

EXHIBIT NUMBER: W111-012

File Name: Hog Renew

My name is John Van Aert, and I farm along with my brother Joe and father George and our families along with 4 employees in the East Selkirk area.

Received by: [Signature]  
(Commission Secretary)

Our farm consists of 3500 acres of annual cropland and an 800 sow operation. We market 75% of our hog production as 50 lb weanlings and 25% are marketed at slaughter weight.

My father started the farm in 1964, purchasing 127 acres. He quickly added a hog operation to add cash flow to the farm. He continued to expand the hog operation, adding concrete manure pits and a liquid manure handling system to simplify waste management and to better utilize the nutrients in manure for crop production. He was one of the first producers in the area to directly inject manure into the soil using the manure wagon and a tool bar.

My brother and myself started farming in the 1980's and in 1990 started the development of a new hog farm site to expand our sow herd to support 3 families. We worked with our local Rural Municipality and Planning District to site the barns in the proper location. Over the next 16 years, these are some of the things we have done to make our hog farm environmentally sustainable.

In 1997, we constructed a 400 day storage Earthen Manure Structure to eliminate any winter spreading. Shelterbelt trees are planted around the EMS to reduce and deflect winds from over the surface.

We were involved with an experimental project developing a negative air pressure cover to help reduce odors. The cover has proved to be very effective.

We file our manure management plans annually, testing the manure and soil to maximize the efficient use of the nutrients in the manure. We apply manure by direct injection every fall to



different fields, rotating our manure application to each field a minimum of once every 3 years. This takes advantage of the various nutrients and organic matter of the manure as it breaks down.

The Phytaze enzyme is added to all our rations to reduce phosphorous use in the feed, thus reducing phosphorous nutrient excretion in the manure. Studies have shown Phytaze can reduce phosphorous excretion by 25 to 40%.

There are other advantages in feeding management, such as better balancing amino acid levels in ration to reduce the inclusion of crude protein, in order to lower nitrogen excretion.

Maintaining the wells on our farm is also very important. We make sure water cannot pond near the well casing and the well caps are properly sealed. Water tests are done annually to monitor any problems. One of the wells that feed our barns, also feeds my house. So water quality is very important for my family as well as the livestock.

I believe the hog industry is already highly regulated and environmentally sustainable. There are several regulations in place, such as the Livestock Manure & Mortalities Management Regulations, Environment Act, Planning Act, etc, that we follow, and I believe my farm meets or exceeds the current Manitoba regulations, and we are doing our part in regards to nutrient management.

It is important for a hog operation or any farm for that matter, to expand or upgrade their facilities to remain viable, and in my case give my children an opportunity to continue hog farming into the future.