

Manitoba CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

April 12th, 2007 – Friedensfeld, Manitoba

As we are all aware, Manitoba Pork Council has already provided the CEC with a multitude of very pertinent data regarding the hog industry in Manitoba. Rather than repeat the same information, I won't go into what the industry is doing, but instead I will present my views as a hog producer.

I operate a family farm of 600 animal units on 800 acres. This is a moderate operation. It represents my way of life, but it is first and foremost my source of income and as such must be sufficient to meet my family's needs and hopefully have some left over when we decide to retire.

As a hog producer I am responsible for operating under the guidelines of:

- Planning Act
- Water Rights Act
- Water Protection Act
- Pesticides and Fertilizers Control Act
- Farm Practices Protection Board Act
- Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulations (including regulations dealing with phosphorus)
- Animal Disease Act
- Provincial Technical Review Report
- Municipal Intensive Livestock By-Law

Here is a list of things I am doing right now:

- Engineered design and structure - barn (approved by province)
- Engineered design and structure - manure storage (approved by province)
- Obtained a Water Rights Licence (from the province)
- Water is tested regularly (8 test wells on site) (results are monitored by province)
- Water consumption – data is provided regularly to the province
- Proper drainage in order to control runoff and stagnant water
- Regular soil test (results are monitored by province)
- Regular manure sampling
- Manure application using GPS
- Annual manure management plan (filed with province)
- Crop rotation to match available nutrients to best suited crop
- Shelterbelts to help with wind erosion as well as odour control
- Livestock disposal – dead stock disposed of quickly through composting
- Ensure proper distances

At the municipal level, I have obtained a building permit and as conditions of this permit I have:

- Adhered to all Provincial laws and Regulations
- Adhered to the Municipal Intensive Livestock By-Law
- Complied with all recommendations of the Technical review Report concerning

- 1) Engineering and Design 2) Land Use Planning 3) Manure Management
- Complied with the provisions of The Water Rights Act and obtained the appropriate licences
- Installed an approved synthetic liner in the manure storage facility
- Ensured that construction was done within the two-year period set out by Council
- Installed a cover on the manure storage facility

At the industry level, I have kept in good standing with respect to the

- CQA (monitored by the hog industry to maintain product quality and consistency)

It has always been my intent to remain a good neighbour.

Since I first applied for construction of a hog barn I have had to jump through many hoops. Let me explain:

- Put finances in place
- Applied to municipality for building permit
- My application was refused without explanation
- New application to municipality for building permit
- Refused a second time without explanation
- Having been refused twice I took the matter to court where it was dealt with by the Court of Queen's Bench (public documents)
- Court documents show that the municipality acted in bad faith
- Court costs were assessed to the municipality, something that seldom happens
- The municipality was ordered by the Courts to look at my application
- Technical Review received by Municipality
- Municipality held Public Hearing
- Further conditions were attached to the permit (Although I met all the conditions of the permit, council still only voted 3-2 in favour of the project). The whole project was almost defeated.
- Applied to the different provincial departments for the necessary licences (much back and forth as the licence is pending the permit and the permit is pending the licence.)
- This process was very lengthy and resulted in loss of income and an increase in the cost and time of setting up my operation.
 - 1st application filed on January 9th, 2001
 - Permit was finally issued on September 28th, 2004.

When my ancestors first settled in the area more than 100 years ago, government sent them off to find their homestead on land that had not yet been surveyed. They would become landowners should they open a certain number of acres within a specified time limit. Logically they settled in close proximity to a creek in order that they may have access to a water source for themselves and for their livestock. This was done successfully with the knowledge and resources that were available to them.

Switch over to 2007. Knowledge and technology have changed. We now measure in parts per billion. Every aspect of farming is being monitored to the nth degree. But we all know that overall the hog industry has a good track record. The producers have

shown to be responsible and have always cooperated with all levels of government in order to ensure a quality, consistent product.

The hog industry takes its role seriously and monitors its producers on a regular basis. Manitoba Pork Council has taken part in studies and has many checkpoints set up to ensure that the producers stay within the industry's guidelines. The Province is also set up to monitor what is going on at the farm level. Without a doubt, the hog industry is the most scrutinized of all industries in the province.

As a hog producer in the province of Manitoba, my recommendations to CEC are as follows:

- Remove the moratorium on the expansion of the hog industry immediately.
 - The moratorium is unfair.
 - It prevents opportunity to producers to expand.
 - It hurts farming by preventing operations from carrying on normal business.
 - Supporting industries are losing out as well.
 - The industry is working very hard to protect the environment.
- The province (and not the producer) should be responsible for the costs incurred in supplying data.
 - Water sampling
 - Test wells
 - Manure sampling
 - Soil testing
- By enforcing a moratorium on the hog industry the province has misled the public into thinking that this specific industry has done terrible things. When the hog industry is exonerated of all wrongdoings, the province should spend time, energy and resources into rebuilding the trust of the consumer regarding this industry.

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