Hogs marketed in Canada by province
1984-2006
in thousands of heads

Porcs mis en marché au Canada, par province
1984-2006
en milliers de têtes

	NFLD/TN	PEI/IPE	NS/NÉ	NB	QUE	ONT	MAN	SASK	ALTA	BC/CB
1984	36.6	182.1	255.5	168.9	4,794.5	4,956.5	1,608.7	812.0	2,030.8	387.3
1985	31.5	178.1	251.3	168.4	4,812.4	4,968.7	1,797.0	844.4	2,153.8	398.8
1986	29.9	173.1	240.6	151.9	4,661.1	4,732.1	1,760.7	768.9	2,011.8	370.8
1987	28.1	188.1	235.7	141.7	4,616.1	4,787.9	1,840.5	846.8	2,126.0	351.3
1988	28.6	194.5	243.1	141.7	4,739.0	4,982.2	2,124.2	1,054.1	2,397.8	401.5
1989	27.6	189.9	251.6	145.9	4,827.4	4,745.0	2,250.4	1,113.8	2,481.7	412.4
1990	28.6	178.4	227.6	117.3	4,709.7	4,415.3	2,061.2	1,005.6	2,429.7	401.2
1991	27.9	170.6	223.2	116.5	4,616.1	4,234.8	2,187.7	1,068.0	2,364.1	380.1
1992	27.2	173.0	212.7	123.6	4,703.2	4,424.9	2,353.1	1,174.5	2,589.6	358.4
1993	20.0	162.2	202.1	119.5	4,807.0	4,257.5	2,460.7	1,139.4	2,529.7	343.3
1994	7.3	175.4	202.4	129.0	4,856.0	4,300.0	2,576.0	1,183.4	2,591.0	370.6
1995	7.7	187.9	214.1	127.8	5,131.3	4,589.6	2,832.3	1,254.2	2,818.2	355.6
1996	7.2	192.8	218.5	139.1	5,465.9	4,660.5	3,149.1	1,256.1	2,701.8	333.1
1997	7.3	190.2	224.4	144.8	5,770.0	4,898.7	3,225.1	1,318.0	2,649.2	329.5
1998	6.1	198.7	233.0	173.7	6,265.3	5,684.2	3,967.6	1,512.4	2,824.0	360.7
1999	6.8	208.1	233.4	181.9	6,780.7	5,924.4	4,978.7	1,485.7	3,105.6	345.1
2000	5.8	202.2	221.3	203.0	6,856.8	6,150.7	5,133.0	1,680.5	3,398.6	339.7
2001	4.8	212.7	224.7	236.7	7,087.9	6,843.6	5,799.7	1,791.3	3,668.9	317.6
2002	4.4	220.0	225.8	215.9	7,366.5	7,508.2	6,251.2	1,924.8	3,967.2	308.5
2003	4.2	317.4	205.6	221.7	7,585.9	8,332.5	7,429.3	2,169.6	3,534.1	345.1
2004	4.6	229.0	200.8	202.6	7,693.4	8,737.1	8,074.6	2,476.7	3,747.2	334.7
2005	4.3	212.8	185.5	222.6	7,388.8	7,873.9	8,611.0	2,457.7	3,876.5	338.6
2006	4.6	200.1	177.5	210.3	7,106.9	7,543.9	8,803.5	2,597.5	3,923.1	327.9

Source: StatisticsCanada

Successful Farming® Exclusive

PORK POWERHOUSES® 2006 20 LARGEST PORK PRODUCERS IN THE U.S.

2006 RANK	2005 RANK	NAME OF OPERATION	HEADQUARTERS	# SOWS 2006	#SOWS 2005	COMMENTS
1	1	**Smithfield Foods**	Smithfield, VA	**1,200,115**	960,000	995,325 in U.S., rest international. Bought Premium Standard Farms in Sept.
2	NA	**Triumph Foods**	St. Joseph, MO	**399,800**	351,350	Includes Christensen, Hanor, TriOak, New Fashion, Eichelberger, Allied Producers'.
3	3	**Seaboard Foods**	Shawnee Mission, KS	**213,600**	213,600	No plans for more sows. Marketing pork for Triumph Foods.
4	4	**Iowa Select Farms**	Iowa Falls, IA	**150,000**	150,000	Building finishing barns. No plans for sow growth.
5	6	**Prestage Farms**	Clinton, NC	**140,000**	140,000	Building finishing barns in Iowa. Shipping weaned pigs from MS to IA.
6	8	**The Pipestone System**	Pipestone, MN	**130,000**	110,000	Most growth comes from existing sites that Pipestone is now managing.
7	7	**The Maschhoffs**	Carlyle, IL	**116,000**	115,000	Added one 6,000-sow farm, but removed some old Land O'Lakes farms.
8	9	**Cargill**	Minneapolis, MN	**87,000**	94,000	Sow reduction due to natural attrition.
9	10	**Maxwell Foods, Inc.**	Goldsboro, NC	**76,000**	76,000	Plan to build three 5,000-sow farms in Indiana by late 2007.
10	13	**AMVC Management**	Audubon, IA	**75,000**	65,000	Includes Natural Pork Production II. Acquired a sow farm in Indiana.
11	12	**Tyson Foods**	Springdale, AR	**70,000**	70,000	
12	15	**Progressive Swine Tech.**	Columbus, NE	**55,200**	50,000	Built a 5,200-sow farm. Also adding finishing.
13	14	**Hormel Foods**	Austin, MN	**51,000**	51,000	Adding 10,000 sows in Wyoming.
14	16	**Nebraska Pork Partners**	Columbus, NE	**45,000**	45,000	No plans for expansion, but looking for opportunities.
15	18	**Wakefield Pork**	Gaylord, MN	**41,000**	38,600	Added one 2,400-sow farm.
16	17	**Hatfield Quality Meats**	Hatfield, PA	**36,100**	41,100	Exited some farms. Sow expansion planned for PA and IN in 2007.
17	20	**Whitestone Farms**	Burnsville, MN	**35,000**	35,000	No expansion planned.
18	22	**Texas Farm**	Perryton, TX	**33,500**	29,000	Not expanding at this time.
19	21	**Holden Farms**	Northfield, MN	**32,000**	30,000	Added 2,000 sows.
20	22	**Coharie Farms**	Clinton, NC	**31,000**	29,000	All growth is internal.
			TOTALS:	**3,017,315**	2,693,650	Growth of 323,665 sows.

5 LARGEST PORK PRODUCERS IN CANADA (EXCLUDING QUEBEC)

2006 RANK	2005 RANK	NAME OF OPERATION	HEADQUARTERS	# SOWS 2006	#SOWS 2005	COMMENTS
1	1	**Maple Leaf Foods**	Landmark, MB	**116,000**	118,000	No sow expansion planned. Still adding finishing space.
2	2	**Hytek**	LaBroquerie, MB	**54,000**	48,000	Added sow nucleus in North Dakota.
3	4	**The Puratone Corp.**	Niverville, MB	**46,000**	27,500	Acquired the additional sows. No plans to build, but may acquire more.
4	3	**Big Sky Farms**	Humboldt, SK	**41,000**	40,000	Now completing a 6,000-sow farm. Will grow to 47,000 by spring 2007.
5	5	**Stomp Pork Farms**	LeRoy, SK	**27,000**	27,000	No plans for growth.
			TOTALS:	**284,000**	260,500	Growth of 23,500 sows.

Average Number of Pigs on Farm per Operation in North America (2006)

Jurisdiction	Average Number of Pigs
1) North Carolina	4130 *
2) Manitoba	2281 *
3) Iowa	1874
4) Quebec	1675 *
5) Illinois	1448
6) Minnesota	1417
7) Missouri	1310
8) Nebraska	1180
9) Indiana	1142
10) Alberta	1111

* indicates a moratorium on expansion currently exists
Note: Quebec had a two year moratorium ending 2005

How many operations?

- 1400 ? (MB Government)
- 1250 ? (Stats Can)
- 1000 ? 851 ? (Pork Council)

Why do we want to know?

- monitoring/enforcement/inspection
- Decommissioning/post closure

Feb 8, 2007

Producers in some parts of Manitoba will face significantly higher manure management costs under proposed phosphorus regulations

Phosphorus compliance latest challenge for struggling hog sector

BY LAURA RANCE
Associate editor

PRICEY PORK: The cost of manure management is going up in Manitoba.

Manitoba's regulatory shift from nitrogen to phosphorus for determining how much manure farmers can spread on land could eventually cost the hog sector up to $27.88 million annually — a bite that equates to nearly one-third of its 2005 net income, a new study says.

The data released at the recent Manitoba Swine Seminar calculates annual costs of compliance — based on one times the crop removal rate of phosphorus at $17.88 million or 18 per cent of the 2005 net income. At two times removal it equates to $27.86 million, which is 28 per cent of what the sector earned after expenses in 2005.

University of Manitoba agricultural economist Charles Grant and graduate student Janelle Mann conducted the economic impact analysis of Manitoba's proposed phosphorus regulation at the request of the Manitoba government.

Grant told reporters after they presented their findings to a room packed with farmers and industry, that he was surprised at the lack of questions or reaction from the floor. "I think producers are in a bit of denial," he said.

The economic analysis of phosphorus regulations used the Manitoba Pork Council's database of 851 pig operations that had registered their premises as of March 2006. There are approximately 1,000 operations in the province.

It analyzed whether operations have enough land on a site-specific basis to comply at the various application rates, factoring in proximity to other hog operations and land availability because of roads, bushes, and other livestock operations.

The researchers also assumed operators were following best management practices, including the use of phytase in hog rations to reduce phosphorus output. They developed phosphorus removal rates for each of the 25 largest pig-producing municipalities in Manitoba, each with their own mix of annual crops, forages and grasslands.

Under the incoming regulation, livestock farmers face no restriction on manure phosphorus application until residual levels reach 120 ppm (Olsen). At that stage, phosphorus applications are restricted to two times the annual crop removal rate.

If soil test levels are at 180 ppm applications are restricted to one times the annual crop removal rate, and if they exceed 180 ppm not manure or biosolids can be applied, although farmers would still be allowed to apply commercial starter P205.

A number of operations in Eastern Manitoba have already reached the maximum allowed on their current land base, but the majority of Manitoba's

Hog / 3

Farmers' Independent Weekly and *Co-operator* join forces

All of us at *Farmers' Independent Weekly* are pleased to announce that we are joining forces with the

Glacier Ventures International Corp., owner of Farm Business Communications, has

FIW Publisher John Morriss said "the owner-operators of *FIW* welcome the opportunity to join forces and benefit

Economics

82% (of the total 1650 hog farms in Manitoba in 2001) of the hogs that went to market came from 11% of the producers.

ie, about 180 factory farm operations accounted for $705 million of the $860 million.

This translates to $3.85 million per operation

Top 10 per cent gets 75 per cent of subsidy

BY MISSY RYAN

REUTERS

U.S. farm subsidies totaled a staggering $164.7 billion from 1995 to 2005, and three-quarters of payments went to just 10 per cent of supported growers, a group tracking farm outlays said December 17.

"The big surprise was just the enormity of the payments," Ken Cook, president of the Washington-based Environmental Working Group, said ahead of the group's release of an updated subsidy database.

The new database, which details payments for crop and stewardship supports, was released as the United States prepares to overhaul its farm policy in 2007. EWG's analyses of farm subsidies, listing how much money went to each farmer, have attracted much attention in the past.

"You really have to ask yourself... just how much good are these payments doing? ... Are these payments saving the family farm?" asked Cook, whose group wants to see money shifted from crop subsidies to environmental programs.

Crop subsidies get the lion's share of farm spending while stewardship gets less than $4 billion a year. The so-called farm bill also covers public nutrition, agricultural research and farm export programs.

Cook said the new data revealed a "big year" for subsidies in 2005, with supports hitting $21 billion, and especially high expenditures on corn payments.

Because crop supports are based how much grain, cotton or soybeans a farm grows, big farmers get the largest payments. EWG says from 1995 to 2005, 73 per cent of subsidies went to 10 per cent of farmers, who received average payments of $34,000 a year. The bottom 80 per cent of eligible farmers got an average of just $700 a year.

"You really have to ask yourself... just how much good are these payments doing? ... Are these payments saving the family farm?"

— KEN COOK

Some 66 per cent of farms receive no direct subsidies but get help in other ways. Fruit and vegetable growers are sheltered from competition from row-crop farmers, for example, and some ranchers graze cattle and sheep on federal land.

With crop prices high, near a record for corn, Cook expects payments to drop next year.

EWG wants to see more support money shifted into conservation and environmental programs, and Cook said he hopes Congress' new leaders on agriculture — Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa and Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota — would deliver.

FIW January 4, 2007

Manitoba Finance
FAST FACTS

Information Services
Room 29, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

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March 21, 2001

Taxation Revenue Foregone in Support of Manitoba Farmers

Education tax relief — **$16 million annually**
Farmland and outbuildings are exempted from paying the Education Support Levy (collected on behalf of the province) for property tax relief of approximately $16 million dollars. Prior to 1990, a cash rebate was paid to farmers.

Manitoba property tax credit increase — **$1.5 million annually**
Effective Jan. 1, 2000, the provincial government provided all Manitobans a 1.5 per cent reduction in personal income tax as a measure of tax relief. This is estimated at $1.5 million of relief for farmers ($75.00 x 20,000 = $1,500,000)

PST exemption on manure storage structures — **$1.0 million**
Manure slurry tanks and lagoon liners purchased during the period April 30, 1999, to Dec. 31, 2000, for use in farm livestock operations are exempt from retail sales tax for an estimated annual saving of $1 million dollars.

PST exemption on farm machinery and repairs	$36.1 million annually
PST exemption on marked gasoline and diesel fuel	$41.4 million annually
PST exemption on seed, fertilizer and pesticides	$47.0 million annually
PST exemption on feed and livestock	$22.9 million annually
Sales tax refund on farm storage structures	$.5 million

Other Programs of Direct Financial Benefit to Farmers Include:

Hydro equalization — **$2.4 million**
The recently announced hydro rate equalization initiative will save the average farm about $120 per year in hydro costs. This will assist every farmer in a time of high input and energy costs. For the approximately 20,000 commercial farms, this would result in a saving of about $2.4 million.

Young farmer rebate — **$1.7 million**
The Young Farmer Rebate is designed to assist young, beginning and expanding farmers establish, develop and re-organize their operations. It provides, to farmers under 40 years of age, up to $10,000 in interest cost rebate in the critical start-up stage of the operation's development.

Total of above items — **$170.5 million**

Economics

- We asked for the following

- CAIS/NISA pay-outs to hog operators
- Loans/lines of credit (forgiven/outstanding) from MASC
- How much is the general taxpayer supporting ILO's?
- Who is really receiving the benefits?

Manitoba

Water Stewardship *Ecological Services Division* *Water Science and Management Branch*
Box 14 – 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3
Phone: (204) 945-7030
Fax: (204) 945-7419

July 8, 2005

FILE: 5.7.2

Via e-mail: gkoroluk@mb.aibn.com

Mr. Glen Koroluk
Water Caucus Coordinator
Manitoba Eco-Network
3rd Floor, 303 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg MB R3B 2B4

Dear Mr. Koroluk:

As per your request for additional well water quality data, the following information is provided.

The data summary table you received in April 2001 included:

- data from the regional, private water well sampling program completed over the time period September 1999 to September 2000. This included data from 954 wells sampled randomly, on a basis of about one per 36 square mile township in the Eastern, Central, Red River, Western and Northwest conservation regions of the province. The well water samples were collected from rural residences, mainly farms, located outside of village, town and city limits. Results of the private, rural well sampling program show that overall about 42% of the wells sampled exceeded the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guideline of 0 total coliform organisms detectable per 100 mL, including 3% of the wells which tested positive for E. coli bacteria. About 16% of the private wells sampled also exceeded the drinking water guideline of 10 mg/L for nitrate as N; and

- data from an additional 62 wells sampled during 2000 in the Eastern and Central regions of the province to provide additional water quality information, mainly in areas aground Tyndall, Garson and Balmoral.

For Immediate Release... *September 21, 2005*

Brandon University Scientist and Environmentalists Urge Manitoba Government to protect groundwater drinking sources

A recent freedom of information request reveals that 57% of manure storage facilities that have installed groundwater-monitoring systems show evidence of groundwater contamination.

"These results confirm the fears of many rural citizens that many of these structures are contaminating groundwater in a serious way", comments Dr. Bill Paton of the Brandon University, who has analyzed the data.

The results corroborate an unreleased study of Manitoba's groundwater quality inaugurated in 1999. The Manitoba Rural Groundwater Quality Initiative, which included data from approximately 1000 wells sampled randomly across agri-Manitoba, reveals that 43% of the wells exceeded the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guideline of zero total coliform organisms detectable per 100 mL. The same study indicates that 16% of the private wells sampled exceeded the guideline of 10 mg/L for nitrate.

Manitoba has embarked on a consultative process to develop a regulation under the new Water Protection Act to develop water quality management zones for nutrients. The intent of the regulation is to decrease nutrient loading in Lake Winnipeg.

"We agree with the government that priority should be placed on nutrient reduction and saving Lake Winnipeg, but not at the expense of protecting citizens drinking water", says Glen Koroluk, environmental researcher. He adds, "resources are required to both protect groundwater drinking sources and reduce nutrients entering Lake Winnipeg."

Both Dr. Paton and Mr. Koroluk are calling on the Manitoba Government to include measures that protect groundwater when they develop water quality management zones. "And in the interest of public health, we strongly advise that government notify those families who live in close proximity to manure storage facilities to have their wells tested. Furthermore, we urge citizens who live adjacent to feedlots, municipal lagoons and landfill sites to test their groundwater drinking wells."

Dr. Paton and Mr. Koroluk will be available for comment Thursday, September 22

Dr. Bill Paton, Professor of Botany/Biology, Brandon University 1-204-727-9783 or 1-204-761-4766 cell
Glen Koroluk, Environmental Researcher, Winnipeg 224-0933 or 981-1861 cell

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 508
(A-01)

Introduced by: California Delegation

Subject: Antimicrobial Use and Resistance

Referred to: Reference Committee E
(Richard R. Johnston, MD, Chair)

Whereas, Antibiotics remain perhaps the single most widely useful and important medical advance of the modern era, but their effective use is increasingly threatened by bacterial resistance, including multiple resistance in an increasing number of common and serious pathogens; and

Whereas, Prestigious medical and public health authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Institute of Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, World Health Organization, American Public Health Association and many others cited bacteria resistance as an increasingly serious and costly medical and public health threat in need of much greater attention and action, including more education, surveillance, and regulation; and

Whereas, The spread of bacterial resistance arises not only from unnecessary clinical use in human medicine, an issue the California Medical Association has begun to address, but also from massive use in animal agriculture, with increasing evidence that resistance developed in animals is spreading to human pathogens; and

Whereas, An estimated 16 million pounds of antimicrobials, or 80% of all such usage in agriculture, are used subtherapeutically as growth promoters, as pesticides, or prophylactically, all low-level constant uses likely to promote the development of resistance, and this use is allowed commercially and often without veterinary supervision; and

Whereas, The FDA has recently proposed to prohibit the agricultural use of at least two commonly-used fluoroquinolone antibiotic and estimates that at least 5,000 Americans are harmed annually due to use of these drugs, but will need much support to enforce this and future such public health restrictions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association [work with other organizations to] establish a national program to counter antibiotic resistance in clinical practice similar to the California Medical Association Foundation AWARE program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA [is] oppose[d to] the use of antimicrobials at ~~less than~~ [non-]therapeutic levels in agriculture, or as pesticides or growth promoters, and urges that [non-therapeutic use in animals of antimicrobials (that are also used in humans) should be terminated or phased out based on scientifically sound risk assessments ~~these uses be phased out by regulation~~; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA urge that increased surveillance of antimicrobial use and resistance be funded and instituted as recommended by the Institute of Medicine and American Society of Microbiology.

Fiscal Note: $2,000,000
Received: 5/8/01

Additional data which we asked for:

- Manure Management plans
- Soil test data
- Water quality data of installed groundwater monitoring wells
- Groundwater data of private wells in proximity to ILO's
- Update of nutrient loading in Lake Winnipeg (to 2006)
- List of ingredients in feed (ie, types of antibiotics)
- Inspection records of permitted ILO's
- Actual water usage data of metered ILO's
- Pig mortality rates

IOWA CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS AIR QUALITY STUDY

Final Report

Iowa State University and The University of Iowa Study Group

February 2002

chemicals (hydrogen sulfide and ammonia) are found in CAFO emissions that contribute to ambient community exposures, these experimental and community exposure studies are relevant to this question (See Chapter 6.3.1). Both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)[1] have recommended ambient exposure limits for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide based on these studies.

It is concluded that no specific disease(s) *per se* among community residents can be confirmed to arise from a specific chemical, bacteria or aromatic cause. However, the findings of the limited community studies of concentrated livestock exposures are consistent with adverse health effects observed in other experimental and epidemiological studies of some specific chemicals (ammonia and hydrogen sulfide) known to be components of CAFO air emissions. It is, therefore, also concluded that CAFO air emissions may constitute a public health hazard[2] and that precautions should be taken to minimize both specific chemical exposures (hydrogen sulfide and ammonia) and mixed exposures (including odor) arising from CAFOs.

Response to Question 2

Question 2: Based on an analysis of peer-reviewed, duplicated, legitimate, and published scientific research, what specific substances, including aromatic compounds, do you believe require regulatory action to protect the public?

By consensus of the entire study group, the following substances should be considered for regulatory action: (1) hydrogen sulfide; (2) ammonia; and (3) odors. The justification for regulatory action of these substances is based on our assessment of the scientific literature, (See Chapters 2.0-8.0), recommendations by pertinent federal agencies, and review of regulations established in other states (See Chapter 9.0).

Hydrogen sulfide and ammonia are recognized degradation products of animal manure and urine (See Chapter 3.4 in the full report). Both of these gases have been measured in the general vicinity of livestock operations at concentrations of potential health concern for rural residents, under prolonged exposure (See Chapter 8.0).

The World Health Organization lists hydrogen sulfide as a toxic hazard in many environments, and recommends specific exposure limits. The ATSDR lists hydrogen sulfide and ammonia on its registry of toxic substances[1] under its federal mandate to protect the public health according to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, [42 U.S.C. 9604 et seq] as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act [pub. 99-499]. Furthermore, the ATSDR has published Minimum Risk Levels (MRL's) for these substances to protect the public's health.[1] The EPA historically evaluates scientific information regarding environmental contaminants and the potential threats for human health hazards. Based on a standardized risk assessment process, the EPA identifies hydrogen sulfide and ammonia as potentially hazardous substances.[3] A detailed description of the process and justification used by the EPA and ATSDR to include ammonia and hydrogen sulfide as hazardous substances is provided in detail in Chapter 8.7.

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[1] Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Minimal Risk Levels for Hazardous Substances (MRL's), http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/mrls.html

[2] hazard: the potential for radiation, a chemical or other pollutant to cause human illness or injury

[3] Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Risk Information System, www.epa.gov/iris/subst.html

ASSOCIATION MÉDICALE CANADIENNE
CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Leadership for Physicians... Health for Canadians
Leadership pour les médecins... Santé pour les Canadiens

April 14, 2003

The Honourable Anne McLellan, PC, MP
Minister of Health
Health Canada
16th Floor, Brooke Claxton Building
Tunney's Pasture, Postal Locator: 0916-A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Minister

The spread of intensive livestock operations has provoked serious questions about the impact of "factory farms" on human health and the land, air and water environment in rural areas.

In this context, I am writing to inform you that at its 2002 Annual Meeting, the General Council of the Canadian Medical Association approved the following resolutions:

> *That CMA express its concern with regard to the risk to public health in rural areas that is presented by the development of industrial hog farms.*
>
> *That CMA ask federal, provincial and territorial governments to initiate and support research into contaminants associated with industrial hog farms.*
>
> *That CMA urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments for a moratorium on the expansion of the hog industry until scientific data on the attendant health risks are known.*

We therefore ask you to impose a moratorium on the expansion of industrial hog farms until attendant health risks are determined through scientific assessment.

Sincerely,

D W Hanson

Dana W. Hanson, MD, FRCPC
President

DWH/jns

cc: The Honourable David Anderson, PC, MP, Minister of the Environment
The Honourable Lyle Vanclief, PC, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs
Hog Watch Manitoba

Additional information which we asked for:

- Injury and illness rates of hog barn workers
- Relevant in-house and external studies used to maintain set-back distances
- All records and assessment of complaints to the Farm Practices Board

Pork industry bracing for water shortages

Producers seek environmentally sound solutions

By Laura Severs
Business Edge

Canada's hog producers are going to have to serve up less water with their pork.

Once a commodity that was taken for granted, water is now just too valuable to waste, industry members are being told.

In fact, pork producers are being warned that it will be the next at-risk resource as climate change wreaks further havoc with an industry that has seen more downs than ups of late.

Although the country's pork sector, consisting of 13,000 hog producers who produced 31 million head in 2005, has tapped a healthy export market, it has been hobbled by a higher dollar and soaring prices for corn – a primary feed staple in many regions.

"The pork industry has been financially challenged since 1998," says Cedric MacLeod, environmental programs co-ordinator for the Canadian Pork Council (CPC).

File photo by Wendy Dudley, Business Edge

Many producers employ new technologies and practices that reduce odours and minimize the impact of manure.

Pork prices have crashed or dipped more than once in the last decade. Add a higher Canadian dollar for the sector's surging export market and higher corn prices – the North American pork market is based on corn being at $2 a bushel rather than the current $4 – and most producers are facing tough times.

However, a strong export sector still accounts for more than 50 per cent of Canadian hog production. Canadian exports were worth $2.8 billion in 2005 and now reach more than 100 countries, up from 50 in 1990. These exports, meanwhile, are responsible for economic activity amounting to $7.7 billion and 42,000 jobs.

While MacLeod says pork producers have already taken up a call to action on the environment, he does have some concerns when it comes to climate change and the future of this industry.

"I would suggest that nobody's adapting regarding climate change," he says.

MacLeod points to the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, which states the overall costs and risks of climate change could be equivalent to losing at least five per cent of global GDP each year. "So our lack of expenditures to reduce our emissions is going to come back to (haunt) us . . . if its predictions are correct."

He is, however, not totally pessimistic. Pork producers are invariably reducing their greenhouse gases by trying to be better environmental stewards, says MacLeod.

The Canadian pork industry tends to be one of the more aggressive livestock industries when it comes to the environment," he adds. "Producers are keenly aware of management practices and technologies that reduce odours, improve manure nutrient management and minimize the impact of manure use in the environment."

He also does agree that a water warning issued earlier this year at the 2007 Banff Pork Seminar – an annual event that brings together national and international speakers and delegates from around the world – needs to be heeded.

David Sauchyn, an environmental researcher from the University of Regina, told attendees at the Banff event that water management and conservation will be the key for the industry to adapt to climate change.

The greatest risk climate change presents is a reduction in the amount, quality and distribution of water supplies, Sauchyn notes.

Ironically, says Sauchyn, there may even be more water in the winter. But it's expected in the form of rain, rather than snow, and that means the water won't be around when needed for the annual spring thaw or be there to refill lakes.

Climate change also means there will be a lot less rain in the summer, as it's expected to be drier on average then, he adds.

"The change (in climate) is already underway. There has been quite a bit of climate change, especially in the last three decades," says Sauchyn. "Action is required now. It's getting urgent because we've already detected quite a bit of climate change and have already changed the climate well into the future."

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Group wants councillors charged with conflict of interest

BY DEAN PRITCHARD

A Turtle Mountain reeve and councillor are being accused of conflict of interest for their support of several local hog operations.

Killarney resident Colin Morrison, representing the Concerned Friends of Pelican Lake, has filed a court application to charge Reeve Wayne Nichol and Coun. Gerry Blixhavn under the Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act.

The application was given the go-ahead to proceed earlier this month in Brandon Court of Queen's Bench.

The application alleges Nichol and Blixhavn have approved several conditional use orders for hog barns belonging to a Dynamic Pork Corporation "network" while holding "substantial" financial interests in three barns belonging to the network.

"Ownership of the feeder barns in and of itself is sufficient to place both councillors in a conflict of interest when decisions involving the network are made by the council for Turtle Mountain," says the application.

Nichol and Blixhavn are not being accused of voting on applications relating to their own hog operations, said lawyer Michael Waldron, who is representing the Pelican Lake group.

"But they certainly voted on each other's applications and they also voted on everybody else that came before the council that was involved in the network," Waldron said.

"Our position is when you are involved with the network you are like a cog in the machine and when you are voting on some part of the whole thing you have an interest in it."

Nichol said he believed he and Blixhavn "followed proper procedures" and have forwarded the matter to their lawyer.

"He will be dealing with it from here on out," Nichol said.

The Pelican Lake group is asking the court for an order removing Nichol and Blixhavn from council or an order excluding them from any discussion of hog operations.

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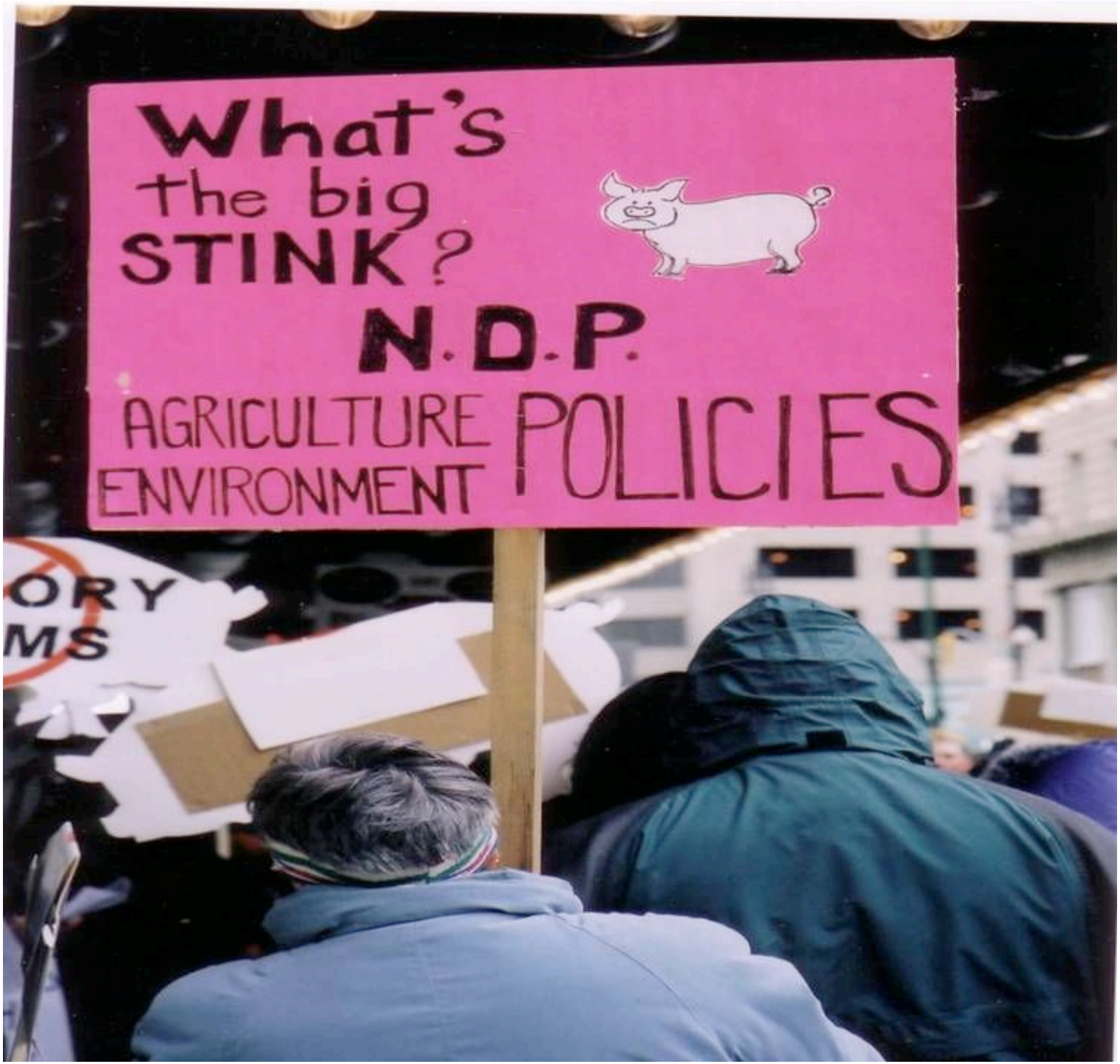
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