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I would like to thank the CEC for allowing me to make this presentation. My name is Curtis Ewacha and I farm along with my brother Terry and my parents Alex and Violet, at Middlebro, in the extreme S.E corner of the R.M of Piney. We farm approximately 1800 acres consisting of mainly forage production and cereal grains. In my opinion the Manitoba hog industry has two huge environmental issues facing it which is their responsibility to improve. The environmental problems can be traced back to the simple fact the Manitoba hog industry has expanded to rapidly and does not have any type of contingency plan in place. The Manitoba Pork Council is consistently doing damage control by telling Manitobans that the industry is fine, look at all the wonderful benefits we bring to the province. I for one do not believe them and feel this industry poises a serious environmental problem to the Province of Manitoba and in particular Lake Winnipeg.

The Manitoba hog industry and the Manitoba Pork Council are in great disbelief that the province of Manitoba would place a moratorium on new hog barn applications until an environmental review is completed. The underlying problem is the current manure management rules for the Manitoba hog industry is based on nitrogen and not phosphorus. The Manitoba hog industry has expanded from 1.5 million hogs in the early 1990's to over 9 million produced in 2006. The problem begins with the hog its self, as it does not effectively convert the highly fortified diet of phosphorus, resulting in the majority of the phosphorus coming out the back end. The Manitoba hog industry has known this all along, but did nothing on its own accord to provide a solution to the problem of over application of phosphorus which was occurring on many of the hog operation. Even with the new regulation which allows hog operation twice the crop phosphorus remove rate, only 69 per cent of the 851 hog operations that registered have enough spread fields. Only 57 per cent of the 851 hog operations would have adequate spread fields based on one time crop phosphorus removal rate. When I apply my commercial fertilizer to my fields I do not double the phosphorus levels so why are the regulations allowing hog operations to continue to over apply phosphorus? The new regulation for phosphorus does not go far enough if the province wants to do what's necessary to cure Lake Winnipeg.

The greatest expansion of industrial hog barns has taken place in S.E .Manitoba in the R.M.s of Hanover and La Broquerie, and this is where the most severe problem of over application of phosphorus is occurring along with the largest deficiency of spread fields. Soil scientists have stated this time and time again. I travel through the R.M of La Broquerie on number 12 highway from spring to fall weekly and witnessed first hand the hog expansion which has taken place in this R.M and it is incomprehensible. Manitoba's Water Protection Handbook states that most recharge in Aquifers occurs in areas where sand and gravel is at the surface. Industrial barns have been built on quarters that have rock piles the size of a house consistently throughout the quarter literally within a couple hundred feet of each. There are also barns that are built within a quarter mile of a gravel quarry. I would strongly suggest the CEC panel take a drive 20 miles southeast of Steinbach on highway 12 and get a first hand view for yourselves. To make matter worse

the hog manure is broadcasted on the land as it can not be injected into the soil because of the vast amount of stones and the spread fields being in hay and pasture. Andrew Dickson general manager of the Manitoba Pork council stated in a July 21, 2005 letter to the Manitoba Co-operator "Injection of fertilizer directly into the soil prevents manure from running off fields and is a recommended practice". I can only wonder how much run off of liquid manure has occur using this form of application.

Mr. Dickson was also featured in the April 19, 2007 of the Manitoba Co-operator where he tried to dispelled myths about the hog industry. He mentions that hogs in Manitoba produce 29,847 tonnes of manure, he went on to say 426,000 hectares are required to spread the manure based on manure management rules for nitrogen. It was very convenient on his part to equate the amount of acres required to spread the manure using nitrogen rather than using manure management rules based on a one time crop phosphorus removal rate. For Mr. Dickson and the Manitoba Pork Council to feel vindicated by the province for placing a moratorium on industrial hog barns applications should not come as a surprise, especially with respect to phosphorus overload. When Mr. Dickson was employed by Manitoba Agriculture he was a member of many Technical Review Committees for S.E. region and was present at a Technical Review public hearing for a hog operation in the R.M. of Piney in Sept 2003. When the hearing was open to the public for questions, I specifically asked him if the province of Manitoba was going to change the manure management rules to phosphorus from nitrogen. He stated that the province is fully aware of the phosphorus situation and admitted something must be done. So now for Mr. Dickson the general manager of the Manitoba Pork Council to complain that the province has unfairly singled out the hog industry is nothing short of hypocritical. The Manitoba hog industry has to stop pointing fingers and except the fact they expanded far too quickly in southeastern Manitoba.

The regulation which allows hog operation with fewer than 300 animal units to winter spread manure until 2013 must be changed. With all the claims by the Manitoba Pork Council of the benefit of hog manure as a fertilizer why would someone spread manure on the snow and frozen ground? In all my years as a farmer I have yet to see or hear of a grain farmer spreading commercial fertilizer on the snow. Truly what benefit can this be providing to any crop when it all runs off with the spring melt?

Another issue which I feel should be of concern to all Manitobans is the breaching of the lagoons and holding tanks storing the liquid manure. In the past few years there have been four major spills of liquid manure and these are only the ones that the public has heard about. There are many issues to be concern about when incidents like this happen such as run off, seepage, and well water contamination. I contacted Manitoba Conservation who advised me they have five field offices with a total of 17 full time environmental inspectors responsible for all livestock with in Manitoba. There are over a 1000 hog operations in the province alone. The number of inspectors seems to be stretched a bit thin when they are also responsible for ensuring manure management regulations are being followed with regard to all spread fields. We are all aware that 43 per cent of the hog operations are deficient in spread field using the one time crop

removal rate for phosphorus. The CEC must address this issue with the Provincial Government and insist more Environmental Inspectors are hired

The other environmental issue we should be concerned with is the amount of fresh water large hog operations are consuming. The fact that all livestock requires fresh clean water to grow and exist is not a problem to me. The process that upsets me is the wash water these hog operation consume on a daily basis. There were 9 million hogs produced in Manitoba in 2006, the average hog uses seven liters a day, of the seven liters one liter is used for wash water. The Manitoba Pork Council stated on January 1, 2007 there were 3 million hogs in Manitoba. That means any where from 2.5 to 3 million liters of fresh water is being used just to flush the barns each day. I feel this is a total waste of fresh water when we all know how valuable of commodity it is becoming. In the April 2001 edition of the National Geographic it stated that only 2.5 percent of the earths total water is fresh water and of that only 0.6 is only usable. The 2006 annual report for General Electric the single largest private employer in the U.S stated 1.1 billion people lack access to an adequate water supply, yet here in Manitoba we use 912 billion to 1 trillion liters a year to flush out hog barns. The Manitoba hog industry has shown that the only thing that matters is their bottom line, and cleaning their barns with fresh water is the cheapest method. We in Manitoba already suffer from shortages of fresh water as the R.M. of Morris applied to the Department of Conservation under the Environment Act to have fresh water piped from an aquifer within the R.M. of Piney to the R.M. of Morris. This application was only recently rejected by the Conservation Department. The R.M. of Morris probably needed the fresh water to flush their hog barns. To avoid some of the problems with fresh water being used to flush barns there should have been more straw based barns built during the expansion years, but we all know they are more management intensive. With all the liquid manure being produced and the sheer size of some of these hog operation maybe they should have their own sewage treatment plants especially when so many of them are in close proximity of each other.

With the increased levels of phosphorus being detected in Lake Winnipeg we have to wonder if there is a direct correlation with the increased number of hogs being produced in Manitoba from the 1.5 million in the early 1990's to the 9 million produced in 2006. This is something the CEC must take into consideration. If it is determined that agriculture's share of phosphorus being contributed to Lake Winnipeg has increased it would be very safe to assume that the hog industry is the reason why. The amount of seeded acres in Manitoba has not increased. With most grain farmers using zero till it's a known fact that erosion has decrease so that would certainly reduce phosphorus run off. We all know for a fact that with the increased price of commercial fertilizer, grain farmers are certainly not over applying phosphorus.

I do not believe the recent amendment to the regulations pertaining to phosphorus for the Manitoba hog industry is stringent enough. The Manitoba hog industry must be held accountable. The CEC has been given the authority to make recommendations to the provincial government and they must insist the changes be made for the betterment of Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg.

Thank you

