

Good Evening members of the Clean Environment Commission:

Ladies and Gentleman, my name is Robert Hofer, manager of the Wellwood Hutterite colony, which is located between the communities of Dunrea and Ninette, all three communities reside in the RM of Riverside.

Presently there are 83 members and 18 families in our community. Our primary revenue source is generated from several agricultural based operations.

Land base – Wellwood Colony Farms consists of 11,517 acres of which 3600 are rented. The Colony crops grown are oil seeds, cereal grains and forages. The products are mostly used for the Colony livestock enterprises. We also have diversified our grain handling system to add value by cleaning barley and oats for the livestock industry. **Remember the crow rate is gone.**

At Wellwood Colony we presently operate a 900 sow farrow to finish swine herd. We also market high health swine genetics to other producers. **Remember the crow rate is gone.**

Present Moratorium - We also feel the present moratorium on the hog industry will affect our revenue, and do us Farmers more harm than good.

We also operate a 260 cow and calf operation, and a small feed lot where we finish 50% of our yearly calf crop. **Remember ladies and gentleman the crow rate is gone.**

Nutrient management - At Wellwood Colony environmentally sound agricultural practices are in place. Larry Penner certified agronomist for Agri Trend Agrolgy LTD based out of Red Deer, Alberta is under contract to work with our farm Boss Jack Waldner and his staff to make sure the entire farm procedures are done properly.

All soil and manure samples are tested for plant nutrient content, at A & L laboratory in Ontario. All the following equipment, that is used for seeding crops, banding commercial fertilizers, spraying herbicides, fungicides, collecting soil samples, injecting liquid hog manure, are all done with equipment that have GPS and auto steer technology. The reason we use this technology is to prevent over-application from overlapping!

Environmental Management - We are working with Manitoba Conservation to put in place proper facilities, to store bulk fuel. We also collect used oil, oil filters, batteries, tires, and empty chemical containers (washed) for recycling, it is picked up or delivered to proper outlets.

Manure and Mortality Management – Manure from hog operation is processed by separating the solids from the liquids. The liquids are stored in an earthen lagoon; a straw cover is used for odor control. The reason the colony uses a straw cover is because it is environmentally friendly, farm produced, and of 100% organic matter. Plastic lagoon covers are made from petroleum products, and are very costly; they do not last in our northern environment. For proper disposal, it would have to be recycled. Solid manure from separation process are stored and composted in a cement bunker. Hog mortalities are composted along with the composting hog manure. Wellwood Colony files a manure management plan once annually, with MB conservation. Liquid and dry hog manure is tested for plant nutrient content, before being applied to fields. Liquid Manure from lagoon is injected into soil tested fields by “Red Hand LTD” from Souris MB, a certified manure applicator. Compost manure is applied to pastures and forage crops annually. Manure from the cattle operation, is mostly composted, and is applied to cattle pastures only, which have also been soil tested for plant nutrients content.

Diversification of Our Own Natural Resources - The importance of exporting processed meat products, instead of cereal grains, is paramount. In exporting grain to other countries, we export plant nutrients and our natural resources to other countries. Plant nutrients provided by proper manure management is 2nd to none. Seedlings have more vigor, crops yield more, quality of grain is better, soil is better to work with, and chemical fertilizers are too costly. Where do we get our Chemical Fertilizers from? Potash we get from Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, Nitrogen we get from Alberta, and phosphates are imported from the USA.

Environmentally sound husbandry Practices. We have all heard rumors, of how all the hogs around us are environmental hazards, and play host to a whole slew of viruses and pathogens that can start mutating, creating a host of other pathogens and viruses that mankind will not have control over. Question for the panel and Manitobans, how many siblings, relatives and friends of yours have diabetes? Hogs supply the pharmaceutical Companies with medical material to produce insulin for the diabetics. How many Canadians have a porcine heart valve transplant, and still have a high quality life style left? That should tell us that the hog's anatomy is close to our own. Canadian pork is among the best in the world. Manitoba pork producers have a reputation for producing some of the finest pork in all of Canada, thereby, making us among the best pork producers in the world.

Regular Surface and Ground Water Quality - The location of Wellwood Colony to the towns of Dunrea and Ninette make it very important that we be good stewards of land and water. We presently have four ground wells that we draw water from, for human and animal consumption. Agri Trend Agrology LTD tests our water source twice yearly. We also have a water license. We do not allow any of our cows or calves to have access to water from Bone Lake or Overend Lake. Water is supplied to livestock from water troughs only.

Livestock Management – Wellwood Colony's Hog Boss Peter Hofer And his staff are well known to the hog industry for practicing good husbandry and his staying ability has spent 55 of his 70 years working and managing the colony hog enterprise and is still in good health. We have also won many awards in carcass and live hog competition. At Wellwood Colony we presently have three members that attend the Assinibione community college, to obtain a pork manager certificate. Seven colony members also hold a "Truck Quality assurance Certificate". 1 Colony Member has a Pesticide applicators license, "structural". Veterinary expertise is supplied by our local veterinary, Tom Walsh. Nutrition is provided by Peter Vis of Precision Feeds, a standing member of the Transplant Porcine Heart Valve Society.

Pork is a moving commodity. It is the #1 protein consumed by humans in the world today. For the Chinese population, which consists of 1 billion 300 million, pork is a life saver. If all the pork was to be replaced by fish and other sea food, our ocean would be empty of marine life today.

Livestock production is a driving force in Manitoba's economy. The Manitoba livestock industry contributed a \$1.72 billion cash receipt to the provincial economy in 2002.

Land use planning and approval – Good old common sense works the best. Don't allow homestead residential development within the 1 mile zone of functional livestock enterprises and sensitive agricultural farming areas or vise versa.

Environmental liabilities - In closing Ladies and Gentleman and Manitoban's, history is repeating itself. When the immigrants came to this country and settled down in hundreds of shanty towns and cities, the crown had to move them to other areas. So they implemented the homesteaders act, quarter section of land per family. There was an exodus from city to country, reaching from Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains, they mindlessly broke up the prairie soils, and cost the worst natural disaster known to mankind, the dust bowl. Drought, hunger and sickness drove them back to the cities. Here we go again, exodus number 2 this time it's our natural resources. Lake

Winnipeg is a body of water, and has its veins reaching out, thousands of miles, to draw in its water, and has done so for thousands of years. Past and present mass civilizations have built, and are building residential and industrial enterprises besides these important natural recourses and veins that bring in the water. Maybe Lake Winnipeg needs to be returned to its original state, the way it was created. The nutrient content of the water flowing into this body of water is being polluted by past and present human activities, so please let's not just blame the livestock industry. Let's work together, find and put in place reasonable, workable and affordable solutions. Please let's separate the chaff from the wheat, bake and break the bread and drink the wine. We can get better by working together.

I'd also like to recommend the environmental commission to read the novel 'Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand' maybe then they'll see that the livestock industry has enough burden to carry. I personally think that the hog industry has adequate rules and regulations in place already. Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for listening.


