

EXHIBIT NUMBER: WHI-001

File Name: Hog Rewee

Date: April 10

Labelled by: (Signature)
(Commission Secretary)

CEC Presentation April 10, 2007

I would like to thank the CEC for an opportunity to make a presentation today.

I am a pullet farmer in the R. M. of Hanover near Steinbach.

I am making a presentation in Whitemouth today as I will miss the opportunity to present at the Friedensfeld Hall due to other commitments. My farm is also on a small acreage similar to farms in this municipality.

Our farm was established by my father in 1962 when he received 10 acres of land from the neighbour in lieu of wages. He then built a free run pullet barn in 1966. In 1974, he converted from floor raised pullets to cages as this was a move to a cleaner environment for pullets resulting in less disease challenge and enhanced liveability. After I purchased the family farm in 1987, I operated the farm until 2001 when I undertook another upgrade to a dry manure cage system. This resulted in another substantial cost for an entirely new manure handling system.

I now have the latest, most up to date, pullet raising cages available. This new cage^{system} meets the current code of practice standard of adequate growing space per bird, increased water and feeding space, and superior air quality for the birds. We have recently adopted a national On Farm Food Safety protocol which focuses on bio-security, regular sampling of feed and water, and other best management

practices related to the housing of pullets. This cage system has also reduced the volume of manure and odour as it is dry manure with no water added like the previous liquid manure system. We have constructed a large covered manure building to store up to 12 months of manure. As a result, we are able to spread in spring or fall according to current manure management guidelines. I have arrangements with the neighbouring farms to take the manure and spread it appropriately as my land base is too small for the 230 waste units of manure produced by the pullets each year. This is valuable organic fertilizer and the neighbours recognize it as such and utilize it for their crops.

In order to address some questions we had about farming on a small acreage, I took the sessions required to complete my Environmental Farm Plan and was certified in May of 2006. This has been a valuable exercise. We live close to our pullet barn so our well is close to our barn. Our septic field is close to our house and our fuel storage is on the farm yard next to the storage sheds. As you can picture, my farm is like many others in Manitoba. We have been challenged through the EFP process to make best management practices a priority. These efforts on my farm should ensure sustainable farming while respecting the environment we live in.

My family, and whoever operates this farm in the future, will benefit from the best management practices on my farm.

I would like to conclude by encouraging the CEC and the Province of Manitoba to consider the huge strides made by farmers who have embraced the Environmental Farm Planning Process. This has been a substantial commitment financially and sends the important signal to the public and the government of Manitoba that we are concerned about the environment. We are willing to do our part along with cities and towns, cottage owners and rural-ites (that is, people who choose to live in the country) to ensure Manitoba water and environment are protected.

Submitted by Cal Dirks