

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at St. Claude Recreation Centre Hotel

St. Claude, Manitoba

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

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

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Alf Poetker, Engineer	779
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NO EXHIBITS MARKED

1 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:15 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies
4 and gentlemen. Thank you for your patience. We
5 are now ready to get going.

6 My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the
7 Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment
8 Commission. I'm also the Chair of this panel.
9 With me on the panel are Mr. Edwin Yee and
10 Mr. Wayne Motheral.

11 I have a few opening comments just to
12 set out the parameters of our review. The Clean
13 Environment Commission has been requested by the
14 Minister of Conservation to conduct an
15 investigation into the environmental
16 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba. The
17 Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us to
18 review the current environmental protection
19 measures in place relating to hog production, in
20 order to determine the effectiveness of those
21 measures for the purpose of managing the industry
22 in an environmentally sustainable manner.

23 Our investigation is to include a
24 public component to gain advice and feedback from
25 Manitobans. This will be by means of public

1 meetings in the various regions of Manitoba.

2 We have also been asked to take into
3 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to
4 manage hog production in a sustainable manner.

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

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

15 To ensure that our review includes
16 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
17 has undertaken to hold 17 days of meetings in 14
18 communities throughout the agricultural part of
19 our province. These meetings will continue
20 through April, or through March and April, with
21 the final public meeting currently scheduled for
22 April 27th in Winnipeg.

23 It is open to any groups, or
24 individuals, to make a presentation to this panel
25 on issues related to our mandate. For the most

1 part, presentations are to be limited to 15
2 minutes. Exceptions will be made in some cases
3 where a presenter needs more time, provided that
4 the presenter has arranged with our staff prior to
5 the presentation.

6 Those making presentations will be
7 asked to take an oath promising to tell the truth.
8 Presentations should be relevant to the mandate
9 given to us by the Minister and to the issues
10 described in the Guide to Public Participation in
11 this review. If a presentation is clearly not
12 relevant, it may be ruled out of order. And if it
13 is clearly repetitive, it may also be ruled out of
14 order.

15 Members of the panel may ask questions
16 of any presenter, during or after the
17 presentation. There will be no opportunity for
18 any others to ask questions or to cross-examine
19 presenters.

20 In addition to the public meetings,
21 the Clean Environment Commission is engaging
22 consultants to assist us in this review. The
23 results of those research endeavours will be
24 posted on our website upon receipt. For the most
25 part, those will be in late June. Individuals,

1 anyone who is interested, will be invited to
2 provide comment on any of the reports, if they so
3 wish. A reasonable, albeit brief period of time,
4 will be allowed for these comments.

5 Written submissions will also be
6 accepted. Information as to how to submit written
7 suggestions is available on our website. The
8 deadline for those submissions is May 7th.

9 We also realize that many people are
10 reluctant to make presentations in public for a
11 variety of reasons. To that end, we have engaged
12 a student from the University of Manitoba to meet
13 with, or talk on the phone, with people who would
14 rather not speak at the meetings. These meetings
15 will be kept in confidence. Information as to how
16 to contact her is available at the back of the
17 room, and also on our website.

18 Some administrative matters. If you
19 wish to make a presentation today, and have not
20 already registered to do so, please register at
21 the table at the back of the room. As is our
22 normal practice, we are recording these sessions.
23 Verbatim transcripts will be available online in a
24 day or so. You can find the link from our
25 website.

1 In respect of cell phones, I would ask
2 that they be turned off, or at least that the ring
3 tones be turned down. If you must take a call, I
4 would ask that you leave the room. And, finally,
5 I would ask that you not engage in any
6 conversations in the audience while people are
7 making presentations. Thank you.

8 We have a number of people who have
9 registered to present this afternoon. The first
10 person on the agenda, I'm not sure is here. Is
11 Liz Clayton here? No. Then the next person who
12 is registered is Mr. Rick Prejet. Is he here?
13 Please come up to the table at the front, please.
14 Would you please state your name for the record?

15 MR. PREJET: Richard Prejet.

16 RICHARD PREJET, having been sworn, presents as
17 follows:

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and please
19 proceed.

20 MR. PREJET: Good afternoon, ladies
21 and gentlemen. My name is Richard Prejet. I am a
22 hog producer from Notre Dame de Lourdes.

23 I would like to start by giving a
24 brief background of myself and the companies that
25 I am a partner in: Porcherie Lac du Onze and

1 Porcherie Notre Dame.

2 I was born and raised in Notre Dame de
3 Lourdes on a grain and dairy operation. After
4 completing Grade 12, I moved to Winnipeg to take
5 my diploma in agriculture at the University of
6 Manitoba, with the intention of somehow, one day,
7 returning to Notre Dame to farm.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prejet, could you
9 just speak a little more slowly so that our
10 reporter can keep up?

11 MR. PREJET: During my agriculture
12 course, I had the privilege of meeting with
13 Mr. Bruce Campbell of Landmark Feeds. And seeing
14 that farming was out of the question at this time,
15 I decided to accept his offer to become a dairy
16 specialist with Landmark Feeds. I was with
17 Landmark for seven years, and all the while had
18 the intention of returning to farming. During
19 this time, Elite Swine was being developed. And I
20 soon saw that the hog industry might be the only
21 way for me to return home and be involved in
22 agriculture.

23 So in 1989, my wife, Roseline, and I
24 moved to Notre Dame and built a 150 sow, farrow to
25 feeder, operation that we expanded to 200 sows in

1 1990. And being highly leveraged, those first few
2 years were very difficult. Of course, there was
3 very little time, since I ran the operation on my
4 own.

5 In 1993, I was approached to become
6 involved in a 1,200 sow operation in southeastern
7 Manitoba. Since the last few years had been
8 somewhat difficult, we decided to accept, much to
9 the disappointment of our family, friends,
10 community, and ourselves. This, in turn, was the
11 catalyst to the development of Porcherie Lac du
12 Onze, or LDO, as we call it.

13 A group of local residents approached
14 my wife and I to see if there would be the
15 potential to build such an operation in Notre Dame
16 to keep us there, all the while creating
17 employment in the area. These local residents
18 were all very strong, community-oriented families,
19 who were willing to take the risk to make things
20 happen in Notre Dame. Today, LDO and PND are
21 operations with sales in excess of \$10 million.
22 We employ 17 full-time staff and have a payroll in
23 excess of \$600,000.

24 We purchase a large percentage of our
25 supplies and services from local companies, and

1 are very active in supporting the local activities
2 in the community, as is evidenced by our donation
3 of \$100,000 to the Wellness Centre, which is
4 currently under construction in Notre Dame.

5 In fact, the existence of LDO and PND
6 has led to further hog industry developments in
7 our area, and to other contributions to things
8 like the Wellness Centre, as well as in other
9 community projects and activities.

10 All this to say that, in our
11 community, the hog industry has been a success
12 story; the economic and social impact have been
13 very positive.

14 Over the last 25 years, I have seen
15 many changes in the hog industry.

16 For the last several years, our
17 operation has filed Manure Management Plans
18 completed by someone who is properly trained. In
19 our first years, manure application wasn't done in
20 balance with the crop being grown. Now we monitor
21 nutrient levels, paying special attention to
22 phosphorus levels. Every field is tested before
23 application. Manure is analyzed several times and
24 applied at recommended agronomic rates. All
25 manure is injected with a dragline system to

1 reduce nitrogen losses, reduce odours and minimize
2 damage to the roads. We follow up with lab
3 analysis and monitor soil tests in the following
4 years. There is a very tight window for
5 applicators to get their work done in the fall.
6 Therefore, we have to use past experience, and the
7 expected levels of some nutrients, to formulate a
8 management plan, but we adjust from year to year.

9 As for odour, we have implemented
10 measures to reduce or control it. We cover our
11 lagoons, as required. We keep in touch with our
12 closest neighbours and encourage them to let us
13 know if odours become a problem. This is where we
14 need mutual trust. Both our neighbours, and us,
15 know that there will be odours at times. But as
16 long as everyone understands that this is part of
17 the reality of living in the country, along with
18 the noise of tractors and the dust of combines,
19 then a compromise is usually easy to reach. I
20 personally live one mile from one of our sites,
21 and don't want to live with the constant smell of
22 hogs, so I make sure that it is controlled and
23 kept to a minimum.

24 Groundwater quality and supply is
25 something else that we monitor. Water samples are

1 taken at least once or twice per year, and the
2 results are submitted to the Department of
3 Conservation. Our employees track weekly water
4 consumption and are encouraged to use water
5 wisely. Fixing leaking water nipples and
6 minimizing soaking times are part of the norm.

7 As time goes on, and more
8 evidence-based research is available, Porcherie
9 Lac du Onze will continue to review and revise its
10 methods and adopt new technologies, as
11 appropriate, to improve manure management, control
12 odours and protect water quality.

13 In the last 25 years, I have also been
14 witness to a number of negative incidents. We've
15 had to deal with such things as public municipal
16 meetings. And I personally have been attacked and
17 accused. It is disappointing to see that some
18 people resort to such tactics. I am sure you have
19 heard, and will hear, all kinds of comments at
20 these presentations about the hog industry and the
21 people involved in it. It seems that the more
22 extreme the lie, the more chance that some part of
23 it may become believable.

24 Please keep in mind that the majority
25 of people in the hog industry in Manitoba are

1 good, honest people that have strong farming
2 backgrounds and strong attachments to the land and
3 the environment. It is important that we support
4 and encourage these people to continue to provide
5 high quality pork that meets the demands of our
6 country and the world, instead of creating
7 roadblocks.

8 We must also acknowledge the
9 tremendous amount of work and research that has
10 occurred, and continues to occur, in the hog
11 industry to protect the environment.

12 Environmental regulations have been
13 put in place. We need to allow time for the
14 regulations to have an impact on the end result.
15 We need to continue to monitor the situation, on
16 an ongoing basis, and to enforce these regulations
17 to ensure compliance by all. We do not need to
18 stop the hog industry from growing for a minority
19 who attempt to bypass those rules. That would be
20 like taking all vehicles off the road because some
21 people drive over the posted speed limit.

22 We need to be reasonable and use
23 common sense. It seems that most of the rules and
24 regulations that have been put in place are
25 because of the fear of a massive expansion by

1 large corporate giants. Although some claim that
2 they want to protect smaller operations and family
3 farms, these are exactly the type of operations
4 that are being pushed out. So who is going to
5 survive the future in an over-regulated hog
6 industry? Who is going to be willing to attend
7 heated council meetings?

8 Picture this: A husband and wife have
9 a son and daughter-in-law that want to farm. The
10 size of the farm is too small to support two
11 families, and the parents are too young to retire.
12 Land is either too expensive or not even for sale
13 in the area. Dairy and poultry are near
14 impossible to get in to. Wouldn't a couple of hog
15 barns be a perfect fit? Big enough to hire some
16 full-time help to have some time off once in a
17 while, fertilizer at a fraction of the cost of
18 commercial fertilizer, and with a nutrient plan
19 even better than the commercial fertilizer.

20 But the father sees the hassles of
21 getting a permit and the friction it may cause in
22 the community. And even if he does get it built,
23 the ongoing time and money to invest in filling
24 out forms, meeting all the rules and regulations
25 for manure management, Canadian Quality Assurance,

1 traceability, workplace health and safety, dealing
2 with opposition and controversy, et cetera, it all
3 seems quite overwhelming. The son and his family
4 move away to the city and the parents sell the
5 farm to a neighbour. This scenario is all too
6 common.

7 Again, we need to use common sense.
8 Not having rules and regulations is not an option.
9 But adding to what we presently have is too much,
10 and the end result may be a nonexistent hog
11 industry. But for a small group of vocal
12 opponents, it appears that this is the only thing
13 that would finally satisfy them.

14 The right to farm must be protected,
15 not by producing more rules and regulations to
16 allow farming, but by not creating rules and
17 regulations that make it impractical, or nearly
18 impossible, to farm in the first place.

19 Hog farmers are good honest people who
20 want to get things done and do them right. Hog
21 farmers are not criminals waiting for an
22 opportunity to break the law. Hog farmers need
23 support and access to resources and expertise.
24 The type of information and support that is
25 accessible, through organizations such as the

1 Prairie Swine Centre, the University of Manitoba
2 and Manitoba Pork Council.

3 One of the recommendations to the
4 government should be to support these
5 organizations that are experts in the hog industry
6 and the work that they do.

7 Another recommendation to government
8 would be concerning reviewing land use planning.
9 Forming planning districts is a great idea, but a
10 world of troubles can be created. For example,
11 expansion may be permitted in select areas, but
12 those areas may not have the required resources,
13 i.e., water, clay base, sufficient spread acres
14 and labour within a reasonable distance. Existing
15 grain farmers who would like to build may not be
16 able to because they live in a restricted area.
17 So if they can't build close to home, where they
18 can keep an eye on the operation and use the
19 manure to fertilize their own land, then a very
20 viable option is gone.

21 Another problem is in municipalities
22 where the pressure from the anti-hog people has
23 been so great that good, honest, level-headed
24 councillors have been treated as liars and
25 servants to the hog companies, and have decided:

1 "I don't need this BS", and have stepped down,
2 only to be replaced by anti-hog people. In many
3 cases, good people, who may run for council, will
4 be discouraged for the fear that someone may apply
5 for a permit to build a hog barn. What we end up
6 with, in the end, is a situation where the hog
7 industry is cut off at every turn. New operations
8 will not be built, older operations will not be
9 replaced, and the whole service industry
10 surrounding the hog industry will slowly begin to
11 waste away.

12 In conclusion, we have an opportunity
13 here to show Manitobans what the hog industry is
14 all about. As much as I disagree with the pause
15 that our government has placed on the hog
16 industry, I believe that the study into the
17 sustainability of the Manitoba hog industry will
18 reveal that Manitoba hog producers, in
19 collaboration with the organizations
20 aforementioned, are managing the Manitoba hog
21 industry in a responsible and appropriate manner,
22 and in accordance with the best practices
23 recommended by experts.

24 I also believe that when this is over,
25 we will be positioned to grow in the primary

1 production, as well as the processing industries.
2 And this, in turn, will fuel the Manitoba economy
3 for the benefit of all Manitobans.

4 Thank you. I would be glad to answer
5 your questions.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
7 Mr. Prejet. That was a very well put together
8 presentation. I would just like to ask you a
9 couple of questions about these two different
10 operations. Can you tell us a little bit about
11 LDO and PND?

12 MR. PREJET: LDO is a sow operation, a
13 nursery operation. We have 3,200 sows in
14 inventory in that company. And Porcherie Notre
15 Dame is our finishing branch. We have five
16 finishing barns, 100 head finisher barns.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: They each have 100?

18 MR. PREJET: They each have 100.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, I particularly
20 noted your comments, near the end of your
21 presentation, about the land use planning process.
22 And we have been made aware, in other meetings,
23 and in some of the other research that we have
24 done to date, that there are concerns in this
25 area. How could it be changed? I mean, some of

1 the concerns you raise in here I know all too
2 well. And I'm sure that Wayne does from his days
3 as a municipal politician. I know that they are
4 very real problems, but those are more problems
5 with people, rather than systems or systemic
6 problems. Are there ways that we might recommend
7 changes to the systemic matters that would help
8 the process?

9 MR. PREJET: Yes. A very good
10 question, and it's a tough one, because I expected
11 to be questioned on those comments. And the only
12 thing I can think of is, if I understand it
13 correctly, is that there is no appeal process. So
14 that if the municipality decides that there will
15 not be expansion in a certain area, or what have
16 you, there is no way for that producer to follow
17 up on that. The answer is "no", and that's it.
18 So the only way you can get around this, the thing
19 I don't want to encourage, and I was worried about
20 making these comments here, is I don't want to
21 make it sound like we want to take the power away
22 from local government. To run everything right
23 out of downtown Winnipeg, I don't think, is a very
24 good idea. So we need to maintain decision-making
25 powers locally. But somehow there needs to be

1 kind of a balance there so that we can bring back
2 some common sense and be able to field some of
3 these decisions. Because really at this point,
4 right now, whoever is on council is what it comes
5 down to, and that's going to be unfortunate in a
6 lot of situations.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And just one question
8 on the appeal process. Do you see that appeal
9 process -- it couldn't be through the council,
10 could it? Would it be an arm's length government
11 body?

12 MR. PREJET: Yes. I mean, I am not
13 going to say that I have all of the answers on
14 that one. Something needs to be done on that
15 question, but it probably needs to be a local
16 government. Somehow the local government maybe
17 has to answer to somebody.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: So is there the Farm
19 Management Practices Board?

20 MR. PREJET: I'm not sure. I would
21 have put more thought into this. But there are
22 other people who can answer this question better
23 than me.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: But some kind of an
25 appeal process?

1 MR. PREJET: That's correct, yes.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Where, if you were
3 turned down by the council, you would be able to
4 have an appeal?

5 MR. PREJET: That's right. I mean,
6 you can't -- that is something that you will have
7 to cross. Because not every -- you would always
8 have an appeal process. There has to be some kind
9 of application process. And whoever is going to
10 deal with this appeal, they would say, well, there
11 is definitely something wrong in the fact that
12 this got turned down. In other situations, they
13 were turned down for very good reasons, and we
14 don't want to waste our time on appeals for
15 projects that should have been turned.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr. Prejet.
17 I certainly feel for you when it comes to local
18 government. And I can talk to you a long time
19 about that, because I have been involved in it
20 quite a bit.

21 But with the new Planning Act, of
22 course, the local governments must come up with
23 the local livestock operation policy. And from
24 what I understand, several municipalities are
25 reluctant to do that right now because of this

1 particular hearing going on right now. I think
2 they wish to see what becomes of this hearing
3 before they start doing operation policies. But
4 municipalities have always fought for that final
5 say in land use planning, and I don't know how
6 that's ever going to change. I've always thought
7 that when things go right, you like to take credit
8 for it. And when things go wrong, you want
9 somebody else to look after it. I think that's,
10 in a lot of cases, in a lot of local councils
11 where there has been friction, and it's tough when
12 it's local people. So I don't know what the
13 answer there is.

14 In your operation, getting back to
15 your operations, do you have your own injection or
16 spreading equipment, or do you have that hired
17 out?

18 MR. PREJET: We have that hired out.
19 Actually, there is a local fellow who started a
20 business last year. And this is his first year.
21 He is doing pretty much all of the hog operations
22 in and around the area.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: We have been hearing
24 that around, that there are some excellent people
25 that do that.

1 MR. PREJET: Yes, definitely.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: Your water, like your
3 groundwater quality, and everything, all of your
4 water comes from wells?

5 MR. PREJET: Yes, they are all dug
6 wells, 50 to 100, and plus. Feet.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: And they are
8 sufficient?

9 MR. PREJET: Yes. Volume is
10 sufficient, yes.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that general in this
12 area?

13 MR. PREJET: In this whole area it
14 changes very rapidly. And that comes back to the
15 comments about land use planning and these
16 comments. The water is very, very variable in
17 this area in Notre Dame. And you could be digging
18 here and find 100-gallons a minute, and go
19 one-half hour over and can't find anything. So
20 that has been the case, in the last three years,
21 we have had three different sites that we have
22 barns on. So we dig around and find the one.
23 Number one, have you to find the water.
24 Number two, the land has to be for sale.
25 Number three, the clay has to be in the soil. And

1 so it is pretty tricky to put up a barn in our
2 area.

3 MR. MOTHERAL: And it is generally
4 good water?

5 MR. PREJET: Yes, the quality is
6 generally pretty good.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: We are hearing a lot in
8 some of our -- in our hearings so far about the
9 possibility about separating the liquid and the
10 solids from the manure. Have you ever thought of
11 any of that to possibly make it easier for your
12 nitrogen and phosphorus combinations? Because
13 within the phosphorus regulations, you may not be
14 able to put on enough nitrogen.

15 MR. PREJET: Yes. Almost,
16 approximately, a year ago, I spent ten days in
17 Quebec looking at different things. But one of
18 the things was the manure separation system, and
19 what have you. And I think I visited five or six
20 different systems that were either under
21 development, or on the verge of being sold
22 commercially, and what have you. So we spent a
23 lot of time looking for that. Because exactly,
24 for the reason that I said a while ago, if you
25 want to do an expansion, it would be tough to find

1 places where, you know, you have enough spread
2 acres, or what have you. So we looked into that.

3 And we have, actually, had one
4 gentleman, in particular, who came out, I think,
5 three times to Manitoba to make a presentation to
6 sell the system. This particular system, the
7 company is HET. I forget what it stands for right
8 now. But Mr. Paul Boudreau came out. And in the
9 end, for three sites, we were looking at having to
10 spend \$2 million to put in the system. And
11 roughly about \$100,000 a year to maintain it and
12 use the polymers, and what have you, to have the
13 separation happen and so on. And that was one of
14 the systems that seemed like it was going to work,
15 that was actually working, and what have you.

16 All of the other systems, we didn't
17 get exact pricing because they never made up
18 presentations and so on. But we talked to people
19 over there. And there was concerns with
20 reliability and the cost. Almost all of them, it
21 came down to cost. But we didn't get any exact
22 costs for our situation in Manitoba. We know in
23 Quebec they were all very expensive systems.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: One more question, do
25 you have -- do you have, obviously, sufficient

1 spread fields for your manure? Do you own it all
2 or do you have to rent acres out for that?

3 MR. PREJET: We don't own many acres
4 all together there. Most of the land that we
5 spread on are people who have invested, a couple
6 of families who are fairly large grain farmers,
7 and the rest take the manure.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Just one more question,
9 and I won't spend much time. How many acres do
10 you need -- because these aren't very large
11 operations here, how many acres do you need to
12 spread that?

13 MR. PREJET: Well, on our finisher
14 sites, we are probably looking at 700 to
15 1,000-acres year, probably, somewheres around
16 there. Our sow barn runs somewhere in the area of
17 about 400-acres a year. And our nursery site
18 would probably be somewheres around that 300,
19 400-acres a year, or so.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: So a total of around
21 about --

22 MR. PREJET: About 2,000.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

24 MR. YEE: Mr. Prejet, you have
25 mentioned that there has been many positive and

1 social impacts, as a result of the hog industry in
2 your community. Are there other operations, other
3 than the LDO and the PND, besides those operations
4 in the community?

5 MR. PREJET: Yes. There are a number
6 of larger and smaller operations. There has been
7 quite a few producers that, you know, have around
8 400 or 500 finisher hog or 100 sows, or what have
9 you, that have been around the area for a very
10 long time. And, actually, a number of people that
11 will be presenting here today are the producers in
12 our area there. So, yes, there is quite a number
13 of producers.

14 And, you know, one thing that hit us,
15 we were talking about the hog industry a couple of
16 years ago at the rink. And we kind of started
17 looking around at all of the parents that were
18 involved in the hockey team. We figured about 80
19 plus percent of the people, the children were
20 children of people directly involved in the hog
21 industry. And so it kind of hit home when we saw
22 that.

23 MR. YEE: You mentioned also in your
24 presentation that you use covers on your lagoon.
25 Are those straw covers or synthetic?

1 MR. PREJET: We've got both, actually.
2 One site we straw cover, and that's in the permit
3 we have in the R.M. of South Norfolk. In the R.M.
4 of Lorneside, we have a lagoon that we had bought
5 the negative air pressure cover. And that's back
6 a few years ago now. It's a fairly small lagoon.
7 The cost was fairly high for that size of lagoon,
8 but we thought it would be a good time to see if
9 they would work, and if they are durable, and what
10 have you.

11 MR. YEE: Do you find any advantage on
12 the synthetic cover over the straw?

13 MR. PREJET: Yes. There is no
14 question that it seals it off completely. The
15 straw, the problem that you have -- there is a
16 few, I guess. But keeping the cover on it
17 properly. You know, the winds pick up, you know,
18 a percentage of the lagoon will open up. And, you
19 know, what we usually do is go back a few weeks
20 later and top it up again, kind of thing. So we
21 get pretty good coverage with straw. But then
22 you've got to deal with the accumulation of straw
23 down the road, and those kind of things. If you
24 have a clay-based lagoon, it's not too bad. But
25 if you have a lagoon with the synthetic liner in

1 the bottom, and you have to go back and pull out
2 the straw, that could become a challenge. I
3 haven't done it yet, but I'm sure it is going to
4 be a challenge.

5 MR. YEE: You mentioned also, in your
6 example about the husband, wife, son and daughter,
7 trying to get into maintaining the lifestyle in
8 the agricultural field. But a statement that you
9 made, I just want some clarification here, you
10 mentioned dairy and poultry is nearly impossible
11 to get into. Is that just because of the economic
12 costs?

13 MR. PREJET: A few things. Like when
14 I was trying to get into farming back then, I
15 looked at dairies, because we wanted to be in
16 Notre Dame. But you couldn't move the quota.
17 Like, you had to buy the barn. The quota is
18 attached to the barn in dairy, and it's the same
19 thing with poultry, so that was one problem. And
20 then the second problem was, yeah, the cost. Back
21 then it wasn't quite as bad, although it is all
22 relevant to time, I suppose. But now, of course,
23 paying whatever, \$27,000 per 1,000 kg for a dairy,
24 I'm not sure. And it is pretty tough to get going
25 today in a decently sized dairy operation.

1 MR. YEE: Just one last question. And
2 we've had this discussion at several other
3 presentations, it was, again, about the whole
4 permitting process. You mentioned it is a hassle
5 getting a permit. I don't mean to put you on the
6 spot, but what's your opinion? Do you have an
7 opinion, in terms of how that can be improved, or
8 is there a better way of getting permits, or
9 making the regulatory burden less of a hassle on
10 producers?

11 MR. PREJET: You are talking about all
12 the way back to the technical review and
13 everything else?

14 MR. YEE: Yes, the Technical Review
15 Committee and the whole conditional land use, all
16 of that, is there way of improving that that you
17 can see?

18 MR. PREJET: Really, I think, in the
19 end, like we've been through it here the last time
20 with the Technical Review Committee, and
21 everything else. Although, at that time the
22 planning district wasn't in place, or anything.
23 And the R.M. said: Would you go through the land
24 use permitting process anyways? And we said,
25 yeah, we will through it. And I found the biggest

1 problem was just time. It just drags on,
2 especially during the summertime, and everything
3 else. And, you know, just the staffing to address
4 the technical reviews, and so on and so forth.

5 The other part of it, I mean -- and
6 again, the whole public hearing thing for the
7 municipalities, I mean, I am not in council, never
8 been on there, but it must be hell in there, you
9 know. Because these people on the council are
10 just trying to do the right thing. And they get
11 attacked pretty hard at times. I have heard a lot
12 of horror stories about that. And I don't know
13 how to get around that one. There has to be
14 public meetings. And people have questions and
15 comments to make, so that's a tough one.

16 But I think time is the thing that,
17 you know, right now, and again we haven't built in
18 a few years, but probably if you are going to
19 build now, you probably got a year or so, probably
20 two year's lead time to really get the project up
21 and running, at least not far from that. By the
22 time you do your own planning and prepare
23 everything, and get it in and then wait for an
24 answer back from all the levels of government.

25 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Prejet.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I have a couple more
2 questions. These two companies, you have said
3 that people in your community came together and
4 suggested that you join them in setting this up.
5 So are these two companies largely or completely
6 owned by people in the Notre Dame area?

7 MR. PREJET: That's correct, yeah,
8 it's all people in the community or relatives of
9 these people who are living either in Winnipeg or
10 elsewhere so that's basically all locally owned.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks. And
12 you're the manager of it or the operator?

13 MR. PREJET: I'm one of the owners,
14 and I'm the general manager, yes.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Following up on Wayne's
16 question about the amount of land you need, with
17 the new phosphorus regulation, how will that
18 change the amount of land you need?

19 MR. PREJET: Well, we are still kind
20 of working through that, and working with some
21 people on really getting a feel for this. But
22 right now for our area, it appears that it is not
23 going to have a huge impact, because the
24 phosphorus levels are relatively low in our area.
25 So we don't think it is going to be -- there will

1 be an increased number of acres required, but we
2 have those available, so right now it is not a
3 huge concern for our area.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Wayne?

5 MR. MOTHERAL: Just a municipal
6 question, kind of. How compatible are the two
7 municipalities in handling these things? Are they
8 similar, or are there any problems with one in
9 particular to the other?

10 MR. PREJET: Between the
11 municipalities in our area?

12 MR. MOTHERAL: I mean you've got two
13 operations. And they are in different
14 municipalities; is that right?

15 MR. PREJET: That's right, yeah.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just wondering if
17 you've had more problems with one than the other?
18 I may be putting you on the spot.

19 MR. PREJET: No. Actually, the R.M.s
20 in our area have been quite good. They ask good
21 questions. They give you the opportunity for --
22 like, in our last construction project in the R.M.
23 of South Norfolk, you know, we were struggling
24 with this whole thing. So the organizers were
25 quite nice, and they gave a chance for people who

1 were opposing the operation and for ourselves to
2 bring in people to speak on our behalf, you know,
3 like experts, to talk about what we are doing.
4 And that was exactly what happened. It was a good
5 process to go through because we were able to
6 bring in our engineer and be able to bring in
7 our -- what's it called -- agronomist, or
8 whatever, for the Manure Management Plan to
9 explain what we are doing, what we are planning,
10 how the barns will be built, and all of these
11 things. And the opposition has the chance to do
12 the same thing. So that way you are not under
13 kind of a public pressure cooker in front of
14 everybody kind of a situation. So the councillors
15 were able to hear the story from both sides, in a
16 very relaxed action. So that worked really well,
17 actually.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
19 Mr. Prejet. Next up is Mr. Normand Prejet. Would
20 you please introduce yourself for the record?

21 MR. PREJET: My name is Normand
22 Prejet, and I'm from Notre Dame.
23 NORMAND PREJET, having been sworn, presents as
24 follows:

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may

1 proceed.

2 MR. PREJET: First of all, my
3 presentation here is going to deal with the impact
4 of our hog operation on our farm and our
5 community, so it is more about our own family
6 farm.

7 Before I start on what I have written
8 here, I am a graduate of the University of
9 Manitoba, Bachelor of Commerce, so my background
10 is business and marketing.

11 My boys, three boys farming with me,
12 all went to the University of Manitoba in the
13 Department of Agriculture. So we are farming
14 with, I think, a fairly good educational
15 background. And I think that that's the future
16 for farming. It's a big business.

17 Our farm base is located approximately
18 six and a half miles southeast of Notre Dame,
19 along Highway 245 to Carman. Our operation
20 consists of approximately 2,100-acres of grain
21 land, as well as a hog feeder operation. And this
22 operation markets approximately 18,000 hogs
23 annually. My wife, Liliane, and myself have been
24 farming for 30 years on this family farm. And we
25 now farm with our three sons, being fifth

1 generation producers.

2 Liliane, myself, as well as our three
3 boys, all attend the University of Manitoba. I
4 studied business management, and they focused on
5 agriculture. They, therefore, have a good grasp
6 of animal husbandry and soil science. When all
7 three boys decided to farm, we knew that expansion
8 into the livestock sector was the only way to
9 provide for three or more families. So began our
10 move into the hog industry.

11 I recall an article written by a
12 non-farmer, who stated that grain farmers should
13 get a real job, instead of working three months of
14 the year. Well, I can assure you that our
15 operation has little time for leisure and that
16 young, hard-working individuals, like our three
17 boys, are very valuable assets, not only to our
18 operation, but to the our community.

19 Our eldest son, who is here today, is
20 now married. And his wife, originally from Miami,
21 is a doctor of veterinary medicine practicing in
22 Notre Dame. Our second son is also married. And
23 his wife, originally from Bruxelles, teaches in
24 the area. This ability to retain young people is
25 vital to the survival and prosperity of our small

1 rural community.

2 Over the years, I have seen a number
3 of projects in our community; namely, a new hockey
4 arena, a new recreation hall, a new church. And,
5 more recently, our community raised \$1.5 million
6 for a new health clinic presently under
7 construction. These projects were made possible,
8 in large part, to a healthy and prosperous
9 agricultural sector. In and around Notre Dame,
10 that includes grains and oilseeds, dairy, beef, as
11 well as hogs. Our hog operation also contributes
12 to local taxes, which, in turn, support public
13 services. This particular operation is
14 contributing approximately \$6,000 annually to the
15 rural municipality, and approximately \$7,000
16 annually to the local school division. And we are
17 talking only about the hog barns.

18 During its construction, it required
19 the services of local contractors for concrete,
20 buildings, electrical, plumbing, not to mention
21 the ongoing services required from trades people
22 and feed mills, et cetera. So when certain
23 individuals state that the hog industry provides
24 little benefit to their community, think again!

25 Another long-term benefit provided by

1 our hog operation is our ability to reduce
2 commercial fertilizer on our land. We are now
3 able to inject manure on approximately 350 acres
4 of grain land annually, with what we consider
5 natural material. Although the application costs
6 are about the same as the costs of commercial
7 fertilizer, we have discovered that the manure
8 continues to provide nutrients beyond any
9 fertilizer we could buy, and that its slow-release
10 process provides fertilizer value for two more
11 years. That's not to mention the improved
12 conditioning or texture of the soil. We estimate
13 that at today's cost of nitrogen, the value of
14 this nutrient alone is upwards of \$30,000 per
15 year. With this in mind, why would we waste such
16 a valuable resource?

17 Now that I have touched on the human
18 resource and economic factors, let me deal with
19 some of the environmental issues. Our farm
20 operation is certainly doing a better job of
21 monitoring its grain land than we ever did before
22 we had the hog operation.

23 We are now soil testing our land to
24 24-inches and injecting hog manure, which is also
25 tested for nutrients at a provincial laboratory,

1 according to a Manure Management Plan registered
2 with the Province.

3 Some of the other environmental
4 protection measures adopted in our hog operation
5 include:

6 The construction of manure storage
7 that's been lined, tested and approved by Manitoba
8 Conservation.

9 The construction of a fence around the
10 manure storage to protect wildlife, as well as
11 protect the liner from damage.

12 The installation of four monitoring
13 wells around the manure storage with an outside
14 party collecting and submitting samples for
15 analysis, and reporting to Manitoba Conservation
16 on an annual basis.

17 The application of a straw cover on an
18 annual basis to minimize odours.

19 The planting of shelterbelts around
20 the barn site.

21 The testing of well water on an annual
22 basis.

23 The installation of wet/dry feeders
24 that has reduced water consumption and manure by
25 an estimated 20 percent to 25 percent.

1 The installation of water metres which
2 monitor water consumption in every room in each
3 barn.

4 We are right now presently in the
5 process of upgrading our handling of dead stock,
6 and have applied to the Natural Farm Stewardship
7 Program, for assistance under the Environmental
8 Farm Plan. And once we are approved, we will be
9 purchasing a cooling storage unit for this
10 operation so that our dead stock can be handled
11 more efficiently.

12 In summary, our hog operation has had
13 a very positive impact on our farm and our
14 community. It's helping us to retain human
15 resources in our community, provides economic
16 benefits for both our farm and the community,
17 whether directly or indirectly.

18 Although environmental issues are
19 always a question mark, we are attempting to be
20 the best stewards of the land and provide the best
21 possible animal care. Our farm and family has a
22 vested interest in protecting the quality of the
23 air and water, since we are the closest residence
24 to the barn site. Our children, and hopefully our
25 grandchildren, will be living in this environment.

1 And we plan to continue to make it as safe as
2 reasonably possible. Why would we do otherwise?

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Prejet.
5 You said that when your sons -- is it all three
6 sons that are on the farm?

7 MR. PREJET: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: When your sons
9 indicated that they wanted to join you in farming,
10 you concluded that the only way to do so was to go
11 into livestock. Has that proved to be a good
12 business decision?

13 MR. PREJET: Yes, it has. We had
14 started on a smaller scale, back in '97, '98, when
15 my first son came out. And we actually took over
16 an operation that belonged to my brother, who just
17 made a presentation. And he ran the sow barn for
18 a few years. It became quite difficult because
19 the hog barn was -- the sow barn itself was a
20 little small. And when my second son came
21 farming, we built one finishing barn. And we were
22 unable to share labour between the two barns. It
23 has to do with disease. So presently our sow barn
24 is shut down, and we have expanded our finishing
25 operation.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: So this is a very broad
2 question, and it may apply to you, and it may
3 apply to the whole industry. So, in general, is
4 hog production, hog farming, a reasonably
5 lucrative endeavour?

6 MR. PREJET: Probably for our farm it
7 is, simply because we look at the hog operation as
8 something that's going to help us to rebuild some
9 of our land.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: But currently it's
11 supporting you, your wife, three sons and their
12 families in a reasonable lifestyle?

13 MR. PREJET: Yes. My -- obviously, my
14 family is still very young. My oldest boy has a
15 grandson. But my children do not have children
16 themselves, so the families are not large. So for
17 the time being, this operations able to -- is able
18 to supply for those two or four families. My
19 youngest boy is not married.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: I was very interested
22 to note -- Mr. Prejet, by the way, an excellent
23 presentation. It does bring the economics into
24 the situation. And it has been suggested, in
25 several of our visits in these environmental

1 hearings that have been put on, that sometimes
2 economics have to come into the picture. We are
3 hearing that more and more.

4 The monitoring wells that you do have
5 around your storage lagoon, and you say they are
6 tested by an outside party, was that a condition
7 or was that by your choice?

8 MR. PREJET: You know, I really don't
9 know, because we never did the collection
10 ourselves.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: I see.

12 MR. PREJET: I think it has to be done
13 that way.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

15 MR. PREJET: No. I don't think we
16 would collect them ourselves. These wells are
17 locked. And I don't know if we even have the keys
18 to get into them. We have not been into them. I
19 don't know. That is a condition, probably.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: That is something that
21 I will know by the time the day is out. That's
22 all I have. Thank you very much.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

24 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Prejet, just a
25 quick question. I noticed that you gave us a list

1 of things that you include as part of your
2 procedures in terms of environmental stewardship.
3 The question I am going to ask, because I have
4 heard this from a number of other presenters, is
5 the food aspect, the feeding of the livestock,
6 that they use enzymes to better update the
7 phosphate. Do you do any special feed
8 formulations, and do you use the enzymes to
9 utilize the phosphates?

10 MR. PREJET: Well, our feed is being
11 supplied by outside feed mills, so we are in the
12 same situation as these other producers who are
13 buying the feed. That's all can I say.

14 MR. YEE: No, that's fine.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
16 Mr. Prejet. Thanks for coming out here. We are
17 going to have to take another short break. I am
18 sure it will only be a few minutes. Thank you.

19 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 P.M. AND RECONVENED
20 AT 2:27)

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's resume now. I
22 just wanted to explain the delay. Lisa, our court
23 reporter, was driving from Killarney this morning,
24 as were the rest of us, but she witnessed a fairly
25 serious car accident, and gave evidence to the

1 fire and paramedic people that showed up at the
2 scene. And then just about a half an hour or so
3 ago, an RCMP officer showed up and wanted to ask
4 her for a witness statement as well, so that's the
5 reason for the delay. We thank you for your
6 indulgence. And we will now continue.

7 The next person on our agenda for this
8 afternoon is Alf Poetker. Would you please state
9 your name for the record?

10 MR. POETKER: My name is Alf Poetker.
11 ALF POETKER, having been sworn, presents as
12 follows:

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please
14 proceed.

15 MR. POETKER: Mr. Chairman, members of
16 the panel, ladies and gentlemen.

17 I'm a professional civil engineer with
18 primary experience in water and wastewater
19 treatment, waste management and environmental
20 services. My experience in waste management
21 provided me the opportunity, in the 1990s, to
22 become involved with large livestock operations.
23 Specifically, with the onset of more rigorous
24 Manure Management Regulations, the requirement for
25 professional services in obtaining approvals for

1 various facilities became commonplace.

2 I grew up on a typical family farm in
3 southwestern Manitoba. It included grain and
4 forage production, a beef cattle operation, a
5 modest dairy, poultry for meat and eggs, and a
6 small hog operation. In keeping with the common
7 practices of the day, livestock was pastured or,
8 otherwise, free-roaming outdoors in the summer and
9 confined to barns in the winter. Manure was
10 manually removed from the barns on a daily basis
11 and hauled to a nearby manure pile. Mixed with
12 snow, the manure pile became fairly high by the
13 spring, shrinking considerably every year as the
14 snow melted and the water oozed out and drained
15 away. Some manure was spread on nearby frozen
16 fields from time to time.

17 Changing times brought changing
18 practices. Cattle were housed in open barns,
19 allowing the manure to be built up with frequent
20 addition of straw bedding. Manure was removed
21 during the summer months, and typically spread on
22 the fields as a fertilizer resource. However,
23 while undertaking a planning study for one of
24 Manitoba's planning districts in the early 1980s,
25 I observed an open housing barn and feedlot which

1 was located in a sheltered ravine, next to the
2 creek channel. Spring run-off regularly
3 over-topped the channel and washed away much of
4 the manure that accumulated over the winter.
5 Another producer informed me that he had much the
6 same convenient arrangement, though I did not
7 observe his operation. At the same time, many
8 pasture animals had their watering holes along the
9 creeks and in sloughs or dugouts with connections
10 to the creeks. This became a point of
11 concentration of animal manure.

12 Again, times changed. The
13 establishment of ever-larger livestock operations
14 brought about a regulatory framework that began to
15 address the management of such operations. Under
16 the Manitoba Planning Act, which underwent a major
17 change in 1976, large livestock operations within
18 an established planning district were typically a
19 conditional use. This meant that a public hearing
20 was required, at which the planning board heard
21 representations from the producer and from
22 affected citizens, and then set certain conditions
23 for the operation. This would be in addition to
24 the normal limitations imposed by the zoning
25 bylaw. The planning board would often seek advice

1 from a Technical Advisory Committee made up of
2 representatives from various government
3 departments. In order to assist producers and
4 regulators alike, a series of comprehensive
5 guidebooks for livestock production and manure
6 management was developed, to include hog, poultry,
7 and cattle production. Participants in the
8 preparation of these guidebooks included people
9 from government departments, municipal
10 associations, citizen groups and livestock
11 production and marketing organizations. The
12 guidebooks assisted producers in developing sound
13 practices in the management of their operations,
14 and assisted authorities having jurisdiction in
15 evaluating and approving conditional use
16 applications.

17 The evolution of the regulatory
18 framework, together with the increasing cost of
19 inputs into livestock production, resulted in
20 producers becoming more strategic in the
21 management of their operations.

22 In 1994, the Province of Manitoba
23 introduced a major change to the Livestock waste
24 regulation. Manitoba Regulation 81/94 introduced
25 a number of requirements for storage, transport

1 and application of manure to land. Setbacks and
2 limits were prescribed. And any operation greater
3 than 400 animal units in size was required to
4 obtain a permit for storage and disposal of
5 manure. The permits imposed further environmental
6 requirements.

7 In 1998, the Province introduced the
8 Livestock Manure and Mortality Management
9 Regulation. It incorporated and expanded on many
10 of the features of the Livestock Waste Regulation
11 which it replaced. In its tone and language, it
12 treated manure as a resource rather than as a
13 waste. Producers with operations greater than 400
14 animal units were required to file annual Manure
15 Management Plans in advance of applying manure to
16 agricultural land. Such plan was to provide
17 details, as required by Manitoba Conservation, so
18 that the director could be satisfied that the
19 application of manure would not cause pollution of
20 surface water, groundwater or soil; and that no
21 manure would escape from the boundary of the
22 agricultural operation.

23 The regulation introduced a
24 prohibition on winter spreading, thereby requiring
25 most large producers to build new storage

1 facilities. Such facilities required a permit,
2 which, for the most part, introduced the need for
3 professional services to ensure that the storage
4 was designed and built to securely store the
5 manure for an extended period of time.

6 Another major change was to limit the
7 amount of nitrogen applied per acre of land. This
8 often required the producers to apply the manure
9 over a larger area than had been used in the past.
10 It required an investment in equipment to
11 transport the manure over greater distances,
12 offset, in part, by a reduction in the need for
13 commercial fertilizers.

14 Producers are also typically
15 innovative. Borrowing an idea from the
16 irrigators, they began to install pipelines into
17 their fields so as to pump the liquid manure
18 directly from the storage to pivot outlets in the
19 fields. Connected to tillage equipment via
20 high-pressure hoses, it is possible to inject the
21 manure directly into the soil. This minimizes the
22 odour and maximizes the nutrients which get bound
23 up with the soil. With modern GPS and GIS
24 technology, this also enables the producer to
25 manage the nutrients to the needs of the soil and

1 the specific crops which are planned for that
2 field.

3 In 2003, the Director introduced a
4 number of additional requirements via a directive
5 which required the use of professional engineers
6 for design and certification of manure pumping
7 systems, storage facilities and distribution
8 pipelines. A major amendment to Regulation 42/98
9 was introduced in 2004, which incorporated these
10 additions and provided more detail and rigor to
11 the categories of manure management in the
12 regulation. It also introduced a timetable
13 whereby these requirements would apply to
14 livestock operations greater than 300 animal
15 units, down from 400.

16 In 2006, Regulation 42/98 was again
17 amended, now providing a timetable for the
18 management and limitation of applying phosphorus
19 to land. Again, producers have been proactive,
20 anticipating this change. Management of
21 phosphorous is already underway. It includes
22 genetic research, and development into livestock
23 to reduce phosphorus in manure, development of
24 feeds with lower phosphorus fields, crop rotation
25 selection, and rotation to better utilize

1 phosphorus in the soil. I believe this regulation
2 now provides an effective tool to limit the
3 development of large livestock operations where
4 there is an inadequate land base for the spreading
5 of manure.

6 Crop production and land tillage
7 practices have changed significantly over the
8 years. 50 years ago, many producers would fallow
9 their fields one year in three, or even every
10 second year. Repeated cultivation to control
11 weeds resulted in leaving the soil vulnerable to
12 wind and water erosion. Similarly, the practice
13 of straw burning was more common at that time,
14 removing the trash from the soil and promoting
15 erosion. Since phosphorus is typically bound up
16 with the soil, and is mobile particulate form,
17 this practice provided the opportunity for
18 phosphorus to be carried by wind and water into
19 the rivers and lakes.

20 At various times, opinion has shifted
21 from believing that nitrogen is the main cause of
22 algal proliferation in our waterways, to believing
23 that phosphorus is the controlling factor. For
24 now, it appears that phosphorus is winning the
25 battle for our urgent attention. And the sudden

1 discovery of major algal development in the Lake
2 Winnipeg north basin has triggered a sense of
3 urgency, if not panic, to deal with the problem.

4 My guess is that these algae have been
5 flourishing for some time and that we have Google
6 Earth to thank for the graphic display that has
7 brought it to wider public attention.

8 I believe that the problem of massive
9 algal blooms is not the result of the recent
10 proliferation of large hog operations in Manitoba.
11 Opinions vary on the percentage of responsibility
12 which the hog industry has on this problem: From
13 a low of one percent, which I understand
14 approximates the percentage of phosphorus which
15 this industry generates, to a much higher
16 percentage, which represents the opinion of some
17 as to the relative mobility of phosphorus from
18 this industry.

19 I believe that in the past,
20 notwithstanding a smaller industry, the
21 opportunity for phosphorus movement into our
22 waterways, from former management practices and
23 lack of regulation, has contributed to the
24 concentration of nutrients in Lake Winnipeg.

25 But let's not forget all the other

1 contributors who, by some estimates, contribute up
2 to 99 percent of the phosphorus to the lake. 50
3 years ago, when producers typically concentrated
4 manure in leaching manure piles, the towns and
5 cities of our Province typically provided only
6 token treatment of their wastewater, and
7 phosphates in detergents were considered to be a
8 marvelous way to get our laundry fresh and clean.
9 Today, we see what that did to our lakes.

10 But nature is wonderfully resilient.
11 I believe we sometimes give ourselves too much
12 credit in terms of our ability to change things at
13 the macro level. In last Sunday's Winnipeg Free
14 Press, it was reported that a prominent national
15 politician visiting the city claimed that we could
16 save Lake Winnipeg by simply changing the name of
17 our Prime Minister in the next federal election.
18 I'm afraid that won't do it, and I'm not
19 politically partisan, one way or the other.

20 I do believe that the current level of
21 responsible management of livestock operations,
22 and the strategic application of manure to the
23 fields, will have a long-term, beneficial effect
24 on our environment going forward, but it won't
25 happen overnight, and the producers can't do it

1 alone. It requires patience and partnership.

2 It will take time for Lake Winnipeg to
3 heal itself, as we manage our own environment in a
4 responsible and sustainable way. We need the
5 partnership of our cities, as they work together
6 with other levels of government to reduce their
7 contribution of nutrients, which are often
8 discharged directly into the water environment.
9 And we absolutely need the participation of our
10 neighbours to the south, to the east and to the
11 west.

12 Federal and Provincial Governments
13 help cities in the financing of their wastewater
14 facilities. I appeal to those governments to also
15 assist producers in the financing and development
16 of costly infrastructure in order to manage
17 livestock manure in the manner required by the
18 regulations.

19 A few quick takes, if may, as I
20 conclude. The 2006 amendment to Regulation 42/98
21 gives authority for the temporary suspension of
22 permits for hog manure storage facilities, while
23 the Clean Environment Commission undertakes this
24 review. A notable exception to the suspension is
25 the development of facilities acceptable to the

1 Director for providing anaerobic digestion of the
2 manure. When I inquired about the details, I was
3 informed that they would be systems used to
4 produce methane for the generation of electricity.

5 Coincidentally, last Friday, the
6 Winnipeg Free Press reported on a pair of Ontario
7 farmers who won a \$50,000 award for the
8 development of an anaerobic digester for manure
9 from their dairy farm. The methane from the
10 digester is used to run a generator for about 14
11 hours per day, reportedly saving the operation
12 almost \$2,500 per month in their electricity bill.
13 Unfortunately, the article told only half of the
14 story. What it did not mention is the cost of
15 developing and running the digester and generator.
16 After factoring in capital amortization, debt
17 servicing, maintenance and operation, and
18 equipment replacement costs, the electricity cost
19 savings may be largely or totally offset.

20 A pilot study into the generation of
21 methane from hog manure, conducted at the
22 University of Manitoba's Glenlea Farms by graduate
23 students in the 1970s, found that the energy
24 inputs exceeded the energy outputs, and that did
25 not even account for the cost of the equipment.

1 So as a word of caution, Manitoba may be well
2 positioned as a province of water power and wind
3 power. Hog power is not likely to follow any time
4 soon.

5 Last fall, I attended a technical
6 conference of the Canadian Water Resources
7 Association, held in Winnipeg. The topics of
8 water quality, Lake Winnipeg, and phosphorus
9 control predominated. The latter covered
10 phosphorus from urban and industrial wastewater,
11 from agriculture and from natural areas. I was
12 looking for some answers as to the mechanics of
13 phosphorus movement from agricultural fields to
14 our lakes, especially given the soil, fertilizer
15 and crop management practices of today.
16 Unfortunately, it seems that research in this area
17 is very limited.

18 The Government of Manitoba is prepared
19 to spend money on this review by the Clean
20 Environment Commission. They are prepared to
21 impose a the moratorium, which represents a cost
22 to the industry. I would suggest that some
23 focused research and consultation with the
24 industry on the management of phosphorus and the
25 identification of the mechanisms and extent of its

1 movement from fields to water courses would serve
2 both the industry and the province to the
3 betterment of the environment for us all.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
6 Mr. Poetker, for a very thought-provoking
7 presentation. I have a few questions that come
8 up. You talked earlier, in the first paragraph,
9 on the last page, you say:

10 "I appeal to governments to assist
11 producers in financing and
12 development,"

13 et cetera. Are you aware of what programs are in
14 place, at the present time, in this respect? Are
15 there any?

16 MR. POETKER: I believe there was
17 something by PFRA in the development of manure
18 storage facilities, but I think that it's expiring
19 or has expired.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And then a little later
21 on, in the same page, you talk about the anaerobic
22 digester, and you reference the one in Ontario. I
23 believe the Manitoba Government, at the same time
24 that they made the announcement on the hog barn
25 pause, also announced three pilot projects on

1 anaerobic processors. Are you familiar with
2 those?

3 MR. POETKER: No, I'm not.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: You're not. Okay. We
5 are not terribly familiar with them yet. We will
6 be briefed on them at some point. I know that
7 they are out there somewhere, but exactly the
8 nature of them, I'm not sure.

9 In your final sentence you talk about
10 "focused research and consultation". Is there --
11 well, I am sure there is. We have heard from
12 other presenters today, and in the past week or
13 so, there is a lot of research going on. What
14 research, or are you familiar with what research
15 would best attract government money to look into
16 phosphorus management in this industry or in the
17 whole agricultural industry?

18 MR. POETKER: Well, at the conference
19 that I mentioned, I was listening for information
20 about the movement of phosphorus from the fields
21 to water, because phosphorus, unlike nitrogen, is
22 not soluble, so I believe that it must move in
23 particulate form. I think the management
24 practices of the producers now are so different
25 than they were in the past that erosion from the

1 fields, water movement carrying particles of soil
2 is much less prominent now than it used to be.

3 We don't have the kind of wind storms
4 that I remember when I was younger. And so if
5 people say that phosphorus is still continuing to
6 move from the fields, and now with the management
7 of phosphorus in the regulation, I would like to
8 see some research done, some live research on the
9 fields, to see if phosphorus is, in fact, moving
10 from agricultural fields into our streams.
11 Because right now we are hearing people saying
12 that it's -- some say one percent. I have heard
13 someone say as high as 14 percent. That's a very
14 big difference. And I think some good research
15 would tell us what it is. And it would also help
16 us -- if we find that there are some mechanisms
17 that are causing phosphorus to move, then it would
18 help us to manage that and to try to prevent that
19 in the future.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And if I understand
21 your presentation, if I understand correctly what
22 you are saying, earlier when you talked about the
23 movement of nutrients into Lake Winnipeg, are you
24 suggesting that this recent boom in algal blooms
25 started some time back, that it is sort of a

1 long-time movement of nutrients into the lake.
2 And with better nutrient management now, that a
3 few years down the road it might pick up, is that
4 your suggestion?

5 MR. POETKER: That is my suggestion.
6 I heard an interview with a fisherman last summer
7 who said that he saw those algal blooms many years
8 ago in the north basin. And there are many things
9 that we see from the perspective of space, now
10 that we have cameras up there, that we may not
11 have seen in the past.

12 I believe that the contribution of
13 nutrients has been happening for a long time. The
14 City of Winnipeg built a major sewage treatment
15 plant in the 1960s. They did not do nearly the
16 same level of treatment before that. And many of
17 the towns built their sewage treatment facilities
18 only in the late fifties and sixties, as well. So
19 nutrients have been contributed, and continue to
20 be contributed. The City of Winnipeg does not
21 practice nutrient removal from their wastewater,
22 even to this day. They manage their systems
23 better, much better than they used to, but the
24 nutrient management is happening in the
25 agricultural sector.

1 And you say in a couple of years or in
2 a few years. I think it will be beyond my own
3 lifetime. 50 years, perhaps. It takes a long
4 time. But the lake is resilient. I think that
5 with cleaning up of the south shore of Lake Eerie,
6 there has been a remarkable recovery of Lake
7 Eerie. And I think that that can happen here,
8 too, and will be happening over the next 40 or 50
9 years. But I think if we expect a quick fix --
10 and I was just being facetious about the
11 politician's remark, but that's the way the
12 newspaper reported it. If our next Prime Minister
13 is Stephane Dion, Lake Winnipeg is safe. And it
14 isn't going to be that simple, and certainly not
15 that fast.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know how long or
17 at what cost Lake Superior recovered?

18 MR. POETKER: I was talking about Lake
19 Eerie.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, it slipped my
21 mind. Yes, Lake Eerie.

22 MR. POETKER: I don't know what the
23 timeframe was. But it was within the time of my
24 professional career that major sewage treatment
25 started to happen from the industries on the south

1 shore of Lake Eerie.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I do remember news
3 stories about rivers that were so polluted they
4 would catch on fire.

5 MR. POETKER: I've heard that.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: On the rivers leaking
7 into Lake Eerie. Wayne?

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. My first comment is just a comment.
10 You touched my heart when you said that manure was
11 manually removed from the barns on a daily basis
12 and hauled to a nearby manure pile. That's the
13 particular reason why I never became a livestock
14 farmer. I stuck to grain.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: And only had to work
16 three months a year.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, only three months
18 a year.

19 Mr. Poetker, at the very end of your
20 presentation, you speak about the need for more
21 research on phosphorus moving in soil. That very
22 research is being done. And maybe you're not
23 aware of it. I am sure you probably are. The
24 Deerwood Soil and Water Association, in southern
25 Manitoba, have an organization that are

1 continually seeking funds to do this. They were
2 doing it on an ongoing basis. And they spoke of
3 their research of phosphorus, their ability to
4 know that phosphorus is coming off of fields into
5 streams. And they are very concerned that even at
6 natural levels, and the variations that come from
7 year to year, don't make sense with anything
8 that's coming from fertilizer or manure. They are
9 really scared. And there is more phosphorous
10 coming from wooded lands than there is from the
11 other areas. And maybe you have heard some of
12 that.

13 MR. POETKER: Well, I have heard some
14 of that. And as you said, they are continuing
15 that research. So that's why I hope that through
16 this presentation, and through your work, that you
17 can encourage the government and recommend that
18 they also honour the work of these associations
19 with their financial support, as well.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

21 MR. YEE: I have a question for you,
22 Mr. Poetker. In regards to your comment about the
23 appeal to government to assist producers in
24 financing and development of costly infrastructure
25 to manage livestock manure, do you have something

1 specific in mind in terms of the infrastructure?
2 Are you referring to new technologies, or storage
3 facilities, or what sort of infrastructure are you
4 referring to?

5 MR. POETKER: I find that the
6 producers are very innovative in terms of the
7 technologies, but it does cost a lot of money.
8 And one of the producers who spoke here this
9 afternoon mentioned that the cost of using -- of
10 applying manure is not that different than the
11 actual cost of buying commercial fertilizer, and I
12 have heard people say that before. And I believe,
13 too, that there is a benefit, nonetheless, of
14 using manure as a resource because it has a soil
15 mineral character that mineral fertilizer does
16 not.

17 But it does cost a lot of money to
18 build storage facilities. When the '98
19 regulations came out with the prohibition of
20 winter spreading, and I'm not saying they
21 shouldn't have done that, but many people had to
22 build large storage facilities in order to keep
23 that manure in storage all winter long, and that
24 costs a lot of money. That costs a lot of money
25 to put in the equipment, the pipelines to the

1 fields. I think that's a great idea. And the
2 equipment to knife it into the soil. So buying
3 that equipment and installing that infrastructure
4 is costly to the producers. And, goodness knows,
5 they work on close margins.

6 MR. YEE: Thank you very much.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
8 your presentation today, Mr. Poetker.

9 Next up, Edward Hofer, Phillip Hofer
10 and Brad Schnell. Gentlemen, would you please
11 introduce yourselves for the record?

12 MR. P. HOFER: Hello. I'm Phillip
13 Hofer.

14 MR. HOFER: I'm Edward Hofer from
15 James valley colony.

16 MR. SCHNELL: And I'm Brad Schnell.
17 EDWARD HOFER, PHILLIP HOFER, BRAD SCHNELL, having
18 been sworn, present as follows:

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
20 You may proceed. Who is going first?

21 MR. P. HOFER: I am Phillip Hofer.
22 And we have got our speech spread up in the three
23 because of our families, and we can't spend all
24 day writing reports. So I will speak on behalf of
25 our history. And then my brother, Edward, will

1 speak on manure applications and land usage
2 because he has been -- that's been his profession.
3 And then we have somebody with us. It's Brad
4 Schnell. He has been helping us manage our Manure
5 Management Plan our manure and our agricultural
6 land.

7 Hello. My name is Phillip Hofer, from
8 James Valley Hutterian Colony from Elie, Manitoba.
9 I'm here to speak on behalf of my family. I have
10 five children; two boys and three girls. I also
11 want to speak on behalf of the other 25 families,
12 who also live here at our colony. Our colony is
13 one of the oldest colonies in Manitoba. It was
14 established in 1918, when we moved here from South
15 Dakota. As you may know, we are part of a
16 Christian faith, a church that was founded in the
17 early 16th Century during the Reformation. We are
18 generally known as Anabaptists, because we believe
19 in adult baptism.

20 Our better-known religious cousins are
21 the Amish, as well as the Mennonites. The main
22 difference between us and the other Anabaptists is
23 our choice to live in what we call
24 "Gutergemeinschaft", which we understand to mean a
25 full and voluntary Christian community centered on

1 the teachings of Jesus, having all things in
2 common, as it states in the book of Acts, chapter
3 two, verse 44:

4 "Now all who believed were together
5 and had all things in common."

6 Our forefathers had many hardships and struggles
7 moving from South Dakota to Manitoba. Winters
8 were very harsh and cold, which made it especially
9 hard on their livestock, their horses, cattle,
10 hogs, sheep and poultry. They soon realized that
11 their animals needed to be established -- to be
12 sheltered against the harsh climate.

13 In 1930, sows only farrowed only once
14 a year and chickens only laid seasonally, which
15 made eggs and pork a special commodity.
16 Hutterites made improvements.

17 And by 1940, chickens started laying
18 almost year-round and pigs farrowed both in early
19 spring and late fall.

20 We see ourselves as part of Manitoba's
21 progressive and hard-working country people,
22 trying to make our living in agriculture. For
23 example, in our dairy, we have been doing
24 selective breeding of purebred Holsteins for the
25 past 42 years, and have managed to become one of

1 the highest producing herds in Manitoba, with good
2 environmental practices.

3 Here at James Valley, as in most
4 colonies in Manitoba, we rely a great deal on the
5 income of our hog farm. We have 620 sows,
6 farrow-to-finish, high health nucleus where we
7 produce female offspring and implemented a high
8 biosecurity program, as well as C.Q.A. and T.Q.A.
9 validation programs.

10 We have learned, over the years, that
11 it is very important to be good stewards of the
12 land, that we keep our drinking water and
13 environment clean and healthy so that we can pass
14 on our to community way of life for many more
15 generations.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.
18 We have heard of C.Q.A. What is T.Q.A.?

19 MR. HOFER: T.Q.A. is a program
20 established that was by the same group of people.
21 It is trucking to handle our animals safely and
22 make sure that during the transportation the
23 environment and temperature and everything is
24 being controlled when the livestock is on the
25 road.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 MR. E. HOFER: Hi. My name is Edward
3 Hofer from James Valley Colony. Thanks for
4 letting me say a little something today.

5 My job at the colony has been Water
6 Plant Operator for the last ten years. I've had
7 my Class 1 Certification since 2005. I took the
8 course at Red River College.

9 Since 1998, I have also been looking
10 after our manure storage, handling, pump-out and
11 injection, which we do ourselves with our own
12 equipment.

13 I remember 16 years ago when I had a
14 job of hauling our manure from our barns. Back
15 then we had underground pits which had to be
16 pumped every three to six weeks, depending on
17 which barn it was. We just spread it out, winter
18 or summer, rain or shine.

19 Well, folks, I am pleased to tell you
20 that we've come a long way with our Manure
21 Management Program since then. It all started in
22 1997, when we built our new earthen storage
23 facility one mile northeast of our yard. All of
24 the manure from our 600 sow, farrow-to-finish
25 operation, over 14,000 layer chickens and 45 head

1 dairy barn is pumped or hauled to this storage
2 facility.

3 In 1998, we invested in some drag
4 hose, including one mile of drag hose, and we
5 built our own injector cultivator, and wheels and
6 pumps, and whatever.

7 In the fall of '98, we pumped out our
8 storage for the first time, with no flow meter,
9 and we covered about 100-acres.

10 The next thing I felt was needed to do
11 a better job was a flow meter. That year we
12 increased it to about 300-acres. Since then, we
13 have continually kept on increasing our applied
14 acres and improving our equipment.

15 In the year 2000, we put in an
16 underground 8-inch PVC line three-quarters of a
17 mile north and west across Highway 248.

18 We filed our first Manure Management
19 Plan with the Province in the year 2001.

20 In 2005, we hired a company called
21 Agritrend. They specialize in fertility
22 management and manure management. Since then, our
23 agent, Mr. Brad Schnell, has been a big part of
24 our team. Brad does the soil testing. We plan
25 and submit our plans together, and it has worked

1 out very well. Brad manager all our land, not
2 just the land involved with the manure.

3 Just last year, we installed another
4 8-inch PVC pipeline which runs two and a quarter
5 miles south west off our yard. This pipeline was
6 engineered and approved by Cochrane Engineering
7 and Manitoba Conservation. We put this pipeline
8 in due to the new phosphate regulations and to
9 increase our land base.

10 Last year, we also reworked our
11 cultivator, made it wider, and put on a good
12 chopper manifold, so that it would be easier to
13 cover more ground and inject more acres.

14 So we have invested a lot of money in
15 our Manure Management Program. It would only be
16 fair to say that we pride ourselves in doing a
17 good job, and that we take this end of our
18 business very seriously.

19 We have also benefited greatly from
20 these management practices. We are seeing better
21 yielding crops, reduced fertilizer costs and
22 healthier soils. In 2006, the canola on our
23 manured land yielded 19-bushels an acre more than
24 the canola fertilized with commercially fertilized
25 land.

1 And in the last five years, I've seen
2 attitude for manure really change, from it being a
3 waste, and now people look at it as a real
4 resource.

5 The next thing I want to talk about is
6 the colony's water supply. Our water supply comes
7 from a series of shallow wells along Scott drain.
8 Three of these wells are located right at James
9 Valley, and another four are located one mile west
10 of our yard. As we all know, shallow wells are
11 very prone to contamination. So, therefore, it is
12 very important to take great care of our
13 fertilizing and manure handling in this area.

14 We could be -- who would be the first
15 people affected if our manure was mismanaged? We
16 would be. Our children and our seniors and
17 livestock all drink this water. Therefore, being
18 environmentally conscious is very important, and
19 having good management practices in place is
20 crucial.

21 Are we good stewards of the land? My
22 answer would be: Yes. Of course, there's always
23 a little trial and error along the way, and some
24 learning curves, but all in all, I feel we
25 exercise due diligence wherever possible.

1 We are a fourth generation farm. And
2 if we do a good job and the good Lord allows it,
3 hopefully there will be four more generations.
4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.
6 The eight inch pipelines that you've run, is this
7 to move the manure out into the field?

8 MR. P. HOFER: Yes, from the storage.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's similar to what
10 Mr. Poetker was talking about earlier in his
11 presentation?

12 MR. P. HOFER: That's it, yes.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
14 Mr. Schnell?

15 MR. SCHNELL: Yes, my name is Brad
16 Schnell. And I'm an agronomic consultant working
17 for James Valley Colony on their Manure Nutrient
18 Management Plan, as well as their overall cropping
19 plans.

20 We have been working together since
21 the spring of 2005. I was hired to assist them to
22 be environmentally sound in using their manure as
23 a valuable cropping input. What I will cover
24 today is the steps on their farm that they go
25 through to apply their manure using

1 environmentally sound practices.

2 And I guess I will give you just a
3 little bit of background on myself. I, too, grew
4 up on a family farm in the Sanford area. I have
5 worked in that southeastern Manitoba area. I went
6 to university and went into agriculture. I worked
7 in the Landmark-Steinbach area as an agronomist
8 for many years. I did a lot of nutrient
9 management planning, or manure nutrient management
10 planning, before the word was -- before that
11 phrase was even coined because, again, of course,
12 there is a lot of livestock in that area. So my
13 background goes back a number of years in the
14 livestock areas of being an agronomist and working
15 together with manure.

16 What I would like to talk about today
17 is basically James Valley, and taking a look at
18 what we do in terms of the Manure Nutrient
19 Management Plan, and how much effort goes into
20 putting together a Manure Nutrient Management
21 Plan. What I want to cover is:
22 Crop planning,
23 filing a Manure Nutrient Management Plan,
24 GPS soil testing,
25 submit Schedule E, which is crop planning and the

1 soil test.

2 And then going back to manure analysis and
3 application.

4 And then, basically, looking at field programmers
5 that we have to do once that manure is in place.

6 And then the livestock analyzer that we use.

7 I hope that shows up well enough.

8 But, basically, this is what is called a field
9 profile that we use. And what this is, is we
10 record all of our fields. And I've been working,
11 as I say, since 2005, but we have more data than
12 this. But, basically, here you can see we have
13 the 2005 crop, the 2006 crop, and now what we are
14 planning for 2007, as well as the target yields
15 that we are trying to achieve on their farm.

16 And when we back up and look at what
17 we have to do as far as the Manure Nutrient
18 Management Plan, we almost have to start planning
19 a year in advance of what crops we put in. That
20 way we know that in those fields that we don't
21 have a crop like corn or sunflowers that comes off
22 late. And then we can't do that because there is
23 a very narrow window. So you want to try and put
24 something on it that when we are heading for those
25 fields that come off at the right time. So there

1 is a lot of planning that goes ahead. And the
2 fields that go into manure, you usually want to
3 use a crop that has a fairly high uptake of
4 nutrients and will use those nutrients wisely.

5 So if you look here, we are going to
6 be talking a little bit about field number 12,
7 which is Lavoie. I am sort of going to go through
8 that one particular field. And if you look at
9 that, basically, we've got field number 12 is 305
10 acres. And this coming year we are going to put
11 it into canola. We have got a 55-bushel target.
12 The previous year was oats. And the previous year
13 to that was canola.

14 When you are doing a Manure Nutrient
15 Management Plan, we, as I say, plan what crops are
16 going to be growing in there. By the 10th of any
17 year, we have to have our Manure Nutrient
18 Management Plan in place. And this is just one of
19 the lead copies into that. I have got a bunch of
20 it here. And, you know, to photocopy it all and
21 show it to you -- but, basically, this is part of
22 their Manure Nutrient Management Plan and their
23 cropping plan.

24 So you have to submit, by July 10th of
25 every year, a plan and know what crops are going

1 where. And this is the Schedule E, which is
2 probably the main guts of what we have to do. We
3 have got to take and identify, before we actually
4 put on the manure, what fields we are going to put
5 it on to and have a plan in place. In this
6 particular year, we had field number 2, Bonhomme,
7 field number 11, Larson, and field number 12,
8 Lavoie.

9 I will just run through Lavoie a
10 little bit. We, basically, have to send that in
11 and identify that before we actually have to put
12 manure in place on that. We also have to send in
13 with that roughly what our manure levels are in
14 there. So we do a manure analysis every year of
15 what our manure actually has in place. And in
16 this particular one, we have got, roughly, if you
17 do the calculations, I don't want to go into a lot
18 of detail on it. But with the ammonia and the
19 release from the organic matter, we have 24 pounds
20 per 1,000-gallons. So, again, we are looking at
21 what kind of nutrients are in there. We also have
22 analysis on the phosphate as well.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: I have a question. And
24 I know this could be a common thing, it's the
25 first time I have heard it, where you have one

1 lagoon that covers the chickens, the hogs and the
2 livestock, is that true?

3 MR. SCHNELL: Yes.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: What difference does
5 that make in the analysis of your fertilizer,
6 like, the fertilizer value?

7 MR. SCHNELL: That's a really good
8 question. You know, the different ones are
9 definitely different. Like, the hogs, they have
10 got a farrow to finish operation. So it's pretty
11 much the overriding factor in there, because it
12 does produce the most manure. Where they have got
13 a smaller dairy and then they have chickens.
14 Chickens have a higher concentration of nitrogen
15 and phosphorus. So at the end of the day, when
16 it's all -- and then dairy cattle have a lower
17 concentration. So when I see what has happened,
18 it almost comes back about what the hog levels
19 are, just because of their mixes, one is lower and
20 one is higher.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: I was just curious.
22 I've never heard of that before. You still have
23 to tested. I had an uncle years ago who used to
24 say: Oh, the roses need chicken manure.

25 MR. SCHNELL: And as I say, not a

1 lot -- you know, a good question there, but carry
2 on?

3 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes.

4 MR. SCHNELL: So, yes, basically, you
5 have got manure tests for each one. And what they
6 actually try to do is they actually try to test --
7 when we go to each field, like you saw the three
8 different fields on there, we try and actually
9 test. As we go to each different field, and start
10 pumping on to a different field, we take another
11 test. And then we actually program -- you will
12 see a little bit later that we program that in
13 into each field. They start pumping into a
14 different field. And you see that with a
15 different program we pump that on to the different
16 fields. And we, actually, do a complete test of
17 all nutrients, plus micro-nutrients as well.

18 Once we have submitted the plan and
19 then we have that in place to the Government, and
20 have submitted our plan, we then have to wait for
21 the crop to come off in the fall time. And then
22 we then go out and soil sample. And we use GPS
23 coordinates that we come back to the same place
24 every year. And, as you can see on here, this is
25 where we have marked "X"s. And that's so,

1 basically, when we come back out to that field, we
2 will have as consistent results as we possibly can
3 have. But we do come back and do a good job of
4 monitoring that field. And, basically, we know
5 exactly where we have tested so that each year we
6 can come back again.

7 Just interesting enough, on this
8 particular one, if I could show on here a little
9 bit. But when Edward was talking about these
10 wells, I believe the wells are -- where exactly
11 are they?

12 MR. P. HOFER: Just in the mix there.

13 MR. HOFER: The little white spot.

14 MR. SCHNELL: Right about there. So
15 we are putting manure on the fields. And the
16 wells are close at hand, so we want to make sure
17 that we are doing a good job of what we are doing.
18 And they are monitoring their water at all times,
19 as well. By the way, there is a lot of land in
20 through here. The colony is here. And then they
21 have a lagoon up there, and the land is all around
22 there, their water sources and their colony. I
23 think you've got a map there, as well, that sort
24 of points that out there, as well.

25 MR. P. HOFER: I just kind of threw

1 that map in at the last minute. I didn't really
2 think about it.

3 MR. SCHNELL: Once we take this
4 sample, then we take a look at the nitrogen levels
5 that are in that field. Because at this point in
6 time, we are filing for nitrogen, and that's how
7 we do a Manure Nutrient Management Plan. In the
8 next two years, we will, basically, have to start
9 monitoring our phosphate and doing a phosphate
10 application, as well. We will be starting to
11 submit that this coming year and abiding by the
12 laws as they come into place here.

13 But, again, as you can see here, we do
14 a complete soil test. And then we monitor what's
15 in the nitrogen and then we file our plan
16 accordingly. So now we have got to resubmit
17 Schedule E which, basically, here is Lavoie again.
18 So we file that on. And we take a look at the
19 crop we are going to grow and the nitrogen that's
20 in the soil. And then we file that and we work
21 that out back that we can put on X amount of
22 gallons. In this particular case, 7,000 gallons
23 or 7,500-gallons. And then are we going to start
24 doing that application.

25 I then send out to Edward a work order

1 applicator's log, and say: This is the field we
2 are going to do it on and what rates and that.
3 And then Edward has that. And you can see it's a
4 working copy. And he writes on what he actually
5 has done, and where he has applied manure. And in
6 it particular case, he didn't quite finish off the
7 field, so you can see, you know, "no manure on the
8 east 80". And he submits that or, you know, we
9 work together on that. And we actually came out
10 that we put on roughly 6,888 gallons, when all was
11 said and done. So we put a monitor on that. And
12 they have got, basically, a monitor as to how many
13 gallons they are pumping and record. And then we
14 work together to make sure we get that filed.

15 We then have to send in a confirmation
16 sheet that is submitted to Manitoba Conservation.
17 So once we are finished, then, basically, we map
18 it out and show them what we have done, in what
19 field, the rates. And we tell them, you know,
20 that we have completed the job in that particular
21 field.

22 This is a field programmer. And what
23 we do is we take it sort of the next step.
24 Because, as we said, manure is a very valuable
25 resource. It's not a waste. It's not anything

1 else. But it's a very, very valuable resource.
2 And what you can see here now is we are targeting
3 for canola on this field at 55-bushels. The soil
4 test is in the middle. So when I'm making the
5 recommendation, I can see what's in the soil.

6 You can see that I have then plug in a
7 fertility recommendation of just a little bit of
8 phosphate as a starter and a little bit of sulphur
9 as a starter. And that's all we are going to use,
10 basically, because we have cold, wet soils. And
11 in the springtime, we still see a little bit of a
12 benefit, on a yield basis, by putting a little bit
13 of a starter on it. Because we do want as good a
14 crop in there, as we possibly can, to make sure
15 that it is using up all of the nutrients that we
16 have applied.

17 In our calculations at the top, we
18 plug in 6,000 gallons, as you see on the top part.
19 And it, actually, estimates a manure application
20 going through it, 160 pounds of nitrogen is what
21 we put on. The phosphorus is 55 pounds. It's
22 available. About 168 pounds of potash. 12 pounds
23 of sulphur. And then you can see all of the other
24 nutrients, as well as the micro-nutrients. We put
25 on boron, copper, iron, manganese, and a little

1 bit of zinc, as well, goes into that.

2 And then you can see, basically, then
3 we have got from a seed placed, we then make a
4 recommendation for 15-pounds of phosphorous and
5 the 15 pounds of sulphur. And then that's the
6 program in place. And we are doing an
7 agronomically sound job of that so, basically,
8 what the crop is going to remove from the -- from
9 the soil, okay.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: Basically, when you
11 soil test the following year, do you, basically,
12 use up all of that phosphorus? Or do you find
13 that your levels in the spring are constantly or
14 are you continually building up?

15 MR. SCHNELL: With phosphorus, it's an
16 interesting nutrient that we do add. In most
17 cases we add a little bit more than what the crop
18 uses, just based on how the manure is situated.
19 And it depends on which -- you know, whether
20 you've got just a straight sow barn, a nursery
21 barn or a feeder operation. And they all vary
22 slightly.

23 So in a lot of cases, if the guys are
24 using phytase and that, and I think somebody asked
25 the question: Are they using a feed additive?

1 Most of the guys are trying to bring their
2 phosphate values down, basically, that they don't
3 have phosphate in the soil, but it also helps
4 their feed efficiencies, as well.

5 So, in most cases, though, we are
6 probably putting on a little bit more than what
7 the crop is going to remove. But we do have a lot
8 of -- I don't know if I want to get into a lot of
9 detail. But we have got a lot of calcium in our
10 soil that ties up phosphorus quite readily. And
11 it turns it into, basically, a form that's not
12 available, you know, to the crop at all, so it
13 ties it up very rapidly.

14 So a lot of times our soils aren't
15 very quick to build because we have got this -- if
16 you look in our soil sample, we have got about
17 4,870 parts per million of calcium, which is
18 almost 10,000 pounds. You've got to multiply
19 parts per million by two to get the pounds. So
20 that calcium ties up and rapidly bounds to
21 phosphate that we apply and, basically, makes it
22 into a phosphate rock that's not available. So
23 our soils aren't very quick to build.

24 So, basically, what we do is we work
25 out -- and this we do for every field, we work out

1 a -- you know, we have a soil test. We work out a
2 fertility program for everyone, whether we have
3 manure or don't have manure. I am just going
4 through this one. We actually have a program
5 inside that, actually, does the calculations. We
6 know it's what's in the manure and know how many
7 gallons. And that nicely puts that together for
8 us so that we can monitor what we have done or
9 what we have applied.

10 In this part of our program, too, is
11 we have what's called a soil analyzer. And we
12 have multiple years of soil tests in here. And
13 this one says that we have the 2005, 2006, 2007.
14 We can watch what's happening with our phosphate
15 levels and our other nutrient levels. And it
16 helps me to make a recommendation that, you know,
17 I can look back and see, oh, the soil is doing
18 this and doing that, and where it is actually
19 going in terms of its nutrient values.

20 We also have what's called a livestock
21 analyzer, where the top, basically, says it is a
22 600 sow, farrow to finish, operation. And the
23 lagoon capacity is roughly 6.5 million-gallons.
24 And in the calculator at the bottom, basically, we
25 put into it and say there is 14,000 layers, and

1 roughly 600 sows, farrow to finish, and 600 dairy
2 cows. And then it, actually, tells us what the
3 output of those animals are. And it, basically,
4 says it is going to produce how many gallons of
5 output of manure on a daily basis. So then when
6 we empty the lagoon, it starts again filling it
7 back up. And you can see at the top, because we
8 empty it in the fall, it is, give or take,
9 11 percent full, there should be about 720 -- or
10 721,000-gallons in there, at this point in time,
11 roughly.

12 And then we also have the manure
13 applications, since I started recording them, on a
14 field-by-field basis, and what went on to them.
15 And you can see on August 31, 2005, we did 17
16 North Waldheim Road and put on so many gallons,
17 and it was on so many acres. And we have got a
18 complete log of all of the fields that we have
19 done to date.

20 And, basically, that's what I wanted
21 to talk today about. You know, we do a good job
22 of handling our Manure Nutrient Management. We do
23 a good job of having to crop planning. We file
24 the Manure Nutrient Management Plan. We have to
25 do the GPS soil testing. We have got to then

1 submit our Schedule Es. And we have to look at
2 the crop plan and soil tests and submit that so
3 that it does adhere to the Government regulations.
4 We also do the manure analysis and the
5 applications. And then we just keep track of
6 things well with our field programmer and our
7 livestock analyzer.

8 Now, I guess, in conclusion, you know,
9 James Valley Colony is committed to an
10 environmentally sound practice in using their
11 manure as a valuable resource in their operation.
12 They have been living there and raising their
13 families for almost 90 years now, and remain
14 committed to sustainable agriculture for
15 generations to come.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Schnell.
18 Do all hog operations have to keep similar records
19 and file similar reports?

20 MR. SCHNELL: Anything that has to --
21 I think Mr. Poetker said earlier that, basically,
22 anything over 300 animal units has to file a
23 Manure Nutrient Management Plan and, basically, do
24 similar to what I just said, that they have to
25 submit, you know, the plan before July 10th and go

1 through all of those steps.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: And, I guess, this is
3 just an economy of scale. The larger the
4 operation, the more of this paperwork they would
5 have to do?

6 MR. SCHNELL: Yes. In reality,
7 everybody has to be in compliance with the rules
8 and regulations. It is just 300 animal units ones
9 that have to file. But in reality, everybody has
10 to be in full compliance with the rules and
11 regulations that are there.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm aware of that. I
13 guess what I'm thinking of is just the costs to
14 operations of doing this. Either they have to
15 have somebody in their family or on their farm who
16 can do this and keep these records or they engage
17 somebody like you; is that correct?

18 MR. SCHNELL: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And is it a significant
20 cost? I don't want you giving away proprietary
21 secrets, or anything. But is it a fairly
22 significant cost to an operation to engage all of
23 the experts that they need to comply with these
24 regulations?

25 MR. SCHNELL: I don't know. I don't

1 know if I'm the right one to answer that.

2 MR. P. HOFER: It pays off to have it
3 done. We even do it on the land that is not used,
4 you know. It is an extra cost, but hopefully we
5 capture it with better maintenance.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: No. I don't have any
8 questions.

9 MR. YEE: Yes, I have a few questions,
10 I guess. And I think what Mr. Sargeant was
11 getting at is that, in terms of this, it looks
12 like a pretty sophisticated analysis. We
13 understand that over 300 animal units you need to
14 file a Manure Management Plan and the crop plan
15 and the soil tests, and the manure is analyzed and
16 the soil is analyzed. But do you think people
17 have similar programs to the field programmer or
18 the livestock analyzer? Do they apply such
19 technology or do they just do it based on the
20 manure management and the soil?

21 MR. SCHNELL: You are asking me?

22 MR. YEE: Yes. I think this looks
23 like a very sophisticated program. And I am
24 wondering if other hog operators have access to
25 this type of program or do they do a similar type

1 of analysis?

2 MR. SCHNELL: Well, I think, in
3 varying degrees, yes. There are other people out
4 there, like myself, that do do good jobs for the
5 individuals. A lot of the producers do have
6 somebody that, you know, helps them file their
7 plans and all of that. And different people pay
8 more attention to that. The nice part of what I
9 am doing is, like, I am sort of trying to tie the
10 cropping value into it, as well as the manure end
11 of things, and just looking at it as an overall
12 approach.

13 MR. YEE: One of the things I've
14 noticed in the data, I like to look at data a lot,
15 there is an aluminium value of 18 parts per
16 million in the manure, and it jumps up to 172
17 parts per million in the soil. And I guess the
18 question, and I know it's been asked before, is
19 there potential for metal loading in the soils, as
20 a result of manure spreading? And we do have any
21 such data? I know you are collecting data over
22 several years here. Are you showing any signs of
23 metal build-up in these soils?

24 MR. SCHNELL: At this point in time, I
25 would say no. You know, we can get into a bit of

1 discussion on it after. But at this point in
2 time, I would say no.

3 MR. YEE: And I know it is probably
4 not a requirement of the Manure Management Plan,
5 but do you analyze soils on fields that aren't
6 spread fields as background?

7 MR. SCHNELL: Basically, in here, we
8 have a soil sample on all of our fields. And we
9 watch all of their nutrient values and levels and
10 that, yes, we do.

11 MR. YEE: All right. Thank you.

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

14 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just admiring the
15 complexities of farming.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Next on the agenda,
17 Raymond Timmerman. Could you please state your
18 full name for the record?

19 MR. TIMMERMAN: Raymond Timmerman.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
21 Mr. Timmerman, please proceed.

22 RAYMOND TIMMERMAN, having been sworn, present as
23 follows:

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: Okay, my name is Ray.
25 I said Raymond, but it is Ray mostly, Timmerman.

1 I farm southwest of Treherne on about 1,600 acres
2 of farm land. I farm in partnership with my wife
3 Leona and two sons, Dallas and Justin.

4 And our farm is a third generation
5 mixed operation consisting of annual crops, a
6 cow/calf operation and finishing, hog finishing
7 operation.

8 I would just like to add that my
9 eldest son, he graduated from university -- from
10 high school and started farming when he was 18. I
11 have a second son that graduated with a master's
12 degree in soil, environmental soil science, at the
13 University of M and is right now employed with
14 Manitoba Department of Agriculture. He is a
15 manure management specialist. And my other son,
16 Justin, our third son, graduated with a degree in
17 agronomy from the University of Manitoba. And he,
18 at the present time, has a consulting business,
19 along with his partner in her operation.

20 When our eldest son, Dallas, began
21 farming, we expanded our farm or operation.
22 Raising hogs has been and continues to be a
23 financial benefit. This income means we have a
24 better cash flow and helps provide us with a
25 comfortable living. My father used to say or use

1 the term that mortgage lifters when referring to
2 the hogs. And I think he's right. And certainly
3 the hogs has definitely been a benefit in our
4 operation.

5 We strive to build a sustainable
6 farming business that will continue to be not only
7 economically viable, but also environmentally
8 viable. With the cost of inputs and living
9 expenses rising, increasing our current hog
10 enterprise is a necessity. And expansion in our
11 hog sales means we would realize more income to
12 help cover those higher costs on our farm.

13 Pigs or hogs are being raised in two
14 conventional barns and four hoop structures. We
15 are not a big hog producer. We probably market
16 somewheres around 2,000 hogs. And we produce both
17 liquid and solid manure. The manure is applied to
18 our land, following the recommended set-backs from
19 our creeks, cities and wells.

20 Site-specific soil sampling is done
21 prior to manure application to determine not just
22 which field, but where within the field the manure
23 should be applied. And this is where our son
24 Justin is involved. Being an agronomist, he's
25 responsible for the testing of soils and making

1 sure that they are applied at the right amount and
2 in the right place. We use a GPS system to be
3 able to pick out spots in our fields that need
4 more application of manure.

5 With financial funding from the Canada
6 Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program, after
7 completing our Environmental Farm Plan, the
8 regular manure testing will be implemented on our
9 farm. Composting of the solid manure will also be
10 implemented on our farm, making it affordable,
11 more affordable, for us to spread the composted
12 manure on land that is farther from the yard site.
13 The cost of moving that manure gets pretty
14 expensive if you don't compost it. And we have
15 been doing it for the last couple of years. And
16 we are going to increase all of our manure, our
17 cattle manure as well.

18 Livestock mortalities are composted on
19 the farm. And this year we were in the process of
20 improving our structure for dead livestock
21 composting on the site.

22 A significant portion of our annual
23 crops, which include peas, barley and wheat are
24 grown as feed for the pigs. Peas works well in
25 our rotation. It allows us to zero till and seed

1 the following cereal crop into the low residue pea
2 stubble; therefore, dramatically reducing soil
3 erosion and carbon emissions. Barley, the main
4 ingredient for our hog operation, and to our pig
5 ration, is the most competitive cereal crop,
6 allowing us to reduce our chemical and mechanical
7 methods of our weed control.

8 In 2003, we received the Family of the
9 Year award from our local Conservation District.
10 This award was given to us by our peers, who
11 recognized the work that we have done, and
12 continue to do in soil and water management on our
13 farm. This acknowledgment -- this award
14 acknowledged that we, as a family, showed
15 responsible farm practices. And some of the
16 practice we do, and this is maybe not in the hogs,
17 but in our cattle operation, we have done some
18 repairing and fences around slews and lakes. We
19 have a fairly good-sized lake. We have fenced it
20 so we have a riparian area. And we use off-site
21 water systems. And we've been doing that now for
22 17 years. There hasn't been one of our cows drank
23 out of any one of our dug-outs.

24 On an annual basis, we have our well
25 water tested, since this water is used not only

1 for our livestock, but for our own personal
2 consumption and use. With the proper livestock
3 manure management, along with proper well
4 maintenance, we have always, and continue to
5 drink, our groundwater due to the acceptable
6 nutrients and bacteria levels.

7 With our awareness in executing the
8 proper management techniques, we are meeting our
9 goal of being within government regulation
10 allowances of soil and water nutrient levels.
11 Everything we do today is to save and improve the
12 land, water and air quality, so that they are here
13 for the next generation tomorrow.

14 Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much,
16 Mr. Timmerman.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: I am just curious, this
18 is not much to do with it, which conservation
19 district are you?

20 MR. TIMMERMAN: LaSalle/Redboine
21 Conservation District.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: And that's fairly new,
23 isn't it?

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: Fairly new, yes, about
25 three years ago.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Have you benefited by
2 using that program, the Federal Environmental
3 Protection Plan, where you make your own -- you
4 evaluate yourself? Have you found that very
5 useful?

6 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes, I do. And, by
7 the way, I was probably one of the first ones
8 taking it, because they wanted people interested
9 in taking it from different groups. I thought it
10 was really good, really valuable, because you
11 assess yourself. And by going through the
12 workbook, you start to realize that, yeah, there
13 are certain things there that you are doing. You
14 don't even realize that you are doing it to
15 improve the environment. And there are other
16 areas where you can make some nice little changes,
17 which doesn't really mean that you have to go for
18 funding. You can do this at very little cost.
19 But we also do take advantage of some of the BMPs
20 to help us, particularly in the soil and water
21 management area.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: We have been hearing
23 very good reports on that.

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: And it is an

1 opportunity to give yourself a pat on the back
2 sometimes, too.

3 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes, I agree. But it
4 does make you realize that you are doing not that
5 bad a job. There are also areas of improvement,
6 but there are also areas that you are doing a good
7 job.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr.
9 Timmerman, that's all.

10 MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Timmerman, I
11 gather, because you have somewhat of a mixed
12 operation, you have both cattle and hogs, and so
13 you are dealing with both solid manure and liquid
14 manure?

15 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes.

16 MR. YEE: Would the liquid manure be
17 of greater amount than the solid manure that you
18 have to deal with?

19 MR. TIMMERMAN: Pardon me?

20 MR. YEE: The liquid manure is greater
21 than the solid?

22 MR. TIMMERMAN: No.

23 MR. YEE: It's the other way around?

24 MR. TIMMERMAN: No. Our liquid manure
25 is probably only from about 600 pigs.

1 MR. YEE: Okay.

2 MR. TIMMERMAN: Where the rest of it
3 comes from is the hoop barns, straw-based. And
4 our cow cattle manure is all straw-based.

5 MR. YEE: So you are composting the
6 solid and spreading it?

7 MR. TIMMERMAN: We have been doing it
8 for about three years with the hogs. We are going
9 to start to do it with the cattle, too.

10 MR. YEE: And as far as the manure,
11 you are also composting that?

12 MR. TIMMERMAN: The liquid manure?

13 MR. YEE: Yes.

14 MR. TIMMERMAN: No. The liquid manure
15 is applied on the land, spread on the land.

16 MR. YEE: Is that by injection?

17 MR. TIMMERMAN: No. Because we are
18 under 300 animal units, we were able to apply it
19 by spreading.

20 MR. YEE: Right, okay. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Timmerman. Can we get a copy of your
23 presentation today? She did get a copy of it
24 already?

25 MR. TIMMERMAN: Yes. She got ten

1 copies of it.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, good, thanks. Next
3 up is Real Comte. Would you please state your
4 name for the record?

5 MR. COMTE: Real Comte.

6 REAL COMTE, having been sworn, presents as
7 follows:

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please
9 proceed.

10 MR. COMTE: Ladies and gentlemen, my
11 name is Real Comte. I own and operate a hog,
12 grain and oilseed farm in Notre Dame. I have a
13 100 sow, farrow to finish, operation with 800
14 acres. I am the fourth generation on this
15 centennial farm.

16 The hog operation started in 1974 with
17 a 300 feeder pig finishing barn and 480 acres. It
18 currently houses 1100 pigs and is a 100 sow,
19 farrow to finish, operation. There is also 525
20 cultivated acres and 245 acres of woodland. We
21 are not a large operation because we expand only
22 when we see there is an interest from the next
23 generation. Financially, the advantage of having
24 pigs and grain is for the diversification and
25 steady cash flow that it provides. When the price

1 of pigs are up positive, the price of grain goes
2 down, and vice versa. Without these two
3 enterprises, farming would not be a reality for
4 me. This was also the case, even for my father
5 back in the seventies.

6 The water supply for the barn and
7 house is from the same source. It is a 55 foot
8 deep well, which is 30 inch wide casing, and is
9 made of fiberglass. The water comes from quick
10 sand, which is approximately 30 feet beneath the
11 surface. It is hard water, so a softener is used
12 to remove iron at the house. The water has been
13 sampled yearling for the last 33 years and has
14 remained unchanged. This proves to me that our
15 farming practices are not polluting the water
16 source in any way.

17 Manure provides the fertilizer for the
18 grain, which we grow and is then fed back to the
19 pigs. We also add granular fertilizer in the
20 spring only, before seeding, to top off whatever
21 nutrients are missing from the manure. This is
22 done with consultations with an agronomist where
23 we purchase our inputs.

24 Our soil is sampled every two year to
25 make sure there is no excessive buildup of

1 nutrients like phosphate and nitrogen. We
2 currently have 130 days of storage, manure
3 storage, in concrete pits beneath the barns. We
4 have also broadcasted our manure ourselves with a
5 liquid manure spreader. By spreading the manure
6 ourselves, we are able to apply the manure on the
7 least productive spots of the fields. The manure
8 is always incorporated within 24 hours of
9 spreading, with a cultivator. We set realistic
10 targets and yield potential for our crop
11 production. And we have noticed, over the
12 years, a big improvement in our soil production
13 output.

14 The immediate future for the farm,
15 alongside with the financial support of the
16 Manitoba Stewardship Program, will see better
17 improvements to our farming practices. Manure
18 will no longer be broadcasted on the soil but,
19 rather, incorporated directly into the ground.
20 This will increase the nitrogen level in manure
21 and also eliminate nuisance odours. Another
22 improvement will be the use of a GPS and auto
23 steer to the tractor to limit the over-applying of
24 fertilizer.

25 Our farm has 275 acres of woodlands,

1 which remain untouched. Therein lives a great
2 deal of wildlife. We, as a family, enjoy the
3 woods for all its natural beauty and recreational
4 pastimes. We have no intention of ever clearing
5 these areas.

6 The family farm can compete and thrive
7 in the hog industry. We will expand, as the
8 children get old enough and become interested in
9 continuing the tradition. We take great pride in
10 preserving our environment for the sake of future
11 generations, as it was taken care of for me. More
12 unnecessary regulations can jeopardize the future
13 by burdening the process down with red tape. More
14 should be done to get the abusers of the system,
15 and not the innocent.

16 The Manitoba Pork Council is already
17 very active in informing the hog industry of
18 proper management. The C.Q.A. program is one of
19 those programs that ensures all pigs are produced
20 humanely and safely. I would like to thank the
21 CEC for providing us this time to bring forward
22 our concerns regarding these hearings. I hope
23 that we have positively influenced your decision
24 in this matter.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much,

1 Mr. Comte. Do you think that the current
2 regulatory regime is sufficient or that it is too
3 much?

4 MR. COMTE: I think that it is
5 sufficient as it is now.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: So you can work with
7 the current regime?

8 MR. COMTE: Yes.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Including the
10 phosphorus regulation?

11 MR. COMTE: Yes.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: But you probably would
13 rather not see any additional regulations?

14 MR. COMTE: That's correct, yes. I
15 think that we take great pride in making sure that
16 it's taken care of for our future generations.
17 And with consulting agronomists, on a yearly
18 basis, and others in the industry, that the
19 regulations right now are sufficient.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr. Comte.
22 Just for a point of clarification, in your one
23 sentence you say when you were incorporating it.
24 You know, when you were injecting it into the
25 ground, you say:

1 "This will increase the nitrogen level
2 in manure and eliminate nuisance
3 odours."

4 I didn't quite get that.

5 MR. COMTE: Right now the manure is
6 broadcast on to the soil. By incorporating it in,
7 there is a lot of nitrogen evaporating. And by
8 incorporating it in, it would be more beneficial
9 for me. It would pay off for me to actually
10 incorporate it.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: It is the same amount
12 in the manure, it is just better utilized when it
13 is incorporated?

14 MR. COMTE: Yes.

15 MR. MOTHERAL: That's all I wanted.

16 MR. YEE: Just one quick question,
17 Mr. Comte. I noticed that you are broadcast
18 spreading your manure. Have you had many
19 complaints of odour as a result of this type of
20 spreading?

21 MR. COMTE: Not to my face. But I
22 have certainly had concerns, yes. But I think
23 it's even a nuisance for us. I think it's more of
24 a nuisance for ourselves, as well as everybody
25 else.

1 MR. YEE: So would there be a great
2 deal of increase in cost if you were to till it?
3 Not till it in, but inject it in?

4 MR. COMTE: The spreader that we
5 currently have has the attachments already
6 available to be able to put a knife injector on it
7 as it is. So with the funding of the new farm
8 plan, which would pay a third of it, it would be
9 feasible to put the attachment on the spreader at
10 very little cost.

11 MR. YEE: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
13 coming out here this afternoon, Mr. Comte. Next
14 up is Liz Clayton.

15 MS. CLAYTON: Just one second. I am
16 trying to get the power point up and running. I
17 have some notes and some pictures. Yeah, I guess,
18 by way of introduction --

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Just wait a moment,
20 please.

21 MS. CLAYTON: Oh, I haven't sworn to
22 tell the truth.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's get the
24 technology dealt with first, and then we will take
25 care of that. Please state your name for the

1 record?

2 MS. CLAYTON: My name is Elizabeth
3 Clayton.

4 ELIZABETH CLAYTON, having been sworn, presents as
5 follows:

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please
7 proceed.

8 MS. CLAYTON: Okay. So my name is
9 Liz, and I am what I understand to be an
10 increasingly rare statistic, and that's a person
11 who has moved into, rather than away from, the
12 country. The de-population of the prairies is one
13 of the greatest challenges facing our rural
14 communities. And from reading the papers out
15 here, it is apparent that a lot of R.M.s are
16 looking at ways to attract, and keep, new people
17 and new ideas to you're communities.

18 My partner, Henri, has brought
19 machinist skills to the community. And I have a
20 background in volunteer management and media. And
21 I have money to invest from selling my home in
22 Winnipeg. We plan to design and develop, with the
23 help of our friends from the University of
24 Manitoba, an energy-efficient, sustainable
25 Northern Greenhouse for the production of fresh

1 green food year-round.

2 So when we decided to move to the
3 country, we started spending our weekends
4 exploring Manitoba and as far away, actually, as
5 Eastern Saskatchewan, looking for the perfect
6 piece of land. A place that reflected traditional
7 notions of "country". You know, a place with a
8 big sky and maybe some rolling hills and lots of
9 pastureland and bush and cows and maybe even some
10 hay fields. You know, this kind of picture comes
11 to mind when you think of the beautiful
12 countryside. And that's a farm just north of
13 Treherne.

14 So this is what we were looking for.
15 But in so many areas of Manitoba, we found
16 something that looked more like this when we were
17 looking for a place to settle. As we know,
18 intensive livestock operations have been springing
19 up all over the countryside.

20 And just looking at the numbers here,
21 we have had a great proliferation, since 1996,
22 when we went from the single desk system to more
23 of a vertically integrated system. So from 1996,
24 we only are 3.2 million hogs. And then 2001,
25 about five years later, 5.4 million. And then in

1 2006, we had 8.63 million. So we have had a huge
2 increase in the amount of hogs in our Province of
3 Manitoba.

4 Sometimes the operations are in the
5 middle of nowhere, much as this one is, and
6 sometimes they are right on the edge of sizable
7 towns. Anyway, we kept looking until we found the
8 perfect place. And we did find a place in the
9 R.M. of South Norfolk. Here is the corner where
10 we turn off to head to our place. It is the
11 corner of Highway 305. That's about one mile east
12 of our land. And these are the Tiger Hills in the
13 background there. And this is the road going up
14 in front of our house, and Tiger Hills, once
15 again, looking towards the escarpment.

16 And the bush here, on this side, is
17 the riparian zone that surrounds the Boyne River
18 that winds its way through to the Stephenfield
19 Provincial Park and then into the Stephenfield
20 Reservoir. And that supplies this town of St.
21 Claude and Carman with their drinking water. And
22 so this is giving an idea of the escarpment there.
23 We have got the Tiger Hills. This is the Boyne
24 River down below. And here is the Stephenfield
25 Lake.

1 So, anyway, we are very lucky because
2 now we are doing what a lot of people only dream
3 of doing. And that's, you know, unplugging from
4 the city and setting up a permaculture homestead
5 on 33 acres. Our land is zoned agriculture, but
6 it is not suitable for any sort of large scale
7 agriculture because of the bush, the drainage, the
8 river and the escarpment, the topography. And we
9 are on the edge of the Manitoba Escarpment, which
10 was the old lakeshore of Lake Agassiz, about
11 20,000 years ago.

12 But in the spring the run-off filters
13 through our property, and then it rushes into
14 streams that flow into the Boyne River. Here is a
15 picture of the Boyne River overflowing. And
16 that's from the Stephenfield Conservation District
17 website, and that's from 2004.

18 And here is it overflowing the road
19 that just crosses right by our section from
20 Highway 305. And here it is behind our house, on
21 the neighbour's land, flowing through. So as you
22 can see, drainage is really a problem. This river
23 can really grow and run off. I am kind of keeping
24 an eye on it right now because, you know, we are
25 kind of heading to that season.

1 Out here, the soil is pretty sandy,
2 and it doesn't take long for that soil to get
3 absorbed into the ground. We are at basement
4 level. And this is what happens. This is a
5 stream that runs through the coolie that runs
6 right through our place. This is taken on the
7 September long weekend of last year. And as can
8 you see, it is pretty much dried up, so the river
9 is compromised. It doesn't flow through the late
10 summer a lot of the time.

11 According to the Manitoba Sustainable
12 Irrigation Discussion Paper that was released in
13 November 2001, they were reporting something
14 called the Wet Sands area, which is considered a
15 high-risk area for aquifer protection.

16 And the river itself, here is a map of
17 it, okay? Here is a picture of the conservation
18 district that shows the general lay of the land.
19 You can see the escarpment running through. And
20 the Boyne River and numerous tributaries that run
21 into it. Now, in this area there are about four
22 hog operations, at this point, with one more on
23 the books, so we will get to that shortly.

24 When the CEC confirmed that this
25 examination of the sustainability of the hog

1 industry in Manitoba wouldn't be limited to just
2 environmental concerns, specifically water quality
3 in Lake Winnipeg, but also be looking at all of
4 the impacts of this industry, I was really
5 relieved that we could maybe have an opportunity
6 to put some of the other impacts of this industry
7 on the table here today.

8 So moving right along here, this
9 document here is from Conservation Manitoba, "An
10 Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of
11 the Hog Industry in Manitoba". Fairly recent, it
12 came out in 2006. And from that we have here a
13 look at the location of permitted manure storage
14 facilities from April 2006.

15 So as you can see, there is a huge
16 dark section. Excuse the scale. Okay, there is a
17 huge section down there, and that's around
18 Steinbach, Hanover, La Broquerie. Here we've got
19 a little bit of an intensive process going on just
20 south in the Lorne District. We have quite a few
21 hog barns starting to show up here. And we have a
22 few in South Norfolk, where I live.

23 But I am just wondering, you know,
24 just to consider: How would you like to own, you
25 know, a family farm right in this area here, where

1 we have got a whole ton of hog barns? We
2 travelled that way on Highway 12 last spring to
3 visit some friends several times last year. And
4 the odour -- it was after April 10th, and the
5 odour was omnipresent, and it was absolutely
6 overwhelming. It was not pretty driving down
7 there. Dozens of steel barns are visible from the
8 highway. It's called "hog army".

9 And we spent the night in a charming
10 guest house, in a beautiful meadow, surrounded by
11 poplar trees, thunderstorms raging, a beautiful
12 spring night in June. It was, like, the most
13 romantic, beautiful setting. But the smell wafted
14 in from all directions, all day long, and it was
15 totally enough to gag a maggot. It was just
16 terrible.

17 So as a person with money to invest,
18 ideas and energy to share, this would be the last
19 place I would set up a small farm. I was sad that
20 the people we were visiting had lived there for 27
21 years, and had invested their lives into
22 developing their property, but had no choice but
23 to stay in the middle of all of that.

24 The Manitoba Pork Council can empty
25 their deep pockets on the public relations spin

1 all they want, but it won't change the fact that
2 these large-scale operations, with anaerobic
3 liquid storage and lagoons, smell really bad. How
4 bad do they smell? Well, it's hard to measure
5 odour. It's almost as hard to measure odour as it
6 is to measure quality of life. But we can now
7 measure how important odour elimination is
8 becoming, which is an indicator of quality of
9 life.

10 And here we have a slide of the
11 burgeoning air freshener industry, where we see
12 that it is up \$600 million since 2003. These are
13 American numbers, by the way. 40 percent of the
14 people who buy these products didn't start until
15 six years ago. Now, this could be the result of
16 constant advertising. You know, every time you
17 hear on the T.V. you are hearing about Febreze.
18 But there is a generation that is considered to be
19 ultra-sensitive to any kind of odour. And I would
20 be really interested to see what they will be
21 looking for in a property when they become buyers.
22 I'm from an older generation, a little earthier,
23 perhaps, and even I have some issues with odour.
24 But this new generation, I don't know.

25 Odour is a real bugaboo for the hog

1 industry. The footprints of these ILOs extend far
2 beyond the land that they are built on. And
3 besides the soil and water issues, the odours
4 downwind are unmeasurable and unpredictable, and
5 unpleasant. And I'm not talking about that sweet
6 barnyard smell of nicely rotting manure. If you
7 are surrounded by fields that are part of the
8 Manure Management Plan, you are subjected to what
9 is called "nuisance odour" every spring, summer
10 and fall.

11 And although Conservation has called
12 for an end to winter spraying some time ago, in
13 this report that's mentioned here, barns of under
14 400, built before the regulations, are allowed to
15 continue with winter fertilizer application until
16 2010. And judging on the amount of winter
17 spreading going on this week, there are quite a
18 few farms in my area with the grandfathering
19 clause intact.

20 There has been a lot of talk about
21 science, and keeping this whole inquiry very
22 scientific. And the government has list add whole
23 pile of hog-related research projects that they
24 have funded, and that is in this document here.

25 And we are going to move to a slide

1 here. This is the amount of money that has gone
2 into scientific research here in Manitoba,
3 according to this document. ARDI Funding to the
4 pork industry, between 1998 and 2006, it was over
5 \$3 million. And that was money contributed to the
6 industry for research by the government, which is
7 us, the taxpayers.

8 Generally, it works out to -- looking
9 at the different types of experiments and the
10 types of projects that they use here, there are
11 certain different categories. And 26 percent of
12 the government funding went to manure management
13 and odour-related research here in Manitoba.

14 And 74 percent, actually, just went to
15 other aspects of the hog industry, hog feeding,
16 hog health and other projects that just generally
17 go to profit, the industry, funded by the
18 government, aka, the taxpayers.

19 And further, too, there is some more
20 contributions, as well, here where the government
21 contributes to the Manitoba Livestock Manure
22 Management Initiatives nearly \$1 million a year.
23 And private industry, of course, also adds to the
24 fund.

25 There is a lot of support from

1 taxpayers to enable -- that's a lot of support
2 from taxpayers to enable an industry that has
3 grown to 8.3 million pigs. Perhaps some of those
4 research dollars could be diverted into seeking
5 new and emerging food production systems, like
6 northern greenhouses, and not growing an industry
7 that is already established.

8 There are programs for special
9 breeding and special feeding. But there is no
10 research being done in these reports here of all
11 of the research being done to measure the impacts
12 of bacteria and virus-fighting antibiotics
13 vaccinations that the hogs excrete, then mix and
14 ferment in an anaerobic environment before the
15 liquified is applied.

16 There is no doubt about the desire of
17 the industry at large to make all of the bad stuff
18 go away. Here a study that found,
19 scientifically -- oh, yeah, here, is a study that
20 found, scientifically, that the odour inside homes
21 measures to be more than the odours that are
22 emanating from a hog barn. It's from the Pork
23 Producer Magazine in Iowa. And it says:

24 "Recent odour studies produce
25 encouraging results. It's a 16-month

1 study around Iowa hog farms, by Iowa
2 State University, and it found that:
3 Activities inside the home cause more
4 odour problems for rural residents
5 than neighbouring hog barns. They
6 found inside the home ammonia levels
7 higher than outside levels. And they
8 point to the inside sources being
9 litter in a cat box, someone was
10 smoking inside one of the homes, and
11 other pets were kept inside the
12 house."

13 So this is a peer-reviewed scientific study. And
14 I don't know who has a home that smells like that.
15 I am sure that no one in this room could say
16 that's the case.

17 So there is a desire -- actually, it
18 is almost funny when you start looking at the
19 amount of research that's being done and the
20 things that are for sale to prevent odour. It's
21 almost like 19th Century snake oil salesmen. A
22 whole side industry has sprung up, with gadgets
23 like electron beams and radio waves that break up
24 the content. But you can stir it up all you want,
25 because when you break it down, the raw

1 ingredients of decomposition, the ammonia, the
2 urea, and 166 other ingredients, like hydrogen
3 sulfide and sulphur dioxide, are all still there.

4 At the end of the day, at the end of
5 the dollar, there isn't really a darn thing you
6 can do about the smell with the current ILO model.
7 Because of the liquified slurry, and the anaerobic
8 lagoons, and the need to transport manure to sites
9 where the nutrients can be properly and thoroughly
10 used up by the crops. Even if manure comes out
11 sweet from all of the feed programs that are going
12 on, when it is liquified and stored in the dark
13 without air, it changes into something else. That
14 smell is something that good science can't fix, no
15 matter how many peers review it.

16 A generation of Manitobans have had
17 their daily lives impacted by ILOs going upwind of
18 them. And a generation of urban people visiting
19 the country in the spring for rest and relaxation,
20 for a breath of fresh air, or a Sunday drive, or a
21 visit, or lunch sometimes, have a hard times
22 driving with the windows open.

23 So out of respect for the farmers and
24 the townspeople who were here on this land first,
25 odours suppression should have been a requirement

1 from the very beginning, and not a catch-up
2 measure only now getting some action, slowly, and
3 when it's affordable. Lagoon coverage should have
4 be a condition in the annual Manure Management
5 Plans, effective as soon as possible, for all
6 existing operations that operate with the liquid
7 manure system. And also the sub-soil liquid
8 injection manure systems should become mandatory,
9 as well.

10 At present, there are no odour
11 regulations for the livestock operations by
12 Manitoba Conservation because odour is the
13 responsibility of the R.M. And while we are
14 talking about foresight, according to the Manure
15 Management Plan, the Province only introduced the
16 notion of well-water testing in 2002, according to
17 this report. And that requirement only came into
18 effect in 2004. So there were a lot of hogs here
19 when the Province started to look at the
20 regulatory framework for the industry more
21 closely, and there is a lot of catching up to do.

22 Perhaps the people who run the
23 Manitoba Pork Council, or even Conservation
24 Manitoba, don't live in the country and are
25 unaware of the proliferation of something called

1 midnight farming. Now that I live out here, I
2 find a strange amount of work going on in the
3 middle of the night, or on weekends starting at
4 4:15, or Friday afternoons. And from the sights
5 and the smells, it is mostly about manure
6 management. Mixed farming, traditional farming,
7 honest farming, is a daytime, right out in the
8 open, kind of public event. But some of this
9 factory farming is very, very quiet. No people,
10 no animals, no farm gate, no visitors because of
11 biosecurity.

12 So why is the hog industry so
13 beleaguered? After hearing the Manitoba Pork
14 Council's soothing and "good science and manure
15 management" approach, you begin thinking: Gee,
16 you know, these guys are doing everything right.
17 They don't even get a break. They get more
18 regulations. They get more inspections. They
19 have to fill in annual manure management reports.
20 And, by gosh, they can't even build or expand
21 right now because of this temporary pause on
22 building. And not only that, you can plan a barn,
23 following all of the regulations and still get
24 shot down by an R.M. after that onerous and
25 off-putting, uncontrollable factor called a public

1 hearing for a conditional use permit. Mr. Peter
2 Mah, of the Pork Council, says that it's not fair
3 to the hog industry. Proponents can do everything
4 right, but still get turned down at that stage of
5 the process.

6 Well, let's look at how effective that
7 process has been to the hog farm development.
8 Here is some more science. This is an estimate,
9 actually, based on memory of residents of the
10 number of projects stopped at the R.M. level
11 through the public hearing process since 1996:
12 Seven. The number of projects successfully
13 established and operating here in Manitoba right
14 now: 1400. So as you can see, it certainly
15 looks, with the odds being 200 to 1 in favour of
16 the proponent, that the public hearing actually
17 does work for the proponents, the stats say yes.

18 And contrary to the image that the
19 Pork Council paints, the challenges of learning
20 and interpreting and employing all of these
21 regulations isn't always the case of a struggling
22 independent farmer starting from scrap. With a
23 vertically integrated industry, the hog farmer has
24 the experience of experts to advise him through
25 many stages of this process, particularly the

1 regulatory stages.

2 Now, I am tired of getting assaulted
3 by being incapable of understanding the science,
4 or making a reasoned conclusion, by an
5 industry-funded lobby group that works full time
6 to promote and grow their industry with an annual
7 spin budget of \$3.5 million. That, to me, is a
8 special interest group.

9 There is an article that I have here
10 on this desk that I have made really messy really
11 fast. Here it is. Western Producer, January 25th
12 of this year, by Ron Friesen, in which Peter Mah
13 advised the government to not make policies based
14 on "public opinion". So I suppose policies based
15 on back-room deals and the "economy of the moment"
16 would be better for the future of our province?
17 He said that "public opinion" is based on
18 "subjective and often biased, piecemeal,
19 anecdotal, and founded on a "not in my backyard
20 perspective". And that's maybe true, but why is
21 that? The Pork Council has deep pockets to work
22 within. They can afford to buy media, place ads,
23 golf with the government. And they have been
24 telling the Manitoba public exactly the same
25 message, over and over again, since 1996, that the

1 hog industry is wonderful for everyone. And if
2 the public doesn't buy it, maybe that's because
3 they see with their own eyes and smell with their
4 own noses. And Mah complains that "special
5 interest groups" are on a witch hunt. But from
6 all of the intolerant literature that I read from
7 people who don't support the constant and infinite
8 growth of this industry, I feel that he is on a
9 witch hunt.

10 So I will tell you what I have learned
11 since January 4th of this year. And that's when I
12 first read in my community paper, "The Treherne
13 Times", that a Conditional Use Permit had been
14 granted to Biopork Enterprises Limited following a
15 public hearing on December 12th. When I read in
16 the paper about the public meeting, I saw that it
17 was only attended by the proponent, Mr. Barry
18 Watson from BioPork, and Gary Plohman of the
19 Technical Review Committee, and the R.M. Council.
20 There was no other public there.

21 And seeing that the section involved
22 was kitty-corner to my section, I was concerned.
23 So I called the R.M. office and asked them to see
24 me all of the information about the public
25 hearing. They responded by sending me just some

1 media minutes.

2 Finally, late in January, I did
3 receive the Technical Review Committee report in
4 the mail. And I was kind of stunned to discover
5 the scope of this project because the place where
6 I was just getting settled into, where I hoped to
7 spend the rest of my life, was going to have 19
8 barns, the pigs rotating every 120 days, a total
9 of 16,000 pigs a year, will be moving in uphill
10 and upwind from me. With no odour control
11 because, as it says here, the manure will be
12 composted on site, handled as a solid and, as a
13 solid, there would be no odour. And mortalities
14 would be composted on site. Now, I could not find
15 the numbers for the average mortalities. But if
16 the barn has a 95 percent success rate, we are
17 still looking at composting more than 800 pigs a
18 year.

19 So then I went to Treherne to look
20 through back issues of the Treherne Times to see
21 if I had missed something about the public
22 meeting. There was nothing in the paper, for a
23 month prior to the meeting, so I hadn't. And it
24 turned out that the R.M. erred, and they did
25 improper notification. And there was supposed to

1 be a proper public hearing. And it is actually
2 quite lengthy. And I am really going to cut this
3 short for time and try to abbreviate as part of
4 this. I have it all on tape, audiotape. So it is
5 about three days' worth of phone calls to get to
6 the truth of the process. And I will be
7 submitting that, along with my proposal or my
8 background.

9 Okay. So Regional Planning called the
10 R.M. It turns out that there should be a public
11 hearing at some point in our future. But I have
12 been unable to determine if the application, so
13 far, has been recalled from Conservation,
14 Manitoba.

15 Some of the problems in the report,
16 though, there is no reference to the big picture.
17 The sites between the Manitoba Escarpment and the
18 Boyne River, as we just saw, the whole area is
19 subject to extreme run-off in the spring. That's
20 not mentioned in the report. And some of the
21 sections found in the area are actually underwater
22 in the spring.

23 And when I checked the fields slated
24 for the Manure Management Plan, I found that every
25 single field has drainage going to the Boyne

1 River, according to my R.M. map. And one section
2 included the Boyne River itself.

3 So there were a number of flaws, I
4 thought, in this Technical Review Committee
5 process, starting with no public hearing posted,
6 no acknowledgment to the big picture, and no
7 reference of run-off, and no reference to the
8 Boyne River. And as you may know, the Boyne River
9 supplies water to over 11,000 Manitobans in the
10 South Pembina Water District, a district that is
11 very challenged to get water to the citizens and
12 is on limited supply.

13 The water quality in the Stephenfield
14 River is compromised, and the capacity of the
15 reservoir is reduced two-thirds by silt deposits.
16 And this project requires over 7,000-gallons of
17 water day.

18 There are some flags on this report
19 that are put in by the scientists. Some of the
20 lands spreaded are at nitrogen capacity already,
21 some have poor soil, but who is going to act on
22 the flags? The Technical Review Committee does
23 not review the proponent's proposal for accuracy.
24 It just checks the plans against Provincial
25 regulations. So is it up to the R.M. and the

1 Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Hearing to
2 ask for more due diligence, or is that up to Water
3 Conservation, or does Conservation just handle the
4 "water license" and the "digging of the lagoon"?
5 Does anyone in this process stand back and look at
6 the land and look at the big picture.

7 Here is the big picture here. As I
8 sit here, the bush and the marginal land continues
9 to be cleared to enable more application at the
10 top of the hills. This is right near a barn in
11 our Tiger Hills area. Here is the view on the
12 very top of the Escarpment, where the soil is the
13 thinnest. This is the very top of it. Miles of
14 bushland that was protecting the top of the hills
15 from erosion have been bulldozed. And you can see
16 the soil is very stony and not very productive
17 looking there. And this is looking down the hill.
18 And, I guess, that's to show that the sediment
19 from these hills here are actually completely
20 barren, sweeps down the hills during run-offs,
21 which are very short and very severe. And they
22 can wash out the bridges and do a damaging job
23 down below. So I am just going to conclude here.
24 When I read the vocabulary of this hearing, of the
25 initiatives and cooperative efforts of the

1 government and the hog industry, I get very
2 discouraged because I'm an outsider, a "not in my
3 backyard" kind of person. I am one of the people
4 who the industry feels simply needs more education
5 on the "good science" to prove that everything is
6 hunky dory, that the hog industry is a good
7 steward of the land and a good neighbour.

8 I found that this was such a very
9 interesting document, though. It says here that:

10 "The Manitoba Government has a role to
11 play in ensuring that the growth of
12 the livestock sector continues to be
13 viable."

14 And that's on page 5 of this. So the Manitoba
15 Government wants to continue to grow the industry.
16 And on page 7 here, it is about manure
17 application, that:

18 "Our hog industry requires between
19 474,000 and 742,000 acres of land.
20 Expansion of the hog industry could
21 require between 73,700 and 92,900
22 additional acres."

23 And that, I estimate, to be 20 percent more growth
24 in the hog industry. So if we're at about
25 8.5 million now, we will be looking at 10 million

1 pigs. And then after that, two percent a year to
2 keep up with world population growth.

3 This initiative is being funded, the
4 government part is anyway, by the taxpayer. And
5 it proves the absolute imbeddedness of this
6 industry with our Provincial Government. There is
7 a number of different studies here. There is a
8 recommendation on page 12, recommendation 20 from
9 the Livestock Stewardship Panel, which says that:

10 "Industry and government should pay
11 greater attention to familiarizing the
12 public with the in-barn environment
13 and precautions that are taken to
14 raise healthy animals."

15 And the government responded with a fact-sheet
16 series.

17 Water testing, it says here, item 13:

18 "The government is picking up
19 70 percent of the cost for private
20 well testing, and 100 percent of the
21 testing for repeat tests of wells
22 which positive results."

23 That's a nice bonus. There were programs for
24 sustainability, and all of these sorts of things.
25 And I have already told you that the government is

1 funding \$4.2 million into the industry.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Clayton, I hesitate
3 to interrupt you, because we haven't heard too
4 much from the opponents from the hog industry, but
5 you are fast approaching twice the allotted time,
6 so we will give you another moment or two.

7 MS. CLAYTON: Okay. Quickly, this is
8 an industry where there is a lot of
9 cross-pollination. These are people who have
10 worked for the Manitoba Government, or have in the
11 past: Peter Mah, Andrew Dickinson, formerly with
12 MAFRI, formerly from intergovernmental affairs.
13 And Gary Plohman, currently from MAFRI. And
14 looking here, we see the same people, employed by
15 the Manitoba Pork industry. So these are -- there
16 is a lot of cross-over here. And when it comes to
17 regulations, funding, applications and things, I
18 am wondering if this is just too close for
19 comfort.

20 I have some suggestions now. I
21 suggest that the hog industry should stop
22 expanding and learn to be healthy and sustainable
23 at about 8 million pigs. Shelterbelts and lagoons
24 should be covered. And old ILO systems should be
25 phased out.

1 All new projects should be based on
2 the straw-based bio-barn system.

3 A dwelling should be included in a
4 site plan.

5 R.M. officials and community members
6 should be part of the Technical Review Committee
7 process so that the big picture is not missed.

8 A proper chain of custody for water
9 taken from test wells should be instituted.

10 Measurements and standards for odour
11 measures should be instituted by Conservation
12 Manitoba.

13 Public-minded citizens should be
14 trained and empowered to investigate incidents of
15 "night farming".

16 A province-wide public information
17 campaign should be launched with information about
18 environmental rules and regulations, and a snitch
19 shine.

20 And the Planning Act should be amended
21 to map out ILO-free zone that encourage small
22 farms, mixed farms, market gardens and traditional
23 beef livestock and dairy operations.

24 I will have to wrap it up there, even
25 though I have got some more stuff.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
2 Have you given us a copy of your written report?

3 MS. CLAYTON: I will print some out.
4 My printer kind of expired somewhere today.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: We do have a copier
6 here. We could make one copy today and make more
7 back at the office.

8 MS. CLAYTON: There was some stuff
9 that I thought was quite pertinent about the
10 sustainability of this.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we will read it.
12 We will make a note of those comments when we have
13 an opportunity to read the report. Thank you.

14 MS. CLAYTON: Do you have any
15 questions?

16 MR. MOTHERAL: No questions.

17 MS. CLAYTON: No?

18 MR. YEE: No questions.

19 MS. CLAYTON: No, not a single
20 question.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Next up is Bill
22 Harrison. Could we have order in the room,
23 please? Mr. Harrison, you promised to tell the
24 truth at the Winnipeg meeting last week, so we
25 consider that you are still abiding by that

1 promise.

2 MR. HARRISON: Well, I hope so. Thank
3 you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

5 BILL HARRISON, previously sworn, presents as
6 follows:

7 MR. HARRISON: First, I would like to
8 thank the CEC for the opportunity to comment on
9 the subject of the environmental sustainability of
10 the hog industry in Manitoba. It's good that the
11 CEC will listen to critics of the hog industry and
12 their suggestions for improvement in the
13 protection of the animals' quality of life, with
14 the resultant protection and improvement of the
15 health and our ground and surface waters, our soil
16 and, of course, that of our air, never mind all of
17 us.

18 May I assure the hog industry that if
19 they improve their protection of the above, the
20 increasingly enlightened health conscious consumer
21 will accept the increased cost of their pork. One
22 cannot increase trust in that industry by denial
23 and putting blame on critics of their
24 profit-oriented animal management practices. The
25 consumer has every right to be a vocal partner in

1 the meat they purchase and consume.

2 The public expects the Provincial
3 Government, with the help of such communal
4 processes as these CEC hearings, to ensure that
5 the hog industry raises the animals under their
6 care with respect for their natural life processes
7 and their feelings as living creatures. If the
8 public perceives the hog industry as being given
9 too much leeway to abuse the quality of life of
10 animals under their care by our government, which
11 is elected, one assumes, to ensure the public's
12 health is protected, then we have a serious
13 problem. That is if the hog industry is seen as
14 contributing to pollution of our waterways, such
15 as Lake Winnipeg our neighbouring Stephenfield
16 Lake, we assume it is the Provincial Government
17 which must enact legislation to minimize and
18 ideally eliminate this threat. Industry, as well
19 as individuals, must follow the law, as well as
20 practice common sense to protect our drinking
21 water, in particular.

22 Unpolluted water is key to human
23 health and welfare. It is the government's job to
24 ensure all sentient beings are looked after. We
25 must be assured that what we consume is safe and

1 healthy, whether it's food or water. Industry
2 constantly reminds us they follow government
3 regulations. Therefore, it is the Province's
4 responsibility to regulate the hog industry as
5 strictly as necessary, whether it's their feed,
6 the water they consume, the air they pollute, or
7 the manure they spread.

8 Municipal governments are not required
9 to bare this responsibility. In my R.M. of Lorne,
10 our council has ducked the responsibility to look
11 after the public health by denying to enact a
12 livestock by-law. Fortunately, the province has
13 forced our R.M.s to develop such by-laws under the
14 new Planning Act, so at least we have a beginning.
15 Hopefully regulations governing ILOs will evolve
16 and become stricter, so as to enhance water and
17 air quality and, ultimately, animal and human
18 health.

19 An example of the failure of the
20 government system to protect its waterways is the
21 new by-law in the R.M. of Lorne. Our watershed,
22 that is the Roseisle Creek Watershed Association,
23 worked with the R.M. of Dufferin, which surrounds
24 the Town of Carman, in the last two years, leading
25 up to Lorne's creation of its own development

1 plan. Dufferin, unlike Lorne, is downstream from
2 us in our watershed, which includes Roseisle
3 Creek, the Boyne River, some of Lyle Creek, and
4 all of them are feeding into Stephenfield Lake.
5 And the main source for the Pembina Valley Water
6 Co-op, which feeds treated water to many towns
7 such as Haywood, St. Claude, Carman, Roseisle,
8 Miami, et cetera, as well as many farms in the
9 area. And, of course, many irrigators use this
10 water.

11 Now, the R.M. of Lorne initially
12 declined to cooperate with the R.M. of Dufferin
13 over the latter's concerns with polluted water
14 coming from our R.M., which is Lorne, with its
15 rapid growth of ILOs. And due to the combined
16 efforts of our watershed group, working with the
17 R.M. of Dufferin and meeting with representatives
18 of Water Stewardship and Manitoba Conservation at
19 the Legislature, we managed to achieve some
20 compromise set-back distances from the R.M. of
21 Lorne, along the Lyle and Roseisle Creeks, and the
22 latter being the largest single feed to the Boyne
23 River, for the construction of new ILOs in Lorne's
24 development plan. So we got some compromises.
25 However, since the R.M. of Lorne has not been

1 known to refuse any proposal for a new ILO, and I
2 see Ms. Clayton has touched on that topic, it has
3 been known -- I mean, it has not been known to
4 refuse any proposal to ILOs, we have not given up
5 on our efforts to improve our watersheds by
6 persuading them to improve on their by-law.

7 The provincial planning process is
8 flawed. Three separate hog ILOs, were approval in
9 our R.M., even though they did not meet the
10 Province's Farm Practices Guidelines. These were
11 the Picardie Farm, one-half mile of St. Lupicin,
12 Martin Grenier barn one mile south of Notre Dame
13 de Lourdes, and the Charriere barn two miles east
14 of Lourdes. This has really become a social, as
15 well as an environmental, issue. No party seems
16 to take responsibility.

17 Our council originally had no
18 livestock by-laws, and refused to enact one until
19 they were forced to by the Province via the
20 Development Plan. Thanks to the Province for the
21 baby step.

22 Technician reviews, which the Province
23 mandates, are simply advisory. Since the reviews
24 did not say no to the construction, our council
25 saw this as an approval process.

1 For example, Picardi Farms' proposal
2 did not originally meet the Farm Practices
3 Guideline of too many dwellings within a mile of
4 the proposed site, according to the Technical
5 Review Committee. However, they then reversed
6 their decision when our council arbitrarily
7 reduced the number of dwellings and, of course,
8 our council approved the project. When the
9 neighbours to the proposed project pointed out
10 this discrepancy to the Farm Practices Board, the
11 board's response was that they could not deal with
12 their complaint until after the operation was up
13 and running. Talk about a catch 22! It is
14 obvious the government must improve on the
15 complaints process before ILO projects are
16 permitted to build. Now, this allow for greater
17 public input, and the public has a right to be
18 involved. I mean, we are all neighbours. We all
19 have to work together in our communities to build,
20 you know, healthier and safer communities.

21 In yet another case, just west of
22 Somerset on Highway 23, an ILO, which had burned,
23 was ordered rebuilt on the same site by the
24 insurer, across the road and less than 600 feet
25 from Mr. Bill Acheson's farm. This is not the

1 barn proponent's fault. Good government could
2 have intervened and mandated insurance companies,
3 and they still can, to permit reconstruction of
4 such barns at another site more equitable to the
5 neighbour and the barn's owners. This could make
6 for a better and healthier relationships in farm
7 communities. Who is driving the planning train,
8 anyway?

9 Now, it's known that it takes 4,000 to
10 5,000 litres of fresh, clean water to produce one,
11 yes, one kilo of pork. An 8,000 feeder operation,
12 such as the Picardie site, south of St. Lupicin,
13 uses approximately 160 million litres of clean
14 water a year, according to Manitoba agriculture.
15 This is at a time when scientists are warning of
16 global warming and prolonged drought. Much of the
17 water is used to make the hog manure into a slurry
18 to more easily, and cheaply, spread it on the
19 land, which can and does create hazardous run-off
20 and soaking into aquifers. This must change!
21 Government must mandate composting manure systems
22 as a real beginning to protect our ground and
23 surface waters.

24 And, at this time, I would like to
25 thank Mr. Timmerman for his comments regarding

1 that he is, at this time, doing some composting,
2 at least in his cattle manure. But I would
3 hope -- and I understand that there is a project
4 going on near Treherne, a couple of young hog
5 producers are working with the Province now to
6 develop a better method of composting hog manure
7 from their biotech barns. I wish them luck, and I
8 hope that will be the future for our Province.

9 Straw bedding systems must be used,
10 such as in the biotech barns, or the pure lean
11 pork hog production system. And I don't know if
12 their website is still active. But I understand
13 they had a little problem because they weren't as
14 profitable as the liquid manure system barns.
15 They never became terribly popular.

16 Now, liquid manure pits, even with
17 plastic liners, are known by engineers to seep up
18 to 10 percent into the earth and aquifers below.
19 No, they don't leak. This does not have to
20 happen. If jurisdictions in Europe, the U.S., and
21 even in Quebec, can produce high quality pork
22 profitably by using above ground manure storage
23 tanks, using manure composting, not using
24 antibiotics when an animal is sick, not using sow
25 grates and by using straw bedding, then what is to

1 prevent our government from gradually legislating
2 the same processes here in Manitoba?

3 Corporate hog producers must catch up
4 with the rest of the enlightened world. They
5 ought to wake up to consumer choice. They just
6 might find compliance, cooperation, and
7 environmental sensitivity will profit them more
8 than resistance and denial and their expensive
9 good science. Let us work together, consumers and
10 producers, to create a more environmentally
11 sustainable, tastier and health healthier meat so
12 this debate can go away.

13 We cannot prove the environmental
14 sustainability of the hog industry while we're
15 constantly adding new barns; just like a fireman
16 cannot put out a fire if we keep adding fuel to
17 the fire.

18 Please, let's make this pause into a
19 permanent moratorium. I heard last week the Pork
20 Council said that they were at probably about nine
21 million hogs now in the province. So if we go
22 back to 2006 where at the beginning of 2006, where
23 the number was 8.3 million, so that exponentially
24 we can expect that by early next year there will
25 be ten million hogs in Manitoba, and that should

1 be enough.

2 So, again, please let's make this
3 pause into a permanent moratorium. Nine to ten
4 million hogs in Manitoba is much more than enough.
5 The hog industry should not have to be reminded
6 that had over-production leads to lower prices and
7 even collapse of the market. And how is that
8 sustainable?

9 Thank you very much.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
11 Mr. Harrison. You commented about -- you
12 referenced, I think, it was three different barns
13 that were allowed to go ahead, even though they
14 didn't meet the Best Practices -- the Best
15 Management Practices or was it just the farm
16 practices?

17 MR. HARRISON: Just the farm
18 practices.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: The farm practice
20 guidelines?

21 MR. HARRISON: Yes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: How would you suggest
23 that that problem be fixed?

24 MR. HARRISON: That's a good question.
25 It probably won't be a simple one. There is no

1 simple answer to that. I think that there should
2 be more public consultation. I don't expect that
3 the board, your board, can make all of the
4 recommendations just with this information that I
5 am giving you.

6 But one hopes that -- you know, that
7 if the industry sits down together with
8 environmentalists and, you know, people from
9 Conservation, people from Water Stewardship,
10 particularly, and, you know, maybe we can research
11 and talk amongst ourselves and figure out some
12 answers to that question.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that that is
14 one area that we may well give serious
15 consideration to, the whole approval process.
16 Because we have heard from concerns from people on
17 at least two sides, maybe more than two sides, of
18 that issue. So, you know, any input that you
19 might give us about how you think that the
20 approval process might be improved would certainly
21 be valuable.

22 MR. HARRISON: I would like to do
23 that. If I could, I can always make up a written
24 submission as well.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MR. HARRISON: Another written
2 submission for another time, another meeting.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: We would appreciate
4 that.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: I am confused myself
6 sometimes with some of these things, Mr. Harrison.
7 There is reference to the Farm Practices Board,
8 and there is reference to Farm Practices
9 Guidelines. And I do believe that they are, like,
10 two separate issues.

11 MR. HARRISON: They are two separate
12 issues.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: Because the guidelines
14 are there for municipalities to assist them in
15 their development plans. And also the Farm
16 Practices Board is a board that handles nuisance
17 complaints, I believe, is it not?

18 MR. HARRISON: That's right.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. I was getting
20 them -- you were referencing them as though they
21 were the same thing.

22 MR. HARRISON: No, that was not my
23 intent.

24 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay.

25 MR. HARRISON: No. The Farm Practices

1 Guidelines, many of them, actually, have become
2 law in the new plan before the previous
3 government, the Conservative Government, had made
4 the recommendations originally. So nobody
5 followed them until now. With any new operations,
6 they all have to follow them as law, not just as
7 guidelines.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: And just another
9 comment, too, and I've mentioned this before
10 today, that with a new Planning Act, the
11 municipalities must or are mandated to come up
12 with a livestock operation policy, and many of
13 them are reluctant right now because of this
14 review going on.

15 MR. HARRISON: I understand that.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: So we understand that.

17 MR. HARRISON: It's difficult. I
18 mean, so many things are overlapping. And, you
19 know, I can understand it. But our council,
20 unfortunately, took the option to just wait and
21 wait and wait, until finally the government --
22 they got involved in the process. And then, at
23 the same time, the government is trying to say:
24 Well, you have to do this and you have to do that
25 with the new changes in the Planning Act. Because

1 when they changed the Planning Act, of course,
2 that caused confusion because it held up our
3 process in Lorne and developing of the plan,
4 because they have been changing as they were going
5 along. But now, apparently, that by-law has been
6 passed.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: That's all I have.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

9 MR. YEE: Mr. Harrison, maybe if I can
10 just get some comments, because you had mentioned
11 the Planning Act, and indicated one of the useful
12 things about the amendment to the new Planning Act
13 was the fact that municipalities now have to plan
14 their developments in terms of livestock
15 operations. But one of the things that we've
16 heard from some municipal councillors is that
17 there is a downside, as well, because municipal
18 council no longer can put in by-laws respecting
19 how manure is managed. Do you have any comment on
20 that?

21 MR. HARRISON: Well, I would like to
22 see, actually, some input from councillors -- from
23 council, I mean. That's another issue. I know
24 that a lot of power has been taken away from the
25 R.M. And sometimes, in my R.M., I would have to

1 say, actually, that it is probably a good thing.
2 But in other R.M.s, it might not be. It is,
3 again, that balancing act, and it's tough. You
4 know, it's tough to find a compromise.

5 Again, I don't have a straight, you
6 know, pat answer to that, of course. I don't
7 know. But, again, it requires more consultation,
8 I suppose, from, you know, all of the
9 stakeholders, as we call them. And, as I say, it
10 is important the public is heard. It is
11 unfortunate that all of the public doesn't come
12 here. And I see the Pork Council is here because
13 the Pork Council encourages people to come and
14 give a presentation because their industry is
15 under attack.

16 And as I travel around, people say,
17 well, the government do what they want, anyway.
18 And, unfortunately, they put a word in with the
19 neighbours that they have. And a few people like
20 myself, or Ms. Clayton, or myself may come and
21 have an opinion as a layperson, not as a hog
22 producer, but somebody who lives in a community
23 and has concerns about the quality of life and, of
24 course, the water and the environment, et cetera.
25 And we want the industry to be sustainable, but

1 most of us feel that there is a limit. There has
2 to be some limit. If you can just keep expanding
3 and expanding, as I say, it is like adding fuel to
4 the fire. How can we examine the sustainability
5 of the hog industry if we don't take a pause and
6 see if it is manageable, and if the manure, or
7 whatever, you know, the threat to our water is
8 manageable, you know.

9 And to be fair, perhaps we should also
10 be saying or looking at the other livestock
11 producers in the industry. I mean, they are out
12 there doing their business, too. And they also
13 have manure, you know, a lot of manure, to dispose
14 of. And maybe it will still come to that. I
15 don't know.

16 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Harrison.

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

19 MR. HARRISON: Thanks very much.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Next up is Rick Maendel
21 and Cameron Maendel.

22 Yes, would you please state your names
23 for the record?

24 MR. R. MAENDEL: Ricky Maendel.

25 MR. C. MAENDEL: Cameron Maendel.

1 RICKY MAENDEL and CAMERON MAENDEL, having been
2 sworn, present as follows:

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may
4 proceed.

5 MR. R. MAENDEL: Good afternoon,
6 ladies and gentlemen. I am here today on behalf
7 of my community, which is Fairholme Colony of the
8 Hutterian Brethren Church, Schmiedeleut
9 Conference. From the Mennonites, our people
10 learned to farm on the steppes of Russia in the
11 late eighteenth century.

12 My community makes its living in the
13 farming and livestock industry. We farm
14 5,000-acres of mixed crops and grazing; turkey,
15 hog, chicken and beef production. Raising hogs
16 generates over half of our income.

17 A farm of this size needs a
18 substantial amount of drinking water for both
19 livestock and human consumption. Our well is
20 situated in the Assiniboine River flat,
21 approximately 100 metres from the river. This is
22 also the drinking water source for our community.
23 Obviously, it is in our best interest to keep our
24 water clean and safe.

25 It has been over five years since we

1 have applied manure to the fields in our river
2 flats. It is our choice not to, because we do not
3 need to. We have an underground irrigation system
4 covering over 2500-acres of our land; thus, manure
5 need not be reapplied on the same land for over
6 seven years. Our manure is injected into the
7 ground by a cultivator or a disc cultivator.

8 The manure from our turkey operations
9 stored in composting piles, which we use to
10 decompose dead stock. When manure has
11 sufficiently decomposed into dirt, it is spread
12 over our lightest sand hills and fields to return
13 fiber into the land and enrich the soil.

14 We practice zero tillage on most of
15 our agricultural land. Currently, we are in the
16 process of building a lagoon, because of the
17 recent history of slurry tank failures, and
18 although our storage tank passes government
19 inspections.

20 I voluntarily took a two-year pork
21 production technician course through Assiniboine
22 Community College in Elie, and am now a licenced
23 technician in the pork industry. I am aware of
24 the environmental concerns facing the hog
25 industry, and wish to be an active members in

1 conserving and being responsible for the future.
2 With my experience of working in the barn, and the
3 technical training that I received, I am better
4 prepared, more aware and willing to do what I can
5 to make a difference. My being here in front of
6 you today attests to that!

7 Another way we try to conserve our
8 environment is by the use of phytase in our hog
9 feed to limit the amount of phosphate being
10 excreted by the animals.

11 Our high school is very involved with
12 environmental programs that foster awareness of
13 environmental conservation. For the past seven
14 years, a team from our school has participated in
15 the Manitoba Envirothon. This is a hands-on
16 environmental education competition for high
17 school students from all over the province. The
18 students have to do an in-depth study of four main
19 categories; forestry, wildlife, aquatics and
20 soils, plus a different subject each year, such as
21 climate change and point source pollution.

22 In all seven years, our team made it
23 into the top three! As well, our team was the
24 Manitoba champion in the 2005 Envirothon, going on
25 to represent Manitoba at the Nationals in

1 Missouri, USA.

2 In 2005, our community was also
3 awarded the Conservation Family of the Year Award
4 in the LaSalle Redboine Conservation District.
5 These informed students are a significant part of
6 our future, so teaching them in their youth to be
7 good stewards of our environment will pay off in
8 the long run.

9 Finally, our community, in the summer,
10 looks and feels like a forest or park, with houses
11 and buildings nestled right in among giant oak
12 trees, many of which are 75 years old! We believe
13 in conserving our natural heritage. And we plan
14 to leave it for the future generations to cherish
15 and enjoy. Thank you.

16 MR. C. MAENDEL: Hello. My name is
17 Cameron Maendel. The Fairholme Colony Hog Barn is
18 committing itself to a sustainable and productive
19 future for us and for our children. In the last
20 couple of years, we have taken a number of steps
21 to ensure better manure management and proper
22 disposal of dead livestock.

23 Last year, we started to build a
24 lagoon, even though our current slurry store
25 system has passed all government inspections. The

1 lagoon is being built to last for one year, which
2 means we have to empty it out annually. This is
3 in keeping with the law that was enacted to ensure
4 that the lagoon is properly maintained and can
5 easily be fixed if something goes wrong.

6 We regularly take soil samples so that
7 we can stay within provincial regulations on the
8 amount of manure we apply to our land. This
9 manure is used as fertilizer, of course, and its
10 application is controlled by the flow of the pump
11 and the speed of the tractor.

12 Previously, we gauged ourselves by how
13 far the slurry store levels receded in a certain
14 period of time, but now we have accurate gauges
15 telling us exactly how much we are injected.

16 About six miles down the road from us,
17 our neighbours have installed a separator in their
18 hog barn. This separator is not only made for
19 hogs, but chickens as well. The end products are
20 in a solid state, and the liquids are pumped out
21 into a lagoon. And these solids are good
22 fertilizer for gardens and lawns. Because they do
23 stink for a while, they are unattractive to the
24 consumer.

25 Another option is to purify the manure

1 into pure phosphorus and pure nitrogen, then
2 turning around and selling it to fertilizer
3 companies. Unfortunately, this is an expensive
4 way to go. Our neighbours, who own this
5 separator, have offered to pump our manure down to
6 their separator and sort of split the cost of
7 handling it. However, we have to think about our
8 herd health and the transfer of diseases.

9 Inside our barn, we try to keep our
10 pits as clean as possible. And this way, they
11 stay free of any debris and do not plug up the
12 sewers. And if that happened, we would have a
13 spill and contamination of the environment would
14 take place.

15 Our herd is Canadian Quality Assurance
16 verified, and we follow its guidelines rigorously.
17 This program is set up for the consumer and
18 producer alike. The C.Q.A. requires keeping the
19 hog barns clean and safe. It was implemented to
20 help us produce pork in an environmentally safe
21 manner. Manitoba processors offer decent levies
22 for herds that are C.Q.A. certified, because it
23 requires a little extra work. But we feel, in the
24 end, we are producing a better product.

25 The C.Q.A. program involved adding

1 improvements, such as the newly set up
2 traceability program, which allows us to trace the
3 pork chop on the shelf back to the farm. This
4 program allows producers, vets and processors to
5 work together, if there is a disease outbreak,
6 which helps us control any problems that might
7 arise.

8 To conclude, as hog producers, we are
9 always looking for viable ways to improve our
10 manner of animal husbandry here on the farm. This
11 is where we live and where we want our children
12 and their children to live in the future. Farming
13 is not just another job to us. It's our lifestyle
14 and our vocation, which we want to conduct in an
15 ecologically viable and sustainable manner.
16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Can you
18 tell us a little bit more about your operation?
19 You described it -- Ricky, in your paper you
20 described it as 5,000-acres, but then you said
21 turkey, hog, chicken, beef. How much of each of
22 those do you have?

23 MR. R. MAENDEL: Beef, we have
24 approximately 2250 cows, which would be with
25 calves over 500 head. We have 800 sow piggery,

1 where over approximately half our pigs are raised
2 offsite by employing three other families that
3 raise them in biotechs for us.

4 The turkey operation, we have four
5 barns that are filled three times a year.
6 Approximately, the turkey quota goes by kgs, it
7 would be 800,000 pounds or 300,000 kgs,
8 approximately. All of that is put in stock by us
9 and used for decomposition. And we have a lot of
10 land, which is why we use zero tillage, to keep
11 the soil there. And then we spread that over it.

12 And the pullets, we just raise custom
13 pullets for layer operations, two sets of year of
14 11,000.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: Yeah. I was just
17 curious when you were saying that you -- most of
18 the land you don't spread after -- you spread
19 every seven years?

20 MR. R. MAENDEL: We don't need to
21 spread on the same field for seven years because
22 our irrigation system has twelve inch to eight
23 inch lines that run underneath from field to
24 field. And they are all interconnected and we can
25 pump to whichever field we want.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Got you. I missed
2 that, I guess. And can I ask a question of
3 Cameron?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. We have heard
6 about the separator process where, you know, the
7 liquids and the solids are separated. We heard
8 about that yesterday. And there seems to be
9 probably, from what we can gather, there maybe is
10 some future in that possibly. And some people say
11 it has been working quite well. I will think of
12 another question in a minute, but I will pass it
13 on.

14 MR. YEE: Just a question, I guess, to
15 Cameron. You are building a lagoon. I was just
16 going to ask if you were going to employ a cover
17 or what type of cover?

18 MR. C. MAENDEL: We haven't really
19 looked into that yet. And so right now I don't
20 think we are because it's not a law right now, is
21 it?

22 MR. YEE: Right. Thank you.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Just one more. I
24 didn't quite understand this:

25 "Manitoba processors offer decent

1 levies for herds that are C.Q.A.
2 certified.

3 MR. C. MAENDEL: They do offer levies
4 for C.Q.A. certified herds.

5 MR. R. MAENDEL: Premiums.

6 MR. C. MAENDEL: Premiums.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: All right. That's why
8 I didn't understand it. I will change the wording
9 here.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, yes. I just
11 note that I was quite aware of the success of your
12 students at the Envirothon. A former employee of
13 the Clean Environment Commission is one of the key
14 organizers for the Manitoba Envirothon, so
15 congratulations to them.

16 MR. R. MAENDEL: Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: The last person on our
18 list for the afternoon is Harvey Harland. Would
19 you please state your name for the record?

20

21 MR. HARLAND: Harvey Harland.

22 HARVEY HARLAND, having been sworn, presents as
23 follows:

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please
25 proceed.

1 MR. HARLAND: Yes. My name is Harvey
2 Harland. I am an interested agriculturist. And I
3 live across -- in the R.M. of Victoria, across the
4 road about half a mile down from Oak Ridge Colony.

5 I have two purposes today. I want to
6 sort of give you an indication -- they have
7 requested me to give you an indication of how I
8 observe what they do as farmers, and how they
9 handle their livestock waste program.

10 Now, the Oak Ridge Colony has about
11 600 sow, farrow to finish, operation. They have
12 150 beef cows. And then about, I think, 10,500
13 layers. And, approximately, a 500,000-pound
14 turkey quota.

15 They have two large slurry tanks that
16 they store their hog manure in. I believe it is
17 just the hog manure that is stored in there. And
18 they inject that into the soil approximately, I
19 think, 350-acres twice a year. They do this under
20 the management, the same Agritrend group that you
21 saw here earlier today. So anything that they do
22 with their livestock, and their fertilizer
23 management, is through that same consulting firm
24 as what the James Valley Colony did.

25 They farm about 5,000-acres there,

1 4,500 to 5,000. And they do this application of
2 manure on the basis of what the nutrients require
3 from one year to the next.

4 And they also are -- in my view, I
5 would class, from what I have observed there and
6 see, that they are probably very top quality
7 stewards of their management of their waste
8 material.

9 Now, the other thing that I wanted to
10 mention today, I have been involved -- I have been
11 involved in the grain business and the feed
12 business in Manitoba since 1960. I have had an
13 awful lot to do with grain selling and grain
14 production and grain regulation. But I want to --
15 I want to illustrate here that some of the things
16 that I think are most important in why we have had
17 such large expansion in the livestock industry in
18 Manitoba? And, basically, it simply comes down
19 to: What are the facts of what has happened in
20 Manitoba? And I understand, by swearing in this,
21 to tell the truth and that you are interested in
22 the facts.

23 Now, back a number of years ago we had
24 the crow rate change. And since the crow benefit
25 has been paid out to the farmers, and the massive

1 number of dollars that went into the adaptation
2 programs for Manitoba, and you can get the exact
3 numbers from the Manitoba Adaptation Council as to
4 what extra money went into Manitoba to change from
5 marginal land going into grain production to other
6 things like pasture and hay lands, and things that
7 there is only one or two species of animals one
8 can have. And that's the beef animal.

9 And also the grain will become feed
10 grain because we can't compete in this province.
11 We are in the center of the country and with the
12 crow benefit gone, we have got a history, and we
13 will live with it forever, as having the highest
14 cost of trading export grain out of this province.
15 And it's right now \$50 to \$60 a tonne for grain to
16 go any direction out of Manitoba. Therefore, the
17 fact is that it's going to stay in Manitoba and be
18 fed to meat animals and meat birds.

19 And so this province is moving very
20 quickly from one of grain export to one of meat
21 and vegetables. And we are seeing that getting
22 more and more into vegetable production and more
23 potatoes and more pork and more beef. In fact, it
24 is the only province -- I happen to be on the
25 Manitoba Beef Enhancement Council. And it is the

1 only province in Canada right now that is still
2 increasing somewhat in beef production. So we
3 have moved into that phase.

4 Manitoba, as I said earlier, is no
5 longer competitive with Saskatchewan and Alberta
6 and Ontario for exporting grain. So that's the
7 main point of my presentation today. I don't have
8 a written report for you, but I think I spoke
9 slowly enough so that it can be recorded.

10 But I want to take -- two small things
11 here at the end is that to me, having been
12 involved in this business for the number of years
13 that I have, it is inconceivable to me that one or
14 two inches of pig poop could do any particular
15 harm to the water supply in this province.

16 And I'm absolutely convinced that when
17 the analyses are done and the whole industry comes
18 down to understanding and hitting right to the
19 facts, that there's the possibility of
20 contamination under the guidelines that we have,
21 and if we do increase them, we will, that this
22 industry can't stop but expand. This industry
23 cannot stop from expanding. And we have to
24 understand that.

25 And to wrap it up, I want to say that

1 I know that there is an awful lot of apprehension
2 out in rural Manitoba for having the autonomy
3 taken away from the municipalities. But I am
4 going to say that I do believe that eventually we
5 are going to have to have some kind of an appeal
6 for not only one side, but maybe even the other,
7 to a government body to appeal decisions that have
8 been made by municipalities.

9 So with that, I would like to say
10 thank you, and that's it for me.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
12 Harland. Wayne?

13 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

14 MR. YEE: No, I'm fine.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your
16 comments. That brings us to an end of the
17 afternoon presentations. We will be reconvening
18 at 7:00. We have at least a couple of people who
19 have indicated they wish to speak this evening.
20 So we will see you back here at 7:00, if you are
21 so inclined.

22 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 5:02 P.M. AND RECONVENED
23 AT 7:03 P.M.)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies
25 and gentlemen. Can I ask you to take your seats,

1 please, and we will get the evening underway.
2 Welcome back. We have three people who have
3 indicated they wish to make presentations this
4 evening. The first is Mr. Herb Watson. Please
5 state your name for the record?

6 MR. WATSON: Okay. My name is Herb
7 Watson.

8 HERB WATSON, having been sworn, presents as
9 follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please
11 proceed.

12 MR. WATSON: Good evening, everyone,
13 ladies and gentlemen.

14 I decided to ask to present tonight
15 because we do have hogs on our farm. And we also
16 are in the potato business. And we are doing
17 something which we feel is somewhat unique with
18 the potatoes and the hogs.

19 I will just give you a little bit of
20 background on how we got started in the hog
21 business. My wife is there, the gray-haired,
22 good-looking lady. Anyway, she has been a very
23 big part of our farm for many, many years. So she
24 was also a part of getting back into hogs in 1994.
25 And we got back into hogs because of the decision

1 to do away with the crow rate, and we thought that
2 we were going too have to add value to our grain
3 in order to be sustainable over time. That may or
4 may not be true, but that was why we got into
5 hogs.

6 So we built two shelters. We chose to
7 go with straw-based shelters, simply because of
8 low capital costs. And some of the other side
9 benefits which have come along are, you know, we
10 thought that those buildings could be used for
11 something else. It turns out that the odour is
12 less, in our opinion. And it is natural
13 ventilation, and it is healthy for the stock
14 people that look after the hogs.

15 At first, we built two shelters in the
16 fall of 1993. And Shirley and I looked after the
17 pigs in those two shelters for that winter. And
18 then the next summer, we built six more and we ran
19 eight for a while. And currently we have 20
20 shelters. We have an environmental permit for
21 4,500 hog places. And we currently sell 13,500
22 hogs, give or take a few. We turn 4,800 about
23 three times a year. We have been turning it three
24 times a year.

25 So it has gone from quite a small

1 enterprise to, for us, quite large. But there is
2 many big systems of hogs in the province, which
3 still make us look pretty small.

4 However, it is a big part of our
5 income for our farm. We've been Canadian Quality
6 Assurance since the year 2001. And I fully
7 support the Canadian Quality Assurance Program,
8 and think it's very important for sustained high
9 quality hogs coming out of Manitoba.

10 In the summer of 2005, we expanded
11 from 12 shelters to 20. And when we did that, we
12 needed to get an environmental personality to do
13 that, and so we started planning that a couple of
14 years previous to that. And, anyways, we did get
15 the permit for 4,500 hog places.

16 We make a Manure Management Plan,
17 that's part of the permit, an environmental
18 permit. And we comply with the provincial
19 regulations. And that was the request of our
20 local council. They said: Well, we don't mind if
21 you go ahead with this project, as long as you
22 comply with the provincial regulations, so that
23 was their say in the matter.

24 So, anyway, to comply completely with
25 that, we built a composting pad, which is 40,000

1 square feet. So all of the manure that comes out
2 of these shelters is composted. This composting
3 pad, I think, has 10,000 yards of clay. Because
4 we are on very sandy soil, so this was part of the
5 compliance. And it's designed so that it's
6 slanted in to a French drain from the length-wise
7 to the center. And then on the long-wise, it
8 drains towards the ends where there is catchment.
9 They are really retention ponds. So any run-off
10 from the manure that's composting is caught in
11 those catchment basins.

12 We also have six monitoring wells,
13 which are checked on an annual basis, to see if
14 there is any nutrient leaching from the barns, and
15 so we're quite new with that. And, currently,
16 there hasn't been any sign of any leaching at all.
17 We have done testing previous to that. Over the
18 years, John Malbon, who worked for the Department,
19 had an engineer come out and drill holes. And
20 when they tested on the holder barns, they found
21 nothing.

22 Anyways, just to go on from there, the
23 manure is cleaned out of the hog barns with a
24 loader. And then it is loaded on to semis and
25 placed on this composting pad. The rows of manure

1 are 10 feet wide and 6 feet high. And those rows
2 are then turned with a special compost turner.
3 And depending on climate conditions, they need to
4 be turned from three to five times before you end
5 up with mature compost. This process takes from
6 90 to 120 days, again, depending on climate
7 conditions, mostly rainfall. If it is really dry,
8 it doesn't work as good as if it rains. And you
9 can add water to help the process along.

10 So, anyways, the monitoring results
11 are checked once a year. And the results from
12 those monitoring wells, or those numbers, are sent
13 to the Manitoba Conservation Department.

14 We have been working closely with
15 Dr. Katherine Buckley, who has a research program
16 going on at our place right now. And she works
17 out of the Brandon Research Station. So we are
18 doing, basically, what she tells us to do. And
19 she has experience in compost, although I think
20 it's cow manure that she has been working on since
21 1998. So she really believes in this project and
22 believes in enhancing soil organic matter. So
23 that's kind of how the hog operation is operating,
24 and how we manage the manure.

25 Now, the composting, and this wasn't

1 part of the plan when we started into hogs, but
2 now what's happening to the compost manure is
3 we're selling it to the potato operation. Because
4 when Simplot came to Portage, we went into the
5 potato business. And we currently have
6 1,000-acres of compost under irrigation. So the
7 compost is sold to the potato company.

8 The potato company runs under the name
9 of WM Ventures. We're a 50 percent shareholder in
10 that potato company. And my sister's family, the
11 Metcalfs, are the other 50 percent. My son and my
12 nephew manage the potato operation.

13 Now, what happens is we -- just to
14 give you an idea of how we arrive at costing out
15 this compost, we -- the pigs bear the cost of
16 cleaning the barns out, so all that is, is a
17 loader. And then from there on, we keep track of
18 all of the costs that are incurred at making that
19 compost, and the potato company pays for it. They
20 pay for the composting operation. They pay for
21 the transportation of the compost from the site to
22 the field. When it's going to be spread on for
23 potatoes, they pay for the spreading. And even
24 after all of those costs are incurred by the
25 potato company, they still are \$30 to \$50 ahead.

1 If you price the nutrients' value of the compost,
2 it is the same as we would pay for commercial
3 fertilizer to do the job.

4 The finished compost looks like black
5 dirt. It's very humous, that's the difference.
6 So we -- what happens, then, to get spread on
7 those fields is we have a consulting group. It's
8 two or three guys. Actually, the guy who owns the
9 company's name is Trevor Thorton. They call
10 themselves Crop Care Consulting. And we hired
11 them the first year to help us with potatoes,
12 because we knew nothing about them and we needed
13 help. So what they do is they test the -- they
14 analyze the nutrient value of the compost, and
15 they also soil test the land. And then they have
16 a good -- we target the yield of the potatoes that
17 we want, given normal conditions, and then they
18 spread compost and fertilizer to the level that we
19 need to in order to obtain that yield of potatoes.
20 And the potatoes are all irrigated.

21 So in the summer of 2006, it was a
22 long growing season, hot weather, so the potatoes
23 had all of the things that they needed. And they
24 were -- we would do leaf tests all through the
25 summer. And they were running out of nitrogen, so

1 we added a little bit more nitrogen through the
2 water, the irrigation water, just so that we would
3 get the full potential of the crop, so that worked
4 very well.

5 And the thing that -- I think the
6 compost, you know what, I am not really familiar
7 with all of the analysis of the compost, but it is
8 lower in phosphate and nitrogen. So in order to
9 use all of the nutrients possible, it is important
10 enough to have nitrogen available, so there is
11 commercial nitrogen applied.

12 The crop rotation with the pools is
13 wheat, potatoes and then an oilseed. They are
14 talking about putting a legume into the rotation.
15 The potato harvesters have choppers to chop the
16 vines. And then they are spread evenly out over
17 the field. And that acts as an organic residue,
18 and it stops erosion.

19 The addition of this compost is pretty
20 important, we feel, on potato fields. As you
21 know, the potato fields have got a track record of
22 erosion, and so the addition of organic matter is
23 pretty important.

24 Again, Katherine Buckley, from the
25 Brandon Research Station, is doing trials, and so

1 we cooperate with her. And each year we have a
2 test strip that has compost and a strip that
3 doesn't have compost and only commercial
4 fertilizers. And all of the results have been
5 very positive towards yield and quality of the
6 potatoes. There has been an increase. And so
7 it's just a combination of two things that's
8 working very well.

9 Our land management strategy, in terms
10 of erosion, is we try to get the very best fields
11 for potatoes, because that's one of the things
12 that we believe makes it work. So the very best
13 field, in our opinion, would be a field that has
14 quite good internal drainage, but yet has the
15 ability to hold -- the water holding capacity is
16 quite high. So we have picked out a lot of
17 fields. And our hog operation is along the
18 escarpment, but the potato operation is along the
19 river, so most of our irrigation water is coming
20 out of the river.

21 So what would happen, in terms of
22 tillage, after the potatoes is if it was a lighter
23 piece of land, after we're finished harvesting, we
24 wouldn't work it at all until the following
25 spring, just before it was seeded. If it is

1 heavier land, and there is no risk of erosion,
2 then we would work it.

3 We feel the integration of livestock
4 and crop production, in our case, is sustainable.
5 The hogs have made money. They haven't made money
6 in the last 15 months or so. The potatoes have
7 made us money. We had a really terrific year last
8 year. And I think part of any livestock, or
9 farming operation, to be sustainable, it needs to
10 be environmentally sustainable and also
11 financially sustainable. Because you can't have
12 one without the other, in our opinion. And so
13 we've kind of got a unique situation, I think,
14 that's working for us.

15 I thank you for allowing me to
16 present. And if there is any questions, I will
17 try and answer them.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Watson.
19 It sounds like an interesting operation. Tell me
20 about hoop shelters, or biotech shelters, as
21 compared to the more conventional barns? What are
22 the pros and cons?

23 MR. WATSON: Well, you know, I have
24 never managed or been -- I have been involved with
25 conventional hog barns. In my humble opinion, I

1 believe that, you know, we need some sort of
2 conventional facilities to have baby pigs in. But
3 once the pigs are 50 pounds and up, they can be
4 very economically raised in hoop shelters.

5 Now, they can also be raised very well
6 in conventional barns. The system that would be
7 very different is the manure system. We work with
8 straw and manure, and they work with liquid
9 manure.

10 I think the thing that's happening,
11 like 20 percent of the hogs going to Maple Leaf in
12 Brandon are out of hoop shelters. And they feel
13 seemingly very happy with our pigs. So I think
14 it's quite possible to have a good quality pig
15 come out of a hoop shelter.

16 I think the thing that's driving the
17 hoop shelters, more than anything, is the high
18 cost of new conventional barns. And it's my
19 understanding that those costs are almost
20 prohibitive. So hoop shelters are a way that can
21 work. And I think that they can be very
22 economical. The management would be very
23 different.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any -- the
25 amount of labour that goes into running one, as

1 opposed to the other, would it be similar?

2 MR. WATSON: Well, you know what, our
3 labour runs about \$5.30 a pig. And I think that
4 you probably have people in your audience that
5 could tell you what the labour was for a
6 conventional farm. But my understanding is that
7 we are right in the ballpark there.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And just the nature of
9 the work, is one more difficult than the other?

10 MR. WATSON: Well, I think it depends
11 on how you have your facility set up. We have two
12 guys that predominantly look after our hog
13 operation. They come to work at eight o'clock in
14 the morning and finish at five o'clock, and are
15 usually done Friday at noon. They come in for an
16 hour a day over the weekend, just to make sure
17 that the water and feeders are working. So we've
18 worked really hard at making it kind of a pleasure
19 to come to work. Because if you don't do that,
20 you don't get people to do the work. So, you know
21 what, I think if you talk to our employees, they
22 would be pretty happy.

23 But I think that there was a couple of
24 tough months. Now, in the winter time, you are
25 out in the cold instead of inside. And certainly

1 this winter was a test. But I think that we made
2 it through quite good. And we just provided lots
3 of good, warm clothing and do everything that we
4 possibly can to make it kind of pleasurable for
5 our people.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And the cold stretch
7 this winter, was it any particular challenge for
8 the hogs?

9 MR. WATSON: No. You see, if you get
10 delivered 50 pounders when it's 30 below, then you
11 have to do some special management things to make
12 them come through that cold weather. The hogs
13 that are established there, the way that they stay
14 comfortable is the manure is actually composting
15 in the shelters so that there's heat. So as long
16 as they are provided with lots of good, dry straw,
17 then they just lay on top of there. And you dig
18 down in that straw and it's 100-degree. So they
19 just find a level that's comfortable for them. So
20 they get up and eat and drink and then they just
21 go back and lay down.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you, Mr. Watson.
24 I got some questions that you may find -- put it
25 this way, I've never raised pigs.

1 MR. WATSON: All right.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: I'm certainly learning
3 a lot about them in the last month, I'll tell you.
4 The compost that you have, do you spread it in
5 combination with other fertilizers on your
6 potatoes?

7 MR. WATSON: Yes.

8 MR. MOTHERAL: Now, if you're growing,
9 like, I am just saying 1,000-acres of potatoes,
10 how far will that compost, do you spread that over
11 your entire acreage or do you just do a certain
12 portion of it?

13 MR. WATSON: Well, if we have enough,
14 we do the entire acreage. And you know what, we
15 are just a year away, or a year and a half away,
16 to expanding to the level that we are at now in
17 the hog business. And we think we will have
18 enough to do that 1,000-acres, so it will be real
19 close.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, I guess it's too
21 early to tell. I was going to ask you if you find
22 your soil tills and structure is improving over
23 the years?

24 MR. WATSON: Well, I think it is too
25 soon to tell. But you know what, from all that

1 you read and understand from adding compost to
2 land, it definitely will. The one thing I missed
3 in my presentation, because I don't like reading
4 it, is there is -- the compost takes three years
5 to let all of the nutrients out. It doesn't
6 happen all in one year. So we spread that compost
7 on the potatoes to take care of certain nutrients
8 that are required by the potatoes in the first
9 year. So, therefore, for the next two years,
10 there is still nutrients coming for the crops
11 following the two years that there are not
12 potatoes.

13 And we aren't grain farming any more,
14 but one of the fellows we rented land to got
15 7,000 pounds of sunflowers last year on last
16 year's potato ground.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Wow, that's a lot of
18 sunflowers.

19 MR. WATSON: Yes.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: I've only heard of that
21 once before. I think somebody at Morden beat
22 that. I think they got 3,800. You use all of your
23 own compost. If you didn't have your potato
24 enterprise, is there a possible sale for that
25 compost? And is there a possible value added in

1 that if you didn't have that?

2 MR. WATSON: Well, I think there --
3 now that we have a bit of a history, and a bit of
4 a track record, certainly this crop consulting,
5 these Crop Care people are looking at it. And
6 they don't only work for us, they work for other
7 potato farmers. So it is looking like there would
8 be a sale to other potato farmers.

9 Now, I don't know the economics of
10 spreading it on grain land. Maybe there is
11 economic -- I mean, there is no doubt that it
12 would work, but I don't know how the numbers shake
13 out.

14 MR. MOTHERAL: And just one more
15 question. And I have forgotten what it was. I
16 will think of it later. I will give Edwin a
17 chance.

18 MR. YEE: Mr. Watson, whereabouts is
19 your hog operation located?

20 MR. WATSON: If you know where
21 Rathwell, Manitoba is, it's two miles south and
22 two miles west.

23 MR. YEE: And your potato acreage is
24 nearby or in close proximity?

25 MR. WATSON: Well, the biggest part of

1 the potato operation is nine wells south of the
2 Assiniboine River. We do have a dug-out, which is
3 in an aquifer, which we usually have 130-acres.
4 One circle of potatoes is close to where that
5 dug-out is, within two or three miles.

6 MR. YEE: So are the transportation
7 costs relatively high for your compost, getting it
8 from your hog operation to your crops?

9 MR. WATSON: Well, we haul it in
10 gravel trailers, semi gravel trailers. And you
11 know what, I can't tell you the breakdown or cost.
12 My son could tell you that. But it isn't
13 prohibitive for that distance.

14 MR. YEE: So there is a potential to
15 use it on crops further away, as well?

16 MR. WATSON: I think so, yeah. And as
17 fertilizer costs continue to escalate, because of
18 the petroleum, it just becomes more and more
19 feasible.

20 MR. YEE: Thank you very much.

21 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. I remember the
22 question. It's back to the organic composting
23 again. Would that compost then be suitable for a
24 registered organic grower to use?

25 MR. WATSON: That would be a

1 Dr. Katherine Buckley question. I think it would.
2 And the only reason I say this is because I have
3 had phone calls from, I think it was Kroecker
4 Farms, who do grow some organic potatoes, about
5 what we're doing. And they didn't ask to buy it,
6 but they wanted to know about the soil. But to be
7 sure on that, I would --

8 MR. MOTHERAL: No. That's fine. I
9 was just looking at the potential.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
11 Mr. Watson. Mr. Gerry Maendel. Please state your
12 name for the record?

13 MR. G. MAENDEL: Gerry Maendel.

14 GERRY MAENDEL, having been sworn, presents as
15 follows:

16 MR. G. MAENDEL: Yes. I'm Gerry
17 Maendel from New Rosewood Colony. I'm a
18 journeyman electrician on the farm. We have a
19 farrow to finish, 550 sows. We have 20,000 layer
20 chickens. We have 20,000 starter chickens, or
21 whatever you call it. And we have 50 dairy on the
22 farm.

23 And four years ago we had to build a
24 lagoon. And we got a contractor to build a
25 lagoon. And we built it to eight million gallons.

1 And we filled it up. And it took us about two
2 years to fill it. And we got a custom applicator
3 to empty it out after those two years. And we
4 covered about 1,000-acres, around there. And we
5 did all of the manure management. We have to do
6 exactly the James Valley Colony. Excuse me, like
7 they showed. We don't have the same guy, but we
8 have to do everything they do. We get something
9 from the area here. So you can see that we are
10 concerned about all of that.

11 And when we emptied it, we really
12 thought about, rather than spending hundreds of
13 thousands of dollars, we will look into a
14 separator. And we didn't like when we agitated,
15 it washes out the banks. And we have heard a lot
16 of stories about that, washing off banks and
17 damaging our lagoon. And we spent too much money
18 to build it. And we spent \$100,000 to empty it,
19 to inject it, and that came up to quite a bit of
20 money. And we didn't want to spend that every
21 year or so.

22 So we looked into that separator. And
23 we looked a long time. And we found one at
24 Wawanesa, basically what we wanted. We made an
25 appointment to come down. We went there,

1 actually, when they were emptying out the lagoon.
2 We wanted to see how we were doing. He told us:
3 We promise you are not going to go home. If you
4 haven't bought any injection system, or anything,
5 you will do that. So we went there with all of
6 our higher-ups from home.

7 So when we went there, they were
8 emptying out with an irrigation system. And
9 everybody knows, you can't empty out a lagoon with
10 an irrigation system, because two miles off you
11 couldn't be around that irrigation system,
12 emptying out the hog lagoon. And we had to drive
13 right up there to smell the lagoon. The smell,
14 you couldn't say was really bad. You could stand
15 it. And right there we were so impressed.

16 And he took us over to the lagoon
17 where they were emptying it out and he said: I
18 have to show you some other things. So he jumps
19 out of the truck, washes his hands in that lagoon.
20 And we seen where they suck it out of the lagoon
21 while they were doing it. He washed his hands,
22 shook them off a bit. He even took his hands up
23 to our noses. It smelled sour quite a bit, but
24 nothing really. And we, actually, went home and
25 we decided we have to do something about that. So

1 we got on to it. So we actually put one in.

2 I have all of the proof there. And it
3 cost us close to half a million dollars to put it
4 in, and it works very good with hog manure. We
5 could almost say perfect. It is exactly what we
6 wanted. But the smell isn't quite as gone as the
7 one in Green Acres because we have all those
8 chickens. And we're the first ones in North
9 America -- the first one in the world, I think,
10 yeah, it is the first one in the world, that tries
11 to separate with that separator chicken manure.

12 So now they are doing so many test
13 results because they promised us that they will
14 get the smell down, too, where the other colony is
15 with that chicken manure. They haven't yet, but
16 they are really working on it. In spring they
17 want to shock the lagoon with the separator with
18 the chemicals that we have to put in. And they
19 are all environmentally friendly. And we kind of
20 are going ahead and really concerned about it.
21 And I really didn't like what that lady said
22 before. If you can't get the smell down, I would
23 say the smell is down quite a bit less than half.
24 But theirs is extraordinary compared to this. And
25 anyway, it's very good.

1 And our teacher, she got into an
2 environment program, too. They are doing waste
3 water, and you name it, at the Oak Hammock Marsh.
4 She wanted me to read this. They are really
5 proud, the children, what they are doing. And it
6 says here:

7 "Our Grade 7 and 8s entered a contest
8 on Manitoba Youth Stewardship and an
9 Environmental Sustainability Showcase
10 at Oak Hammock Marsh and won a
11 platinum plaque on the research on how
12 we address our waste management. We
13 had to address three points:
14 Sustainable life on earth between
15 environment, human health and
16 well-being and economy. We improved
17 water and soil quality by planting
18 various plants, managing and watching
19 growth rate for four to five weeks.
20 The pictures in our album show how
21 various plants prosper from the dry
22 solids. The pictures also show the
23 difference before solid separation.
24 And after, feel free to browse through
25 the album and ask questions."

1 They actually made a small separator like we had
2 with wood and that. And the people were so
3 impressed with that separation, I guess, that
4 that's how they won it. Because they actually did
5 a showcase there right there showing how to
6 separate the manure.

7 Oh, yeah, I forgot about the main
8 thing. And on the record here, it says that's why
9 we actually did it, because that monkey was on our
10 back still about all of the phosphorus. And
11 rather than spending all of the money, we take
12 90.6 percent of the phosphorus out of that stuff
13 that is in the lagoon. Most of the time we got 96
14 and 94 percent. But they put down -- the
15 government people or whatever, they put down 90.6.
16 But the solids, we tie them up now.

17 But we are waiting for an option to
18 come up. There is one right near our farm there,
19 a mushroom plant that went broke. We are waiting
20 for that. It is \$100,000, or something, for a new
21 one. For what we wanted, that's exactly what we
22 want. So we want to compost it and sell it.

23 We approached the greenhouses in
24 Winnipeg and landscapers. They are very
25 interested in the product. As soon as we compost

1 it, what are you doing? Even our gardener said:
2 We are not going to have enough for him. So we
3 even decided we might buy a bagger and bag it and
4 sell it. We're not there yet.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: So can you tell us a
6 little bit more about this separating machine?
7 How does it work? Is it a press or a centrifuge?

8 MR. G. MAENDEL: No. First it goes
9 through one screen and takes out the really big
10 solids. Then it goes into a separation process.
11 We put three chemicals in there. They are all
12 environmentally friendly. They don't tell the
13 secret, really, what it is or not. But it is
14 really no secret. All of the towns use that
15 process, I think. And then it goes into the
16 second screen, where it is processed. And that
17 takes out most of it, the phosphorus and that.
18 Then it goes into a fan separator that really lots
19 of people have. And that really just dries it out
20 and it comes out dry.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is this equipment
22 manufactured?

23 MR. G. MAENDEL: All over. Ours was
24 manufactured in New Brunswick, or something. But
25 it's just that the guys that own it come from

1 there, so they make -- most of the stuff is made
2 with stainless steel. There is not really that
3 much to it, really. And the screens come from
4 Germany, I think, or something.

5 MR. YEE: Mr. Maendel, is there a
6 certain capacity for this separator or it can
7 handle a large capacity or volume?

8 MR. G. MAENDEL: Oh, yeah. We could
9 go up to -- we could handle, they said, for sure a
10 2,500 sow operation with the one we have now.

11 MR. MATHESON: 100-gallons a minute.

12 MR. YEE: Yeah. My understanding,
13 from some of the other presenters, or what I have
14 already read, or heard in some cases, if you have
15 a small operation it is not economical because,
16 you know, your operation is too small to use the
17 separator versus if you have a separator with that
18 capacity, you can handle much more.

19 MR. R. HOFER: Half a million dollars
20 separator, they have a lot to pay for.

21 MR. G. MAENDEL: There is another
22 thing I want to say. If our industry shuts down,
23 our colony, it's 60 years old. And our hog barns
24 are 35 years old. We could never make it with our
25 hog industry. We have to build a new system. And

1 if we are going to -- we have to expand, you know,
2 we have to with the grain prices. Now they are
3 not bad, but we have to put it to our hogs to do
4 it, we figure, now.

5 MR. YEE: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maendel, I missed
7 it at the outset. What colony are you from?

8 MR. G. MAENDEL: New Rosedale Colony.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: New Rosedale. Where is
10 that?

11 MR. G. MAENDEL: As the crow flies
12 here, north west from here.

13 MR. MATHESON: It is on the 305
14 Highway.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
16 coming out tonight. Mr. Robert Davy.

17 MR. DAVY: Good evening, Mr. Chair.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you please state
19 your name?

20 MR. DAVY: Robert Davy.

21 ROBERT DAVY, having been sworn, presents as
22 follows:

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, please.

24 MR. DAVY: Thank you very much,
25 Mr. Chair, and Board of Representatives.

1 I will be short and sweet. We are
2 just here, basically, to make a point on behalf of
3 the R.M. My name is Robert Davy, as you've heard,
4 newly elected reeve of the R.M. of Lorne.

5 I make this presentation today because
6 our municipality is concerned about restrictions
7 against the hog industry and the new directions
8 this may take.

9 We are all very aware of the
10 environmental changes occurring around us. We
11 believe that the government and the municipal
12 regulations we will protect our potable water and
13 aquifers for generation to come.

14 We must educate the public, both urban
15 and rural, regarding the changes that have
16 occurred.

17 We have many producers in the R.M. of
18 Lorne who inject hog manure for odour, better use
19 of fertilizer, with no loss of benefit. Some of
20 these producers are not obligated to inject
21 because they are under 300 animal units, but pay
22 the extra costs because they feel it is a small
23 price to pay for insurance and prosper from the
24 natural fertilizers.

25 The Rural Municipality of Lorne is

1 restricted from growing specialty crops, such as
2 sunflowers and beans because of a lack of heat
3 units. The main crops grown in the R.M. of Lorne
4 are cereal crops and livestock are necessary to
5 subsidize the farm operations.

6 New regulations, like proposed
7 phosphate rules, will hinder many operations in
8 expanding, or where they can build, especially in
9 the marginal higher classes of soils.

10 Planning districts are used as
11 controls for land use, but let us not forget that
12 the people still own their land, and this should
13 not become a dictatorship.

14 I think it is very hard for a hog
15 farmer to be proud of how they make their living
16 in this province. We, in the R.M. of Lorne,
17 believe that they are good stewards of the land,
18 and should be allowed to make their living doing
19 so.

20 I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Davy. I
22 have got a couple of questions. One just to show
23 my ignorance. What do you mean because of the
24 lack of heat units?

25 MR. DAVY: On the Escarpment, which

1 entails the majority of the R.M. of Lorne, from
2 the eastern part of the escarpment is where the
3 R.M. of Lorne begins. We're, I believe, eight
4 miles wide and we're 36 miles long in size. The
5 majority of the whole R.M. is up in the
6 Escarpment. We're at anywhere from 1,400 to
7 1,700, 1,750 above sea level, and we are a cooler
8 climate. We are marginal soils. We are very
9 rough terrain at the western part of the R.M.,
10 also in the eastern part of the R.M., but in
11 between we have got some good arable land.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you for
13 that. I would like to ask a question that we
14 really didn't address at all in your presentation
15 tonight. And we haven't had too many municipal
16 reeves here before us. And that's just with
17 respect to the approval process and the role that
18 municipalities play in that process. Do you have
19 any concerns about how that process works?

20 MR. DAVY: As I said at the beginning,
21 I am newly elected, so I'm learning.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

23 MR. DAVY: I do have some personal
24 concerns. I didn't want this presentation to get
25 into detail. We just basically wanted to make a

1 point on behalf of our R.M.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fair enough. I
3 won't put you on the spot.

4 MR. DAVY: Good, thank you.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: I wish I would have had
6 that statement a few years ago when I was a
7 municipal councillor.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: You can only use it for
9 so long, because then you are no longer newly
10 elected.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: As a newly elected am
12 public official, I guess you could say, you have
13 found it quite demanding, as far as the public
14 perception, of what's going on in the area? Would
15 you run again? Maybe that's not fair.

16 MR. DAVY: Do you know some of the
17 history?

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Actually, I do, so
19 that's why it's not fair.

20 MR. DAVY: It's been quite demanding,
21 Wayne, to be quite honest. It came at a time that
22 we had some issues that we were all not prepared
23 for in the Municipality of Lorne. Many of the
24 incumbent had been through some of the issues with
25 another site. And when I walked in, I never

1 even -- I had gotten oriented on the Friday. And
2 on the Tuesday of the next week, we had a public
3 hearing.

4 My first meeting was a public hearing.
5 And we couldn't hold a hearing in chamber. I
6 hadn't held a regular R.M. meeting. And I was the
7 newly elected reeve. And I was chairing a public
8 hearing that we had to rent the hall out. There
9 was a big concern and there was a big push with
10 First Nations and being in their area, and it was
11 coming from the federal government. We got into a
12 lot of heat over that.

13 The hall was just about filled,
14 probably a good half of it, to two-thirds of it,
15 was First Nations people. And we understand their
16 position and their point. Their First Nations
17 land is all within our jurisdiction. And they
18 were coming over to our jurisdiction and wanting
19 to have some say and some clarification and make
20 their point heard. And they made it heard quite
21 loud and clear. And that was my first experience.
22 And then it mushroomed from there. And it has
23 quieted down right now with the pause that's been
24 taken, no doubt.

25 The particular site, just for your

1 information, was supposed to be in the hopper.
2 And we could not get anybody from the Department
3 of Natural Resources, or Mr. Struthers, to
4 acknowledge our questions in order to get an
5 answer back. And, finally, we did get the phone
6 call. And it was five after 12, on a Friday
7 afternoon from a subordinate that was to pass on
8 the message that, two and a half weeks after we
9 had been trying to get ahold of somebody and get
10 some answers and talk to somebody, as we are all
11 part of government. And we are a lower form of
12 government, but we still should all work together.
13 So we had the message passed on to us that it had
14 just been passed in the legislature that morning
15 at 10:30 and was now part of the pause, and that's
16 where everything stopped.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Right. And I wish you
18 well in the future. And one statement you did
19 make that I thought that really touches us all is
20 the education part. And I know that we need to --
21 that's a must. And it is probably going to be
22 even part of our recommendations. Who knows. We
23 don't know that yet. But education has got to be
24 part of everything, and I actually wanted you to
25 know that. And there are some good things going

1 on in the country right now regarding that. So,
2 anyway, I wish you well in the future. And thank
3 you for the presentation.

4 MR. DAVY: Thank you, Wayne. A small
5 little addition that I would like to make, that
6 I've been made aware of, and kind of a nice piece
7 of education, is residential water on an acre of
8 land seems to grab a lot of people. And you have
9 heard those comments before, 20,000-gallons. And
10 people on the street, even in our own backyards,
11 and in our small communities, haven't heard that.
12 And when they hear somebody is applying
13 3,000-gallons or 5,000-gallons an acre, they
14 figure this is the end of the world. It is not
15 even a quarter inch of water. And the crops are
16 certainly absorbing this. And mother nature is
17 going to be using it in its process. Thanks.

18 MR. YEE: Mr. Davy, just one question,
19 more for my clarification, and I will give you
20 some background here. We have heard from some
21 presenters, from a municipal perspective, in terms
22 of the Planning Act. You made a statement here
23 that planning districts that use these controls
24 for land use should not forget the people own
25 their land, and this shouldn't be a dictatorship.

1 But the presentations we have heard, more or less,
2 indicated that some municipal officials felt that
3 they wanted more control than what the Planning
4 Act provided in terms of the Conditional Land Use
5 permitting. What's your opinion on this, or how
6 is this reflected in this statement that you've
7 made?

8 MR. DAVY: Well, that's something we
9 are all struggling with. Everybody wants more
10 control. But when you do get that control, we
11 have to live in these communities. And we all see
12 each other and we all know each other by our first
13 names. And you start taking those
14 responsibilities and making those decisions, and
15 as you should well understand, it becomes very
16 political. It becomes verbal. It becomes human
17 nature for people to begin -- how would I say
18 that -- attempting to disrupt your lives at times.
19 And you wonder if it's all worth it.

20 Because, at the best of times, as
21 Wayne can probably vouch for, the positions we
22 hold in municipal government are no more than a
23 voluntary position. If anybody thinks they are in
24 it for the money, they had better go work on the
25 calculator a little bit harder, because that's not

1 why you're there. You are trying to do the best
2 you can for your community and grow from that.

3 But it's a question of, I wonder
4 personally, that's personally, if we're the right
5 people that should be making that decision,
6 whether some of these operations should be going
7 ahead or not. Like you go through the technical
8 review, and you see all of the requirements, and
9 then you go to the department of natural
10 resources, and you go to the Environment Act. We,
11 as municipal officers, already have too much on
12 our plate. And we're already talking about, there
13 is no way we can handle these presentations and
14 these meetings in a day. At one time it used to
15 be done in half a day. We are finding that it's
16 overload. Our time is being on committees. And
17 we, with our resources, are not unlimited. We
18 have very little time for our own. It is very
19 demanding.

20 I don't know in small municipalities
21 it is proper to have the municipal government
22 having the last say. And that's my personal
23 opinion, sir. I am not speaking for any of my
24 councillors here or anybody else.

25 MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Davy.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
2 Mr. Davy, for coming out tonight.

3 MR. DAVY: Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody else
5 in the audience tonight who wishes to make a
6 presentation? This is the last chance here in St.
7 Claude. Okay. Well, we will bring the evening
8 sessions to a close. We will reconvene tomorrow
9 in Emerson at 1:00.

10 Thank you all for coming out here this
11 evening, and some of you this afternoon. We have
12 had a very full and enlightening day here in St.
13 Claude. Thank you and good evening.

14 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:53 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, LISA REID, 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.

Lisa Reid

