

Date: April 29 2007
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I was at the CEC meeting at Freidensfield to present this on the second day in the afternoon however no one was there.

Firstly, I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak.
My name is Rick Bergmann.

I have been a territory manager for a feed and genetics company over the last 10 years. I have the opportunity to visit with many producers of this Province.

I will be referring several times to the CEC meeting that occurred in Whitemouth.

Firstly, the hog industry is not comprised of a bunch of renegade people who do as they wish.

Producers who farm need to comply to regulations and meet criteria's set out by municipalities and Governments.

On Tuesday at the Whitemouth CEC meeting, it was mentioned that 53% of randomly selected livestock sites were developed on clay soils. Also mentioned was 26% of randomly selected operations were built on sand/gravel.

The presenter also went on to say that 63% of livestock sites are located on streams. The words "on streams" are very disturbing . This implies that farms are built on top of a stream? Obviously the presenter didn't mean what she said. Maybe she would have meant 63% of randomly selected farms were placed in a vicinity of a stream. Whether that is half a mile or 3 miles. The picture that was painted in that presentation was not 100% accurate. This makes me question the many slides and pages of so called science that were brought forward at that meeting.

I find it ironinc that on one hand there is a great concern on the location of a farm to a waterway but on the other hand there was no mention or concern that municipal and city lagoons are placed near waterways...and that these waterways are used to transfer the contents of those lagoons.

The sobering fact is that these creeks and waterways are part of the watershed that reaches Lake Winnipeg.

There was mention of the flooding that occurred in Manitoba several years ago. It was mentioned very dramatically how that flooding emptied out all the hog lagoons in Manitoba. A hog lagoon is a bowl like structure. For a bowl to be emptied, you have to turn it on its side. We all know that didn't happen.

Hog producers are strictly regulated and over the years have adopted new ways of applying manure to the land to enhance the crops they grow.

Unlike lagoons from human waste, Hog producers are not permitted to empty their lagoons by way of a ditch or creek. Manure is a renewable resource that benefits the land and the crops it grows.

The algae bloom that has increased over the last several years is a concern
That needs to be addressed. The cause of these blooms comes from numerous sources.
There is a body of water called Okimah lake North West of Bisset Manitoba.
I enjoy moose hunting so I have gone to this area for the last several years.
2 years ago the water level was high and the quality of the water was excellent. Last year
the water was about 2 and a half feet lower than the previous year. In an area where we
cannoed through both years, this last year we came across a bloom area that was thick
and green. For the record there are no hog farms in that area. There are no communities
that reach this area. This Lake is a remote lake that has swamps flow into it when the
water level is high. Phosphorus is a natural occurring product and water level has an
influence on algae blooms.

I am not belittling the phosphorus issue, I only want proper science and regulations to
guide this Province.

In closing,

When one goes to an urban centre like Winnipeg, it is natural that you will find the
sights, sounds, and smells of a large busling city.

When you travel in farming country it is natural to experience the sights, sounds and
smells of agriculture hard at work producing food for the World including the Province of
Manitoba.

Thank you

Rick Bergmann
Box 3766, Steinbach, Mb
R5G 1P8 Fax-26-2899