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The commission, the government, the pork producers, the urbanites, the people, are all looking to get a point of view, perhaps an answer, perhaps from someone. Sitting in the gallery and listening to the presentations at the Friedensfeld hall, made me want to open my mouth.....but I need to back up. Although my wife and I moved to this area in 1985 to start our family, I was not involved in the hog industry. Looking for a career change in 1993 I enrolled in one of the first courses Manitoba Pork put on to train barn workers. In two days I was hooked. I have had my foot on the gas pedal since then, not only improving from barn worker to barn manager, but ultimately to the job that was at the top of my goal list; feed, nutrition, and production representative for East-Man Animal Nutrition. Now through all these years in many different barns and situations I have been amazed on how many pork producers there are in this province that also have their foot on the gas pedal. This whole area of Hanover, La Broquerie, has grown and developed exponentially. I can compare to my younger years working in the oil patch in Alberta. Success was achieved by having your foot on the gas pedal. But, the environment ultimately has to be considered in some fashion. So I would like to offer my solution. I would like to see a solution to satisfy all concerned to at least a certain degree. I will outline this in point form;

1. definitely put restrictions in place where needed – ie... high density of hog population in relation to land base, breaking that into strict levels of cultivated crop land for cereal crops, hay land, and pasture land.
2. allow barn and animal unit expansion where cultivated land base is available. But absolutely no more expansion on marginal land. These types of lands take longer to develop and plans by municipalities and private enterprise and provincial government need to be devised so these marginal lands can be utilized in some fashion to accommodate and sustain agriculture.
3. Begin developing other municipalities where the land base is much more desirable, where the towns, municipalities, schools, hospitals, etc already have a lot of infrastructure and drainage and roads in place for the most part.
4. Private hog enterprises from all areas that want to expand in a larger manner need to work with provincial government agencies to make this happen.
5. One such area could be the Rural Municipality of Gilbert Plains. This is the municipality where I grew up on a family farm, with 100 beef cows, 15 dairy cows, pigs and chickens on 800 acres of very good land. When I have conversations with my old school friends they tell me of the hardships in people disappearing from the rural areas, thus killing the towns and businesses. We sure do not have that problem in Steinbach or La Broquerie.

- 6. There are many other areas in this huge province where the farm land is available and ready to sustain intensive hog production. MapleLeaf's killing plant is new and will be there for some time. We will build another killing plant in the Winnipeg area. From the Gilbert Plains area to the Brandon plant is a short haul. Probably shorter than Steinbach to Brandon.**
  
- 7. We have many students at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Agriculture looking for special projects to develop in some way or put their enthusiasm to work and research land base, population base, a bunch of different factors in different municipalities where these special private entrepreneurs in hog industry can continue with their expansion easily with all environmental impact studies already in place.**
- 8. This is my rough copy, so I hope my story is fairly easy to follow and so on.**
- 9. This is my take on the situation. We are currently in this situation, where we need ideas. Good, bad and otherwise. We need the commission to take these ideas to the right people. If there was a way for me to be further involved, to help in the process, I would welcome a chance to contribute. I need to contribute to an industry I love and am very passionate about. I do believe in this idea of mine because I have worked for Dan Klippenstein in his northern operation as a production consultant, at the University of Manitoba's Swine Research Centre, and for Elite Swine. We all want the engine that drives the economy of this province to keep churning. But we also want it to be more efficient. I think to be stronger we need to develop, grow, teach and learn from each other. So I think we need to work together. Let's get more municipalities involved. Let's keep our foot on the gas pedal but we need to watch the 'speed limit.' These government speed limits need to be fair but we have got to be allowed to drive the speed limit soon.**

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