

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at the Friedensfeld Community Centre

Friedensfeld, Manitoba

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

## Clean Environment Commission:

Mr. Terry Sargeant	Chairman
Mr. Edwin Yee	Member
Mr. Wayne Motheral	Member
Ms. Cathy Johnson	Commission Secretary
Mr. Doug Smith	Report Writer

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NO EXHIBITS MARKED



1 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:03 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies  
4 and gentlemen. Welcome to the Clean Environment  
5 Commission hearings into our Hog Production  
6 Industry Review.

7 My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the  
8 Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment  
9 Commission, and I'm also the chair of this panel.  
10 With me on the panel are Wayne Motheral and Edwin  
11 Yee. I have a few opening comments, and then we  
12 will proceed to presentations by a number of  
13 people who have indicated they wish to make  
14 presentations this afternoon.

15 The Clean Environment Commission has  
16 been requested by the Minister of Conservation to  
17 conduct an investigation into the environmental  
18 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba. The  
19 Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us to  
20 review the current environmental protection  
21 measures in place to determine whether or not they  
22 are effective for the purpose of managing the  
23 industry in a sustainable manner.

24 Our investigation is to include a  
25 public component to gain advice and feedback from





1 Manitobans. This is to be done by way of public  
2 meetings in various regions of the province.

3           We have been asked, as well, to take  
4 into account efforts underway in other  
5 jurisdictions to manage hog production in those  
6 jurisdictions in a sustainable manner.

7           Further, we are to review the contents  
8 of the report prepared by Manitoba Conservation  
9 entitled: "An Examination of the Environmental  
10 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

11           At the end of our investigation, we  
12 will consider various options and make  
13 recommendations in a report to the Minister on any  
14 improvements that may be necessary to provide for  
15 environmental sustainability of hog production in  
16 our Province.

17           To ensure that our review includes  
18 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel  
19 has undertaken to hold 17 meetings in 14  
20 communities through the agricultural part of  
21 Manitoba. These meetings began in early March and  
22 will continue until April 27th, when the final  
23 meeting is scheduled to take place in Winnipeg.  
24 Today, I believe, is meeting number nine or ten.  
25 Ten, I think.



1                   At these meetings, it is open to any  
2 group or individual to make a presentation to this  
3 panel on issues related to our mandate. For the  
4 most part, presentations are to be limited to 15  
5 minutes. Exceptions may be made, in some cases,  
6 where a presenter needs more time, and provided  
7 that they have made provisions or made a request  
8 with the Commission Secretary prior to the  
9 presentation. Those who make presentations will  
10 be required to take an oath promising to tell the  
11 truth.

12                   Presentations should be relevant to  
13 the mandate given the Commission by the Minister,  
14 and to the issues described in the Guide to Public  
15 Participation in this Review. If a presentation  
16 is clearly not relevant, it may be ruled out of  
17 order. As well, if a presentation is repetitive,  
18 it may also be ruled out of order.

19                   Members of the panel may ask questions  
20 of any presenter during or after the presentation.  
21 There will be no opportunity for other presenters  
22 to question or cross-examine presenters.

23                   In addition to the public meetings,  
24 the Clean Environment Commission is engaging  
25 consultants to assist us in this review. The



1 results of these research endeavours will be  
2 posted on our web site, which we expect to be in  
3 late June. Parties or individuals will be invited  
4 to provide comment on any of those reports, if  
5 they so wish. A reasonable, but brief period of  
6 time, will be allowed for such comments.

7                   Written submissions will also be  
8 accepted. Information as to how to submit written  
9 submissions is available on our website. The  
10 deadline for these is May 7th.

11                   We also realize that many people are  
12 reluctant to make presentations in public, for a  
13 variety of reasons. To address that, we have  
14 engaged a graduate student from the University of  
15 Manitoba to meet with, or talk on the phone with,  
16 persons who would rather not speak at a public  
17 meeting. These conversations or meetings will be  
18 kept confidential. Information as to how to  
19 contact her is available on our web site, as well  
20 as at the table by the entry door.

21                   Finally, some administrative matters.  
22 If you wish to make a presentation today, would  
23 you please register at the table over by the  
24 entry? As is our normal practice, we are  
25 recording these sessions. Verbatim transcripts



1 will be available online in a day or so. You can  
2 find the link to these transcripts from our  
3 website.

4                   Finally, in respect of cell phones, I  
5 would ask that you turn them off or, at the very  
6 least, turn the ring tone off. And if you must  
7 take a call, I would ask that you leave the room.  
8 And one final note, I would ask that you not  
9 engage in any conversation while people are making  
10 presentations. That's it for my comments.

11                   We've had, so far, six people have  
12 indicated that they to make presentations this  
13 afternoon and another four people this evening  
14 after dinner. If any others of you in the  
15 audience wish to make a presentation this  
16 afternoon, please let Joyce know.

17                   The first person on the afternoon  
18 agenda is Marg Remple. Please state your full  
19 name for the record?

20                   MS. REMPLE: My name is Margaret  
21 Remple.

22 MARGARET REMPLE, having been affirmed, presents as  
23 follows:

24                   THE CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead,  
25 Ms. Remple.





1                   MS. REMPLE: Commissioners, staff,  
2 fellow presenters, friends and neighbours. I am,  
3 indeed, grateful for the opportunity to  
4 participate in these province-wide hearings  
5 focusing on hog production and related practices  
6 in our province.

7                   My name is Marg Remple. I am a  
8 farmer. I own and operate a mixed farm here in  
9 the Rural Municipality of Hanover. My farm,  
10 Rempelco Acres Ltd., consist of 500 sow, farrow to  
11 finish, hog enterprise and 1500 acres of cropland  
12 on which I grow cereal grains, oilseeds, as well  
13 as some forage crops. My late husband's family  
14 began farming where I am currently located, in  
15 1957, making this year a 50-year mark for the  
16 Remple family. Hogs became an important part of  
17 the farm in 1967, and production has continued  
18 since that time, growing gradually to the present  
19 size. I joined the Remple family in 1975, and  
20 farmed with my husband until his passing in 2003  
21 and, since that time, have been farming on my own.

22                   Hog production has been a very  
23 important component in my farm's sustainability,  
24 in every aspect. It has allowed the farm to  
25 provide full-time employment to three people, in



1 addition to part-time employment to my three, now  
2 young, adult children. Hog production has  
3 provided a very important natural, organic source  
4 of soil fertility for our cropland. Hog  
5 production has been central to the financial  
6 sustainability of my farm, meaning, among other  
7 things, a tax contribution of well over \$20,000  
8 annually to the R.M. of Hanover, and approximately  
9 \$1.5 million of direct economic activity annually  
10 here in southeastern Manitoba. In relative terms,  
11 I am a small producer. However, I feel, even as a  
12 smaller producer, my farm makes a significant  
13 contribution to my local community and to my  
14 province.

15           Our family farm has always been  
16 working toward doing what is best for our  
17 environment, long before "environment" became a  
18 politically expedient topic. The environment has  
19 been a priority for me and my family, not because  
20 it happens to be "politically correct" at the  
21 moment, but because our livelihood absolutely  
22 depends on taking the best care possible of the  
23 land which sustains us. That is the most basic  
24 fundamental of farming, and every farmer knows  
25 that.



1                   One of the environmental focuses we  
2 have made a priority on our farm is that of  
3 reducing transportation, despite, I might add, the  
4 political decisions which continue to frustrate  
5 that priority, such as tearing up of rail lines.  
6 I try, as much as possible, to reduce the distance  
7 needed farm inputs must travel, as well as  
8 reducing the distance outputs must travel.

9                   My hogs are raised from birth to  
10 market weight on one site, eliminating  
11 transportation to additional sites. As much land  
12 as possible is fertilized with hog manure, all  
13 within a one mile radius of the barns. I grow  
14 most of the feed grains my hog enterprise requires  
15 on my own land, reducing the fuel required to haul  
16 it in, as well as the impact on our roads and  
17 highways.

18                   An on-farm mill prepares various  
19 rations daily. Grain corn is harvested and stored  
20 in a sealed silo as high moisture grain, allowing  
21 for earlier harvesting of the crop, eliminating  
22 the energy required to dry the corn to point where  
23 it can be stored in conventional bins, and moving  
24 the harvested corn only once, that is from the  
25 field to the corn silo, from where it goes



1 directly into the mill as needed. Using a  
2 computerized liquid feeding system allows for the  
3 use of high moisture grain in our rations.

4           Hog manure is stored in a three-celled  
5 earthen lagoon, and injected into the soil after  
6 harvest each year. Soils are tested, as are the  
7 manure samples, all application best practices and  
8 regulations are adhered to. Global positioning  
9 systems allow us to map manure application and are  
10 also used for greater cropping precision and a  
11 consequent reduction in fuel consumption in all  
12 areas of seeding, caring for and harvesting our  
13 crops. Crop residues are re-incorporated into our  
14 soils, constantly adding to the organic matter, an  
15 important contribution to the health of our heavy  
16 clay soils here in Manitoba.

17           Rempelco Acres is fully certified  
18 under the Canadian Quality Assurance Program for  
19 Hog Producers, a program which requires detailed  
20 record keep of all procedures and production  
21 practices, and includes an annual review,  
22 inspection and verification.

23           That is a very brief snapshot of my  
24 own farming operation. It is a descriptive  
25 snapshot, not a prescriptive one. Every farm has





1 its own unique advantages, as well as challenges.

2 I would like to use the rest of my  
3 presentation time this afternoon to address the  
4 "bigger picture," if I may. Over the thousands  
5 and thousands of years that agriculture has  
6 developed, it has only been in the past 40 or 50  
7 years that crop production has become so reliant  
8 on petroleum-based nitrogen fertilizer. I doubt  
9 that 40 or 50 years into the future the  
10 petroleum-based option will exist for farmers. It  
11 is not an economically sustainable soil nutrient  
12 source, in the long term. Costs of nitrogen  
13 fertilizers have increased 50 to 80 percent in the  
14 past six months. And we are being warned of  
15 shortages already for this spring's seeding  
16 season, irrespective of the formidable cost.

17 Farmers have traditionally born the  
18 responsibility of food production. However, the  
19 focus is quickly adding on a responsibility for  
20 fuel production as well. Crops only grow well in  
21 well-nurtured soil, and I'm here to say to you  
22 that animal manure is an extremely important  
23 component in maintaining and increasing soil  
24 productivity. Manure is not a waste product. It  
25 is a vitally important resource, part of the



1 completely natural, organic, very holistic  
2 nutrient cycle. To curtail production of animal  
3 manure is extremely shortsighted and  
4 ill-conceived. Manitoba, and the rest of the  
5 prairies, are in a huge manure-deficit position.  
6 We need not only increased hog production, but  
7 also increases in production of cattle, sheep,  
8 goats, et cetera. The future of our food  
9 production depends on it.

10                   Twenty years ago I told my fellow  
11 farmers that some day we would raise hogs  
12 primarily for their manure and, secondly, for  
13 their meat. That prediction is apparently a  
14 reality in some parts of the U.S. corn belt.

15                   In our province, and in our country,  
16 at least 98 out of every 100 people live in urban  
17 centres. They have fled from the rural  
18 communities, and from farming, for a variety of  
19 reasons, which include: The hours are too long,  
20 the work is too hard, the return on investment is  
21 too small, the amenities are too few, the areas  
22 too isolated, the financial stakes are too high,  
23 and the vulnerability to weather is too stressful.

24                   And that's fine. We live in a  
25 democracy. And each individual has the right to



1 choose where they wish to live and how they wish  
2 to make their living. But I am one of those  
3 minority one or two percent of the population who  
4 believes that the most important, the most  
5 fundamental component of any healthy, successful  
6 society is its food production and distribution  
7 systems. For those 98 or 99 percent of the  
8 population, who want nothing to do with the risks,  
9 exposures, and plain hard work of farming, to now  
10 turn and sit in uninformed judgment on those few  
11 people still left producing foods in the  
12 countryside; that is what is so painful for  
13 farmers. We have accepted the responsibility for  
14 producing safe, high quality food of a consistent  
15 and constant quantity for all of our urban  
16 citizens. And we accept that responsibility  
17 because we are acutely aware that our society  
18 would collapse without us, even though it feels  
19 like a rather lonely awareness at times. We have  
20 accepted all the risks and challenges that come  
21 with food production. And some of us have gone  
22 broke and died because of the willingness to  
23 sacrifice everything for the common good. That's  
24 what makes farmers who they are: very tenacious,  
25 resilient and eternally optimistic by nature.



1                   To encourage responsible application  
2 of animal manure is appropriate. What is so  
3 discouraging for us as food producers, are  
4 "regulations", or often more accurately,  
5 "restrictions on production", born not out of good  
6 science or rational debate, but out of misguided  
7 and misinformed emotions of some urbanites, whose  
8 main value in our political system is, apparently,  
9 the number of their votes. Well-meaning though  
10 they may be, they are responsible for a  
11 significant crippling of food production in our  
12 province and in our country. The moratorium on  
13 hog production in Manitoba would fall into this  
14 category.

15                   The attempt of this province's  
16 government, and some of its citizens, to place the  
17 responsibility of the algae blooms in Lake  
18 Winnipeg on hog producers is a travesty. Hog  
19 producers have been far ahead of all other  
20 Manitoba livestock sectors, as well as  
21 non-livestock sectors, in responsibility, and  
22 highly monitored, manure management and  
23 environmental stewardship for many years already.  
24 We continue to use vast amounts of our own money  
25 to fund research which direct us into the future





1 in ever more accurate application monitors and  
2 equipment, fine tuning feed rations to further  
3 reduce amounts of excreted phosphorous, and so on.  
4 We accept that we may be contributing one percent  
5 of the phosphorous entering Lake Winnipeg, and  
6 will continue to work hard to reduce that amount.  
7 However, for the government and people of this  
8 province to focus on that one percent is very  
9 shortsighted. The repercussions of putting on  
10 hold the sector of agriculture which has been the  
11 most viable sector over the past two decades will,  
12 unfortunately, be felt for a very long time.

13           The second greatest frustration and  
14 disappointment has been the abdication of support  
15 from our elected representatives. Publicly funded  
16 research in the area of agriculture has declined  
17 very significantly and seriously over the past 15  
18 years. The vast majority of research is now  
19 producer funded, and is a huge financial burden  
20 which farmers cannot continue to bear over the  
21 long term. However, even more disappointing is  
22 the complete lack of public and political support  
23 for primary food producers. No one in leadership  
24 is standing up and saying anything about the  
25 crucial importance of food production in our



1 society.

2 I, and my colleagues, have every  
3 confidence that you, as Commissioners of this  
4 current set of hearings, will do your jobs with  
5 thorough diligence, equity and fairness, and  
6 complete competence, just as numerous previous  
7 Commissions have done. There are shelves piled  
8 high with reports on livestock production,  
9 especially including hog production in Manitoba.

10 As I stated earlier, I am indeed  
11 appreciative, and grateful, for the opportunity to  
12 make a presentation to the Commission.  
13 Unfortunately, I, and my fellow farmers, have very  
14 little confidence that those to whom you will hand  
15 your final report, will have the courage to stand  
16 up and act on the report; to speak a word of  
17 appreciation and support for those who are  
18 providing their daily food.

19 Every society which fails to honour  
20 the fundamental and crucial importance of primary  
21 food production is doomed to fail. History of  
22 examples.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
25 Ms. Remple. We will probably have a question or



1 two. Could you tell me a little bit more about  
2 your farm? I'm sorry, you did have the numbers in  
3 there. You run a 500 sow, farrow to finish,  
4 operation?

5 MS. REMPLE: That's right.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And 1500 acres of  
7 cropland. Does your operation provide enough  
8 fertilizer for your 1500-acres or do you have to  
9 augment that with commercial?

10 MS. REMPLE: My hogs provide enough  
11 fertilizer for about one-third of the crops on an  
12 annual basis.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there sort of a rule  
14 of thumb as to how much acreage is fertilized? I  
15 guess they are -- I guess they are of varying  
16 ages, so they would produce varying amounts of  
17 manure?

18 MS. REMPLE: And because I have all  
19 ages, that would hard for me to break it apart.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I was interested in  
21 your comment about -- you saying 20 years ago  
22 about raising hogs primarily for their manure. Is  
23 that the case in some parts of the Unites States  
24 or some areas of the Unites States?

25 MS. REMPLE: That's what I was told



1 this winter, that there are corn producers in  
2 Iowa, Nebraska, because of the cost, who are  
3 buying manure for -- on par cost with what  
4 petroleum-based nitrogen would cost.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Just for the  
6 fertilizer. And I had read both about the  
7 increased prices and the impending shortage of  
8 nitrogen fertilizer. Is it as much as 40 to  
9 50 percent?

10 MS. REMPLE: It is.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: That will be  
12 particularly hard. And the Canadian Quality  
13 Assurance Program for hog farmers, you may not  
14 know this, or have any idea how many hog farmers  
15 are part of that organization or that process or  
16 subscribe to that process?

17 MS. REMPLE: I could only speak for  
18 Manitoba. And as far as I know, there are very,  
19 very few producers who aren't.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Who are not?

21 MS. REMPLE: Because we need to be  
22 certified under the Quality Assurance Program to  
23 able to have our animals slaughtered.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: To have?

25 MS. REMPLE: To have our animals





1 slaughtered in this province.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: And if they are  
3 slaughtered abroad, south of the border, which I  
4 think a majority are, do they have to be Quality  
5 Assurance certified as well?

6 MS. REMPLE: In most cases. There may  
7 be some exceptions I am not aware of.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

9 MR. YEE: Yes. Ms. Remple, in terms  
10 of your operation, do you have manure storage at  
11 your operation?

12 MS. REMPLE: Yes, earthen lagoon  
13 storage.

14 MR. YEE: And in terms of your  
15 incorporation into your crop fields, do you use  
16 injection?

17 MS. REMPLE: Yes.

18 MR. YEE: And do you contract this out  
19 or do it yourself?

20 MS. REMPLE: It's contracted out.

21 MR. YEE: Okay. And I gather, from  
22 your information here, that you are using the  
23 global positioning system, or the applicator uses  
24 that?

25 MS. REMPLE: Yes.



1                   MR. YEE: I have heard that a few  
2 times already. I guess the only question I will  
3 ask you is that I gather you do your own feed for  
4 your hogs?

5                   MS. REMPLE: Yes.

6                   MR. YEE: And in doing so, are you  
7 using phytase or other enzymes for phosphate  
8 reduction?

9                   MS. REMPLE: Yes.

10                  MR. YEE: And I guess an ancillary  
11 question to that is, do you feel that the new  
12 regulations to the phosphate requirements will  
13 have a significant impact on your operation or the  
14 manure spreading on your fields?

15                  MS. REMPLE: On my operation, probably  
16 not much, because I don't have enough manure land.  
17 Very little of my land ever gets manure two years  
18 in row, and so I am really not facing any  
19 phosphorous buildup on my own land.

20                  MR. YEE: Thank you.

21                  MS. REMPLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22                  MR. MOTHERAL: Ms. Remple, I very much  
23 like the way you put words together, and I think I  
24 mentioned that in the scoping meetings also. I  
25 enjoyed your presentation. I am especially seeing



1 that I still have my fingers personally in the  
2 farming operation and I am of that one percent or  
3 two percent. And my question to you is, do you  
4 have any suggestions as to what that one or two  
5 percent can do to improve to the awareness of  
6 agriculture to our fellow urbanites?

7 MS. REMPLE: Wow, if I had an answer  
8 to that.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just asking for  
10 your suggestions. And I know that it has been a  
11 problem. And I know that Keystone Agricultural  
12 Producers have been working on this and that it is  
13 an important part of this whole process, I realize  
14 that.

15 MS. REMPLE: Yes, definitely. As  
16 farmers, we have struggled with this. And for all  
17 of my farming career of 30 years, we have been  
18 trying very hard to continue getting our message  
19 out into the media and having opportunities where  
20 urban folks can see the operations, whether it is  
21 the heart of the Continent Fair, or whether it's  
22 demonstration sites there at the University of  
23 Manitoba, for example, that has now been  
24 constructed. But it seems that it feels like a  
25 very difficult task that we seem to be losing.



1 There is more disconnection between food producers  
2 and consumers, it seems, than ever, and I say that  
3 with sadness. And I also say that with one  
4 percent or two percent of us left producing the  
5 bulk of the food, it's hard to take any more time  
6 to spend dedicated to communicating our message  
7 continually. You know, take own farm, on my own  
8 farm, this is on my own time, this afternoon. And  
9 the time that I spent preparing this report is my  
10 cost, as well. And, you know, I find that there  
11 is an end to how much producers can sacrifice in  
12 terms of their time and their efforts to keep  
13 telling their story over and over again. And I  
14 know it's important, I agree with you.

15 MR. MOTHERAL: And it is something --  
16 I am not saying it may or may not be in our  
17 report, but it is something that the bigger  
18 picture is certainly important in the whole  
19 situation. It comes up several times. It comes  
20 up several times, and I know we have -- our report  
21 needs to be focused on the hog industry itself  
22 because that's what the Minister asked us to do.  
23 But I think there are a lot of other things that  
24 we have to look at, too.

25 Thank you for these words. And I will





1 say, again, that it's a feather to you, or  
2 whatever it is, for the way you put words. Thank  
3 you.

4 MS. REMPLE: Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I heard you saying that  
6 this is taking a lot of time. But it sort of  
7 reminded me, while you were talking, of a couple  
8 of summers ago when, during the height of the BSE,  
9 when the beef farmers had their barbecues down on  
10 Portage and Main, that thousands of Winnipeggers  
11 realized that cows come from their backyards and  
12 not from a Safeway truck. But it does take time  
13 and it does take the commitment. Thank you very  
14 much for your presentation and for taking the time  
15 to come out here today.

16 Dan Klippenstein. State your name for  
17 the record.

18 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Dan Klippenstein.  
19 DAN KLIPPENSTEIN, having been sworn, presents as  
20 follows:

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Good afternoon,  
23 ladies and gentlemen.

24 My name is Dan Klippenstein. I am the  
25 President of Excel Playgreen Group Inc., which is



1 a hog production company operating a number of hog  
2 farms in Manitoba, two of which are in La  
3 Broquerie. In addition, we operate a manure  
4 application company, which works on quality manure  
5 application to farm land for our farms and  
6 commercially.

7 I grew up on a small hog farm in the  
8 New Bothwell, Manitoba, where my brother farmed  
9 until 2003. My career path took me in a different  
10 direction, and I left the family farm to attend  
11 the University of Manitoba where I graduated with  
12 a degree in agriculture, majoring in animal  
13 science in 1979. I then worked in the Manitoba  
14 swine industry, as a swine specialist, for a  
15 number of private companies until 1991, when I  
16 became involved in my own hog operation. In 1994  
17 I graduated from the University of Manitoba with a  
18 Masters Degree in Business Administration.

19 I have been involved in hog farming  
20 since I could walk. I have seen the system  
21 develop from a loose housing system that gives  
22 little animal care, to a controlled quality animal  
23 care system, incorporating the use of stalls to  
24 house the sows, resulting in less fighting with  
25 better individual feed availability and care.



1                   For all the people who claim that they  
2 are concerned about animal care on the farm and  
3 advocate changing the systems because they know  
4 best, I recommend they spend a year working on a  
5 hog farm and learn how to take care of pigs. As  
6 farmers, our job is to care for the animals, the  
7 environment and the protection of the water. That  
8 is why, at our farming operations, we have  
9 implemented a number of programs to help reduce  
10 the environmental impact.

11                   I started Excel Playgreen Group, Inc.  
12 in 1994 with the help of family and friends as  
13 investors. Excel Playgreen currently employs  
14 about 50 people in Manitoba, with a payroll of  
15 over \$1.5 million. In addition, we purchase over  
16 \$5 million in feed to feed the pigs, plus hundreds  
17 of thousands of dollars in other services from  
18 Manitoba suppliers. This is a large impact on the  
19 local economies around the barns.

20                   We also sell many of our hogs into the  
21 U.S., which provides additional trade dollars for  
22 Manitoba and our economy. Being able to produce a  
23 product cheaper than our competitors is what  
24 drives agricultural trade. Some of the policies  
25 the government has adopted are increasing our



1 costs. The government should not develop  
2 artificial barriers that create costs with very  
3 benefit.

4                   Currently, the market in Canada is in  
5 an extremely tough situation. The market price  
6 has decreased by 15 percent, compared to the year  
7 before, with no decrease in input costs, according  
8 to Stats Canada. Farmers, other than supply  
9 managed farmers, are not able to pass on any  
10 additional cost. Hog farmers take the price the  
11 market gives them. Thus increasing regulation  
12 directly impacts the survivability of a farm  
13 enterprise. Thus, farms have to continually  
14 strive for greater efficiency to remain viable in  
15 a very competitive industry.

16                   When we first constructed the first  
17 barn, we built a concrete manure storage tank  
18 because the soil was sandy and was not good for  
19 lagoon construction. An earthen lagoon would not  
20 have been as secure a storage system to store our  
21 manure. This was before lagoon permits were  
22 required and lagoons could be built without much  
23 thought. Concrete lagoons also help reduce odour,  
24 which benefits the neighbours.

25                   When we expanded the first farm, we





1 put in a manure separation system, so that could  
2 separate some of the solids from the liquids,  
3 which gives more control over application rates,  
4 with lower phosphorous levels in the more liquid  
5 tank. This was so that we had more opportunity to  
6 manage the resources of manure for maximum  
7 environmental benefit.

8 I would like to talk about  
9 technological advances. With that same concern,  
10 we have adopted the use of many new technologies  
11 to help decrease costs. These technologies also  
12 improve the environment through more efficient use  
13 of nutrients and less excess. The following are  
14 some of the technologies we have adopted at our  
15 farms. And I will describe each and how it  
16 benefits the environment and reduces the nutrient  
17 load on the land.

18 Phytase is a product that has become  
19 more available in the last few years and has  
20 become less expensive. It is an enzyme that  
21 breaks down the phytate phosphorous stored in the  
22 grain and makes it available to the animal in its  
23 production process by way of the TCA cycle. We  
24 have used this enzyme for a number of years on a  
25 trial basis, and went to full inclusion in all of



1 our rations about two years ago. The enzyme can  
2 replace the inorganic phosphorous in late grower  
3 finisher rations and still maintain growth rates.  
4 This reduces the amount of phosphorous that we  
5 apply to the land.

6           Net energy formulation. Just recently  
7 we have gone to net energy formulation for our  
8 rations. This actually decreases the amount of  
9 protein in the ration and utilizes more synthetic  
10 amino acids, thus reducing the total nitrogen  
11 excreted by the pigs. This decreases the amount  
12 of nitrogen in the manure and reduces the amount  
13 of nitrogen that needs to be applied to the land.

14           Phase feeding is another management  
15 process that we have adopted at our farms. This  
16 management strategy attempts to target the right  
17 amount of nutrients available at the right time.  
18 As pigs get older, they need less protein,  
19 phosphorous and other nutrients in their diet.  
20 Therefore, by phase feeding the nutrients that  
21 they require are provided without creating excess  
22 or waste nutrients that need to be disposed of  
23 later. This practice not only saves the  
24 environment, it saves the feed costs as well.

25           Split sex feeding. Another practice



1 that is similar to phase feeding is split sex  
2 feeding, where males and females are fed  
3 differently based on their needs. This reduces  
4 excess nutrients that are not utilized properly by  
5 the one sex, since it is more than it needs, and  
6 makes sure the other sex gets adequate supply of  
7 nutrients, thus reducing excess nitrogen and  
8 phosphorous in the manure.

9                   Soil samples. We monitor the soil so  
10 that we can determine how much nitrogen we can  
11 safely put on the soil. Now with the new  
12 regulations, we will also monitor the amount of  
13 phosphorous that is in the soil and how much can  
14 be applied.

15                   Water conservation. One of the  
16 misconceptions is that hog barns waste a lot of  
17 water because it is free. I'll have you know that  
18 the water that is wasted is not free. It costs  
19 about three-quarters of a cent to pump every  
20 wasted gallon of water on to the field. So we  
21 have undertaken a number of measures at the farm  
22 to limit water use.

23                   We have installed wet/dry feeders to  
24 reduce the water use and water wastage. This  
25 meter collects feeder collects all of the water in



1 the trough so that the pigs can drink it later,  
2 instead of letting it fall into the pit. A  
3 maintenance program has been established to repair  
4 any dripping water equipment immediately, so that  
5 the amount of water lost is reduced.

6           The farms also use hot water to wash,  
7 which reduces washing time and the amount of water  
8 used. Water use is less than 10 percent of the  
9 water that falls on the land where the barns are  
10 located. And when calculating the rainfall on  
11 total lands owned, water use would be less than  
12 two percent of annual rainfall.

13           Manure demand: In areas where farms  
14 are located, there are many farmers who very much  
15 appreciate the manure from our farms on their  
16 lands, since it improves their crops and reduces  
17 their costs. We give this manure to the farming  
18 neighbours and pay the costs of application. We  
19 do this to be good neighbours. And, in many  
20 cases, they return this favour by providing us  
21 straw or helping us with other services, as good  
22 neighbours do. Many of our neighbours would like  
23 us to build additional farms so that they could  
24 get more manure.

25           Manure application. There are many





1 technologies used to monitor the proper  
2 application of manure. Nitrogen testers, which  
3 test the manure, are used on site by our  
4 application company to monitor the amount of  
5 nitrogen that is applied to the land and the  
6 concentration of nitrogen in the manure.

7           The application equipment we operate  
8 has a GPS system on board which can track the  
9 application rate and provide detailed analysis of  
10 how much manure was applied to the land, as well  
11 as where it was applied.

12           Manure, when applied to cultivated  
13 land, is injected into the soil to maximize plant  
14 availability and crop growth. When applied to  
15 grass, it is dribbled on to the land and the grass  
16 takes up the manure.

17           Manure analysis is done on the manure  
18 at a recognized lab to establish the nutrient  
19 level in the manure. This is used for planning  
20 future applications in conjunction with the  
21 nitrogen tester at the site.

22           In conclusion, with all of the steps  
23 we have taken to be environmental stewards, the  
24 current situation is that we still have to  
25 increase our land base to meet the current



1 regulations, which I call the Push Bush Law. In  
2 order to meet some of the demands of the new  
3 regulations, we will have to create more  
4 grassland. This means clearing more bush to  
5 create more land, creating deforestation of the  
6 area. And while I would prefer to leave the land  
7 in bush, we, unfortunately, will have to start  
8 removing bush this year in order to meet the 2013  
9 deadlines. We are fortunate in that we own two  
10 sections of bush, which we can turn into hay land  
11 to grow crops and fertilize with our manure.

12                   Our current spread lands would be more  
13 than sufficient under the current nitrogen  
14 application rules. And, quite possibly, it could  
15 be adequate for the phosphorous application rules,  
16 if adequate time was given to develop and adopt  
17 new technologies that could decrease the need for  
18 additional land. It is important that the  
19 government provide significant financial  
20 assistance to the industry to help us adjust and  
21 develop new technologies.

22                   1 percent hogs, 99 percent politics,  
23 this is the economic environment that is currently  
24 unprofitable. And even without the "pause," there  
25 would have been few new hog barns built. What the



1 "pause" did was create, in the mind of the  
2 population, that there is something wrong with hog  
3 production or the government would not have put on  
4 the "pause".

5                   The new regulations will do little, if  
6 anything, to reduce the phosphorous load in Lake  
7 Winnipeg. Being that only one percent of land is  
8 manured with hog manure, I would contend that if  
9 there were no hog barns in Manitoba, there would  
10 be no change in the amount of phosphorous that  
11 would enter the lake. Since all of the land that  
12 currently receives hog manure would receive  
13 inorganic phosphate in order to grow crops, the  
14 total phosphorous on the land would stay the same.

15                   As hog farmers, we have done a good  
16 job of adopting new technologies to reduce the  
17 environmental impact. We have always stepped up  
18 to the plate to ensure that our environment is  
19 sustainable. After all, our families live here.  
20 And we take care of our families, just like you.  
21 Thank you.

22                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Klippenstein. You noted on your first page  
24 that the market price has decreased by 15 percent.  
25 Is that universal?



1                   MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes. Well, that's  
2 in Manitoba, which would be universal. Well, it  
3 would be in Canada, not the U.S., necessarily,  
4 because the exchange rates impact things.

5                   THE CHAIRMAN: I was quite interested  
6 in some of your technological advances. I think  
7 it was the first time I had heard of phase feeding  
8 and the split sex feeding. Is that a fairly  
9 common practice?

10                  MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: It's relatively  
11 common. I don't know. Most of the larger  
12 companies probably do it. I am not sure about the  
13 smaller operations.

14                  THE CHAIRMAN: And is this use of  
15 technology, whether it's these feeding practices  
16 or the use of phytase, or your water conservation  
17 practices, are they things that any hog farmer, no  
18 matter how big or small, could do, or is this  
19 something that really only bigger operations can  
20 afford to do?

21                  MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Well, anybody can  
22 feed phytase, you know.

23                  THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

24                  MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: And, you know,  
25 phase feeding, it depends on the size of the





1 operation. But any operation that's 500 units,  
2 farrow to finish, probably could do it. Split sex  
3 feeding is a little bit more difficult, unless  
4 you're larger. But, you know, depending how much  
5 it would cost to implement all of that in the  
6 smaller operations.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And just how big is  
8 your operation? How many?

9 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: We have about 7,000  
10 sows, finish half in Manitoba and the other half  
11 in the U.S.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: 7,000 sows. I was also  
13 interested in your comments about having to clear  
14 land to get more land available. We heard  
15 yesterday that hog manure provides enough to  
16 fertilize about six percent of the land in  
17 Manitoba. And you said in your report, as well,  
18 that other farmers around you, and Ms. Remple said  
19 the same thing, that other farmers, who don't  
20 necessarily have hogs, like to get their hands on  
21 this fertilizer. If there is such a demand for  
22 it, why do you need to clear more land?

23 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: I guess it depends  
24 on the management practice of the land. Some of  
25 the land that we have grazes cattle. And cattle



1 grazing doesn't really uptake phosphorous. So we  
2 have to -- you know, unless the land owner starts  
3 cropping the land, or cutting the hay and baling  
4 it and pulling it off, we will have to find more  
5 land that we can do that, you know, that we can do  
6 that to use up the phosphorous. And I guess in  
7 the area where we are in, La Broquerie, that's a  
8 little bit of an issue because a lot of land there  
9 is pastured by cow.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: And most of your  
11 operations is in around La Broquerie? You said  
12 around La Broquerie.

13 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Two up in La  
14 Broquerie and four up in the Fisher Branch area.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Edwin?

16 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: You are welcome.

17 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Klippenstein, I am  
18 just wondering, in terms of acreage per spread  
19 fields, I realize your operations are in different  
20 locations but, approximately, how many acres of  
21 land are using for your spread fields?

22 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Well, I guess it  
23 varies, depending on each farm little bit. But  
24 total acreage that we have available is  
25 probably -- I have never added it up, but probably



1 roughly 3,000 acres or something like that.

2 MR. YEE: And you would need  
3 additional -- based on the new phosphate  
4 amendments?

5 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yeah.

6 MR. YEE: Additional land on top of  
7 this?

8 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes, in the La  
9 Broquerie area.

10 MR. YEE: In the La Broquerie area,  
11 yes, great. One point you made earlier on is that  
12 some of the policies that the government have  
13 adopted have increased your costs. And, in  
14 particular, you mentioned that government  
15 shouldn't develop artificial barriers. And I was  
16 wondering, could you explain what artificial  
17 barriers you are referring to here?

18 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Well, by  
19 implementing regulations, like, for instance,  
20 let's say the phosphorous regulations without, you  
21 know, giving proper adoption or time or even, you  
22 know, there is a lot of technologies that can be  
23 used and stuff like that. What it does is raises  
24 your costs. You have to move your manure further  
25 or you have to do a whole bunch of things to your



1 land, do a whole bunch of things to take care of  
2 it, you know, without -- you know, without giving  
3 time to address and adopt, it is kind of just,  
4 boom, this is how it is, and that kind of stuff.  
5 And that creates additional costs and that creates  
6 an artificial barrier for being competitive.

7 MR. YEE: You have mentioned also that  
8 you use concrete storage tanks at all of your  
9 facilities?

10 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: All of our  
11 facilities that we have constructed. We have  
12 purchased a few that have lagoons.

13 MR. YEE: And you also made note that  
14 you use a manure separation system. What type of  
15 manure separation system?

16 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: It's a concrete  
17 tank with another concrete tank, where we drain  
18 off the liquids on the one unit in La Broquerie,  
19 and that's the expanded unit.

20 MR. YEE: So you are not using any  
21 other technology like centrifuge?

22 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: It's just basic  
23 settling.

24 MR. YEE: And the only other question  
25 that I was going to ask you, because we have heard





1 this from various people, is about the testing of  
2 soils isn't sufficient. I was just going to ask  
3 you, I realize you test every year, but how much  
4 of this 3,000-acres is tested or how many samples  
5 are taken?

6 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: We sample every  
7 quarter every year because we have to know what we  
8 can apply when. And then we schedule, you know,  
9 based on what the nutrient amounts are, on how  
10 much we can apply where.

11 MR. YEE: So how many samples would  
12 that be, one sample for a quarter section?

13 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: I think they do 20  
14 samples in a quarter.

15 MR. YEE: A composite?

16 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes. They do an  
17 average of the manure. So the guys that we hire  
18 test it, you know, do that and make core samples,  
19 send core samples, send it for testing, and send  
20 us the results.

21 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Klippenstein.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that once per year?

23 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes, generally,  
24 it's once per year. Or if we have to apply a  
25 second time on a piece of land, let's say in



1 spring or fall after the crop is off, then it  
2 would be tested twice.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: And is that typical of  
4 the industry?

5 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes, I think  
6 everybody tests, you know, once a year.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, once a year.  
8 Wayne?

9 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Klippenstein. I have almost got into a  
11 different mode today after the first presentation.  
12 I guess I'm looking at the bigger picture again.  
13 I know there is a constant push for a cheaper  
14 product all the time which, of course, is harder  
15 on the margins. The margins get less and less.  
16 And yet you say that you give your fertilizer  
17 away. And I've often thought that there is value  
18 to a natural product like that. But why wouldn't  
19 you -- why would you be reluctant to charge for  
20 it?

21 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Well, I guess, in  
22 the areas that we are, which is mostly grassland  
23 or a lot of that kind of stuff, farmers have been  
24 reluctant to pay.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: Are you talking mainly



1 in the La Broquerie area?

2 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: La Broquerie or  
3 Fisher Branch, I guess. I mean, we rent -- where  
4 we own the land, we rent the land out and the  
5 manure gets put on to it, and this kind of stuff.  
6 But it's been hard to extract a price for it in  
7 our situation. There may be some areas that are  
8 more cultivated areas where it would be easier.  
9 But if you are not grain cropping, you know, you  
10 don't have as much value in the -- or it is  
11 tougher to extract a value, I guess, out of the  
12 manure.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: And I realize, of  
14 course, you did mention that you do get -- you  
15 barter with it. And from your neighbours you get  
16 other values and services and that.

17 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes.

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Your maintenance  
19 program, you said that, like, for reducing the use  
20 of your water, you said that a maintenance program  
21 has been established. What would you say you --  
22 what do you do to -- what does that mean?

23 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Well, I guess it's  
24 the responsibility of the people at the farm that  
25 if they see water leaks that they fix them.



1 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

2 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Instead of letting  
3 them leak and leak and leak to fill the lagoon.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: It's not something with  
5 a monitor on it.

6 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: No.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: It has to be visually  
8 seen?

9 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes. We have --  
10 yes, it is visually seen. But we do have water  
11 metres on all of our barns and, you know, report  
12 the water usage annually.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: And you do mention a  
14 manure separation system. And we have heard that  
15 in a few areas in the province, too, as one of the  
16 technologies that is still being worked on, I  
17 understand.

18 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Right.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: And right now it is  
20 quite expensive.

21 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes, if you go to  
22 real separation or really where it really pulls  
23 out all of the solids, and stuff like that, then  
24 it gets very expensive. You know, in our  
25 situation we kind of separate some the solids by





1 settling out. And that gives us two options; one,  
2 a higher nitrogen application, which is more  
3 nitrogen and less phosphorous, and then one that  
4 is higher phosphorous, you know, more solids type  
5 of application.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Do you feel that in the  
7 future, supposing there was a need to do this, to  
8 go into a separation system where, if you didn't  
9 have sufficient land and you had to do this in  
10 order to dispose of your manure, would the --  
11 would there be a value to that product, that  
12 by-product, the solid product that comes out of  
13 that thing, would there be enough there to pay for  
14 the installation of the separation system?

15 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: There quite likely  
16 could be. I think that there would have to be  
17 some coordination by government to kind of get the  
18 system moving so that it could actually trade, you  
19 know, or that the value could be realized and that  
20 kind of stuff. Because, you know, it wouldn't  
21 just establish on its own because, you know, your  
22 costs of hauling could become too big a factor.  
23 There are a lot of logistical things.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: It's just that in  
25 areas, for instance, like Hanover, where there



1 is -- you know, it is probably one of the most  
2 highly populated areas in Manitoba for ILOs in the  
3 province.

4 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Right.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: And there are a lot of  
6 farms in the area that wouldn't require that  
7 because they have sufficient land.

8 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Right.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: And I know that we have  
10 discussed that here that with the new phosphorous  
11 regulations and the timeframe that things have to  
12 be done here, we are going to be looking more into  
13 this.

14 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: Yes, it's very  
15 tight.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, that's all I've  
17 got. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
19 coming out this afternoon, Mr. Klippenstein.

20 Next up on the agenda is John Kroeker.  
21 John Kroeker. Please state your full name for the  
22 record?

23 MR. KROEKER: John Kroeker.

24 JOHN KROEKER, having been sworn, presents as  
25 follows:



1 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

2 MR. KROEKER: Mr. Chairman, members of  
3 the panel, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.  
4 I'm John Kroeker, General Manager of Penner Farm  
5 Services. Penner supplies livestock equipment to  
6 hog, dairy and poultry producers.

7 My presentation will focus on our  
8 relationship with the industry as a supplier of  
9 livestock equipment and as a general contractor  
10 for livestock housing facilities and relate  
11 services.

12 Penner Farm Services and its related  
13 companies have served the livestock industry in  
14 Manitoba since the early 1960s. During that time,  
15 we have seen many changes in the industry in new  
16 technologies and farm practices. And as our  
17 customers have expanded, our business has grown  
18 with them.

19 Not so long ago, a producer would  
20 decide on expanding his farm and be under  
21 construction as soon as he could arrange his  
22 financing. Last year it took nine months for a  
23 producer to get approval for building permits,  
24 manure storage permits, municipal hearings,  
25 technical reviews and Manure Management Plans.



1 The lengthy and onerous process alone suggests  
2 that we have an abundance of rules to ensure that  
3 the industry is expanding responsibly.

4           As new issues arise, more rules are  
5 expected. Our producers are just as adaptable as  
6 producers in other countries noted for hog  
7 production. Europe continues to have a  
8 sustainable industry, without banning expansion,  
9 despite higher human and livestock populations per  
10 acre.

11           Manitoba has more stringent rules than  
12 most jurisdictions in North America, yet only  
13 Manitoba and Quebec have taken the extraordinary  
14 political measures of targeting the hog sector  
15 with a ban on new permits. This is wrong. We  
16 should be addressing all of the sources causing  
17 the environmental concerns and applying the same  
18 rules to everybody.

19           When new rules need to be implemented,  
20 we need a more fair and responsible process than  
21 the one the government is putting the hog industry  
22 through today. I would suggest a notice period  
23 that allows for a graduated transition to full  
24 compliance of the new regulations, especially if  
25 new technology needs to be acquired or if





1 significant capital needs to be invested. The  
2 government should provide incentives to existing  
3 operations to offset the additional capital  
4 investment required to meet the new regulations.  
5 Then let the industry decide if they want to  
6 continue expansion within the new rules.

7           All of the industry stakeholders I  
8 know want to use sustainable environmentally  
9 responsible farm practices. The industry  
10 recognizes that we need rules to sustain their  
11 farms, as well as our environment. Sustainability  
12 of the hog industry really hasn't been in question  
13 until we started hearing about the algae blooms in  
14 Lake Winnipeg. Opponents of the hog industry have  
15 tried to link it as the culprit. The Lake  
16 Winnipeg Stewardship Board would say that the  
17 problem is caused by many sources. However, only  
18 the hog industry has been banned from expanding.  
19 It's extremely unfair to blame one producer group  
20 for concerns caused by many sources, especially  
21 when over half of the phosphorous loading concerns  
22 arise outside of the province. It would make more  
23 sense, in addressing the phosphorous problem, that  
24 everybody contributing to the problem would bear a  
25 proportional share of the solution. The hog



1 industry should not be singled out.

2                   Southeastern Manitoba is thriving  
3 today because of a strong mixed farming  
4 agricultural base. We have watched several  
5 generations of producers expand their farms  
6 through diversification and growth, as they have  
7 attempted to keep their children interested in  
8 farming. Our towns and cities are thriving  
9 because our producers are leveraging their  
10 cropland into prosperous livestock facilities that  
11 employ thousands. Businesses in the region have  
12 thrived supplying services to these enterprises.  
13 Our schools are full and bursting at the seams,  
14 where many other rural regions in the province are  
15 seeing continued decline in rural populations. It  
16 is no accident that Hanover and La Broquerie, with  
17 the highest densities of livestock in the  
18 province, are seeing population increases, while  
19 other rural municipalities continue to decline. I  
20 would suggest that our strong farm base is the  
21 main reason Steinbach is growing faster than  
22 Brandon.

23                   Most of the producers in Hanover and  
24 La Broquerie would agree that the arable land base  
25 is fully utilized within these municipalities.



1 And I was just educated with Marg's report that  
2 that may not be the case. Paying attention to  
3 soil loading, water quality and drainage makes  
4 sense. Good farmers do that because they  
5 understand that it is essential to their long-term  
6 viability. Restricting manure application to  
7 phosphorous levels makes sense if it is causing an  
8 environmental problem. Those rule changes were  
9 already public prior to the Hog Industry Review.  
10 We don't need an industry pause to change the  
11 rules, any more than we need a ban on driving  
12 while we consider a change in speed limits.

13                   Questioning the sustainability of the  
14 hog industry throughout the whole province because  
15 we want to change the manure application rates in  
16 one region that has a high density of livestock  
17 doesn't make any sense. We still have thousands  
18 of acres of land in Manitoba that have not seen  
19 any manure applied to it. These regions are  
20 applying chemical fertilizers to their cropland  
21 today. Using non-renewable resources to produce  
22 fertilizer surely isn't a sustainable practice.  
23 Recycling the undigested feed nutrients back to  
24 the field they came from, to be used for the next  
25 crop, is a sustainable practice that has been used



1 for centuries. Why are we preventing low density  
2 livestock regions from expanding into hog  
3 production today if it would make their farms more  
4 viable, create employment and build stronger rural  
5 communities?

6                   The effect of the moratorium on new  
7 hog facilities is having a huge impact on our  
8 company. We are looking at a 50 percent reduction  
9 in sales for 2007 as a result of the pause. We  
10 are forecasting a further reduction for 2008 if  
11 this pause doesn't end soon.

12                   We have employed over 70 people  
13 directly in Manitoba last year, and our sub-trades  
14 employed at least that many, as will. For many of  
15 our staff, this pause means they will lose their  
16 jobs. For our customers, it means they are losing  
17 a lot of experienced people that could help them  
18 with their problems. We can hire again once the  
19 pause is lifted, but the experience will be gone  
20 for many years.

21                   On the construction side, our trades  
22 are moving to other industries. We are projecting  
23 that half of the experience that we have in our  
24 construction trades today will leave, and not  
25 return to the agricultural after they have





1 established themselves in a different market. We  
2 are going to face a huge skill shortage in the  
3 future grow that will limit the industry to grow  
4 for many years.

5 Please encourage the government to  
6 make a speedy resolution.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kroeker.  
8 Could I ask you just to expand a little bit as to  
9 why you are predicting a 50 percent reduction in  
10 sales?

11 MR. KROEKER: Because nobody is  
12 building any barns.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: How many barns did you  
14 anticipate would be built before this pause came  
15 into effect?

16 MR. KROEKER: Well, not all the barns  
17 are the same size. In terms of sales, we are  
18 expecting to see a drop of at least \$10 million in  
19 sales.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry?

21 MR. KROEKER: We are expecting to see  
22 a drop of at least \$10 million in sales.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: And is the main part of  
24 your business providing new equipment and new  
25 barns?



1                   MR. KROEKER: That would be a bigger  
2 chunk, yes.

3                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Edwin?

4                   MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Kroeker, in terms  
5 of you mentioned, along with the downturn, the  
6 reduction in sales, the loss of skill sets. What  
7 particular skill sets would be lost, in  
8 particular, to the agricultural sector?

9                   MR. KROEKER: Well, your service  
10 technicians, they learn something every time they  
11 fix something. You have fewer of them. You have  
12 fewer out there solving equipment problems. On  
13 the construction side, your plumbers and  
14 electricians and framers are leaving. And once  
15 they are established in residential and  
16 commercial, they won't be coming back to  
17 agriculture.

18                   MR. YEE: And you mentioned also, in  
19 terms of the amount of -- there are thousands of  
20 acres of land in Manitoba that have not seen any  
21 manure applied to it. But we have heard from  
22 people that the other issues of looking at using  
23 other lands is the distance between where the  
24 manure is generated and where it has to be spread  
25 and that because you are increasing transportation



1 costs, that it may not be feasible to actually  
2 utilize those lands. Do you have any comment on  
3 that?

4 MR. KROEKER: Yes, I would like to  
5 build barns there.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I missed  
7 some of that?

8 MR. KROEKER: We would like to build  
9 some barns there.

10 MR. YEE: Okay. Thank you,  
11 Mr. Kroeker.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, I just have the  
13 one question. And you said that you have employed  
14 over 70 people directly in Manitoba last year.  
15 And with the sub-trades, it was probably that  
16 many, as well. Because of the ban, have you lost  
17 any yet?

18 MR. KROEKER: Sub-trades?

19 MR. MOTHERAL: No. Lost any  
20 employees?

21 MR. KROEKER: Yes. We are down about  
22 20 employees.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Does that say that in  
24 here?

25 MR. KROEKER: No, it doesn't say that



1 in here.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: You have lost 20.

3 Okay, that's all I've got, thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: And that's directly  
5 attributable to the pause?

6 MR. KROEKER: Some of it might be  
7 seasonable, but we are not hiring them back.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: But has there been a  
9 slow down in the industry? I mean, some people  
10 have suggested to us that the industry has more or  
11 less peaked in Manitoba. I am not saying that  
12 that's the case, but some have suggested that. Is  
13 some of your downturn because -- your downturn  
14 because of -- largely because of the pause?

15 MR. KROEKER: Well, for this year,  
16 yes. And for other years, I would say the  
17 industry may have peaked a couple of years ago.  
18 But we have still been working at a very healthy  
19 pace.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And what percentage --  
21 you said that you provide equipment to hog, dairy  
22 and poultry producers. What percentage of your  
23 business is hogs?

24 MR. KROEKER: Probably upwards of  
25 60 percent.





1 THE COURT: 60 percent?

2 MR. KROEKER: Yes.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that. I  
4 have no more questions. Thank you for coming out  
5 here this afternoon, Mr. Kroeker.

6 Next up on the agenda is Bob Schinkel.  
7 Could you introduce yourself, please, for the  
8 record?

9 MR. SCHINKEL: My name is Bob  
10 Schinkel.

11 BOB SCHINKEL, having been sworn, presents as  
12 follows:

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

14 MR. SCHINKEL: My name is Bob  
15 Schinkel. I'm a real estate agent/broker with  
16 Prudential Riverbend Realty in Steinbach. I have  
17 been in the real estate business for 30 years, 10  
18 months, 10 months and 25 days, and let's say about  
19 six hours. You've got to keep track when you are  
20 having fun. Some people say I have one year of  
21 experience repeated 30 times, but I think of that  
22 kind of as my old school days. I don't know if  
23 it's true or not.

24 I have spent my career selling real  
25 estate primarily in Southeastern Manitoba. I



1 thought a highlight of my career would be when I  
2 had a chance at selling a large tract of land  
3 south of La Broquerie. It was about 2,000 acres.  
4 We started marketing this property in 1984 and  
5 1985, with really no success.

6           The property was owned by an Italian  
7 firm that had purchased it from the Ansel  
8 brothers. The Ansel brothers had leased the  
9 property back from the Italians for 10 years with  
10 an agreement that they would clear the land and  
11 then farm it. The Ansel brothers, as they  
12 attempted to clear the property and start farming  
13 it, proceeded to go bankrupt. The land was  
14 marginal, stony, treed land. The Italians, who  
15 were attempting to dispose of it, contacted me to  
16 dispose of it. Our marketing was unsuccessful.  
17 And, as a last resort, we attempted to auction  
18 this property in 80 and 160 acre parcels. This  
19 was in the spring of 1986. We marketed this land  
20 extensively with full page ads in the Carillon  
21 News, and with advertisements in the Winnipeg Free  
22 Press, et cetera. I thought this would be a  
23 milestone in my career and propel me to ultimate  
24 success.

25           We had set very low reserved bids.



1 After the first three properties did not meet the  
2 reserved bids, the owner representative that was  
3 there, in desperation, said: "We will sell the  
4 next properties, no matter what the price, no  
5 reserve bid." As I recall, those prices at the  
6 time ranged in between \$27 and \$35 per acre.  
7 These properties were sold to prospective hobby  
8 farmers, farmer wannabees, and speculators. We  
9 didn't sell all the land at the auction. However,  
10 after the auction and, in the subsequent years, we  
11 ended up selling all the land.

12                   At the time, the roads were poor and  
13 the property was basically undeveloped and had  
14 poor drainage. I saw many pig people attempt to  
15 earn a living there with beef farming and with  
16 very limited success. Over the years, we resold  
17 these properties a number of times. These  
18 properties eventually ended up in the hands of hog  
19 farmers that built new hog barns on these  
20 properties. The area was remote to developed  
21 housing and seemed to be an excellent location for  
22 hog barns.

23                   As this area developed with hog barns,  
24 it gave the R.M. of La Broquerie a tax base and  
25 allowed them to improve the roads and the



1 drainage. This also improved the land value, and  
2 the manure applied to the land made this marginal  
3 land more productive. Cattle capacity was  
4 increased, and some of the land was opened up and  
5 seeded into hay. Today these land values are in  
6 the range of \$500 to \$600 per acre. I attribute  
7 most of this to the hog farming and the increased  
8 productivity of the land to the hog manure that  
9 was applied to it.

10                   If you look a little further south to  
11 the Town of Zhoda, there is a rural two acre  
12 development that was developed by Jake Wall, who  
13 is commonly known as "square deal Jake". Jake had  
14 a vision for Zhoda and the area and spearheaded  
15 developing an airport there. He developed a  
16 subdivision, built the roads, and attempted to  
17 market these properties. He had very limited  
18 success. These lots, in the early 1990s, were  
19 offered at \$1,000 per lot. At the time, there was  
20 very little in the way of jobs in the area. Today  
21 these lots are selling for, or in the range of,  
22 \$9,000 to \$12,000 per lot. A good number of the  
23 people that work in the surrounding area in the  
24 hog barns are gravitating to this area. Census  
25 Canada tells us that the RM of La Broquerie has





1 grown at a rate of 26.4 percent from 2001 to 2006.

2           Now, let's compare this to the LGD of  
3 Piney, which is immediately east of the R.M. of La  
4 Broquerie. Piney has had a net population growth  
5 of 67 people from the year of 2001 to 2006. Their  
6 total population is 1,755 people, and it's a big  
7 LGD. Myself, and I think every other real estate  
8 agent in Steinbach will attest to this, that the  
9 real estate agent's car stalls out when it hits  
10 the boundary of the LGD of Piney. The chances of  
11 selling real estate in Piney are extremely low.

12           The other painful thing, when you go  
13 down there to sell real estate, is that you have  
14 to tell the senior farmer, that's in his late  
15 sixties or in his seventies, that the farm that he  
16 has laboured on all of his life, and it is maybe  
17 160 or 320 acres, is often not worth barely as  
18 much as a modest home on a small lot in Steinbach.

19           Much of this can be attributed to the  
20 lack of jobs available in Piney. The LGD of Piney  
21 basically has an anti-hog policy. I chuckle when  
22 I see the sign on Highway 12 going into the LGD of  
23 Piney. And it says something like this: "Welcome  
24 to Piney: No hogs, no smell." I was often  
25 tempted to add to that sign and say: "No jobs, no



1 schools, last person out, turn off the lights." I  
2 am not saying that every place needs hog barns to  
3 have jobs. But hog barns do create jobs, and jobs  
4 increase the value of real estate. And once you  
5 have jobs, you need schools, you need hospitals,  
6 you need infrastructure and then you have a  
7 community.

8                   Not long ago, I met an acquaintance, a  
9 young blond lady, whose name I will not mention.  
10 The last time I talked to her, she had been  
11 working at a radio station selling advertising.  
12 The conversation led to her present employment,  
13 and she said she was working in a hog barn. And  
14 her words were: "The pay is better and the  
15 customers don't talk back." I didn't ask her  
16 which customer smelled better. I really didn't  
17 want to know.

18                   The last point I want to make is about  
19 water, and particularly about well water. There  
20 has been a lot of discussion about hog and  
21 agricultural operations contaminating the well  
22 water. And I'm surely not an expert at it. As a  
23 course of practice in our industry, and we are  
24 required by banks, to test the water from all of  
25 the wells on the properties that we sell for



1 e-coli and fecal bacteria.

2                   In the 30 years that I have been a  
3 real estate agent, neither I, nor anyone in our  
4 firm, has ever had a drilled well that was  
5 contaminated from the source. And in my  
6 experience, the modern hog farmers today are  
7 generally very good stewards of the land, and make  
8 an effort to conserve the land that they make  
9 their livelihood on.

10                   In short, I feel the hog industry has  
11 been a real asset and a benefit to our area, and  
12 has added to real estate values and has increased  
13 local wages.

14                   Thank you for being able to express my  
15 opinion.

16                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
17 Mr. Schinkel. When you were giving us the growth  
18 rates, La Broquerie was about 26 percent growth?

19                   MR. SCHINKEL: Yes.

20                   THE CHAIRMAN: And Piney was about  
21 6 percent, is that what it was?

22                   MR. SCHINKEL: No, it's actually less  
23 than that. Well, it's 67 people, so it's about 4  
24 percent.

25                   THE CHAIRMAN: About 4 percent.



1                   MR. SCHINKEL: Yes.

2                   THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, I know from  
3 reading the media, or from the media, the press  
4 and radio, that's really both, isn't it, I mean,  
5 that this area has been very successful in a  
6 number of ways. Just today, I drove by the Layman  
7 window plant and the Barkman Concrete. And I've  
8 read about the fairly successful, not fairly, very  
9 successful immigration programs that have  
10 benefited this community, as well as others, in  
11 southern Manitoba and southeastern Manitoba. How  
12 much of this growth might be attributable to that,  
13 as opposed to the success and growth of the hog  
14 industry?

15                   MR. SCHINKEL: Well, I mean, the hog  
16 industry has a lot of spin-off benefits besides  
17 the fact -- besides just the people working in the  
18 barns. I mean, you've got the construction.  
19 You've got the service after the fact. You've got  
20 transport. You know, there is two large transport  
21 companies; one in Steinbach, one in Blumenort that  
22 does only livestock, livestock or hogs. So there  
23 is a lot of spin-off. I surely wouldn't be  
24 capable of determining where is which. But, in my  
25 opinion, the hog industry has contributed greatly.





1 I mean, there is making feed, and so on and so  
2 forth.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

4 MR. YEE: No.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, in a different  
7 way, I mentioned to the first presenter she had a  
8 lovely way of putting words together. And you  
9 also have a very different way of putting words  
10 together. It just reminded me that just last  
11 week, I had the 40th anniversary of my 24th  
12 birthday.

13 MR. SCHINKEL: That's kind of like me.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: I don't think -- as far  
15 as any technical information here, I do know there  
16 has been a lot of growth in here. In the area  
17 that I originally came from, I would even love to  
18 have the four percent growth. And the further  
19 west you go, it is quite a bit different, even  
20 four percent growth would be phenomenal there. So  
21 you are doing well in this area, as far as that  
22 goes. Thank you very much for your presentation.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I just return to  
24 your -- I think it was your first story about the  
25 land that the Italian consortium bought and then



1 you marketed it. When you were describing the  
2 land, you said it was rocky and not very good  
3 land?

4 MR. SCHINKEL: That's correct.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: But now it is?

6 MR. SCHINKEL: It's improved greatly.  
7 I mean, at the -- and, of course, drainage helps a  
8 lot. Removing stones improves land.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: So these were things  
10 that were done?

11 MR. SCHINKEL: These were things that  
12 were done. The Ansel brothers started it.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: So it took a lot of  
14 work to make the land into productive land?

15 MR. SCHINKEL: Yes. At the time, it  
16 probably didn't make economic sense. As it turned  
17 out, the end story was good. You know, like I  
18 would guess that the Italians lost a lot of money  
19 in that venture, to the benefit of the latter  
20 owners.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Okay.  
22 Thank you very much. Thank you for coming out  
23 this afternoon.

24 MR. SCHINKEL: Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Next is Mayor Chris



1 Goertzen.

2 MR. GOERTZEN: Good afternoon.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Please introduce  
4 yourself for the record.

5 MR. GOERTZEN: I'm Mayor Chris  
6 Goertzen from the City of Steinbach.

7 MAYOR CHRIS GOERTZEN, having been sworn, presents  
8 as follows:

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

10 MR. GOERTZEN: Thank you. Well, I  
11 have an uncle, who is a preacher in my church, and  
12 whenever I saw him up at the pulpit, I always knew  
13 that this is going to be a short service. And so  
14 I take after him a little bit.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that's rare in  
16 politics.

17 MR. GOERTZEN: You're right.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: And a couple of us up  
19 here have had some past experiences in local  
20 politics.

21 MR. GOERTZEN: I will have some time  
22 to learn.

23 In the last six years, Steinbach and  
24 the southeast region have had tremendous growth.  
25 The growth in the region is, by far, the highest



1 in Manitoba. And the growth in the City of  
2 Steinbach has placed it as one of the fastest  
3 growing urban centres in Canada. The change in  
4 population between the 2001 census and the census  
5 taken in May 2006 showed a staggering 19.9 percent  
6 increase in population, which translates into  
7 1,839 additional residents. The population in our  
8 neighbouring municipalities also showed a  
9 remarkable growth, with Hanover increasing its  
10 population by over 1,000 people, while the R.M. of  
11 La Broquerie increased by 765 residents. This  
12 astounding number, like before, translates into a  
13 26.4 percent increase in population.

14           The economy is strong in the Steinbach  
15 region. The diversity of our regional economy is  
16 what makes it strong. Our economy is based on  
17 three main pillars that have sustained our  
18 impressive growth numbers. They are  
19 manufacturing, the service industry and  
20 agriculture. All three of these pillars of our  
21 economy are diversified, thus creating an even  
22 stronger and more resilient economy. When one or  
23 more segments are on the decline, we have been  
24 fortunate to have others that seem to be on the  
25 upward trend.





1                   The Hog Industry is a large part of  
2 the agricultural base in the southeast region.  
3 The effect of the industry is much more  
4 far-reaching than boar barns, farrowing barns and  
5 finishing barns. It goes much farther than the  
6 hundreds upon hundreds of people that find well  
7 paying jobs in these places of employment. The  
8 reach is much farther than the high yielding crops  
9 that many area farmers reap because they are able  
10 to effectively manage their fields with nutrients  
11 from the industry.

12                   The Hog Industry has had, and we hope  
13 will continue to have, a positive effect on the  
14 construction service industry in our region. We  
15 have seen the benefits spread to the construction  
16 workers and companies who are able to secure the  
17 contracts for the hog housing facilities, as well  
18 as many other maintenance facilities. We have  
19 seen the lumberyards and farm equipment dealers  
20 realize large increases in their sales. All of  
21 these positive effects enable these trade  
22 companies to employ more people, thus growing our  
23 regional economy.

24                   The transportation industry also has  
25 seen tremendous growth in our region. Virtually



1 every hog that is produced in our region must be  
2 transported out of the eastern half of the  
3 province to get processed. This has increased the  
4 demand for truck drivers and workers to maintain  
5 and clean the many transport vehicles.

6           The hog industry also provides many  
7 management and clerical job opportunities for the  
8 region's population. Hytek, Puratone, Landmark  
9 Feeds and Pro Vista Agriculture all have their  
10 corporate or head offices in the offices in the  
11 southeast. The industry does not only provide a  
12 direct "hands-on" careers for our population, but  
13 gives the opportunity for people to be involved in  
14 the administration of the industry. This  
15 diversity is welcome here in the southeast because  
16 we know that this is what makes our economy  
17 strong.

18           The City of Steinbach is concerned  
19 about a clean and sustainable environment. This  
20 is why, in 2004, we joined the Seine-Rat River  
21 Conservation District. Through this organization,  
22 we have seen great cooperation between the member  
23 municipalities and industries in the southeast.

24           The hog industry is one of those  
25 industries. We have seen consistent participation



1 and encouragement to improve programs and  
2 practices that will prove to be sustainable for  
3 the environment. The hog industry leaders that we  
4 have in the southeast have been a great example of  
5 good corporate citizens. They know that if the  
6 environment is sustained and improved, their  
7 industry will prosper, and their actions have  
8 consistently proven this.

9           The economy of the Southeastern  
10 Manitoba has been greatly improved by the hog  
11 industry. These effects have been far-reaching,  
12 creating an environment that has produced a large  
13 influx of immigrants from outside of our region,  
14 outside of Manitoba, and outside of Canada.  
15 Steinbach has seen a new ballooning Filipino  
16 community, many of which are finding good  
17 employment in the hog industry. The trucking,  
18 which is also benefiting from the industry, is  
19 finding new employees in the United Kingdom who  
20 are, in turn, making Steinbach and the region  
21 their home.

22           We have been fortunate in the  
23 Steinbach region. The agricultural pillar of our  
24 economy is strong. We look forward to a continued  
25 and sustainable growth of the hog industry and the



1 many positive economic aspects it will bring to  
2 our region.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And I  
5 suspect that you are the envy of many other mayors  
6 around the province.

7 MR. GOERTZEN: It is a good place to  
8 be the mayor.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: With a growing economy  
10 and a growing population. Edwin, do you have any  
11 questions?

12 MR. YEE: I guess just one question,  
13 Mayor Goertzen. In terms of development, do you  
14 have a development plan in combination with your  
15 adjacent municipalities, like a district or a  
16 regional development plan?

17 MR. GOERTZEN: No. What we do is we  
18 all work individually. But, of course, especially  
19 with the new councils that we have, we are meeting  
20 on a regular basis to discuss any issues that may  
21 come up.

22 MR. YEE: Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

24 MR. MOTHERAL: I just want to ask one  
25 question. It's Mayor Goertzen. Mind you, to say





1 Mayor Goertzen, I am so used to saying mayor  
2 Magnusson for the last number of years. It seems  
3 strange, but congratulations.

4                   Now, in the City of Steinbach, are  
5 there any residents -- this is maybe putting you  
6 on the spot -- are there any residents who  
7 complain about the odour at times? Because,  
8 obviously, there will be odour in towns because  
9 there is in the R.M., et cetera. But are there  
10 complaints or do you think there are people who  
11 are reluctant to complain because it is the  
12 backbone of their area?

13                   MR. GOERTZEN: Well, first of all, I  
14 don't -- very seldom do we find that there is an  
15 issue in the city. The issue is -- the issue is,  
16 if anything, our own lagoon, which is north of us.  
17 So, really, we hear very few complaints.

18                   MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I will be asking  
19 the same question this evening as the R.M. comes  
20 up.

21                   MR. GOERTZEN: Yes.

22                   MR. MOTHERAL: Because it's  
23 interesting to note that that's the reason why we  
24 have this one person that you can contact in our  
25 Environment Commission if anybody is reluctant to



1     come up and say something, they can phone in. And  
2     no doubt there are people that don't want to  
3     squeal or don't want to report on their neighbours  
4     and stuff like that.

5                   MR. GOERTZEN: When that smell does  
6     come about, you often hear the comment: It smells  
7     like money.

8                   MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, I know, and I've  
9     heard the same thing. I was in a community in  
10    Ontario, and everybody just took it. They say:  
11    That's the way it is, that's the way we operate.  
12    Thank you.

13                   THE CHAIRMAN: Are you able -- and I  
14    asked this question of Mr. Schinkel earlier. Are  
15    you able to give an idea of how much of the growth  
16    in your community is from manufacturing and  
17    services and agriculture, the three pillars that  
18    you noted?

19                   MR. GOERTZEN: Well, it's diverse.  
20    And so, in the end, I could make up some number  
21    numbers. And I could make them up now or earlier  
22    on. But it is very hard to tell what it is and  
23    where that level is, but it is certainly  
24    significant. Anecdotally, you know that it is  
25    significant. And, in reality, we don't have those



1 hard numbers because they are very hard to come  
2 by.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Anecdotally, you know  
4 it is significant in each area or in the  
5 agriculture area?

6 MR. GOERTZEN: Anecdotally, you know  
7 that agriculture, and specifically the hog  
8 industry, plays a huge component of the -- of the  
9 success that we have seen here in the southeast in  
10 our community.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, I can see  
12 driving through your community on the numbers of  
13 occasions we have been out here in the last few  
14 months, that this hearing and other hearings that  
15 we held in this hall, I can see just the new  
16 service development. I mean, there is that one  
17 corner where there is about 16 huge grocery stores  
18 going up.

19 MR. GOERTZEN: Wait a year.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Has the manufacturing  
21 industry grown significantly? I mean, some of it  
22 is well established?

23 MR. GOERTZEN: They have continued to  
24 grow as well. You see Loewen, as well as Biovail  
25 and a lot of smaller companies, as well, continue



1 to grow. Some of the smaller ones specifically  
2 are quite connected to the hog industry, as well,  
3 such as WS Welding, and so on, who are  
4 manufacturing things for them.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Does Steinbach have a  
7 real sustainable water supply?

8 MR. GOERTZEN: Yes. We have, I  
9 believe, it's three or maybe four wells right now.  
10 And they are drilled wells. And they are from the  
11 large aquifer that the southeast has.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: Could you see in the  
13 future Steinbach being able to process hogs?

14 MR. GOERTZEN: Never say never. I  
15 mean, that's a big question.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: That's a political  
17 question. I mean, that's not fair.

18 MR. GOERTZEN: Well, that's,  
19 obviously, a huge question. And in the end, that  
20 requires a lot of infrastructure. And where there  
21 is a will, there's a way.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: That's the reason why I  
23 asked the water question first.

24 MR. GOERTZEN: There is -- well, we  
25 have an abundant amount of water.





1 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you very  
2 much, Mayor Goertzen.

3 Shanyn Silinski. Take care of the  
4 formalities. Could you please introduce yourself  
5 for the record?

6 MS. SILINSKI: Shanyn Silinski.  
7 SHANYN SILINSKI, having been sworn, presents as  
8 follows:

9 MS. SILINSKI: And thank you for your  
10 time this afternoon, Commission, honoured guests.  
11 As the head of the Manitoba Farm Animal Council, I  
12 am going to take a few minutes of your time to let  
13 you know about our organization and how it ties in  
14 with these hearings.

15 The Manitoba Farm Animal Council has  
16 been in existence since 1991. And we have been  
17 advocating and educating for and to producers and  
18 farmers within animal agriculture within this  
19 province. Canada has four other provincial Farm  
20 Animal Councils; Ontario, Saskatchewan and  
21 Alberta, and there is a newly minted National Farm  
22 Animal Council. And all of our mandates are the  
23 same.

24 The foundation of our council is the  
25 agriculture industry. It is their council. This



1 is a short list of some of the things that we do.  
2 Three of the live animal exhibits, which answers  
3 some of your questions about educating our urban  
4 and rural non-farming friends. We have "Thru The  
5 Farm Gate" at the Brandon Fair, "Touch The Farm"  
6 at the Red River Exhibition. And we coordinate  
7 with Ag in the Classroom for the "Amazing Ag  
8 Adventure", which allows school children to go  
9 through the barn and experience agriculture  
10 firsthand.

11 We are supported by commodities within  
12 the province in animal agriculture. And as you  
13 can see from these photos, everyone gets to touch  
14 the farm and gain that connection back to  
15 industry, which really is the foundation industry  
16 for Western Canada, and it is Manitoba's second  
17 largest industry.

18 I remember hearing stories my grandpa  
19 would tell me, when he was growing up on the farm  
20 as a young man farming with horses. And this was  
21 long before the days of environmentalism or  
22 anything else. And he said: It is all about  
23 stewardship. If you take care of your land, it  
24 takes care of your animals, which takes care of  
25 you.



1                   And in those days, you really had to  
2 be careful how you were a steward of your  
3 resources, because it was your family's true bread  
4 and butter. That was the groceries on your table  
5 is what you raised. And it was very important to  
6 take care of the land, so it could take care of  
7 you. And that's the same today. Farmers have to  
8 take care of their land, just as they have to take  
9 care of their livestock. And it becomes not just  
10 a matter of stewardship ending with the animal,  
11 but it also starts and begins with the land.

12                   And there are some pictures of the  
13 "Amazing AG Adventure".

14                   The Manitoba Farm Animal Council  
15 coordinates a number of training sessions and  
16 information sessions throughout the year,  
17 including one in this hall last summer dealing  
18 with the Anthrax breakout. That was a very  
19 critical workshop for us because we were able to  
20 put it together within ten days of the outbreak,  
21 give producers, rural municipalities and the  
22 public information that they needed to deal with  
23 the outbreak, prevent future outbreaks and explain  
24 what exactly an Anthrax outbreak can do, not only  
25 to producers and their livestock, but the dangers



1 it posed to people who were not careful. There  
2 are some pictures of the Anthrax workshop.

3                   We also co-ordinated the Livestock  
4 Emergency Response Course, which teaches first  
5 responders, producers and the RCMP how to handle  
6 livestock in an emergency. And this goes directly  
7 to the welfare of the animals and the safety of  
8 the people, but it also becomes a stewardship  
9 issue because you want to make sure that you are  
10 taking care of the animals from the start to the  
11 finish.

12                   Experience has taught us that being  
13 proactive is superior to being reactive. Anybody  
14 that knows me, knows that being proactive is much  
15 better than my first knee-jerk reaction, and  
16 that's the one that gets me into trouble. But we  
17 also know that reactive can be a very positive  
18 thing if it is well thought out and considered:  
19 How we are going to react to things?

20                   Having been raised on a farm, a sixth  
21 generation western Canadian, living in the country  
22 and in a rural lifestyle, and choosing farming as  
23 a way of life, I have to say farmers are not  
24 always the best crowd at standing up and saying:  
25 We do a good job. Farmers, however, are very good





1 at finding ways of doing a better job. They are  
2 always looking at research. They are always  
3 trying find a better way to do things for their  
4 for their livestock, for their land and for their  
5 livelihood.

6                   And the Manitoba Farm Animal Council  
7 plays a role in that in that because we encourage  
8 research, dialogue. And we also produce materials  
9 that educate and inform producers how to do a  
10 better job. And when they are doing a better job,  
11 we tell other people. So we work with Glenlea.  
12 We work with the University of Manitoba. The Farm  
13 Animal Council is proactive, responsive, growing  
14 in a positive organization that supports the  
15 animal agriculture industry in Manitoba and across  
16 the country.

17                   There is strength in numbers. And  
18 there is a powerful vision and a powerful voice  
19 when agriculture stands up and speaks with one  
20 voice and says, "we are doing a good job." Let us  
21 continue doing a good job. We have a solid  
22 foundation. We have the prairies that we have  
23 settled because of farming. And we are going to  
24 continue into the future feeding our country and  
25 feeding those countries that depend on our bread



1 basket.

2                   We are making sure that our voice is  
3 heard for animal agriculture. And we are making  
4 sure that animal agriculture is the moving force  
5 to set the agenda for our industry. We want to  
6 make sure that those experts who know animal  
7 agriculture are the ones that are paving the way  
8 to the future, so that our united voice and our  
9 proactive approach and our reactive responses are  
10 the ones that will meet the needs of our children  
11 and grandchildren as they honour the legacy of our  
12 grandparents and great-grandparents.

13                   I think Dwight Eisenhower put it in a  
14 nutshell very neatly when he said:

15                   "Farming looks mighty easy when your  
16 plow is a pencil and you're a thousand  
17 miles from the corn field."

18 You can insert whatever agriculture industry you  
19 want for "corn field", and it still says the same  
20 thing.

21                   And I would like to close with a  
22 little Garfield humour from his dad.

23                   But the main thing that I want you to  
24 take away from this little clip, and the moments  
25 we have had here today, is that the reason we are



1 here is because, "these things matter to farmers".

2 And when farmers take the time to stand up and  
3 say, "it matters", then that's when people need to  
4 listen because usually farmers are busy doing  
5 their business of raising food and taking care of  
6 their land and taking care of their animals and  
7 keeping the store shelves full.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
10 Ms. Silinski. Can you tell me a little bit more  
11 about your organization, and just where you are  
12 based?

13 MS. SILINSKI: I am based out of my  
14 home office in La Broquerie on our farm. And we  
15 do use our commodity offices in the city for  
16 meetings, and those types of things, when we need  
17 to be putting together presentations or workshops.  
18 And we do try to spread things over the province  
19 so that we do have a wide range of things for our  
20 producers.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: How are you funded?

22 MS. SILINSKI: We are funded through  
23 Farm Gate, a percentage of the Farm Gate receipts,  
24 through the commodities that have chosen to be our  
25 members.



1 THE CHAIRMAN: And what are those  
2 commodities?

3 MS. SILINSKI: Pork Council, Dairy  
4 Farmers of Manitoba, Manitoba Cattle Producers,  
5 Manitoba Sheep, Manitoba Equine Ranchers, and the  
6 Chicken Producers.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: So pretty well all of  
8 the animal farmers?

9 MS. SILINSKI: Yes. And that  
10 demographic is pretty much the same across the  
11 board for our sister organizations as well.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: You mean the ones in  
13 other provinces?

14 MS. SILINSKI: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there full-time  
16 employees?

17 MS. SILINSKI: I am it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: You are it?

19 MS. SILINSKI: I am it.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: How do you do all of  
21 these things or do you have a good volunteer base?

22 MS. SILINSKI: I have a really great  
23 volunteer base through our commodities. And I do  
24 have a really great volunteer through my husband.  
25 He is my unpaid staff with benefits. But we do





1 have a lot of resources. The commodities are very  
2 good at sharing resources. The university is  
3 another resource that we share information back  
4 and forth with. And a lot of it really is the  
5 sharing of information, and technology helps us do  
6 that.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And when you put  
8 together these demonstrations at the Brandon Fair  
9 and the Red River Exhibition, who does that?

10 MS. SILINSKI: The commodities send  
11 volunteers and staff to do that. And, in fact,  
12 oversees all that have to ensure that, of course,  
13 animal welfare is taken care of. And we answer  
14 any inquiries from the public about the animals.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you get -- the  
16 Brandon Fair is very clearly an agricultural fair,  
17 so I'm sure you get a lot of attention there. But  
18 do you get much attention at the Red River  
19 Exhibition? I mean, it has always been an  
20 agricultural fair, but most people go there for  
21 the loopy rides, or whatever.

22 MS. SILINSKI: I am pleased to say  
23 that we have a lot of good response at the "Touch  
24 The Farm" at Winnipeg. And a lot of them are from  
25 the city. And many, many of them are return



1 visitors. We have had a lot of generational  
2 stories where the grandparents farmed. Their kids  
3 are in the city. And now they are bringing their  
4 grandchildren so that they can have that  
5 connection back to agriculture.

6           And we have had some people that have  
7 lived in the city their whole life and have never  
8 even seen a live farm animal in person, so to  
9 speak. And one lady identifies herself as being  
10 in her sixties. And she had never touched a baby  
11 farm animal. She didn't know how large a pig got.  
12 She didn't know the difference between a dairy cow  
13 and a beef cow until she actually saw them. And  
14 she got to hold a baby chick, which was something  
15 she had never in her life experienced. And I  
16 think she spent two hours in the barn because she  
17 just had such a great time. And she was going to  
18 bring her family and her grandchildren back for  
19 the next year.

20           So it is really a good opportunity to  
21 share with our urban neighbours what our rural  
22 people are doing. But there is also that second  
23 disconnect, where we have rural non-farming people  
24 living next door to rural farming people. And  
25 they don't understand why the tractor is out at



1 the crack of dawn, and why you are hauling silage,  
2 and why you have to move manure, and why they call  
3 it weaning and why they are milking. If we don't  
4 teach them, they can't learn.

5                   And the Manitoba Farm Animal Council  
6 doesn't want to change minds, but we want to have  
7 people make informed decisions. The more  
8 information you have, the better decisions you  
9 will make because you have a more rounded  
10 perspective of what is going on around you,  
11 whether it be an issue, something historical or a  
12 current event.

13                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Wayne?

14                   MR. MOTHERAL: I don't think so. I  
15 don't think so, no. There are some things that I  
16 wonder -- and it's great for kids to touch animals  
17 and that, but do they realize that they could be  
18 my next meal?

19                   MS. SILINSKI: We make sure that  
20 that's clear. Farm animals are not pets. You  
21 have to name show cattle because you have to call  
22 them something. And some cows get called other  
23 things that we can't repeat in polite company, but  
24 that's the nature of livestock. And we make it  
25 very clear that these are not pets, that they are



1 not there to be shown as pets. These animals are  
2 producing the food that these people see in the  
3 grocery store everyday. And they need to know  
4 that there is more cow to that carton of milk than  
5 just the cartoon cow on the side of the carton,  
6 for sure.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: And maybe that's a  
8 point where we can say that they are getting food,  
9 but that it's really cheap food. Maybe we can get  
10 that reaction somehow.

11 MR. YEE: Yes. Ms. Silinski, can you  
12 explain a bit more about the Livestock Emergency  
13 Response course in terms of the content and what  
14 it addresses?

15 MS. SILINSKI: Certainly. Jennifer  
16 Woods is the instructor for that course. And she  
17 took her training from Dr. Temple Grandin, who is  
18 a phenomenal leader in animal husbandry and farm  
19 animal welfare.

20 And what the course covers is how to  
21 handle livestock in an emergency. And this is  
22 especially true for emergency responders and  
23 police because most of them aren't lucky enough to  
24 come from the farm. If you have a car accident  
25 with people, that's one set of stressors. And I





1 was in the fire service for seven years.

2                   If you add a liner load or a trailer  
3 load of animals to that, then you have  
4 exponentially increased the chances for additional  
5 injury and death, danger, and the possibility that  
6 things are going to get completely out of hand.  
7 So what we try to do in that course is to teach  
8 people how to handle animals trapped in a trailer,  
9 how to get them out, how to euthanize them, how to  
10 transport them, how to do crowd control.

11                   And we really want to make sure that  
12 the RCMP, when they get a call about a liner  
13 rollover, that their dispatcher is asking the  
14 right questions: How many animals? Are they  
15 still in the trailer? What species size are they?  
16 Does anybody know what size they are? If you have  
17 bison loose, you are not going to see them. They  
18 are going to meet you halfway back to the fire  
19 hall because they pick a direction and they go.  
20 Cattle and birds and horses like to stay close to  
21 their companions, and they will stay in a herd.  
22 If you have one animal wandering all alone by  
23 itself, all it is trying to do is get back to  
24 animals of its own kind. And there is the danger  
25 of one lone animal that the responders may not be



1 aware of, and so we try to increase that knowledge  
2 base.

3           Teach them how to cut into a trailer,  
4 to never turn over a loaded trailer. Aluminium  
5 trailers, if you try to put pressure on one side  
6 and you try to tip it up, it tends to fall out,  
7 which adds to the scene. And, of course, the  
8 biggest thing with the Emergency Livestock  
9 Response Course is to never endanger human life to  
10 save an animal's life. But we want to be aware,  
11 because that's the product of someone's farm and  
12 livelihood, to make sure that most of them can  
13 finish their journey, and those that can't are  
14 humanely destroyed. Because in Manitoba, and in  
15 Canada, it is against the law to transport animals  
16 for euthanizing them. It has to be on site. And  
17 so we have to train our RCMP and our animal  
18 protection officers to do that job well.

19           MR. YEE: Thank you.

20           THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
21 Ms. Silinski.

22           MS. SILINSKI: Thank you for your  
23 time.

24           THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, you are welcome.  
25 And that brings us, well, just about to that time



1 for a coffee break. But also to the end of the  
2 list of people who had previously indicated that  
3 they wanted to make presentations. We will take a  
4 15-minute break. And if, during that time, or in  
5 the last hour or two, any of you have decided you  
6 would like to make a presentation, please let us  
7 know that during the break and we will hear you  
8 after you the break. Thank you.

9 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 3:18 P.M.

10 AND RECONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening.

12 Could I ask you to take your seats? I  
13 would like to reconvene. We have five  
14 presentations that have registered for this  
15 evening. The first one is the Manitoba Federation  
16 of Labour Occupational Health Centre. Could you  
17 please come up here and take seats at this front  
18 table? Would you please introduce yourselves for  
19 the record?

20 MS. LOVERIDGE: My name is Carol  
21 Loveridge. I'm the Executive Director of the  
22 Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health  
23 Centre.

24 MS. LUDWIG: And my name is Diana  
25 Ludwig. And I am one of the nurses at the



1 Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health  
2 Centre.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Cathy will now  
4 administer the oath.

5 CAROL LOVERIDGE, having been sworn, presents as  
6 follows:

7 DIANA LUDWIG, having been sworn, presents as  
8 follows:

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, please,  
10 ladies.

11 MS. LOVERIDGE: Good evening.

12 I would like to thank the Commission  
13 for giving us this chance to make this  
14 presentation. And our presentation is about  
15 workers' health, workers who work in the  
16 industrial hog barn industry.

17 Workers in industrial hog barns will  
18 most directly, and probably most profoundly, be  
19 affected by the environmental impacts of the hog  
20 industry. The Environment Act should be a  
21 valuable legislative tool to help protect the  
22 health of workers.

23 The hog industry needs to be placed  
24 within the context of a sustainable development  
25 strategy to ensure the long-term health of workers





1 and the affected communities. A comprehensive  
2 review of the potential environmental impacts  
3 would not be complete without consideration of the  
4 occupational health risks related to the industry.  
5 The hog industry poses health risks to Manitoba  
6 workers that must be addressed.

7           The MFL Occupational Health Centre has  
8 established itself as an important community based  
9 resource on occupational health and safety for  
10 workers and communities in Manitoba. Our Centre  
11 has a respected track record of addressing health  
12 and safety issues at public hearings and through  
13 submitted written documents as part of the public  
14 consultative process when legislated changes are  
15 being considered.

16           The Occupational Health Centre is  
17 grounded in the belief that those people who share  
18 common health concerns must play an active role in  
19 addressing those concerns. Further, the community  
20 working together is better able to promote the  
21 health and well-being of its individual members  
22 and the community as a whole.

23           And, finally, the OHC believes that  
24 the workers should not bear any burden of illness  
25 or injury because of their work. We intend to



1 highlight some of the very real and important  
2 health considerations of workers in industrial hog  
3 barns. The occupational hazards that affect a  
4 worker's health also affect the well-being of  
5 their family and community.

6                   And I am not going to read every part  
7 of the paper. I am just going to do the  
8 highlights, for those of you who are following  
9 along.

10                   Respiratory problems. Hog production  
11 has undergone rapid transformation from  
12 family-owned operations to large scale industrial  
13 enterprises. An increasing percentage of pigs are  
14 being raised in large industrial hog barns. And  
15 size does matter. When something goes wrong in a  
16 large hog barn, the potential of risk for  
17 occupational and environmental damage is  
18 correspondingly large.

19                   Large hog barns are complex  
20 environments, with a variety of gases and dusts  
21 present. And it is well documented in the  
22 international scientific literature that exposure  
23 to the air in large hog barns may cause not only  
24 short-term but long-term harmful health effects in  
25 workers.



1                   Thousands of gases, particles and  
2 bioaerosol emissions have been documented in  
3 industrial hog barns. Industrial hog barns  
4 generate dusts, dander and gases released from the  
5 breakdown of hog feces and urine that contribute  
6 to poor air quality if the ventilation in the  
7 building is not adequate. In the summer, hot  
8 weather increases the amount of gas released from  
9 the manure.

10                   Environmental assessments of air  
11 quality inside industrial hog barns done during  
12 research studies revealed unhealthy concentrations  
13 of hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, inhalable  
14 particulate matter and endotoxin. And it is  
15 important to keep exposure to all dust and gases  
16 as low as possible to minimize health risks to  
17 workers.

18                   It is best to find out if there is a  
19 problem with dusts and gases in the hog barn  
20 before health problems develop. An exposure limit  
21 is the amount of a hazard that most, but not all  
22 workers, can be exposed to without harming their  
23 health.

24                   Occupational exposure limits have  
25 several limitations and should not be solely



1     relied upon to protect the health of workers in  
2     hog barns.  These limitations include:

3                     The lack of appropriate occupational  
4     exposure limits for some of the air contaminants,  
5     including organic dusts.

6                     The inability to adequately account  
7     for the health impact of exposure to multiple  
8     airborne hazards.

9                     The reality that some workers will  
10    experience health problems at exposures that are  
11    below the exposure limits.

12                    Although modern barns appear cleaner,  
13    the air inside these barns still carries toxic  
14    molecules which are harmful to the workers.  
15    Cleaner, modern, industrial hog barns are not less  
16    harmful than the older ones.  In addition, routine  
17    spot check air analysis are not sufficient to  
18    evaluate the potential toxic effect of the barn  
19    air.

20                    Working in barns is often a full-time  
21    occupation.  The higher the levels of harmful dust  
22    and gases, and the more time that workers spend in  
23    the barn, then the greater the chance that workers  
24    will develop health problems.

25                    And there have been more than 70





1 papers published on the adverse health effects on  
2 workers within the industrial hog barns in Canada,  
3 Unites States, most European countries, and  
4 Australia.

5                   A small proportion of workers  
6 experience acute respiratory symptoms early in  
7 their work history sufficiently severe to cause  
8 immediate withdrawal from the workplace. To  
9 better understand the effects of exposure to air  
10 within industrial hog barns, many researchers have  
11 exposed healthy volunteers for several hours only  
12 once to barn air. Even a single exposure induces  
13 fever, malaise, drowsiness and thickening of the  
14 membranes of the nose and activates an  
15 inflammatory response in the lungs.

16                   The collective body of research  
17 clearly indicates that at least 25 of workers in  
18 industrial hog barns have respiratory diseases,  
19 including bronchitis, mucous membrane irritation,  
20 asthma-like syndrome, and acute respiratory  
21 distress syndrome. And notably, organic dust  
22 toxic syndrome, related to higher concentrations  
23 of bioaerosol in industrial barns, occurs  
24 episodically in more than 30 percent of the  
25 workers.



1                   Several studies indicate that workers  
2 in industrial hog barns have significantly more  
3 sick days than controls. Workers in industrial  
4 hog barns have a higher incidence of impaired  
5 airflow and lung inflammation.

6                   Epidemiological studies of workers in  
7 industrial hog barns have documented increases in  
8 morning phlegm, coughing, scratchy throat, burning  
9 eyes, wheezing, shortness of breath, and chronic  
10 bronchitis, compared to that that do not work in  
11 industrial hog barns. The severity of respiratory  
12 symptoms increases during the winter due to  
13 reduced ventilation.

14                   Several large scale studies indicate  
15 endotoxins, which are toxins that are released  
16 when organisms die. Several large scale studies  
17 indicate that endotoxin exposure for workers in  
18 industrial hog barns have been associated with  
19 both respiratory and systemic, as well as changes  
20 in lung function. There is considerable evidence  
21 that endotoxin exposure may both exacerbate  
22 pre-existing asthma and induce new asthma. Recent  
23 studies from Canada suggest that women are more  
24 prone than men to develop asthma from working in  
25 industrial hog barns.



1                   Dusts contribute substantially to the  
2 extent and severity of respiratory symptoms for  
3 workers in industrial hog barns. Feed particles  
4 and fecal matter are the most prevalent components  
5 of dusts in industrial hog barns. Other  
6 components include dander, moulds, insect parts,  
7 and mineral ash. Asthma and hypersensitivity,  
8 pneumonitis are associated with exposure to  
9 organic dusts.

10                   In livestock confinement environments,  
11 it is important to be aware of the risks  
12 associated with the combinations of the various  
13 gases and dusts. The combination of the variety  
14 of gases in the confined space may increase the  
15 negative health of any one type of agent or gas.  
16 For example, dust particles may absorb ammonia.  
17 Ammonia is water soluble and is usually absorbed  
18 by mucous in the upper respiratory tracts when  
19 inhaled. This process protects the lungs from the  
20 effects of exposure to moderate ammonia. Dust  
21 particles, however, and the ammonia absorbed in  
22 them, are delivered more deeply into the pulmonary  
23 system. This scenario allows ammonia to have an  
24 impact on the more sensitive deeper areas of the  
25 pulmonary system where ammonia would not typically



1 reach.

2                   Exposure to dust aerosols during the  
3 cleaning inside hog barns can induce an acute  
4 inflammatory reaction in the upper airways of  
5 workers when using a high pressure cleaner for  
6 several hours. Also, the use of a mask reduces,  
7 but does not eliminate, this inflammatory  
8 response.

9                   In colder climates, heating may be  
10 achieved with propane or other fossil fuels in  
11 large hog barns. High dust levels make it  
12 difficult to keep heaters and equipment working  
13 effectively. The amount of harmful gas in the air  
14 may be higher in the winter if less fresh air is  
15 coming into the building. And the heaters, and  
16 other equipment, can malfunction, and/or  
17 inadequate ventilation may result in a build up of  
18 carbon monoxide, thus causing carbon monoxide  
19 poisoning.

20                   Some community environmental air  
21 quality assessments have shown concentrations of  
22 hydrogen sulfide and ammonia that exceed Agency  
23 for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
24 recommendations. There is a growing body of  
25 evidence documenting excessive respiratory





1 symptoms in neighbours adjacent to industrial hog  
2 barns. The pattern of their symptoms is similar  
3 to those of the workers working in the barns.  
4 Increased prevalence of childhood asthma on farms  
5 with increasing numbers of hogs has also been  
6 documented.

7                   The Clean Environment Commission needs  
8 to ensure that owners of industrial hog barns  
9 comply with Workplace Safety and Health  
10 legislation. Employers are responsible for the  
11 safety and health of all the workers. Employers  
12 should keep exposure to all dust and gases as low  
13 as possible.

14                   Owners of industrial hog barns should  
15 include worker representatives in the process of  
16 identifying job risks and exploring ways to  
17 minimize workplace health and safety risks. A  
18 critical first step is to identify the source of  
19 the problem.

20                   This should be done with the health  
21 and safety committee or worker representative.  
22 Workers often best understand the hazards of their  
23 particular jobs. Employers need to provide all  
24 workers with easy to understand information and  
25 training about health hazards in the barn.



1 Employers should involve their workers to ensure  
2 that procedures and equipment are appropriate and  
3 convenient.

4 Owners of hog barns should:

5 Control exposure to hazards at the  
6 source of the hazards by minimizing or eliminating  
7 the air contamination by using adequate  
8 ventilation systems.

9 Make sure that the mechanical  
10 ventilation system has enough capacity to  
11 effectively get rid of the harmful gases at all  
12 times.

13 Use respirators only, in addition to,  
14 but not as a substitute for adequate ventilation  
15 to protect the health of workers.

16 Make sure that workers have access to  
17 the right type of respirators that fit properly.  
18 Instruct workers how to use, clean and maintain  
19 the respirators.

20 Install gas detectors and test for  
21 harmful gases throughout the day in the barn.

22 Evaluate the health impact of all air  
23 contaminants on workers and do not rely solely on  
24 occupational exposure limits to determine if the  
25 air is safe.



1                    Danger can also come quickly!

2                    Hydrogen sulfide is an extremely toxic  
3 gas formed by the decomposition of animal waste.  
4 Workers may be exposed to hydrogen sulfide when  
5 they enter the manure storage pit or when the pit  
6 is agitated prior to being emptied. This releases  
7 large amounts of hydrogen sulfide into the barn.  
8 Workers who survive exposure to excessive amounts  
9 of hydrogen sulfide may develop adult respiratory  
10 distress syndrome.

11                    And workers will be in immediate  
12 danger if there is not enough oxygen. Some  
13 workers and rescuers, without enough ventilation  
14 and the right kind of respirators, have become  
15 unconscious or died in Manitoba when they entered  
16 the manure pit.

17                    The CEC needs to ensure that owners of  
18 industrial hog barns comply with Workplace Safety  
19 and Health legislation. Employers are responsible  
20 for the safety and health of all their workers.  
21 This includes preventing a dangerous exposure to  
22 hydrogen sulfide.

23                    Owners of hog barns should:

24                    Hire trained professionals to do the  
25 most dangerous work, such as emptying lagoons or



1 working inside tanks or deep pits.

2 Post warning signs in all areas at  
3 risk. Stand a safe distance outside the tank or  
4 building when the manure pit or tank is stirred or  
5 emptied.

6 Make sure that the level of gases are  
7 safe before workers re-enter the hog the hog barn,  
8 lagoon, tank or deep pit.

9 Now we are coming to our  
10 recommendations.

11 Hog producers have expanded in  
12 Manitoba just as environmental scrutiny and public  
13 disfavour begin to stunt hog expansion in some  
14 other parts of Canada and globally. We must  
15 carefully consider the current and future  
16 ecological footprint that will be left by the hog  
17 industry in Manitoba.

18 Protecting our workers and our  
19 environmental heritage upfront is in the best  
20 interests of all Manitobans in the long run. If  
21 the hog industry limits itself to only the  
22 shortsightedness of the business bottom line, then  
23 eventually the costs will catch up in some other  
24 way.

25 Later, most of the health, social and





1 economic burdens of occupational and environmental  
2 illnesses are more likely to be unjustly carried  
3 by the worker, families, communities and the  
4 taxpayers, rather than at the source of the  
5 problem. And we also need to both protect the  
6 health and safety of workers and concurrently  
7 embrace and plan for an ethical and sustainable  
8 economy.

9                   In keeping with the spirit of the  
10 precautionary principle that is embedded in both  
11 the Provincial Environment Act and the Sustainable  
12 Development Act, we should:

13                   Ensure that current laws, regulations,  
14 policies are enforced to protect workers,  
15 families, communities and the environment.

16                   Continue with the moratorium on  
17 expansion of the hog industry until we know that  
18 workers, communities and the environment are  
19 protected.

20                   Initiate independent research that  
21 gathers local knowledge from workers in hog barns,  
22 community residents, as well as expertise from  
23 occupational, community and environmental  
24 specialists based on the Manitoba context.

25                   Mandate environmental impact



1 statements for proposed hog barns that includes  
2 occupational/environmental health, social justice,  
3 and socioeconomic issues.

4           Decisions to issue permits for  
5 industrial hog barns should be considered in  
6 public meetings and decided by the whole  
7 community.

8           And, finally, support the farming of  
9 hogs in a way that protects the health of workers  
10 and their communities, using sustainable,  
11 environmentally sound and ethical practices.  
12 Support small scale farming operations. The trend  
13 toward large scale livestock operations increases  
14 the risk of a number of health problems. By  
15 supporting opportunities for smaller scale  
16 livestock farms in Manitoba, we can minimize some  
17 of the health impacts on workers and the wider  
18 community from larger scale operations.

19           Thank you.

20           THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.  
21 You included some other things, some journal  
22 articles?

23           MS. LOVERIDGE: Yes.

24           THE CHAIRMAN: How much of a problem  
25 is it in Manitoba?



1                   MS. LUDWIG: I'm not sure. The fact  
2 is that our workplace goes into workplaces as  
3 invited. And so we have, actually, not been  
4 invited to any of the industrial hog barns.  
5 However, we have seen workers that have come to  
6 visit our doctors with symptoms and health  
7 problems.

8                   MS. LOVERIDGE: I would also like to  
9 add that on our website, we also have the fact  
10 sheets that you see there. And in the last six  
11 months, we have had 350 hits alone on the website  
12 for that are particular fact sheet about dust and  
13 gases. So somewhere out there people are  
14 perceiving this as a problem. And we have no way  
15 of knowing, you know, why they want to look at  
16 that. But it is a very significant number, for a  
17 province of this size, in just a matter of six  
18 months.

19                   THE CHAIRMAN: Have there been any  
20 complaints or concerns registered with the  
21 Occupational Health Branch of the Department of  
22 Labour, do you know?

23                   MS. LUDWIG: I gave them a call and  
24 asked how many industrial hog barns they had been  
25 to in the last couple of years. And they said: A



1 few. And I said: What does that mean? And they  
2 said: A few. And so I think that the Department  
3 of Labour is starting to visit some of the  
4 industrial hog plants. But I think the numbers  
5 still are very small that have really been seen,  
6 from what I gather from that response.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And I should know this,  
8 but I just don't. Are the large hog barns covered  
9 by Workers' Compensation? Farms can opt in  
10 because it is not compulsory, but how about the  
11 large hog barns?

12 MS. LUDWIG: I think the same rules  
13 apply as the regular agricultural sector.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's correct,  
15 but I'm not certain. Edwin?

16 MR. YEE: Yes, just a few questions.  
17 I guess one for clarification. I think this may  
18 be somewhat redundant, as Terry has asked you  
19 this. I noticed that you have given us some  
20 statistics, and I haven't had a chance to look at  
21 it. But, again, do we have any statistics from  
22 Manitoba? And I think that your answer was that,  
23 no, we don't.

24 MS. LUDWIG: You know, we probably  
25 could. I think that the challenge would be for





1 the Workers' Compensation Board to have a way of  
2 looking at their data that actually segments that  
3 sector, and then we would have a better idea of  
4 that. But my understanding is that right now that  
5 sector, in general, isn't segued, because we have  
6 look at other issues such as the meat packing  
7 plants, and so I think that this would not be  
8 segued as well.

9 MR. YEE: In terms of your comment on  
10 occupational exposure limits have several  
11 limitations, can you elaborate a bit on that?  
12 What sort of limitations are you referring to in  
13 terms of the occupational exposure limits? And, I  
14 guess, are you referring to OSHA and NIOSH  
15 standards?

16 MS. LUDWIG: Well, for many of the  
17 dust and gases in the more finally defined ways,  
18 we actually do not have exposure limits. So you  
19 can't go measuring something that you don't have  
20 the tools to measure with. And that would be true  
21 of many of the dusts and gases, including the  
22 organic gases, which are so prevalent in the hog  
23 barns. So the fact that we don't even have a way  
24 to measure is a paramount challenge in and of  
25 itself. But even if we do measure something like



1 a hog barn, where there is such a great  
2 interaction probably between dusts and gases, and  
3 multiple dusts and gases, life being complicated,  
4 it is unlikely that even if isolates were able to  
5 be measured, that they may or may not be a good  
6 indicator of the predisposition or the risk to  
7 health problems.

8 MR. YEE: Okay, I think I understand  
9 what you are getting at. So in terms of where you  
10 have an OSHA or NIOSH limit for hydrogen sulfide  
11 or ammonia, what you are saying is that because of  
12 the mixture of the other potential contaminants,  
13 that there may be cumulative or other effects that  
14 can't be addressed?

15 MS. LUDWIG: Right.

16 MR. YEE: And I guess don't have any  
17 suggestions as to how we would go about assessing  
18 this? We would have to do research into all of  
19 this, then?

20 MS. LUDWIG: Well, we have always  
21 believed at the Centre that this would be no  
22 different than any other manufacturing sector, and  
23 that the key is good ventilation.

24 MR. YEE: Right.

25 MS. LUDWIG: And because you will



1 never really know always what goes out into the  
2 air, our knowledge is finite. And the  
3 possibilities are probably infinite. So the only  
4 way of addressing that at the source is to --  
5 because it's an air quality issue, is to ensure  
6 the best air quality. And the best way to ensure  
7 that is to have fresh air coming in.

8                   MR. YEE: But for guidelines, would we  
9 use existing dust parameters or, say, the hydrogen  
10 sulfide or ammonia parameters, as being level we  
11 should attain when we are using fresh air and in  
12 monitoring the hog barns?

13                   MS. LUDWIG: Well, for the things that  
14 are known, like hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, and  
15 some of the others, yes. But I think that we have  
16 to keep in mind that the more we know, the more  
17 there is a tendency to want to be cautionary.

18                   And I think perhaps the Netherlands  
19 lead in this example, in the fact that they were  
20 getting concerned about the health effects and  
21 decided to develop guidelines that were  
22 considerably more stringent than the previous  
23 guidelines had been. And to the point where when  
24 they said: We're comfortable at this level, and  
25 certainly more, that the technology was such that



1     there was no way of ensuring that that, in fact,  
2     could be met. So they have given a two-year  
3     period to help the technology come into place  
4     because they are not, in the long run, comprising  
5     on those new levels. They believe that to  
6     safeguard the health of the workers that it should  
7     not exceed those levels. And perhaps it might  
8     even need to be lower than that, but they should  
9     not be higher than that, but an interim provision  
10    has been made.

11                   MR. YEE: And just one last question.  
12    And it's another comment in terms of guidelines.  
13    You mentioned some community environmental air  
14    quality assessments have shown concentrations. So  
15    in terms of community air quality, I guess you  
16    would use the OMNI air quality guidelines as being  
17    the objectives that you would try to attain for  
18    that?

19                   MS. LUDWIG: Yes.

20                   MR. YEE: Thank you.

21                   THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

22                   MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, thank you,  
23    Mr. Chairman.

24                   I was a little confused here by a  
25    couple of these statements that you made where





1 sometimes you say: "Owners of industrial hog  
2 barns", and then you will say just plain: "Hog  
3 barns". And so can you tell me what is your  
4 definition of an industrial hog barn, as compared  
5 to anything else?

6 MS. LUDWIG: It's a large scale hog  
7 operation. So we didn't necessarily think in  
8 terms of numbers. But certainly those approaching  
9 a thousand, and certainly more than that, would  
10 definitely qualify for a large scale hog barn or  
11 for an industrial hog barn. And some people would  
12 say even considerably less than that would  
13 probably qualify for that, as well. But we did  
14 not put a number on it. We just know that the  
15 larger the scale, the larger the potential of risk  
16 is for all kinds of things, including making it  
17 more difficult to protect the health of the  
18 workers.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: And in what way do you  
20 mean that? I mean, just because it's larger? I  
21 mean, quite often we found out that larger  
22 operations are more efficient and have more of the  
23 safeguarding stuff than a lot of the other  
24 operations.

25 MS. LUDWIG: Efficient in what way?



1                   MR. MOTHERAL: Just with newer  
2 technologies.

3                   MS. LUDWIG: Right. It is  
4 interesting, and it was a Canadian study, that  
5 took a look at the newer, what was considered the  
6 cleaner barns. And, in fact, they found that the  
7 air quality was not significantly different in the  
8 newer, cleaner, more technologically sophisticated  
9 hog barns than in the other hog barns. And I  
10 think that that really speaks to the density of  
11 the animals. I mean, the more animals that you  
12 have in a confined area, the more dusts are  
13 created. You know, animal dander as being a huge  
14 component of that. And the gases that are  
15 released from the urine and feces that gather in  
16 great concentrations in a very small space. So  
17 although there are efficiencies, there are also, I  
18 guess, laws of density, you know, in effect, as  
19 well. And I just do not know how else to say  
20 that.

21                   MR. MOTHERAL: And one more thing  
22 here, in your recommendations, you know, like:  
23 "Owners of hog barns should" and then you've got  
24 several recommendations here, and they are very  
25 good recommendations. But it would be interesting



1 to know, and it is something that we, as a  
2 Commission, are going to have to find out, sooner  
3 or later, how many of these suggestions are  
4 already being implemented?

5 MS. LUDWIG: Yes.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: And this is important  
7 for us. Because certainly safety workers is  
8 important to everybody, and also to owners of hog  
9 barns. And I would imagine that they are looking  
10 into these things all the time.

11 MS. LUDWIG: And, you know, I think  
12 that's a very important question. And it would be  
13 true, you know, within the hog industry, as it is  
14 in any manufacturing centre -- sector. I think  
15 you would need to know. But I think what has  
16 mostly been of concern to us, in our Centre, is  
17 that it is so hard to find out to know. And  
18 things may be, in some ways, moving forward. But  
19 we don't have a sense of that, because we have  
20 know way acquiring a sense that. And until we do,  
21 we just want to have a strong for the workers  
22 because, right now, we truly don't know, but we  
23 suspect from the people or the workers that have  
24 come to see us.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: It is just that you can



1 see the challenge that the Commission have to --  
2 we need numbers. We need number and statistics.  
3 And when you hear statements like: "There was a  
4 growing body of evidence documenting this", well,  
5 I am hoping that some of that stuff will be in  
6 these papers that we have here.

7 MS. LUDWIG: Yes.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Because it is easy to  
9 say that, but it has to be backed up by the  
10 numbers.

11 MS. LUDWIG: Yes. And I would really  
12 encourage you -- we picked the articles primarily  
13 for their overview or their insight into  
14 particularly important questions, one or the  
15 other. But we also picked a couple of them  
16 because of their eclectic representation. There  
17 is one article there that was written in February  
18 of 2007. And it has representatives from the  
19 Netherlands, from I think Sweden.

20 MR. YEE: Denmark and Iowa.

21 MS. LUDWIG: And American and two  
22 Canadian centres. And so you are getting, then, a  
23 really eclectic world approach to the issues, and  
24 some of the thoughts that I would think are very  
25 current if it is February 2007. And so we could





1 have lots of articles, but we chose very few. But  
2 everything in our report is substantiated in an  
3 article somewhere. We did not pick these things  
4 out of just nowhere. And so should there be a  
5 line anywhere in there that you will need  
6 additional information and it is not in the  
7 articles, don't hesitate to ask us, because we  
8 will find that for you.

9                   MR. MOTHERAL: Certainly. And I know  
10 that I am going to have a problem. I am kind of a  
11 commoner when it comes these things. And I know  
12 that I will have to have somebody interpret these  
13 for me.

14                   MS. LUDWIG: You know what, actually,  
15 start reading it. Because we have had folk that  
16 don't have a strong background in this area. If  
17 they took the time, it was a readable. Those  
18 documents were readable. And we chose them for  
19 that reason, not to intimidate or to have people  
20 back away from the issue. But, rather, to  
21 stimulate thoughts and to get engaged in the  
22 issues.

23                   MR. MOTHERAL: Oh, I will certainly  
24 get to understand it. We do have some people that  
25 will be able to interpret it for me, so thank you



1 very much.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
3 coming out this evening, and thank you for this  
4 presentation.

5 Mike Maendel. Oh, no, he's not here  
6 yet.

7 Stan Toews. Please state your full  
8 name for the record, Mr. Toews?

9 MR. TOEWS: Stan Toews.

10 STAN TOEWS, having been sworn, presents as  
11 follows:

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

13 MR. TOEWS: I own a third generation  
14 mixed farm and operate it with my son. Our farm  
15 has always had livestock on it. In recent years,  
16 the number of livestock has increased. We grow  
17 annual crops on 1,100 acres. We also raise feeder  
18 pigs. We market around 5,500 a year. We buy  
19 weanlings at 50 pounds, and we market them to  
20 about 275.

21 Our manure is stored in an earthen  
22 lagoon and it is straw covered every year to  
23 minimize the odour. Our lagoon is environmentally  
24 approved and was licensed in 1997. Our manure is  
25 injected every fall. Our soil and our manure is



1 tested for nutrients.

2 I have soil tests to show the  
3 phosphorous levels, as well as the nitrogen  
4 levels. They are in your packet after the first  
5 page. I have picked a field that was next to the  
6 barn. I have included tests from 1995, 2004, and  
7 2006. We soil test every year, but we don't  
8 necessarily apply manure every year to the same  
9 field. We increased our hog production in 1997.  
10 And even with that, there seems to be no  
11 noticeable difference in the phosphorous levels.  
12 And the field closest to the barn is field number  
13 4. And on the 1995 soil test, those are fields  
14 numbered 7 and 8. The numbers were changed later  
15 to accommodate -- to make larger fields to  
16 accommodate the larger equipment.

17 I also have an agreement with a  
18 neighbour, who applies manure to my land. Again,  
19 I have included the soil test.

20 This field is number 10. The field is  
21 tested every year, as well as the manure. And,  
22 again, I have included 1995, 2004 and 2006. You  
23 should make a note here that, prior to 1996, this  
24 field never had received any manure. And that was  
25 the first year the manure was applied. Since



1 1996, the field has gotten manure every year.  
2 That's 11 consecutive years. Again, the nutrient  
3 levels are up for '06 and down for '04, but still  
4 remain in the low end of the scale. In '06, we had  
5 26 parts of phosphorous per million. In '04 we  
6 were at 12 parts. And in 1995, before manure, we  
7 were at 19 parts.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that field number  
9 10?

10 MR. TOEWS: That's in field number  
11 10.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps just -- I mean,  
13 this is of interest so, perhaps, if you could just  
14 point out where these numbers are?

15 MR. TOEWS: Oh, right on top  
16 underneath where it says "soil test," it says  
17 "field" and then there is a number.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

19 MR. TOEWS: Did you find it?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

21 MR. TOEWS: And then I also included  
22 field number 11, which gets no manure, just to  
23 show the nutrient levels, that they are they are  
24 comparable manure fields. Our fields that don't  
25 get manure, we apply commercial fertilizer, as per





1 soil tests, to maximize our yields. So, in my  
2 opinion, it doesn't really matter if you use  
3 manure or fertilizer. If it is applied properly,  
4 your crops will use it there will be no  
5 carry-over.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm still trying to  
8 figure out these soil tests. Sure, go ahead,  
9 please, Wayne.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: You are saying that,  
11 obviously, you soil test. Do you test your manure  
12 also?

13 MR. TOEWS: Yes.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, okay. And what  
15 crops do you grow? How are you using up this  
16 phosphate?

17 MR. TOEWS: Well, we grow wheat,  
18 oats, barley, canola and soybeans.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. They are not  
20 really phytase users. You've never had to use,  
21 like, sunflowers, or something like that?

22 MR. TOEWS: No. And no alfalfa.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

24 MR. TOEWS: Just annual crops.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: You have been



1 fortunate.

2 MR. TOEWS: Pardon me?

3 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, you have been  
4 fortunate. I have been in some areas that are  
5 really building up pretty high in phosphorous, in  
6 some areas.

7 MR. YEE: Mr. Toews, you indicated in  
8 your presentation that your manure is injected.  
9 And I noticed it says broadcast or band starter in  
10 the soil test reports. Does that refer to the  
11 method of application?

12 MR. TOEWS: No. That is just  
13 referring to the fact that we soil test before we  
14 apply any nutrients. And the laboratory is just  
15 saying that something they call for should include  
16 this number of pounds of nutrients per acre, if  
17 you do it broadcast. If you band it in a narrow  
18 band, then it is a different rate. They usually  
19 refer to the banded part as the potassium, which  
20 is your potash.

21 MR. YEE: Right. So these numbers are  
22 really, in terms of what the nutrient requirement  
23 is for that particular crop, versus your analysis  
24 on the other side of the amount of nutrients  
25 within the soil?



1                   MR. TOEWS: Yes. On the left-hand  
2 side, that's the nutrients in the soil.

3                   MR. YEE: Right.

4                   MR. TOEWS: And the first crop  
5 choice, second crop choice, that's for those crops  
6 is what they recommend to apply.

7                   MR. YEE: Thank you.

8                   THE CHAIRMAN: Is that in addition  
9 to --

10                  MR. TOEWS: No. The manure would  
11 make up those nutrients.

12                  THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay. And so the  
13 26 parts per million, for example, on the field  
14 10.

15                  MR. TOEWS: Right.

16                  THE CHAIRMAN: In 2006, that's the  
17 residual phosphorous --

18                  MR. TOEWS: The residual, yes.

19                  THE CHAIRMAN: -- in the soil?

20                  MR. TOEWS: Yes.

21                  THE CHAIRMAN: So if you are going to  
22 grow canola, they are suggesting that you put  
23 another 45 pounds per acre?

24                  MR. TOEWS: That is right. And  
25 that's of the actual product. And then that would



1 work out to -- on 1,155, that's about 100 pounds  
2 per acre.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions,  
4 Wayne?

5 MR. MOTHERAL: Since the new  
6 phosphorous regulations, have you noticed any  
7 change that you have to do with -- well,  
8 obviously, not because your phosphate levels are  
9 low, so you don't really have to worry too much  
10 about that; is that right?

11 MR. TOEWS: Well, that's right. So  
12 that's why I picked 1995, which is prior to us  
13 putting manure on. And since then, we have been  
14 applying manure and I don't see no rise in the  
15 levels.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Would you say that's  
17 general in the area?

18 MR. TOEWS: I think that's general in  
19 the area where I live in because we come from  
20 heavy clay soils.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, it is just that  
22 when the new regulations came out, our panel, of  
23 course, certainly seemed targeted for that because  
24 of the -- your concentration of the number of --  
25 well, the concentration --





1 MR. TOEWS: Right.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: -- of hog barns or  
3 Intensive Livestock Operations, ILOs. And I am  
4 just assuming that everybody would like to be in  
5 the situation that you are.

6 MR. TOEWS: Right. No, there are  
7 some farmers that have fields with higher levels,  
8 definitely.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: And that is certainly  
10 going to affect the way that they apply  
11 fertilizers?

12 MR. TOEWS: Right.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

14 MR. YEE: Mr. Toews, whereabouts are  
15 you located in terms of the spread fields in the  
16 R.M. of Hanover?

17 MR. TOEWS: This land is all in the  
18 R.M. of Hanover.

19 MR. YEE: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: So that's all good clay  
21 soil.

22 MR. TOEWS: Right. It's the northern  
23 part of Hanover, the heavy Red River gumbo is we  
24 call it.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: Do you have any



1 complaints from anybody?

2 MR. TOEWS: No. As to?

3 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, just for, say,  
4 odour?

5 MR. TOEWS: From my farm?

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes.

7 MR. TOEWS: From my neighbours?

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes.

9 MR. TOEWS: No. That's why my ponds  
10 have new straw cover every spring. And when we  
11 inject the manure, we inject it. And generally  
12 within 24 to 48 hours we make the second pass. I  
13 didn't write it down here. But that is to make  
14 sure that it is well covered.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.  
16 Thank you for coming out, Mr. Toews.

17 MR. TOEWS: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Somebody from the RM of  
19 Hanover. Mr. Cavers, is that it?

20 MR. CAVERS: Yes.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Introduce yourself for  
22 the record.

23 MR. CAVERS: My name is Douglas  
24 Cavers. I'm the Chief Administrative Officer for  
25 the Rural Municipality of Hanover.



1 DOUG CAVERS, having been sworn, presents as  
2 follows:

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

4 MR. CAVERS: Okay. Thank you for  
5 allowing me to make a presentation on behalf of  
6 the municipality of Hanover at this hearing. As  
7 was noted, my name is Doug Cavers. And I am the  
8 Chief Administrative Officer of the R.M. of  
9 Hanover.

10 Just as a bit of background, the Rural  
11 Municipality of Hanover is located approximately  
12 35 kilometers southeast of Winnipeg. Hanover is  
13 bordered on the east by the City of Steinbach and  
14 on the west by the Town of Niverville. We have  
15 five large urban centres, including the  
16 communities of Blumenort, Mitchell, Grunthal,  
17 Kleefeld and New Bothwell.

18 The Rural Municipality of Hanover is  
19 agricultural municipality. With 115 rural  
20 municipalities in the Province of Manitoba,  
21 Hanover is definitely the grandfather of livestock  
22 production. And I will just note here that this  
23 is information from the 2001 census data that  
24 Hanover, at that point in time, had 16 percent of  
25 Manitoba's hog population, 26 of Manitoba's



1 poultry population, 10 percent of Manitoba's dairy  
2 population and 5 percent of Manitoba's beef  
3 population. And that's all based on the slaughter  
4 numbers.

5                   In our 126 year history as a  
6 municipality, we have grown in population and  
7 production. They support each other. For every  
8 1,000 hogs produced, 2.8 jobs are created in  
9 Manitoba.

10                   Livestock production is a perfect  
11 example of sustainability. What some may view as  
12 waste, becomes an input to the next step of  
13 production. There are outputs from both sides of  
14 this equation. The farmers are managers of the  
15 production and manure management for their farms.  
16 Closing the circle of sustainability reduces  
17 farmers input costs. Farmers in Hanover have  
18 become very efficient in making this process work  
19 properly.

20                   I would like to explain what steps the  
21 Rural Municipality of Hanover has taken in  
22 managing livestock production operation  
23 sustainability. Although this hearing is  
24 regarding sustainability of hog production in  
25 Manitoba, my comments are made on a general basis





1 regarding the way the R.M. of Hanover has dealt  
2 with livestock developments. And I would just  
3 like to touch on our land use planning,  
4 conditional use issuance, geographic information  
5 system, or GIS, and the general concerns that this  
6 municipality has with the recent changes to the  
7 legislation dealing with livestock production  
8 operations.

9                   The Rural Municipality of Hanover has  
10 adopted its new or current development plan in  
11 2003. In 2004, the Province Manitoba presented  
12 Mr. Garry Haggerty, the Rural Municipality of  
13 Hanover, Datalink Computer Technologies, and PFRA,  
14 with the 2004 Manitoba Planning Excellence Award  
15 for the Hanover Development Plan and Zoning Study.  
16 This Development Plan clearly supports agriculture  
17 and recognizes that controls must be maintained to  
18 minimize conflict between livestock development,  
19 residential development and commercial  
20 development.

21                   There are scientifically proven ways,  
22 in dealing with odour, while allowing livestock  
23 development in agricultural areas. Hanover's  
24 Development Plan allows for livestock development  
25 in appropriate areas, while letting Council set



1 conditions and evaluate potential conflicts for  
2 each proposal.

3 Council has many items to consider  
4 when looking at new and expanding livestock  
5 operations or subdivisions involving livestock  
6 production operations.

7 Where the Development Plan sets out  
8 the general ideas and concepts, the Hanover Zoning  
9 bylaw gets into specifics of what is allowed, how  
10 large and where.

11 These criteria can provide thresholds  
12 and set limits for prohibition when necessary.  
13 Processes such as conditional uses and variations  
14 may require additional notification to the  
15 neighbouring residents.

16 Council's most powerful tool in  
17 dealing with livestock operations is the  
18 conditional use process. Although Hanover has  
19 adopted that the noted items should be considered,  
20 many of these items can no longer be taken into  
21 consideration by the local council due to recent  
22 changes in the Planning Act and other regulations  
23 dealing with livestock. Council can no longer  
24 deal with issues related to manure management and  
25 disposal, type of operation and livestock, land



1 base for spread area, or Livestock Manure and  
2 Mortalities Regulations.

3                   Hanover Council considers a variety of  
4 information dealing with Conditional Use  
5 applications. And the use of our Geographic  
6 Information System, to monitor growth within the  
7 rural municipality, makes the decision-making  
8 easier.

9                   When we started gathering livestock  
10 data in 2000, there were no Provincial or no  
11 Federal departments that could advise council on  
12 how livestock intense our municipality was.  
13 Hanover was criticized for supporting agriculture  
14 and livestock development without recognizing the  
15 accumulated impact and interaction with  
16 residential development in the agricultural areas.  
17 This slide shows all Livestock Operations. Not  
18 just hog barns, but all Livestock Operations, and  
19 their locations throughout the municipality.  
20 Please realize that each pink dot only represents  
21 a livestock operation, not noting the size of each  
22 operation.

23                   When council dealt with the areas for  
24 growth or restriction, they created zones to  
25 identify areas where agricultural development



1 should be allowed, and areas where there is  
2 recognized potential for conflict. The green area  
3 is an area where growth could occur. The yellow  
4 area represents areas of potential conflict. The  
5 blue areas -- well, the blue and pink areas  
6 represent areas of residential or urban  
7 development.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Just one second. Which  
9 one is the green and which one is the yellow area  
10 there?

11 MR. CAVERS: Well, the green is -- oh,  
12 just grey. Well, do you want to take a look at  
13 this?

14 MR. MOTHERAL: I mean, I take it, the  
15 green is just at the top?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: We just have varieties  
17 of gray.

18 MR. CAVERS: Okay. Well, I will let  
19 you take this one. It looks much better on this  
20 screen than it does up on that screen. Do you  
21 have a pointer? I can point out the areas if you  
22 had a laser pointer.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, this is fine.

24 MR. CAVERS: My council has one. This  
25 area in the northern part, and this part of the





1 yellow area, are the parts -- or the agricultural  
2 areas, these areas were viewed by council at the  
3 time as being the most stable areas for livestock  
4 development.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you just take this  
6 hand mike or wireless mike so it is being  
7 recorded?

8 MR. CAVERS: I thought you guys could  
9 hear well enough.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we can all hear  
11 you, but the reporter needs to be able to hear you  
12 too.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: You have got to have  
14 back-up on this.

15 MR. CAVERS: Okay. What I was saying  
16 was that the areas in the very north end of the  
17 municipality, and the very south end of the  
18 municipality, at the time that we were dealing our  
19 environment plan, were viewed as being the most  
20 agriculturally sustainable and livestock  
21 sustainable areas of the municipality to support  
22 larger livestock operations. The area -- as an  
23 example, the area where Reeve Stan Toews has his  
24 farm is over in this New Bothwell area of the  
25 municipality, so it is in one of the more



1 sustainable areas of the municipality.

2           The areas that are in -- on the  
3 photograph, and on the mapping system, that is  
4 showing up as more of a yellow is this area in the  
5 in the center part. And it is an area that is a  
6 little more well populated. And it is an area  
7 that has a lot of very small livestock operations,  
8 as you can tell. And it is also an area that is  
9 of greater potential for concern of the types of  
10 soil and the types of ground concerns that council  
11 needs to take into consideration when looking at  
12 approvals of livestock development.

13           The areas in blue are the urban  
14 center. And these areas that are kind of showing  
15 up in gray here, they are pink on the mapping  
16 system, are what we call rural residential or two  
17 acre sized lots.

18           Okay. So can I proceed then?

19           THE CHAIRMAN: Please, yes.

20           MR. CAVERS: As a result of our study,  
21 council could consider buffer areas where land is  
22 currently being for spread acres, how many  
23 residents or other livestock existed in the  
24 immediate vicinity and their proximity to new or  
25 expansion proposal.



1                   The computerized mapping system allows  
2 for a summarized analysis, giving the number of  
3 residences, other livestock operations, including  
4 the overall number of animals, an animal units  
5 produced, the quantity and types of acres used for  
6 manure spreading, and the land still available  
7 buffer zone for spreading. Although this is not  
8 completely accurate, it does provide an indication  
9 to council when areas are full or are getting  
10 full.

11                   And if I may, we can choose our buffer  
12 size. It will show the number of residences that  
13 are in the area. It will show the number of other  
14 livestock operations that are within that area.  
15 The area that was chosen was a one mile radius.  
16 It will show the total number of animals and the  
17 number of animal units that are produced. And it  
18 will show how many acres are being claimed for  
19 annual spread, forage or pasture. It will also  
20 show the amount of acres being used in the buffer  
21 area, as well as the number of acres that are  
22 available in the buffer area that have not been  
23 claimed.

24                   In summary, Hanover has many concerns  
25 with the recent changes in Provincial Legislation



1 when dealing with livestock management and  
2 agricultural sustainability. Hanover is the  
3 largest livestock producer in all of Manitoba. We  
4 recognize that proven and accepted scientific  
5 methods for measuring the soil sustainability must  
6 be considered when dealing with increasing  
7 livestock numbers in the region. However, we  
8 believe that that accepted standard should be  
9 linked to nitrogen uptake by soils, not the amount  
10 of phosphorous in Lake Winnipeg. Phosphorous has  
11 many sources, not just from livestock. Until four  
12 years ago, after Hanover adopted its development  
13 plan, linking livestock sustainability to  
14 phosphorous was not a standard. Science has still  
15 not proven that phosphorous in soils can leach  
16 into water or is detrimental to the crop  
17 production of an area. The Rural Municipality of  
18 Hanover supports local government decision-making.  
19 For those municipalities that do not want  
20 livestock production development, it should not be  
21 imposed. For those that accept it, it should be  
22 allowed. If given the opportunity to make that  
23 decision, and given the accurate scientific data,  
24 it is believed that local government can and will  
25 act responsibly and in the best interests of their





1 local residents.

2 Thank you very much.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. And  
4 so in these areas that they have taken away the  
5 authority, does mean that you can't put in  
6 stricter requirements?

7 MR. CAVERS: With the changes in the  
8 Planning Act, the municipality cannot make any  
9 requirement or set any requirements in the  
10 application of manure, as an example. The Rural  
11 Municipality of Hanover had, actually, more  
12 stringent requirements than the Province did or  
13 does for the application and the coverage of  
14 manure. Because, from what I understand, the  
15 Province allows for application and coverage of  
16 manure within 48 hours. Hanover had, in its  
17 by-laws, a requirement for application and  
18 coverage within 24 hours.

19 As well, the Rural Municipality of  
20 Hanover, as an example, set requirements in its  
21 conditional use on matters dealing with such  
22 things as livestock mortalities, where dead stock  
23 bins needed to be placed, or the setbacks of  
24 livestock bins placement and the requirement for  
25 refrigeration or coolers on site. As we



1 understand it, basically all of the livestock  
2 mortality stuff has been taken away from the  
3 municipality's jurisdiction. And now we no longer  
4 have a say in those kinds of issues.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know why that  
6 is?

7 MR. CAVERS: Well, they didn't listen  
8 to us.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Edwin?

10 MR. YEE: And just, I guess, a point  
11 of clarification. Mr. Cavers, in terms of you  
12 mentioned that slide 10:

13 "These criteria can provide thresholds  
14 and set limits for prohibition when  
15 necessary."

16 You are referring to the items listed, like the  
17 type and size of operation or compliance with  
18 Provincial guidelines, is that what you are  
19 referring to there? I wasn't sure.

20 MR. CAVERS: Sorry, I think that's  
21 slide 10?

22 MR. YEE: Yes.

23 MR. CAVERS: Okay. Well, slide 10  
24 just sets out the process for conditional uses.  
25 And that's just some of the conditions that



1 council could apply in dealing with the  
2 conditional use process.

3 MR. YEE: Thank you. I was looking at  
4 the wrong slide. In terms of what you mention in  
5 the next slide, where you mentioned a Technical  
6 Review Committee Report. How much does council  
7 rely on the Technical Review Committee Report when  
8 considering a conditional land use?

9 MR. CAVERS: The Technical Review  
10 Committee Report is only issued on livestock  
11 operations of greater than 400 animal units. Up  
12 until now, the Rural Municipality of Hanover  
13 Zoning By-law requires that our conditional use  
14 threshold is at 250 animal units. So our council  
15 has had to deal with any livestock operations as a  
16 hearing and notification to neighbours, and so on  
17 and so forth, at the 250 or above level. So the  
18 municipality has had a lot of livestock hearings  
19 on smaller operations than what a Technical Review  
20 would be done on.

21 Notwithstanding that, though, Hanover  
22 has probably dealt with more Technical Reviews.  
23 And Hanover Council has probably dealt with more  
24 larger livestock operations than a lot of other  
25 rural municipalities in the province. And those



1 Technical Reviews, in the early years, going back  
2 probably eight or nine years ago, have come a long  
3 way from those early years. They have grown from  
4 about three pages in length to about 18 to 20  
5 pages in length, and a lot better reporting from  
6 all of the different government departments as to  
7 the concerns that are coming from those different  
8 government departments.

9 MR. YEE: So for the -- for the  
10 operations that you mentioned you also look at a  
11 conditional land use for 250 animal units, which  
12 is below the threshold for the Technical Review  
13 Committee's Report?

14 MR. CAVERS: Right.

15 MR. YEE: And so do you undertake  
16 research, on behalf of your council, to look at  
17 the similar types of information and all the data  
18 to assess the approval of the conditional land  
19 use?

20 MR. CAVERS: It is at a much lesser  
21 degree than what the Provincial standard is. My  
22 understanding with the new legislation, as well,  
23 that 400 number has come down to 300 animal units.  
24 And, basically, with Hanover's by-laws, we are  
25 having to amend them. And we are in the process





1 of trying to do that, prior to January 1, 2008, to  
2 be in compliance with the Planning Act to bring it  
3 in line. But, basically, what that has done, is  
4 it has meant that the livestock operations that  
5 are under 300 animal units are, basically, in  
6 compliance with all of the necessary processes,  
7 without having to go through a conditional use  
8 hearing.

9 MR. YEE: In your slide presentation,  
10 I noticed that your buffer area was one mile. Is  
11 that pretty much standard or does it vary  
12 depending on the operation?

13 MR. CAVERS: Well, I was using the one  
14 mile buffer. Based on a lot of the calculations  
15 that are done by the Province of Manitoba when  
16 they are calculating the number of residences and  
17 setbacks from other operations and that kind of  
18 thing.

19 MR. YEE: And I guess one last  
20 questions that I have for you, and it is probably  
21 taking away from Wayne, I am sure he would  
22 probably ask this.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: I will always have a  
24 question.

25 MR. YEE: In your opinion, in terms of



1 the Planning Act, I gather that you feel that you  
2 would prefer having more powers that you once had  
3 in terms of manure management?

4 MR. CAVERS: I think the general  
5 feeling of our council is that the new Planning  
6 Act, as I will refer to it, has greatly restricted  
7 the capability of the municipal council to set  
8 certain conditions in a conditional use process  
9 that were open to them previously.

10 MR. YEE: Thank you.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Chairman. I commend you very much so on the  
13 attention that you have given the livestock  
14 industry in this municipality. I know I have  
15 talked to Mr. Cavers several times over. And I  
16 have always -- the reason why I am saying this is  
17 he came from my municipality where there was  
18 hardly any action at all. Did Garry Haggerty --  
19 like he is out for hire right now, I realize that.  
20 But did he have a lot to do with all of this whole  
21 plan, this whole policy that you have?

22 MR. CAVERS: Garry re-wrote our -- we  
23 had a planning -- our Development Plan and Zoning  
24 By-law was completely rewritten in 2001, 2002, and  
25 it was Garry that did it.



1                   MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. And I know it  
2 must be frustrating because, as they say, with the  
3 new Planning Act, most of the municipalities have  
4 to come up with a livestock operating policy. And  
5 you already had one. And now with the new  
6 regulations, it's kind of not valid anymore.

7                   MR. CAVERS: We have basically been  
8 told -- we were told two and a half years after  
9 our brand new development plan, that won an award  
10 for its excellence, within two and a half years of  
11 that being -- receiving an award from the  
12 Province, we were, basically, told by the Minister  
13 to rewrite our development plan because it was  
14 outdated.

15                   MR. MOTHERAL: I would, actually,  
16 think that with the work you have done, you would  
17 be the envy of many municipalities, because they  
18 have this work to look forward to. And many of  
19 them are now reluctant to do it until our report  
20 goes to the Minister because we have lots of  
21 phosphorous things to look at. And we are still  
22 not finished with our phosphorous yet because we  
23 have to get expertise in so that we can understand  
24 more of the reasoning for all of this. As you  
25 say, phosphorous scientifically is, you know,



1 quite stable in the soil, and all of that, and we  
2 know that.

3                   And so we have got a lot of work to do  
4 on that ourselves, as a Commission, to find out  
5 before we can begin our report to the Minister. I  
6 commend you for the work that you have done in  
7 this area. And as I say, again, you probably were  
8 the envy of many municipalities who accepted --  
9 who are accepting intensive livestock operations.  
10 Right now I don't have any more questions, I don't  
11 think. Thank you.

12                   MR. CAVERS: Thank you.

13                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
14 gentlemen.

15                   Next is Jonathan Kleinsasser. Would  
16 you state your name for the record?

17                   MR. KLEINSASSER: Jonathan  
18 Kleinsasser.

19 JONATHAN KLEINSASSER, having been sworn, presents  
20 as follows:

21                   THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

22                   MR. KLEINSASSER : My name is Jonathan  
23 Kleinsasser. I'm from Crystal Spring Colony. I  
24 also represent Crystal Spring Hog Equipment, which  
25 is one of the largest hog equipment manufacturers





1 in our province.

2                   What I am presenting is not a  
3 technical piece of paper here. It comes from a  
4 guy that turned 65 last week, who has lived all of  
5 his life on a farm. I have never lived more than  
6 a couple thousand feet away from a hog barn. Our  
7 current one is a 500 sow, farrow to finish, unit.  
8 There are days when the wind blows and my wife is  
9 a lot more unhappy than I am. She doesn't like  
10 the smell. But has it harmed our health? I would  
11 have to lie to say that it has. They are well  
12 ventilated barns. We care for the people that  
13 work there. It is our livelihood and it's our  
14 future.

15                   I want to thank this Commission and  
16 panel for listening to our concerns and taking the  
17 time to try to come up with a fair and reasonable  
18 solution to the moratorium that has been the cause  
19 of a lot of frustration and ill-will to our hog  
20 producers in this province.

21                   As a citizen of this world, on a  
22 global level, an important point I would like to  
23 make is that the hog industry is a major food  
24 producer for our country and many other hungry  
25 places of world. I truly believe that our real



1 values are at stake and have been somewhat  
2 reversed. As food producers, we are very  
3 important to this world in general, because we  
4 produce food. But we are being painted as  
5 culprits by the masses of people that eat this  
6 food and also carry the majority of votes in  
7 political decisions. We can do without many  
8 material things in our lives, and many people in  
9 this world do, but we will always need food.

10                   Instead of appreciation and praise for  
11 doing a great job, we are named people as  
12 polluters and as people who don't care about our  
13 clean water supply and our environment. We are  
14 being intimidated to the point where many farmers  
15 are not the proud farmers they truly should be.  
16 How many young Canadian farmers consider this a  
17 noble and respectful way to make a living to serve  
18 our country.

19                   As a Manitoba citizen, in my humble  
20 opinion, this moratorium is premature. I believe  
21 that it is contrary to our valuable justice system  
22 in this country. In our justice system, you are  
23 innocent until proven guilty. With this  
24 moratorium, you are guilty at first count and now  
25 you have to prove yourself innocent. And while



1 you are busy doing this, there shall be no more  
2 expansion. Is that morally correct? I don't  
3 think so.

4                   As a Hutterite, I want to make this  
5 statement. We, and generations before and after  
6 us, live on the same farms. We don't sell our  
7 farms. Some of these colony farms are 100 years  
8 old. They have always been there, generation  
9 after generation. We absolutely do not want to  
10 pollute the water we drink, the land we farm, nor  
11 the water in our lakes. We want to pass our farms  
12 on to our children with good conscience, as good  
13 stewards of our land and watershed. We love our  
14 children and grandchildren.

15                   You know what, I think I gave away one  
16 too many copies. This one is missing a page.  
17 Somebody has to help me out. You know what, there  
18 may be only one. I ran it through a photocopier  
19 and didn't realize that one page has copied both.  
20 Sorry about this. You got the only good copy.  
21 Thank you. Sorry about this.

22                   Colonies depend on hog farms to make a  
23 living. For most of them, it is their largest  
24 single income and to restrict this industry is to  
25 restrict their livelihood.



1                   So why is this happening? And this is  
2 just my opinion. We are, by far, the easiest  
3 target. First of all, we cannot go on strike like  
4 CNN, airlines, automobile manufacturers or other  
5 workers. Our products are perishable. They  
6 cannot be stored and stockpiled like dry goods.  
7 This makes us very vulnerable, helpless and  
8 defenseless, and we depend on the elected  
9 government for support and survival.

10                   In all of this, I am not trying to  
11 defend careless and senseless pollution on a hog  
12 farm, if that's where it comes from. We know, and  
13 you know, that there is a much higher percentage  
14 of pollution coming from our towns, other  
15 provinces, the U.S.A., and especially our City of  
16 Winnipeg. That should be tackled first and  
17 foremost, regardless of the cost and the votes.  
18 1.5 percent of the total amount of phosphorous  
19 entering Lake Winnipeg has been tested as coming  
20 from our farms. Even this amount can be reduced  
21 in the future, if we work together. That leaves  
22 over 90 percent from other sources.

23                   We have the strictest rules and  
24 regulations that exist in this world when it comes  
25 to spreading manure, building lagoons or just





1 building new facilities. If they are not strict  
2 enough, then let's find ways to make them even  
3 better. If science and research prove better ways  
4 to manage this industry, let's go for it!

5                   This industry has never resisted  
6 change. This industry has changed almost beyond  
7 description in the last 30 years that I can  
8 remember. This includes old and new farms. Why  
9 shut it down to solve the problems?

10                   We have developed excellent ways to  
11 spread manure. We know that it is a great organic  
12 fertilizer that builds up our soil. It replaces  
13 chemical fertilizers that use up non-renewable  
14 energy to manufacture. If properly handled,  
15 stored and applied, it does not need to be a  
16 liability.

17                   This industry has created thousands of  
18 jobs on the farms besides the spin-off of all the  
19 building contractors, the equipment manufacturers,  
20 abattoirs and suppliers. The genetics we produce  
21 and the production levels we achieve are the envy  
22 of many other countries in this world. In other  
23 words, this industry has been a large contributor  
24 to our economy. Let's keep it growing in a  
25 sustainable manner.



1                   I have travelled extensively to other  
2 countries to sell and service our equipment.  
3 Those countries include Australia, the  
4 Philippines, many Asian countries. I have been to  
5 China, to India, to European countries next month,  
6 and to Russia next month. And in those travels, I  
7 have yet to visit a country that handles manure  
8 and farms as responsibly and as sustainably as  
9 ours.

10                   Please help us, as you do your review,  
11 to protect a minority that desperately needs your  
12 support to continue a sustainable growth in this  
13 industry.

14                   Thank you.

15                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
16 Mr. Kleinsasser. Just out of curiosity, what type  
17 of equipment do you produce?

18                   MR. KLEINSASSER: We produce pretty  
19 much a whole line, except ventilation equipment,  
20 from farrowing crates, to wet/dry feeders. I  
21 think we have been a large contributor to new and  
22 improved ideas in hog farms. I am currently  
23 developing a crate, since there is a lot of  
24 controversy on how to house animals, a gestation  
25 stall where a sow would be free to walk in and out



1 as they pace, but also to be able to back out and  
2 walk around. We are continuously developing new  
3 products.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: How many hogs do you  
5 run on your colony?

6 MR. KLEINSASSER: We have a 500 sow,  
7 farrow to finish operation.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I wrote that, actually,  
9 on the copy that I lost. And how much land do you  
10 have?

11 MR. KLEINSASSER: We farm 5,500 acres.  
12 And there is a lot of land there that we would  
13 love to put on. We have a contract with a  
14 neighbour that puts his manure on some of our  
15 land. The crops we raise off of that land are  
16 fantastic. People would love to have this  
17 fertilizer. I must be just too dumb to understand  
18 why people would put chemical fertilizer on when  
19 they can put an organic product on there. Our  
20 soil in Canada has been depleted of organics over  
21 the years. If you take figures from 50 years ago,  
22 and test it today, it's gone. It has been used  
23 up. Well, this organic material puts some back  
24 again.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Is your colony in



1 Hanover?

2 MR. KLEINSASSER: Salisbury.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: In Salisbury.

4 MR. KLEINSASSER: Some of it is in  
5 Salisbury, some in Richot and some in Hanover.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: So just south of here?

7 MR. KLEINSASSER: Yes.

8 MR. YEE: Mr. Kleinsasser, what type  
9 of mechanism do you use for injecting your manure?

10 MR. KLEINSASSER: The manure is all  
11 knifed in.

12 MR. YEE: So it is an injection  
13 system?

14 MR. KLEINSASSER: Yes.

15 MR. YEE: And is there anything that  
16 you are using in the feed, for instance, phytase  
17 to reduce phosphorous?

18 MR. KLEINSASSER: Repeat that, please?

19 MR. YEE: And are you using any  
20 special technologies, including the adjustments to  
21 feed, like phytase to improve the phosphorous  
22 uptake?

23 MR. KLEINSASSER: Well, because we  
24 have such a large land base, phosphorous would  
25 never be a problem in our case. We rotate our





1 crop and, yeah, it has never been a problem. We  
2 would like to cover a lot more than we do or than  
3 we are able to.

4 MR. YEE: Okay. And what type of  
5 storage facility do you use for your manure  
6 management?

7 MR. KLEINSASSER : We have a lagoon.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. There is  
9 nothing technically I would like to say. It was  
10 a well put together presentation. Thank you very  
11 much. It brings to face again the fact of the two  
12 percent of the farm population and 98 percent of  
13 the rest of the people. And I know that the  
14 struggles we have was brought up today and this  
15 afternoon and in several other places in Manitoba  
16 where we have been. And certainly I think one of  
17 the things that we need to look at is to try and  
18 create that awareness somehow and get our story  
19 out there somewhere. And I know that the Keystone  
20 Agricultural Producers have been trying it, but  
21 somehow we are not getting some messages across to  
22 some people. And so I am hoping we are going to  
23 continue looking at that. But, anyway, thank you  
24 very much. You looked at the bigger picture here.

25 MR. KLEINSASSER: Thank you very much.



1                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for a very  
2 thoughtful presentation, Mr. Kleinsasser. This is  
3 the last opportunity for anybody else who wishes  
4 to make a presentation, going fast. Okay. Well,  
5 thank you for coming out this evening. Thank you  
6 to the presenters, in particular, who took the  
7 time and trouble to prepare their presentations.  
8 We will reconvene here tomorrow morning and we  
9 will be holding -- we will be conducting hearings  
10 tomorrow morning from nine until noon. Good  
11 evening.

12 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:25 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, LISA REID, duly appointed Court Reporter in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time and place hereinbefore stated.

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Lisa Reid



