

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEWN

SCOPING MEETING

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Held at Friedensfeld Community Centre

Friedensfeld, Manitoba

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

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

Presentations: Page

Denis Vielfore - Hytek	
Mark Peters - East-Man Animal Nutrition	12
Al Mackling - Springfield Hog Watch	22
Wendy Friesen - Resident Lowe Farm Area	33
Cal Dirks - Pullet Farm	36
James Hofer - Star Lite Colony	40
David Wiens - Board of Dairy farmers	46
Adrien Grenier - SPADA	52
Cliff Graydon - SPADA	52
Mark Kostyniuk - Resident	60
Marge Remple - Resident	63
Ernie Bezditny - Resident	69

Reporter:

Lisa Reid

1 MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:05

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. I
4 think we will come to order now. I'd like to
5 welcome you all here to this afternoon's meeting.
6 My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the Chair of the
7 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, as well as
8 the Chair of this panel. With me on the panel are
9 Norm Brandson and Wayne Motheral.

10 I have a few opening comments and then
11 we will turn to those of you who wish to make
12 presentations to us today. As you will know, the
13 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission has been
14 requested by the Minister of Conservation to
15 conduct an investigation into the environmental
16 sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba.
17 The Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us
18 to review the current environmental protection
19 measures in place relating to hog production in
20 order to determine their effectiveness for the
21 purpose of managing the industry in an
22 environmentally sustainable manner.

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

1 meetings in the various regions of Manitoba to
2 ensure broad participation from the general public
3 and affected stakeholders. We have also been
4 asked to take into account efforts under way in
5 other jurisdictions to manage hog production in a
6 sustainable manner.

7 Further, we are to review the contents
8 of a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
9 entitled "An Examination of the Environmental
10 Eustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba".
11 And at the end of our investigation, we will
12 consider various options and make recommendations
13 in a report to the Minister on any improvements
14 that may be necessary to provide for the
15 environmental sustainability of hog production in
16 this province.

17 To ensure that our review includes
18 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
19 has undertaken to hold three days of scoping
20 meetings, open to groups and individuals who would
21 like to identify and suggest issues related to hog
22 production in the province which could be
23 addressed by the panel.

24 Today is the first day of those
25 scoping hearings. We are not here today to engage

1 in an in-depth discussion of the issues that will
2 be before us. There will be opportunities through
3 a series of meetings to be held throughout the
4 province, throughout southern Manitoba in March
5 and April, for detailed in-put. A list of the
6 dates and places for these hearings is available
7 at the back table.

8 Presentations today are to be limited
9 to 15 minutes. What we are looking for today is
10 identification and an introduction of issues you
11 believe we should consider in our review. We also
12 want a brief reasoning as to why these issues
13 should be considered by the panel. And also we
14 will welcome suggestions on how the panel could
15 approach our investigation.

16 I would note that written submissions
17 in respect of scoping issues will also be
18 accepted. Information as to how to submit written
19 suggestions is available on our website, as well
20 as, I believe, at the back of the hall. The
21 deadline for written submissions in respect of
22 scoping is February 2nd. There will be a later
23 date for written submissions on more detailed
24 items.

25 The panel will use the information

1 that we gather over the -- I was going to say the
2 next three days, but three of the next four days,
3 as well as any written submissions. We will use
4 this information to help us focus our review, to
5 investigate the issues we will review, and to
6 gather additional information from the public and
7 develop -- ultimately develop conclusions and
8 recommendations for the Minister.

9 Some administrative matters before we
10 begin. If you wish to make a presentation today,
11 would you please register at the table at the back
12 of the room? Also, as is our normal practice in
13 Clean Environment Commission hearings, we are
14 recording these sessions, transcripts of each
15 day's hearings will be available online within a
16 day or so. You can find the link on our website
17 to where the transcripts will be.

18 I should also note that for the main
19 hearings, the March and April meetings, there will
20 be a small participant assistance program. If you
21 or any group that you know, a community group or
22 an environmental group or an agricultural group
23 wishes to apply for participant assistance to help
24 you prepare a presentation for the main meetings
25 in March and April, information for that is

1 available at the back of the room.

2 We have had four people indicate that
3 they wish to make presentations this afternoon, as
4 well as a couple who are going to be coming after
5 dinner, after the dinner break. One of the people
6 who had been scheduled for 1:45 has indicated he
7 might be a little bit late, so we may reverse or
8 just change the order of presentations.

9 The first person up this afternoon
10 will be Mr. Denis Vielfore from Hytek, followed by
11 Mark Peters from East-Man Feeds, and then Al
12 Mackling, if he shows up on time, and followed by
13 David Wiens. If Mr. Mackling is late, we will
14 just reverse that order.

15 Once all four of those presentations
16 have been done, if anybody else wishes to make a
17 presentation, they will be welcome to do so. If
18 nobody wants to make another presentation among
19 you in this room, we will remain here until 5:00
20 when we take the supper break, but we may all just
21 be chatting or twiddling our thumbs if nobody is
22 being -- wanting to make presentations.

23 Having said that, I would like to
24 invite Mr. Denis Vielfore to come forward and make
25 a presentation. If you would go to the table up

1 here, Mr. Vielfore?

2 MR. VIELFORE: It doesn't matter which
3 one?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: No, it doesn't matter,
5 either one is fine. Would you please, for the
6 record, introduce yourself and spell your name,
7 please?

8 MR. VIELFORE: Denis Vielfore, the
9 last name is V, as in victory, I-E-L-F-O-R-E. It
10 is Denis with one "N".

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may
12 proceed, Mr. Vielfore.

13 MR. VIELFORE: Good afternoon,
14 Mr. Chairman, and your panel members. Thank you
15 for the opportunity.

16 I am one of the owners and founders of
17 Hytek, based out in La Broquerie. Just a quick
18 history in Hytek.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vielfore, could you
20 just raise the mike slightly?

21 MR. VIELFORE: A quick history on
22 Hytek, it was started when two farm families. The
23 Janson family and the Vielfore family aligned
24 together back in '94 to align our interests in the
25 hog industry. Since then, we have grown in

1 Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the United States and
2 recently in China. Our growth has been stimulated
3 by being able to surround ourselves by great
4 people, and today we have about 450 employees.
5 Our success is based on working with communities,
6 and the people in the communities, and also
7 working with government, and also facing the
8 challenges and opportunities as we have grown this
9 industry.

10 My presentation will be brief. I
11 understand this is a scoping meeting. We will
12 present a more detailed presentation at the public
13 meetings. I just want to add, at this point, that
14 I want to make sure that we recognize and
15 emphasize to the Commission that Manitoba Pork
16 Council is a producer association that I fully
17 support and that they be given the necessary
18 participant status and funds to support the hog
19 industry through this investigation.

20 I will go through Hytek's position
21 here on the scoping meetings. We have three
22 comments we would like to bring forward. The
23 first one is that the CEC must maintain its focus
24 on environmental sustainability to the Manitoba
25 hog industry. This is clearly mandated by the

1 Minister of Conservation.

2 And, number two, that the CEC must
3 stay focused on the Terms of Reference. We
4 acknowledge the Terms of Reference, as stated by
5 the Minister of Conservation. And as long as the
6 CEC remains focused on science-based evidence
7 brought forward to the hearings that pertains to
8 Manitoba landscape. We challenge the CEC on one
9 of the Terms of Reference, to conduct public
10 meetings, to remain attentive to the issues that
11 are relevant to the Manitoba landscape.

12 Number three, the CEC must deliver on
13 its mandate in a timely manner. The Manitoba hog
14 industry is a vibrant industry that is quickly
15 maturing and any long-term interruption will be
16 devastating to the sustainable future.

17 In closing, I would like to say that
18 the CEC needs to filter through information
19 presented at public meetings to ensure rational
20 science-based evidence is used when it prepares
21 its recommendations to the Minister and that the
22 CEC is accountable to link the public opinion to
23 the Minister's mandate. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
25 Mr. Vielfore. Any questions from the panelists?

1 Wayne?

2 MR. BRANDSON: No.

3 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

4 MR. VIELFORE: Just one question.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

6 MR. VIELFORE: Is the panel that is
7 here today the same panel that are going through
8 the meetings?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but there may be
10 one other person. And I can't identify that
11 person because I haven't identified that person.
12 We are hoping to have a panel of four. And we are
13 talking to some people about being a fourth
14 panelist, but the three of us will be on the panel
15 for the main hearings, yes.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 MR. VIELFORE: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Peters? Would you
19 identify yourself for the record, Mr. Peters, and
20 proceed?

21 MR. PETERS: Mark Peters. First name
22 M-A-R-K. Last name Peters, P-E-T-E-R-S.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

24 MR. PETERS: Good afternoon, members
25 of the Clean Environment Commission, panel and

1 ladies and gentlemen of the audience.

2 My name is Mark Peters, and I am the
3 director of sales and marketing at East-Man Animal
4 Nutrition in Winnipeg. East-Man Animal Nutrition
5 is an independent, 100 percent Canadian family
6 owned and operated company. East-Man Animal
7 Nutrition began as a manufacturer of
8 vitamin/mineral premixes and supplements for
9 livestock in 1970.

10 Founder and president, Peter Friesen,
11 brought the concept of on-farm manufacturing of
12 feed to Western Canada by providing a missing
13 link; allowing producers to add vitamins, minerals
14 and supplements to their own grain to make their
15 own complete rations on-farm.

16 We have 137 employees in eight
17 locations across Western Canada and three
18 locations in the mid-west Unites States.

19 We work closely with independent pork
20 producers, from small to large. And our smallest
21 customer has 30 sows, farrow to finish, and our
22 largest customer is 1,000 sows, farrow to finish,
23 and so we work on.

24 On behalf of East-Man Animal
25 Nutrition, I sincerely thank you for the

1 opportunity to present our comments regarding the
2 review of the environmental sustainability of the
3 hog production industry in Manitoba. I would have
4 liked that this review be entitled "A review of
5 the environmental sustainability of pork
6 production in Manitoba", as this would more
7 accurately reflect what we do in this industry;
8 that is to produce pork for the consumer, locally
9 and globally.

10 It is often overlooked that we work
11 within the community of food producers. Our job
12 is to produce food that sustains and nurtures our
13 population.

14 As supporters of independent pork
15 producers, we work with them to produce quality
16 product in an environmentally sustainable manner.
17 We understand and fully support the serious
18 commitment that our pork producers have towards
19 the stewardship of our air, soil, natural plants,
20 wildlife and water resources.

21 We also support the Manitoba
22 government's efforts to protect and maintain our
23 surface and groundwater supply for current and
24 future use. Manitoba's pork industry and
25 Manitoba's pork producers' very existence are tied

1 to a sufficiently reliable source of high-quality
2 water, water that is critical to the raising of
3 pork. Good water is also vitally important to our
4 company and our customers who live, work and raise
5 families on the farm.

6 East-Man Animal Nutrition is concerned
7 with nutrient management, and we support the
8 testing of our customers' land so that the right
9 amounts of nutrients are applied.

10 Hog producers are not the only cause
11 for the recent increase in phosphorus levels in
12 our lakes and rivers.

13 The rising levels of phosphorus in
14 Lake Winnipeg, for example, come from a variety of
15 sources: The U.S.A., other provinces, industry,
16 human waste, cities and municipalities, natural
17 deposits, dishwasher detergent, and lawn
18 fertilizers.

19 In my 23 years of working with pork
20 producers, I have seen massive improvements in the
21 production of pork.

22 I have seen the kilograms of pork
23 produced per breeding female increase by
24 80 percent. Today an average sow can produce
25 2,500 kilograms of pork, compared to

1 1,400 kilograms 20 years ago. In turn, feed
2 conversions, or the amount of feed needed to
3 produce this pork, has decreased by 25 percent.
4 This means more food produced with fewer animals,
5 using less feed, excreting fewer nutrients.

6 Innovation and technology has driven
7 these production efficiencies. This innovation
8 and technology has been driven by the Canadian
9 consumers' demand of cheap food.

10 Canadians are fortunate to spend
11 approximately 10 percent of their disposable
12 income on food, one of the lowest in the world.
13 It is interesting that these hearings are being
14 held a few weeks before Canadians will reach their
15 Food Freedom Day, the calendar date when,
16 according to statistics, the average Canadian
17 consumer has earned enough income to pay his or
18 her individual grocery bill for the entire year.

19 This innovation and technology has
20 been driven by the Canadian consumers' demand for
21 safe food.

22 In Canada we never expect to get sick
23 from the food we consume. Where in some
24 countries, people expect to to get sick from the
25 food they eat 5 to 6 times per year.

1 That innovation and technology
2 continues to evolve.

3 Last week at pork seminar in Alberta,
4 we saw papers being presented on: Bio-digesters
5 and manure processing; animal welfare: Obligation
6 or opportunity?; use of net energy in feed
7 formulation to reduce nutrient excretion; the use
8 of natural enzymes to reduce phosphorous usage in
9 swine diets.

10 900 delegates from around the world
11 attended this seminar, and each of these attendees
12 are directly involved in the production of pork.
13 This meeting enabled us to make global connections
14 and to converse with colleagues from other
15 countries who are dealing with these very same
16 issues. It needs to be noted that we have been
17 researching and utilizing these new technologies
18 whenever possible.

19 Research is ongoing, and is being
20 conducted as we speak, around the world and in
21 Canada. Canadian universities, and research
22 centers such as Prairie Swine Centre, in
23 Saskatchewan are world renowned for their
24 research.

25 And this year the National Centre for

1 Livestock and the Environment at the University of
2 Manitoba's Glenlea Research Station goes into
3 operation.

4 There's nothing else like it in North
5 America! It's the only research facility where
6 scientists will be able to study ecological
7 interactions and the effects of management
8 practices in a total crop and animal production
9 system.

10 The Natural Centre for Livestock and
11 the Environment will provide the facility and
12 tools for researchers from many disciplines to
13 work together on long-term solutions to key issues
14 facing animal agriculture, including environmental
15 health, food safety, as well as animal
16 productivity and well-being.

17 The National Centre for Livestock and
18 the Environment is unique. Using both
19 conventional and alternative animal housing
20 facilities, conventional and alternative manure
21 storage and handling technologies, long-term crop
22 rotations, and well-equipped laboratories, this
23 will be the only location in North America with
24 the expertise and facilities to tackle major
25 issues facing intensive animal agriculture from

1 the molecular to the landscape level, using a
2 whole farm approach.

3 The National Centre for Livestock and
4 the Environment will support short and long-term
5 studies of energy, nutrient and microbial movement
6 in the farm ecosystem. This farm will be the only
7 center we know of in the world with the capacity
8 for this type of research.

9 The National Centre for Livestock and
10 the Environment will be able to provide key data
11 for economic analysis of alternative animal,
12 manure, and land management practices, quantify
13 economic and other risks, as well as identify
14 other economic opportunities.

15 As you can see, our pork production
16 industry is fully aware of the issues of today and
17 the future, and we must continue to address these
18 issues if we want to be sustainable.

19 We, in the pork industry, are as
20 concerned with the protection of our environment
21 as all Manitobans are. And there is no question
22 that we must remain vigilant in our stewardship of
23 this valuable, life-giving resource.

24 The Commission has been tasked with a
25 responsibility that, upon its recommendations,

1 will impact agri-business, the environment, the
2 consumer and, most of all, the farmer.

3 We respectfully request that the panel
4 address the technologies that are currently being
5 used, and to look at the innovation and future
6 technologies that we are currently working with.
7 We urge the panel to talk with our world-class
8 researchers, go to our universities, and
9 experience first-hand the work that they are
10 doing. We urge the panel to tour a modern pork
11 production facility and to talk with the farmers
12 whose lives depend on the sustainability of this
13 very important food industry.

14 In closing, I would like to leave you
15 with the words of William Jennings Bryan's
16 statement from the famous 1896 "Cross of Gold
17 Speech." His words are even more relevant today:

18 "Burn down your cities and leave our
19 farms, and your cities will spring up
20 again as if by magic; but destroy our
21 farms and the grass will grow in the
22 streets of every city in the country."

23 Thank you for your time and
24 consideration of our comments and concerns on this
25 issue.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Peters.
2 If we were to look for issues such as innovation
3 and future technologies, where would you suggest
4 we might would be best to look?

5 MR. PETERS: Start at the University
6 of Manitoba. Talk with the people that are
7 working with these issues on a daily basis. Talk
8 to us. Talk to pork producers that themselves are
9 putting these innovations and this technology to
10 practice today on the farm. Talk to as many
11 people as you can that work, you know, with us in
12 the industry because it is a very exciting and
13 advancing industry.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: We have already talked
15 with some people from the university, and will be
16 talking with them a lot more. And we will
17 probably be engaging some people from the
18 University of Manitoba to conduct literature
19 research for us. And we do hope to hear, through
20 these hearings this week, and then in March and
21 April, from as many Manitobans, including pork
22 producers, as we can. We will be hearing from the
23 Pork Council tomorrow. And I do know that we will
24 be hearing from the Pork Council at the very onset
25 of our main hearings in March and April.

1 Norm or Wayne, do you have any
2 questions of Mr. Peters?

3 MR. BRANDSON: No.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments you
6 would like to make?

7 MR. PETERS: No. Thank you very much.
8 Your task is a huge responsibility that is going
9 to affect a lot of people.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
11 your participation today.

12 Next up, Mr. Al Mackling.

13 Mr. Mackling, would you introduce yourself for the
14 record, please, and then you may proceed?

15 MR. MACKLING: Yes. My name is Al
16 Mackling. I have been a resident of the R.M. of
17 Springfield. No longer there. I am in the City
18 of Winnipeg.

19 But during my time in the R.M. of
20 Springfield, I had the experience of being
21 involved in hearings in respect to applications
22 for intensive livestock operations, became aware
23 of the issue and got quite involved. And I'm a
24 member of the Springfield Hog Watch group. I
25 continue to be and have a continuing interest in

1 this whole area.

2 My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is
3 that this is an opportunity to give the Clean
4 Environment Commission an indication of areas of
5 concern that the public have, the better for the
6 Commission to focus on issues that the public is
7 interested in. And you don't want extensive
8 argument at this stage in respect to the various
9 concerns that individuals have?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: That's correct.

11 MR. MACKLING: But you do want an
12 outline?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: That's correct. Today
14 we are looking for an outline as to how we should
15 scope our review process.

16 MR. MACKLING: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: In March and April, we
18 will have an extensive round of hearings at which
19 we will be looking for more detailed input.

20 MR. MACKLING: Yes. And I assume that
21 those of us who have registered for these
22 proceedings will be notified and be included in
23 the more extensive hearings later on or do we
24 re-register?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: I think you should

1 indicate again, perhaps before you leave today,
2 that you would like to speak at one of the
3 hearings in the spring or in March or April.

4 MR. MACKLING: All right. I will do
5 that. While we, as an organization, have concerns
6 about a number of aspects that intensive livestock
7 operations bring to the fore, including the very,
8 very important one of the degradation or possible
9 degradation of water systems and water supplies,
10 we also -- and I have some ideas that I want to
11 put before the Commission on that. And if there
12 is time, I can elaborate a bit now.

13 But two of the issues that perhaps may
14 go without enough attention to them are the
15 question of animal husbandry and the cruelty that
16 is perceived to occur to animals that are raised
17 in intensive livestock operations. We have become
18 aware of the fact that there have been practices
19 of animal husbandry followed in Europe that are no
20 longer acceptable there, but those same practices
21 occur here in North America and here in Manitoba.

22 The confinement of animals in very,
23 very limited space and the consequent stress that
24 those animals suffer as a consequence of the
25 intensity of their living quarters. I've had the

1 opportunity of seeing animals in intensive living
2 quarters. And, quite frankly, I'm not a
3 vegetarian, but one sometimes wonders whether or
4 not we should consider becoming vegetarians if we
5 have to raise animals in such very difficult
6 conditions.

7 There is no question that when animals
8 are raised in very, very stressful conditions,
9 that the incidence of disease, and therefore,
10 mortality is greater. There has always been a
11 consideration for the mortality question in
12 respect to the intensive livestock operations, and
13 provisions are provided or are made for the
14 disposition of the animals that die under these
15 circumstances. And the reason there is that focus
16 is because animals that are raised in such
17 stressful conditions have a higher likelihood of
18 dying.

19 Now, one of the concerns that we have,
20 and I have presented this concern at a hearing in
21 Springfield, was that we really don't know and
22 appreciate the extent of contamination,
23 atmospheric contamination and, therefore,
24 pollution and health threats from animals or from
25 airborne matter. Now, some people may scoff and

1 say: Well, airborne matter, you know, what is
2 carried any distance? You know, you are just
3 being a dreamer. You are being fanciful. Well,
4 the scientists tell us that viruses can be carried
5 in the atmosphere for great distances. And they
6 estimate or they guess or they ponder that some of
7 the viruses that are occurring in America come
8 great distances, not by humans carrying them, but
9 through the atmosphere. And it sounds pretty
10 wild, but that happens, apparently.

11 I know, from my limited experience,
12 having an extensive garden in the Springfield area
13 where we lived. I went out to the garden one
14 morning and I was amazed at the thousands and
15 thousands, and I am not exaggerating, of cabbage
16 butterflies that were suddenly all over the
17 garden. They weren't there the day before or the
18 few days before. And I marveled at all of these
19 creatures. They are all happy and fluttering
20 around. And I was wondering about the
21 consequences to my garden, of course.

22 I heard later on the news that there
23 had been a storm in Kansas, or somewhere deep in
24 the Unites States, that had the effect of lifting
25 this huge number of butterflies into the

1 atmosphere and taking them north. That's where
2 they came from. Now, the butterfly, as most of
3 you know, is a very fragile little animal. But,
4 by golly, they weren't at all fragile when they
5 were in the garden. They were carried a great
6 distance. And they were very healthy and ready to
7 go to work on my garden.

8 We know that life forms can be carried
9 atmospherically. The scientists have told us
10 this. When I first started addressing concerns
11 about intensive livestock operations in
12 Springfield, one of the concerns that we had was
13 airborne pollutants. And to their credit, the
14 early proponents of livestock operations engaged
15 engineers who did address this problem. GDH
16 Engineering were involved in providing material to
17 support applicants for intensive livestock
18 operations. And one of the considerations they
19 always included was wind velocity, regular wind
20 velocity, the prevailing wind direction and so
21 forth. Later on in hearings in Springfield that
22 whole issue was disregarded.

23 I am very concerned, and we are very
24 concerned, about airborne pollution. We live in a
25 society that's more and more dependent upon and

1 affected by chemicals and other things. We know
2 that there is a growing incidence within every
3 community, apparently, of bronchial and asthmatic
4 conditions. What causes them? Who knows. Is it
5 the food? Is it chemicals in the food we eat? Is
6 it chemicals in the food we eat or the air we
7 breathe? Who knows.

8 But we do know that animal danders are
9 carried high into the -- into the air from
10 livestock operations, animal dander. And animals
11 shed a lot of skin. And we're animals and we shed
12 a lot of skin. People scoff and say: What are
13 you talking about? We shed skin all our lives and
14 so do these animals. And there are going to be
15 millions of them shedding skin. And that matter
16 is lifted up and carried into the atmosphere and,
17 along with it, what else? Do we know?

18 We know that these animals, raised in
19 such close quarters and under stress, being
20 subject therefore to disease, are carefully
21 monitored. The producers here will tell you that
22 they are very carefully monitored. And no one can
23 just walk into those facilities because you might
24 carry in a bacterium of some kind and the producer
25 would lose extensively.

1 But in order to guard against disease,
2 the producers, and the people who produce the
3 feed, were known to have -- and it's common
4 knowledge that they put antibiotics or similar
5 medicines into the feed to protect the animals
6 from disease. What happens to these, the
7 leftovers of these antibiotics and so on? Does
8 anybody know? Do they naturally degrade? What is
9 their life -- what is their lifespan, either going
10 into the water or being carried, as with some
11 particulate matter, into the air? Do we know? I
12 think we should care. So it's these areas,
13 primarily, that I want to suggest that the
14 Commission not overlook because they are
15 important.

16 The water issue, yes, is so evident
17 and is so clear. If I might take a moment, I
18 would like to indicate that some, now near many
19 years ago, I suggested to Members of Parliament,
20 to the government, that in order to deal with the
21 water contamination of run-off of nutrient, it be
22 necessary to filter the water and go back to
23 natural filtration of water. The natural
24 filtration of water occurs through water being
25 channelled and held in sloughs or marshes or

1 marshy areas where the vegetation is capable of
2 removing the pollutants or the nutrients from the
3 water. And then the water that is cleansed is
4 allowed to flow back into the system.

5 Now, I know this by first-hand
6 experience. I had a cousin whose husband was
7 running a greenhouse in the Milwaukee area. And
8 the authorities said, hey, you've got to do
9 something about this because you've got -- in your
10 run-off from your greenhouse you've got nutrients
11 that are going to be a problem to our system.
12 You've got to install a very elaborate system to
13 clean this up, your run-off water from your
14 greenhouse.

15 And then he learned about a simpler
16 technique. He had enough acreage. He took a
17 small portion of his acreage and ran the effluent,
18 the water coming from his greenhouse, into that
19 oversized pond full of cattails or bulrushes, as
20 we call them. The result, they cleaned up the
21 water. He didn't have a huge problem to deal with
22 the nutrients, the water that was loaded with
23 nutrients and pesticides, or whatever, that came
24 in the greenhouse operation. And the authorities
25 were satisfied.

1 Now, we know that we've got a problem
2 with our lake system and our river system. It's
3 not going to be cleaned up by just taking
4 detergents off the market, or whatever, or
5 whatever. We have got to go back to filtrating
6 the run-off from agricultural operations through a
7 natural source. And from my experience, I owned a
8 quarter section, there is always a portion of land
9 in every -- at least in every section that is
10 low-lying where the natural drainage goes.

11 And I believe that what has to happen
12 is that the farmers and the land owners and the
13 local government and the conservation districts
14 and the provincial government have to do a reality
15 check and realize that there are portions of the
16 land that should never be tilled. They should be
17 left as a wet area, as a filter area. And the
18 farm drainage should be channelled through that
19 area, held and allowed to run-off. And I was
20 involved with kind of a hobby farmer out in the
21 Springfield area who wanted to do just that, but
22 he couldn't get -- he couldn't get the help
23 necessary in order to do it.

24 I think this has got to be done in the
25 Red River valley on a massive scale. It's going

1 to cost money. We are either going to have to buy
2 or lease from farmers some acres. Maybe five
3 acres in one area. Maybe only two acres in
4 another area. But develop a system to naturally
5 filter the run-off because farmers have to have
6 their fields drained.

7 If the Commission goes out in the
8 countryside and looks in ditches, they will see
9 that those ditches are just rife with weeds and
10 growth and bulrushes. Why? Because they are
11 loaded with nutrients. Those nutrients should be
12 contained back in the field and then released to
13 the ditch which flows to the creek or the river.
14 Anyway, it's food for your thought.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
16 Mr. Mackling. Do either of you gentlemen have
17 questions of Mr. Mackling?

18 MR. BRANDSON: No.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: I would have comment,
20 but this isn't the time to comment.

21 MR. MACKLING: I would like to hear
22 your comment.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, I am just familiar
24 with a lot of the practices that you are talking
25 about.

1 MR. MACKLING: Good.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
3 Mr. Mackling. Is Mr. Wiens here yet? He wasn't
4 scheduled until 2:00. We have had another person
5 who wishes to come forward, Wendy Friesen. Please
6 introduce yourself for the record, Ms. Friesen,
7 and then proceed.

8 MS. FRIESEN: My name is Wendy
9 Friesen. I come from the Lowe Farm area.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Bring the mike a little
11 closer.

12 MS. FRIESEN: Okay. My name is Wendy
13 Friesen. I'm here today to represent our family
14 farm, which is made up of hog production and
15 grain/oil seeds production.

16 The purpose of my presentation here
17 today is to ensure that the CEC review of hog
18 production in Manitoba will be focused only on the
19 issues which fall within the intended scope. I
20 know that the fears of the non-farming community
21 will weigh heavily on you, so I ask that you be
22 very careful in sorting through the many comments
23 which I am sure you will receive in following your
24 mandate only.

25 Key issues which should be focused on

1 include a focus on the environmental issues, such
2 as protection of soil. And you will see that
3 there are many soil tests which have been done at
4 the cost of the farmer and that farmers are good
5 stewards of the land. After all, we raise our
6 families here and have every reason to take care
7 of our land.

8 Review the phosphorus and mortality
9 regulations which the hog producers follow to see
10 how far the farmers already have to go to be in
11 compliance. The land re-seeded with fertilizer is
12 not always owned by the hog farmer, but any land
13 owner has to consider the appropriate amount of
14 fertilizer to be applied for both long-term and
15 economical reasons.

16 Read the water tests which have been
17 performed on Lake Winnipeg so you can see that hog
18 manure contributes only about one percent of the
19 phosphorus in the lake. Where does the other
20 99 percent come from? Also, keep in mind that we,
21 too, drink the water and that, in itself, is
22 enough reason to keep the water clean.

23 Realize that timing is extremely
24 important to the hog producer, as any further
25 delays in building of hog barns, or expansions

1 thereof, will tie the hands of farmers and their
2 right to continue on in the business of hog
3 production. This pause has already forced the hog
4 industry to rearrange the long-term plans that
5 were already in place and have now been put on
6 hold. I don't believe that any other industry
7 would take kindly to this type of interruption of
8 business either.

9 I know that your review needs to be
10 thorough and focused. And I ask that you edit out
11 any other issues which might come up so that this
12 review can be done as quickly and efficiently as
13 possible. Thank you for your time.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any
15 comments or questions?

16 MR. BRANDSON: No.

17 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
19 Ms. Friesen.

20 MS. FRIESEN: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish
22 to make a presentation at this time? What we will
23 do, then, is we will just sort of adjourn until
24 Mr. Wiens shows up. And then if anybody else
25 shows up and wishes to make a presentation, we

1 will come back to order. We will remain here
2 until 5:00, which is our supper break. So that
3 anybody who comes in between now and 5:00, we will
4 just sit back down and hear them and then we will
5 adjourn again if there is nobody. We do have at
6 least a couple of people scheduled for after the
7 dinner break. So we will take a break right now
8 until we have had some other person who wishes to
9 make a presentation show up. Thank you.

10 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 1:50 AND RESUMED AT 2:39)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Hello. Mr. Wiens, who
12 had indicated he wanted to speak this afternoon,
13 has yet to show up. But we have had another
14 person who came out here today who is registered
15 to make a presentation and we will hear him right
16 now. And then if and when Mr. Wiens shows up, we
17 will reconvene again. Mr. Dirks.

18 MR. DIRKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
19 and panel.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you introduce
21 yourself for the record, please?

22 MR. DIRKS: Okay. My name is Cal
23 Dirks. I'm a pullet farmer in the R.M. of
24 Hanover. And it is pullets grown for egg-layer
25 production.

1 And we are very much aware of the
2 importance of environmental protection and manage
3 our farm accordingly for now and our future
4 generations. And we know the impact on the hog
5 industry will impact all livestock production, so
6 I would like to make a few background comments to
7 begin.

8 Egg and pullet producers operate under
9 a cohesive well-organized system that enable us
10 the dissemination and uptake of information
11 relating to water protection and proper manure
12 management. We are all well aware of
13 environmental issues and prepared to do our fair
14 share to ensure protection of our water resources.
15 We consider this area a priority important to the
16 overall sustainability of the industry.

17 Producer education has been ongoing
18 since the development of farm practices
19 guidelines. And some examples of initiatives are
20 as follows: Proper manure management presentation
21 at our producer meetings, production of manure
22 management for laying hens and pullets brochures,
23 promotion and hosting of environmental plan
24 workshop and various informational newsletter
25 articles to our producers.

1 Many producers have retooled and are
2 in the process of retooling their facilities,
3 which includes improved manure storage and
4 handling. Many are moving from liquid to dry
5 manure handling systems. Manure is recognized as
6 a valuable fertilizer and soil conditioner for
7 producers, as manure is utilized by the many egg
8 and pullet producers who also grow crops.

9 So some issues for the CEC and the
10 rationale. The CEC should focus on the issues
11 very specific to environmental protection, not the
12 broader social and economic landscape. The
13 rationale would be to focus and prevent
14 unnecessary delays so producers can be certain of
15 regulations and start to proceed with required
16 changes.

17 Secondly, we are supportive of the
18 current limits and restrictions contained within
19 the recently amended manure management regulations
20 and look forward to discussions with the
21 government regarding transition support. Our
22 rationale: Much research and consultation has
23 already gone into these amendments, which are
24 broadly supported.

25 And, finally, we feel the CEC needs to

1 ensure that the nutrient management regulation
2 under water stewardship gives appropriate emphasis
3 to urban activities, such as direct discharge of
4 urban waste and winter spreading of municipal
5 human waste. Agriculture will do their part, and
6 wishes the CEC to ensure other sectors share in
7 the responsibility of the environment as well.
8 Thank you very much for your time.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dirks.
10 Norm or Wayne, do you have any questions?

11 MR. BRANDSON: No.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
14 Does anybody else wish to come up and make any
15 contributions to our process? Okay. We will take
16 another break. We will be here until our supper
17 break at 5:00. If anybody else comes in, or if
18 Mr. Wiens does show up, we will reconvene and
19 allow people to make their presentations. So we
20 will stand adjourned again until at least 5:00.

21 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 2:45 AND RESUMED AT 4:15)

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Hofer?

23 MR. HOFER: Good afternoon.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon.

25 MR. HOFER: I didn't plan on speaking

1 here, but my colleagues and friends told me to
2 come up with something. And I guess the question
3 that I --

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Could you introduce
5 yourself for the record, please?

6 MR. HOFER: James Hofer. I'm with
7 Star Lite Colony Farms at Starbuck.

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Star Lite Colony
9 Farms?

10 MR. HOFER: Yes, L-I-T-E.

11 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay, thank you.

12 MR. HOFER: I guess the question I ask
13 myself, being here in this room: Why are we here?
14 And if the answer is: Lake Winnipeg and the state
15 of what that lake is in, then I would suggest that
16 the Clean Environment Commission have a look at
17 all of the point sources that contribute to the
18 nutrients that end up in that lake. And if we
19 look at the watershed and how -- what that
20 watershed contains, how big it is, it goes west to
21 the rockies, it goes south. And that lake is
22 taxed, you know, putting through a lot of water.

23 So one of the other areas that, you
24 know, I have questions on, and I am not sure on
25 how that is being monitored or controlled, is the

1 way the City of Winnipeg handles its bio-solid
2 wastes. In fact, just on the way coming down to
3 the meetings, I drove cross-country, and they are
4 spreading as we speak. They have been doing it
5 for the last month. It is on the snow. I don't
6 know how they are going to manage that. And how
7 they get away with the licence to winter spread
8 and who's monitoring it? Do they have to fill out
9 a manure management plan or a nutrient plan to
10 make sure that the application rates are being
11 met?

12 And the hog industry has always
13 responded to issues or challenges that have come
14 up. And I think, in most cases, they've always
15 acted in a responsible fashion and have never been
16 out to just blatantly try to ruin the environment.
17 We live and work on the farm. We drink the water
18 that's in the ground there, and it's in our own
19 best interests to farm and to run an operation
20 that is sustainable and friendly to the
21 environment.

22 Another, another thing that really
23 bothers me is how can people, public, in some
24 cases even government maybe, tell farmers how to
25 farm when they have actually never, in fact, run a

1 farm? One of my dad's favourite peeves is he
2 says: Have you ever flown an airplane? No. Then
3 how can you tell somebody that's a pilot that's
4 licensed how to fly an airplane? I said: I
5 can't. That's what I struggle with when I look at
6 government. And I know we need government and I
7 know we need regulations. But there never seems
8 to be enough, what would you call it, credibility
9 given to farmers. There seems to be none.

10 And in the past, we have had a lot of
11 regulations come at us. And we have found a way
12 to work with the regulations and, you know, come
13 up with a doable solution. But to come in and
14 totally shut down an industry, I mean, how is that
15 doable? It just isn't doable and we don't know
16 how we are going to do it.

17 We can't go out and make more land.
18 There is only so much land. And, you know, if the
19 government would come up with some form of maybe
20 grandfathering the existing farms to continue to
21 expand and not let any new ones in. But to shut
22 the existing ones down is -- I don't know if
23 that's the solution.

24 And look at the smaller farmer. If we
25 look at the number of farms we had 25 years ago,

1 and the number of farms we have today, and we ask
2 why and how were these farmers shut down? A lot
3 of them just can't work with the regulations. The
4 bigger ones have worked and rolled with the
5 punches, but the smaller ones are just bowing out.
6 And we are just getting more and more people that
7 the family farm isn't there anymore. The urban
8 population is not connected to the farm anymore.
9 And they just don't understand the issues that
10 surround the farm and the challenges the farmers
11 are faced with.

12 And, you know, it always appears that
13 the government, with the regulations or the
14 programs that they come up with, there is very
15 little assistance to the farmers. It is always,
16 you know, on the backs of the farmers and coming
17 up and adding costs to the costs of operating a
18 farm. We have weather issues. We have market
19 forces. It's just a non-stop barrage of
20 challenges that farmers are faced with.

21 And then if we look at the province
22 and why is the province producing all of the hogs
23 that we are producing? It was led by the
24 government. It was encouraged by the government.
25 And I would say it was done in a -- it wasn't done

1 with -- it was done with their eyes open. They
2 didn't close their eyes and go and build a whole
3 slew of barns.

4 If we look at the grow rate, we lost
5 our subsidy when it came to shipping grain. And
6 it only makes sense that we try to walk this grain
7 off the farm because to ship it was just another
8 cost.

9 And if we look at the issue of -- I
10 know the hog industry, or I don't know if I can
11 call it the issue of the hog industry, but if I
12 ask: Why are we here today, besides Lake
13 Winnipeg, is it election? Is it focused around
14 election or is it being -- is the government doing
15 it because of elections? That's the question that
16 I just, you know, came to -- I am not comfortable
17 with.

18 And farmers have a lot of passion for
19 what they do. They love what they are doing and
20 they are good at it. And we continue to be -- we
21 continue to operate in manners that are friendly
22 to the environment and continue to produce food.

23 And in some cases, like I have alluded
24 to before, smaller farmers are bowing out. One of
25 the reasons that they are bowing out, they are

1 getting tired. They are getting worn out. The
2 fight to push back, to stand up, in a lot of cases
3 is not there anymore. They are getting tired.
4 And the question is why? Why do we need to
5 always -- why can't government and an industry
6 that big not work together and come up with
7 solutions to move on? There is just -- I am at a
8 loss of words. You take the community life and
9 the Hutterite colonies right now that are ready to
10 establish new colonies. And they were planning on
11 hog production and now that's totally, totally out
12 of the question. It's a way of life.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Hovers, does
14 your colony produce hogs?

15 MR. HOFER: Yes, sir.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: How large an
17 operation?

18 MR. HOFER: 600 sows, start to finish.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: 600?

20 MR. HOFER: Yes.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: And have you -- has
22 that expanded in recent years or have you always
23 had a fairly large hog operation?

24 MR. HOFER: We expanded from 400 sows
25 to 600 10 years ago.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Any other
2 questions?

3 MR. MOTHERAL: Just a comment, from
4 hearing what you are saying today, I encourage you
5 to probably make another presentation when we have
6 the public meetings in March and April to hear
7 your concerns again.

8 MR. HOFER: Thank you.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
10 much, Mr. Hofer. Mr. Wiens?

11 MR. WIENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
12 for this opportunity to present to you today. I'm
13 David Wiens, a dairy farmer, actually, from the
14 Grunthal area. As well, I am the Chairman of the
15 Board of Dairy Farmers of Manitoba. So I speak
16 personally, as well as on behalf of the
17 organization.

18 Now, although I am involved in the
19 dairy, certainly we see how this can have much
20 broader implications. And, of course, we have
21 concerns in this area as well.

22 At the same time, I appreciate the
23 opportunity here to assist the Commission in
24 scoping your work as you go forward from here and,
25 of course, specifically in the sustainability on

1 the hog industry of Manitoba.

2 As I have been involved in the past,
3 but so have many others that have participated,
4 producers throughout all of the commodities in
5 Manitoba, livestock commodities, have been working
6 together with our conservation people and
7 stewardship people in terms of drafting up these
8 new regulations, the livestock manure and
9 mortality management regulations. And this is a
10 process that has been going on for quite a number
11 of years now.

12 And we have been given the opportunity
13 to have some input here. And, of course, some of
14 our suggestions have been included, some very
15 practical things that we thought should be part of
16 these regulations. And we certainly have been
17 listened to over the years and we appreciate that.

18 And, of course, as an industry,
19 livestock industry, in Manitoba here, we are well
20 aware of the need for clean water for both humans
21 and livestock. And the need for well-managed soil
22 nutrients for the economic production of both high
23 grains and oil seeds, it is critical. And, of
24 course, we need clean air for the protection of
25 both plants and animals, so we come from there.

1 We come from those kinds of concerns.

2 The Manitoba livestock producers do
3 have to comply with the most stringent
4 environmental regulations in North America. And
5 that was, in fact, stated by the Minister of
6 Conservation in December of 2006.

7 And I can certainly testify to that
8 from my own personal experience and having put up
9 a manure storage just this last fall, and having
10 completed last fall when we received approval from
11 conservation in September. The standards to which
12 this structure had to be built exceeded any
13 standards in any other jurisdiction in North
14 America. And I'm not -- I'm certainly not here to
15 complain about it. I think, in the end, it will
16 serve the entire industry well as we head in that
17 direction.

18 And now just getting back, I guess,
19 because these are scoping meetings, and we just
20 want to ensure that this review includes the
21 issues that are important to all Manitobans, as it
22 states on your website. The way I see it, the
23 issues that are of great importance here are, of
24 course, to review those issues that directly
25 impact the environment, as requested by the

1 Minister. My fear is if the scope becomes broader
2 than that, that it will -- it will exceed the
3 mandate of the Commission. But it also becomes a
4 much more cumbersome debate and the risk is that
5 it would continue on for much too long. So I
6 would like to see the scope fairly specific.

7 And so, of course, we are dealing
8 directly with the hog industry here and with the
9 soil, water and air. And I think we should really
10 try to focus on those three, soil, water and air
11 in this Commission, without getting all kinds of
12 other issues involved here.

13 There is a recent nutrient management
14 research that has been happening together with the
15 University of Manitoba Faculty of Agriculture and
16 Food Sciences and that deals with hog manure and
17 how it's applied and how it is taken up by the
18 plants. I believe this study is nearing its
19 completion at this point is my understanding. And
20 I would certainly like to see the Commission
21 consider that, the information coming out of that
22 research, very carefully. I think it's very -- I
23 think it's valuable research for us here in the
24 province because it is actually -- the study has
25 been done right here in Manitoba. Sometimes when

1 you get into other climates and soil conditions,
2 it is really hard to replicate that in our climate
3 and our soil. So I think we have a real
4 opportunity to tap into that kind of research.

5 And, of course, as I alluded to
6 earlier, the time factor here. It would be good
7 to see this done in a timely fashion. Again, I'm
8 not directly involved in the hog industry but, at
9 the same time, you know, this study, it concerns
10 all of the livestock agriculture, that we come to
11 a final report in a timely fashion so that we can
12 all carry on in a very timely way. And then, as
13 producers, we can all move on from here, knowing
14 exactly what the outcome is and how -- and if we
15 need to make any changes, then we can begin to do
16 those things.

17 So, really, that's all I had to
18 present here. And, again, I appreciate the
19 opportunity to come to you today.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
21 much. Any questions? Wayne?

22 MR. MOTHERAL: I know this is going to
23 be a difficult one to answer, but can you give me
24 a definition of a "timely fashion"?

25 MR. WIENS: Well, I would like to

1 think that we could have something done, you know,
2 by early of next summer. Now, having said that, I
3 also don't want to give anybody the impression
4 that I think this should be done in a huge hurry
5 just to get it done. I think it should be done
6 properly. But I think if it's focused, then you
7 can hopefully get, you know, to your final report
8 sooner rather than later.

9 And so I think it's -- and, I mean,
10 it's hard for me to say exactly whether it would
11 be two months or three months, but I would sure
12 like to see something, you know, earlier in the
13 summer, rather than later in the year, if that's
14 possible.

15 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: By "next summer",
17 you mean the summer of 2007?

18 MR. WIENS: Right. Sorry, yes,
19 absolutely.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: I can't guarantee
21 that, but we will work as expeditiously as we can,
22 without compromising the review.

23 MR. WIENS: Right.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Any other
25 questions?

1 MR. MacARTHUR: No.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
4 much, Mr. Wiens. And we will adjourn again.

5 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 4:30 AND RESUMED AT 7:05)

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Good evening.

7 Could we come to order? We will get back to
8 business here. We have had four different people
9 indicate that they would like to make a
10 presentation this evening. The first up are Cliff
11 Graydon and Adrien Grenier. Would you please
12 identify yourselves for the record and then
13 proceed with your presentation?

14 MR. GRENIER: I'm Adrien Grenier. I'm
15 the president of SPADA, and this is going to be
16 done in the name of SPADA.

17 MR. GRAYDON: I'm Cliff Graydon. And
18 I'm his bodyguard.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: He looks like he
20 needs help.

21 MR. GRENIER: That's fine. I am
22 standing before you, sitting down, actually, as
23 the president of SPADA. This is a small regional
24 organization in the SE corner of the province
25 representing farmers of diverse backgrounds,

1 including hog farmers. I wish to address a few
2 issues with respect to the CEC's review.

3 To be honest, I do not understand the
4 logic behind the ban on hog operations. I am even
5 more perplexed as to why the CEC is now inviting
6 me, and all other citizens of Manitoba, to provide
7 input into the scope of the review, especially
8 when we have provided input into the many
9 environmental regulations and livestock reviews
10 done since 1994. But since you have granted me
11 the opportunity to speak out regarding what will
12 be included in the CEC's review, I have taken the
13 liberty of preparing a few points that I believe
14 need to be looked at by the CEC.

15 How has the hog industry grown in the
16 past 10 years? Compared to other provinces?
17 Compared to other industries in Manitoba? And if
18 the industry has grown, does it have a large
19 enough land base to support these operations?
20 Have the provincial guidelines kept up with the
21 growth or exceeded it?

22 The second point is what kind of time
23 span is the CEC looking at with regards to their
24 study? The hog industry is a thriving industry at
25 this time and a ban of any sort will have serious

1 effects on the present and future producers, as
2 well as all industries related, directly or
3 indirectly, with the production of hogs in
4 Manitoba. It is imperative that the CEC decide on
5 a time span that is adequate for its research and
6 review, but at the same time be respectful of the
7 fact that time is critical to everyone involved.

8 The third point is the government
9 requires an abundance of data with respect to the
10 environment, starting from its own technical
11 review on every proposed hog operation. Once the
12 operation is running, the producers are required
13 to fill out paperwork with respect to different
14 aspects of their operation, but always at a cost
15 to the producer. Is the province willing to cover
16 these costs in order to keep their data current
17 and keep the producers' costs at a reasonable
18 level and on an equal footing with the rest of
19 Canada and the world? And examples are technical
20 reviews, manure management plan, soil sampling and
21 water sampling.

22 My fourth point: Is the Provincial
23 Government giving too much attention to public
24 perception versus fact?

25 And here I would like to just give you

1 an example. The other day, on an appeal process
2 that I am doing, of course the reason is
3 irrelevant, but I phoned the Provincial
4 Government, the Department of Agriculture, and I
5 asked a simple question: Why am I being refused?
6 Oh, probably it's because there is a hog ban on
7 operations. And she asked: Do you have a hog
8 farm? Yes. Well, that's the reason you are being
9 denied. It just makes no sense. I don't know.

10 Farmers are a small minority of the
11 Manitoba population. And they are spread all over
12 the -- spread over the whole of the province.
13 They are a very small group, compared to the
14 population of Winnipeg or other large urban
15 centers. For that reason, it is easy to disregard
16 them when they speak out. How has this situation
17 helped or hindered the agricultural producers?

18 Has enough been done by the Province
19 to instill confidence towards the hog industry
20 with respect to the environment?

21 How much time and effort is being
22 spent on educating the public as to the role
23 agriculture plays in our province? And what steps
24 have been taken by agricultural producers and
25 organizations to ensure the safeguarding of the

1 environment?

2 And my last point is a number of
3 organizations, including SPADA, have been
4 conducting ongoing research on a number of topics
5 related to agriculture and the effects on the
6 environment. Is the CEC prepared to look at this
7 data with respect to its review? For example, the
8 Roseau River project where there is an impact on
9 sediments going into the Roseau River. And also
10 application of manure on pasture and impact on
11 yields and the environment.

12 In conclusion, I would add that my
13 livelihood and that of a great number of
14 Manitobans involved, directly or indirectly, with
15 the hog industry lies in your hands. We have
16 confidence that the CEC will deal with this matter
17 efficiently and responsibly and, in the process,
18 restore the confidence of the public at large
19 towards the hog industry. Thank you. If you have
20 any questions?

21 THE COMMISSIONER: A couple of
22 questions, Mr. Grenier. What does SPADA stand
23 for?

24 MR. GRENIER: He answers all of the
25 question.

1 MR. GRAYDON: Stuartburn Piney
2 Agricultural District Association.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. And you
4 mentioned, Mr. Grenier, that SPADA has been
5 conducting some research?

6 MR. GRENIER: Yes, we have some.

7 MR. GRAYDON: We have conducted a
8 considerable amount of research, Mr. Chairman, in
9 the past. And, unfortunately, we don't have the
10 time, nor do we have the expertise, to put that
11 together. It is only recently that we have
12 understood that there was money available to hire
13 someone to put that together for your perusal, but
14 we didn't know that at the time. We only found
15 out yesterday.

16 But, yes, we have done a considerable
17 amount of research on, especially, hog manure on
18 forages, also on pasture land. Also the study on
19 the Roseau River was for water quality as well.
20 We have done two replicated studies on that. The
21 study with the hog manure on forages was
22 replicated five times, so it's a scientific
23 research.

24 And that's all available. Had we had
25 the opportunity and the expertise to put it

1 together properly, we would have done that for
2 you. We just were not aware of it until just
3 yesterday. Thank you.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: I think,
5 Mr. Grenier, you asked a question of us whether we
6 would be interested in having access to that
7 research, and my short answer is yes. How we do
8 it, whether it's -- the amount of money that's
9 available for participant assistance isn't a lot.
10 But if you're successful in getting a small
11 amount, and if that's enough to document your
12 research, that would be fine. If not, we will try
13 to find some other way to get the information from
14 you. Perhaps just a small meeting with the panel
15 and some of your members. We will work something
16 out. But I think that we would certainly welcome
17 your input in that regard.

18 MR. GRAYDON: Is there a timeframe on
19 applying for financial assistance, Mr. Chairman?

20 THE COMMISSIONER: There is. I
21 believe there is a sheet over there that explains
22 it. Talk to Cathy, Mr. Graydon. She has the
23 information right there. There is a timeframe. I
24 just don't know what it is. But she has the
25 information at the table.

1 MR. GRAYDON: Thank you.

2 MR. GRENIER: Thank you.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Any questions of
4 either of these gentlemen? Wayne?

5 MR. MOTHERAL: I was going to ask the
6 same question as you did, because we certainly
7 don't want to ignore any information that's out
8 there. That's our mandate is to gather all we can
9 in the next timeframe for this. And we would
10 appreciate anything possible. And I highly advise
11 you, if you can, to make a presentation at the
12 public hearings coming in March and April.

13 MR. GRENIER: Thank you, actually.

14 MR. GRAYDON: If we have that
15 information compiled before that, do you want that
16 forwarded to you?

17 THE COMMISSIONER: We would certainly
18 welcome it, yes. Anything that is submitted to us
19 in writing becomes part of our record, so that
20 would be fine. But we will definitely, somehow or
21 other, keep in touch and get that information from
22 you.

23 MR. GRAYDON: Okay, thank you.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
25 gentlemen. The next person on my list is Mark

1 Kostyniuk. Mr. Kostyniuk, would you please
2 introduce yourself for the record and then you may
3 continue.

4 MR. KOSTYNIUK: Hello. I'm Mark
5 Kostyniuk. And I guess I am just a family member
6 and a concerned citizen. Ladies and gentlemen,
7 and representatives of the CEC, it is my
8 understanding that the CEC, under directive of the
9 Government of the Province of Manitoba, has opened
10 public forums to learn what the issues of concern
11 are in regards to the "temporary pause on hog
12 expansion." I found it necessary to take the time
13 to share my personal concerns with you tonight.

14 I would like to take a moment to give
15 you some details of my personal situation, as I
16 believe it will offer a better perspective as to
17 the source of my presentation tonight. I was
18 raised on a mixed beef/grain farm in the southeast
19 of province. I am currently employed with the
20 province's transportation department, and reside
21 in an agricultural area south of Vita. My family
22 is still operating the farm in the area, which has
23 recently diversified into hog production. As
24 well, my wife is also employed in the hog
25 industry.

1 I believe, as most rural residents do,
2 that water quality is a high priority; probably
3 more so for us than for urbanites, as we do not
4 have the availability of treated water supplies.
5 Rural residents, and producers, hold water quality
6 and all environmental issues in high regard. It
7 is for this reason that producers are very
8 conscious of the effects of their actions on our
9 environment.

10 The issue that the CEC has brought
11 forth is the increase in phosphorous levels in
12 Lake Winnipeg. My concern today is that the
13 current government has targeted one group in an
14 effort to curb the problem. However, there is a
15 lack of evidence that these actions will have any
16 positive effect. The hog manure spread on
17 agricultural lands is not merely a means of
18 disposal; it is used as a substitute for chemical
19 fertilizers. The amount of fertilizer has not
20 changed; it is just coming from a more natural
21 source. Research has shown that the agricultural
22 industry as a whole is a minor contributor to
23 phosphorus contamination. It appears to me that
24 the government is unfairly, and unjustifiably,
25 targeting a small, and possibly unpopular,

1 minority under the guise of proactive
2 environmental policy.

3 Furthermore, the hog industry has
4 grown to become the saviour of rural Manitoba's
5 economy. The industry is one of, if not the
6 largest, employers in southeastern Manitoba. The
7 industry has created an opportunity for rural
8 residents who value rural lifestyle and do not
9 wish to commute to large urban centers for
10 employment. This has spawned a decrease in
11 emigration from the small towns that not too long
12 ago were facing extinction.

13 In closing, I would like to suggest
14 that the Commission do a thorough investigation of
15 the consequences of these actions. Perhaps more
16 research should be done to determine other sources
17 of contamination and the feasibility of reducing
18 them. More evidence is needed to support the
19 actions already taken. The government needs to
20 consider the ramifications of their actions,
21 rather than charging at the hog industry
22 blindfolded with guns blazing.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Any
24 questions of Mr. Kostyniuk? Wayne?

25 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

1 THE COURT: Norm?

2 MR. MacARTHUR: No.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
4 much, Mr. Kostyniuk.

5 MR. KOSTYNIUK: Thank you.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Margaret Remple?
7 Thank you. Would you please state your name for
8 the record and then proceed with your
9 presentation?

10 MS. REMPLE: Yes. My name is Marge
11 Remple. And I thank you, Commissioners for making
12 this opportunity available to me to share my
13 comments with you. I am a farmer. I own and
14 operate a mixed farm here in the R.M. of Hanover.
15 My farm consists of 500 sows, farrow to finish.
16 And in our enterprise, I have 1,500-acres of crop
17 land on which I grow cereal grains, oils seeds, as
18 well as some forage crops.

19 I feel the moratorium on hog
20 production in Manitoba has been misguided and very
21 shortsighted. I would suggest Manitoba, and the
22 rest of the Canadian prairies, require a large
23 increase in livestock production to maintain
24 healthy agriculture into the next 25 to 50 years.

25 Currently our province is working hard

1 to facilitate a number of bio-diesel production
2 sites. Someone involved in that sector asked me
3 recently if it was possible to increase the amount
4 of canola harvested from the current number of
5 acres being planted to that crop? The average
6 yield for canola across the province would
7 probably be about 30 bushels an acre. It is
8 possible to grow double that yield, but it's only
9 possible if farmers increase the amount of
10 fertilizer they use. The soil must be nurtured if
11 it is to provide a greater return.

12 If we've learned anything in the past
13 couple of decades, it must be that we, as a
14 society, need to, in fact, expand our energy
15 source options. Bio-diesel from locally grown
16 crops providing fuel for transportation and
17 heating, as well as a meal product very usable in
18 livestock production, is a good fit.

19 The wrinkle would be requiring farmers
20 to rely on petroleum-based fertilizer sources to
21 grow that crop. Granular fertilizer price versus
22 increased 40 percent in the past few months.
23 Farmers cannot afford to maintain current levels
24 of soil nurtures, let alone increased fertilizer
25 costs, to grow higher yields to meet not only

1 society's food, but also some of its energy
2 requirements.

3 Over the thousands and thousands of
4 years that agriculture has developed, it has only
5 been the past 40 or 50 years that crop production
6 has become so reliant on petroleum-based
7 fertilizers. In the long view of history, it's a
8 short-term bubble, and a bubble which probably
9 won't last much longer. Crop production based on
10 petroleum-sourced fertilizers is not sustainable.

11 What is sustainable and has been
12 common practice in agriculture for many thousands
13 of years is the use of animal manure to provide
14 crop nutrients and maintain healthy levels of soil
15 fertility. To encourage responsible application
16 of an animal manure is definitely appropriate. To
17 curtail production of animal manure is extremely
18 shortsighted and ill conceived. Manure is not a
19 waste product. It is a vitally important
20 resource, part of the completely natural organic
21 and very holistic nutrient cycle.

22 As to our specific situation in
23 Manitoba, farmers in this province have been busy
24 completing their individual environmental farm
25 plans over the past year and a half. Having the

1 EFPs certified makes farmers certified for partial
2 funding dollars for any of some 30 green projects.
3 Beef farmers are eligible for financial assistance
4 to construct fences around crop land for the
5 purpose of winter swathe grazing or other winter
6 crop feeding. The reasoning is that the feed then
7 does not have to be removed to a central feeding
8 location. And the manure, in turn, does not have
9 to be moved back to the fields where it will
10 nurture next year's crops. At a time when we are
11 becoming increasingly aware of ways in which to
12 reduce transportation and related costs, it seems
13 wise to encourage in-field winter feeding of
14 cattle as a BMP or a best management practice.

15 Now, if I, as a hog producer, would
16 place 10-kilos of hog manure on a snow-covered
17 field between November and April, I would
18 immediately be fined. Does anyone else see an
19 inconsistency here? I put forward this example to
20 point out that, for whatever reasons, hog
21 production has become the target of emotional and
22 unjustified prejudice. We can only dream of a
23 rational and science-based dialogue.

24 The attempt of this government, and
25 some of its citizens, to place the responsibility

1 for algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg on hog producers
2 is a travesty. Hog producers have been far ahead
3 of all other Manitoba livestock sectors and
4 responsible, and might I add, highly monitored
5 for manure management and environmental
6 stewardship for many years already.

7 We continue to use vast amounts of our
8 own money to fund research which can direct us
9 into the future in using ever-more accurate
10 application monitors and equipment, fine-tuning
11 feed rations to further reduce amounts of excreted
12 phosphorous and so on. We accept that we may be
13 contributing one percent of the phosphorous
14 entering Lake Winnipeg and will continue to work
15 hard to reduce that amount. However, for
16 government and people of this province to focus on
17 that one percent is, as I've already said, very
18 shortsighted.

19 If we're going to maintain, let alone
20 increase the yield potential of our crop land, we
21 need to feed the soil. And the most natural and
22 healthy way to do that is with animal manure. We
23 need an awful lot more of it.

24 Thomas Homer Dixon, in his recent book
25 "The Up Side of Down" describes in great detail

1 the collapse of the Roman empire. And he points
2 the finger directly at the empire leadership for
3 strangling agriculture. It is sadly not the only
4 once-sophisticated society to literally die
5 because they failed to honour the fundamental
6 importance of primary food production. It is the
7 very foundation on which human civilization
8 exists, the absolutely most crucial sector of any
9 society, ours included.

10 I hope that my fellow Manitobans
11 remember that when they tighten the noose around
12 the necks of hog producers, or any other farmers,
13 they are tightening the noose around their own
14 necks. Thank you.

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
16 Questions?

17 MR. MacARTHUR: No.

18 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
20 much, Ms. Remple.

21 I believe there is one more person.
22 Somebody filled out a form but, I'm sorry, I can't
23 read the name on it. Is there somebody else that
24 wanted to make a presentation this evening? Would
25 you state your name, please, sir?

1 MR. BEZDITNY: My name is Ernie
2 Bezditny.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

4 MR. BEZDITNY: I'm a small farmer from
5 Pansy.

6 Now since the hog operations started,
7 I think the regulations came in a bit too late,
8 because where I live there is about 35 barns in a
9 three mile radius. To me, as far as I'm
10 concerned, that's a lot. And that's not hog
11 farming, that's factory farming.

12 The bush has been cleared. The
13 ditches for the drainage that has been made is
14 unbelievable. They are destroying nature and the
15 country itself with hog operations. Everybody
16 seems to be worried about water quality. But when
17 it comes to hog operations, I think water is being
18 abused, the same with water quantity. Everything
19 is being ignored when it comes to factory farming
20 with hog operations.

21 And to me, I see that manure
22 applications are going on too late in the year.
23 They should all -- I think manure should be spread
24 out during the forage season, not when the ground
25 is froze. Because, naturally, it is going to be

1 run off in the spring. And I think that should be
2 tightened up. There should be an earlier deadline
3 on manure applications.

4 And the way water is being ignored, I
5 think the government should be forcing them to put
6 water metres on the factory farming that's
7 commercial. I can see family farms. But around
8 my place, that's not family farming anymore,
9 that's factory farming.

10 And to the barns that were built in
11 Hanover, I think the moratorium should have been
12 put on a long time ago. Like I say, 35 barns in a
13 three mile radius is a bit too much. Thank you.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Any
15 questions of Mr. Bezditny?

16 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

17 MR. BEZDITNY: No.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
19 much, sir.

20 Okay, is there anybody else this
21 evening who would like to make a presentation?
22 Going once, going twice.

23 Thank you all for coming out this
24 afternoon and this evening. I guess that
25 concludes our time here in Friedensfeld. We will

1 be reconvening tomorrow afternoon in Winnipeg and
2 on Thursday afternoon in Morden.

3 Thank you for your participation. If
4 any of you want to make any written comments,
5 you're free to do that and submit them to our
6 office. There is information at the back table in
7 that regard.

8 There is also a list at the back table
9 of the hearings that will be taking place
10 throughout southern Manitoba in March and April.
11 Thank you all and good evening.

12 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:35)

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1 OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

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5 I, LISA REID, a duly appointed Official Examiner
6 in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the
7 foregoing 70 pages are a true and correct
8 transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at
9 the time and place hereinbefore stated.

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Lisa Reid

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Official Examiner, Q.B.

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