakes Winnipeg, the mighty Nelson as they flow into Hudsons Bay. So, from very small sources of Duck, Tokank and Teath Lakes, the tiny water molecules reach the very large oceans of the world. However, some of the water stays back, seeps into the ground to become part of the large Ohdonah aquifer, feeding our wells to supply the most essential compound for life — water.

We are truly blessed to be living on the Western Manitoba plateau and parkland, a plateau climbing from the prairie floor in dramatic fashion. It is a land that is spruce-scented and lake dotted. It was

once a glacier, later the edge of a very large lake (Agassiz). Today it is a region of rolling terrain, gentle uplands and broad valleys.

Here you find spruce, groves of aspens, clear spring-fed lakes, open meadows, wide fields of highly productive land, dotted with ponds and marshes.

This diversity gives our region one of the richest and most varied inventories of plants and animals.

Consequently, it is little wonder that our first National Park, was located immediately to the North of us. We are in the park's watershed. The prairie potholes, brimming with water and ringed with vegetation,

are defined as prime habitat. They not only provide homes for many species of waterfowl, song-birds and game, but also provide nature's mechanism of purification.

These ecosystems purify the water we drink and the air we breathe!

They perform a cycle that has lasted thousands of years. In recent times, many of the potholes have disappeared, as have the woodlots, including some on my farm!

And, as they disappear or become polluted, the tools that prevent water degradation, also vanish.

My land straddles the Oak River. However, its waters are

separated politically in adjacent municipalities. So political and private property lands separate myself and my neighbours and other Manitobans, but geographically we are not separated. Any disruption to the plant or micro organic life in this local water has wide ranging effects on others close by or far distances away.

There is much to be learned on how we have used our land in the past. The jury is still out on what damage we have done with chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. All of the above applications involve some

form of narrowing and dissolving  
is almost always water. The  
intent is always the same - greater  
production and yields and greater  
income. Witness our results -

first - economically  
overproduction  
lower prices  
secondly - environmentally  
greater damage to our  
natural resources, be it in my  
ditch or in Lake Winnipeg.

The hearing this evening is to  
review the sustainability of our  
hog production industry. You  
have asked to share our views.

Here are some of my observations

I base these on:

- (1) reading reports and hearing  
the media
- (2) attending hearings on this  
industry and other agricultural endeavours.

- ③ travelling extensively in Canada, USA and abroad
- ④ attaining two bachelors and a masters degree at the University
- ⑤ farming as a 4th generation farmer and gaining wisdom from my parents and grandparents
- ⑥ working with consultants from the Fresh Water Institute, University of Manitoba and Manitoba Natural Resources
- ⑦ studying the Water Stewardship Act

### Observations

- (1) Huge increase in production with fewer producers
- (2) major exporting numbers and dollar value
- (3) increases in job creation

The above three points sound very positive, at first glance. But if you read between the lines, some reservations are being expressed by others as well as myself.

These are

- (1) economic diversification which is not ecologically sound
- (2) short term economic gain
- (3) depleted water supplies and aquifers

- ④ questionable working conditions for minimum wage staff
- ⑤ higher than average bankruptcies in farming when compared to livestock such as beef or poultry and grain/oilseed production
- ⑥ unfavourable social conditions resulting when communities and families are split trying to resolve hog production in their area
- ⑦ plural number of contaminating situations of wells, streams caused by the industry
- ⑧ large cost to local municipalities in terms of infrastructure only to have abandoned projects a few years down the road.
- ⑨ failing to properly address the liquid waste problem - odour, toxicity, and nutrient value as a fertilizer
- ⑩ contributing little to carry out research to solve problems
- ⑪ applying outdated technology in production and marketing



- ⑫ ignoring the concerns of neighbours and citizens in general
- ⑬ having little concern for long term environmental issues

my statements are open for debate and I welcome discussion to this effect.

I leave you with two

questions regarding the hog production industry

Why has the province of Manitoba ordered a moratorium on Large Hog Barn Expansion?

Why - did Premier Gary Doer create a Department of Water Stewardship with a Cabinet Minister?  
(Free Press - Nov 5, 2003, front page)

His answer was —

"I want clearwater, clear policy"

And So Is Mine!

N.A. MICKEY HERSAK  
Box 66  
OAKBURN, MB R0T 1L0

N.A. MICKEY HERSAK  
4 FAIRWAY PLACE  
WPG. MB. R3R2P3  
(204) 889 9849  
MHERSAK@SHAW.CA

FARM

CONSERVATION FARMS  
c/o MICKEY HERSAK  
N.E. 22-18-23  
OAKBURN, MB. RD J 10  
(204) 2345212

LAKE

N.A.M. HERSAK  
122 OAK ST  
WINNIPEG, BEACH, MB