

Karen & Bill Antymniuk

Lorette, R0A 0Y0

Property description: SW6 9 6E

To whom it may concern,

Re:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/ia/livestock/trc-12-017.html>

We own a ten acre property that is located in the midst of the land that is going to be used for manure spreading. It is in the rm of Tache. I have concerns with regards to potential aquifer contamination. Thus far our tests have never shown any signs of contamination when tested re drinking quality. Needless to say this is a top priority for us. Might I assume the measures taken will mitigate the risks?

Another concern I have is the potential for an increase in daily 'milk truck' traffic on our gravel road that often becomes muddy/slippery when there are extended periods of rain and the gravel has been pushed to the middle and sides by the trucks tires. These heavy trucks which drive down the centre of the road also result in high ridges of gravel in the middle which are problematic for regular cars scraping their undercarriages.

The portion of road between 207 and just past our property is located in the rm of Tache. The remaining portion up to 210 is rm of St Anne.

Sent from my iPad

This is the second time Rising Hope has Applied for an expansion to 1200 head. The arguments have the not changed as to why they should not be allowed to expand. They are not clean operators , they do not no maintain there equipment , Rules are only to be observed when convenient . They are Still very tightly integrated with Aleta farms so we have a much larger traffic flow as they haul feed from one farm to another the trucks are not covered so you get silage blowing all over the place, the drivers do not obey the traffic laws.

In general I fear for the safety of the people who have to share the roads with this farm. For them it is all about speed and efficiency and who cares about the safety of the people around them.

In conclusion allowing them to triple the size of the heard will only make them triple the menace to rest who have to share the land and roads with them.

I know these people on a personal level and they are very nice but their business model needs an over haul.

Rick Stoupe

Ste Anne

My name is Bohden Burak I own SE 36-8-5 , my property is adjacent to the dairy farm on NW 30-08-06. I have concerns of the proposed expansion .

1. With the increase of the Animal Units, has the owner confirmed that he has the land base to handle the manure? There are set backs to applying the manure, has this been taken into consideration to determine if there is sufficient land base?
2. There is already a lot of traffic on the road #30, where the milk truck travels to the dairy farm. What is proposed to maintain this road if it will be handling more traffic?

I would appreciate confirmation of receipt of this email and for someone to call me to discuss, as I am concerned about this. Thank you.

Bohden Burak

August 15, 2015

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit

Manitoba Municipal Government

604-800 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Rising Hope Dairy Inc.

This letter is sent in response to your invitation to share my view about the proposed expansion by Rising Hope Dairy Inc. I am personally not a proponent of large factory farms such as the Rising Hope Dairy appears to be, and proposes to develop, and so I cannot be in favour of such an expansion.

It is my understanding that on farms that house excessive numbers of animals per area, high amounts of antibiotics are needed to control diseases and ensure health of the animals. As a consumer, I am concerned about the quality of meat and dairy products raised on such farms. I have read that greater productivity and quality is related to a more direct hands on involvement of the farmer as opposed to the work being leased to hires as in the case of Rising Hope Dairy Inc. It is my experience and observation that an increasing number of consumers are looking for products raised on smaller farms, with greater assurance of food quality.

I am saddened to see the production of our food put into the hands of agribusiness and large corporations, taking away the wholesome dynamic of farmers working directly with the product they market.

Thus said, I am not in support of the growing feedlot that is Rising Hope Dairy Inc.

Sincerely,

Audrey Penner

Ref:

<http://thetruthaboutcancer.com/does-milk-lead-to-prostate-cancer/>

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2015/07/15/cafo-system-collapse.aspx>

“Much of the area is characterized by high groundwater levels...”

“The majority of soils in the RM of Ste. Anne have moderate to moderately severe limitations for arable agriculture...”

“A major portion of the municipality has low relief and a dominance of imperfectly to poorly drained soils. These soils are frequently saturated and subject to surface ponding and slow runoff, particularly during spring runoff or following heavy rains.”

“Poor - Water is removed so slowly in relation to supply that the soil remains wet for a large part of the time the soil is not frozen. Excess water is available within the soil for a large part of the time.

Imperfect - Water is removed from the soil sufficiently slowly in relation to supply to keep the soil wet for a significant part of the growing season. Excess water moves slowly down the profile if precipitation is the major source.”

Reference: Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne  
Information Bulletin 98-28  
Soils and Terrain  
Land Resource Unit Brandon Research Centre

“No person shall store, handle or dispose of livestock manure, or apply livestock manure to land, except in accordance with a manure management plan registered with the director”

Reference: Livestock Manure and Mortalities  
Management Regulation  
Manitoba Conservation

In regard to the proposed expansion of the Rising Hope dairy operation I would be strongly opposed...again. Much of this letter is the same one that I submitted a few years ago when Rising Hope Dairy tried to expand. Since then we have watched them expand their barns and lagoon and try to increase their land base whether it be through purchases or rental agreements. And all the while knowing that someday again we would be faced with their proposal to expand, and in this case close to triple their size. There are several red flags and concerns that I feel should stop this expansion. I also feel that residents of the R.M. of Tache should be involved in this decision as well as residents of the R.M. of Ste. Anne the farm sits on the border of these two municipalities, and is only two miles East of the community of Landmark which resides in the R.M. of Tache.

The fact that an expansion plan by this operator has been rejected by both the R.M. of Tache and more recently by the R.M. of Ste. Anne should be the first clear cause for concern. This particular operator has a poor reputation when it comes to manure management. There are residents in the Landmark area that are hesitant to rent land owned by this operator for the sheer quantity of manure that gets applied to the fields. Unlike hog manure which due to liquid consistency has the ability to be injected, dairy manure sits on a field and has increased chance of runoff. And although I can recognise that reputations and hear say are not concrete evidence, there are generally reasons that generate it, be it a good reputation or bad.

I would encourage people to take a closer look at the land and area of the R.M. of Ste. Anne. The soil in this area although class 2, which is good arable land, is designated Clayey and has imperfect to poor drainage. This means that the soil in this area remains wet for a large part of the time the soil is not frozen. Consequently fertilizers, particularly manure, would be more likely to spill or run off into ditches and flow on to water ways than to soak into the ground.

One of the most concerning aspects of such large livestock operations are that they produce tons and tons of manure that are laden with nitrates and phosphorus. It is these nitrates and phosphorus that can leach into our water table and contaminate our wells and water supplies. Experts believe that long-term ingestion of water high in nitrates may increase the risk of certain types of cancer and cause birth defects. This municipality has high ground water levels and therefore, the risks of contamination are exponentially higher, especially coupled with the above mentioned tendency for surface run off. I was concerned with having to boil our water in the future due to the dense agriculture practices in this area, and this came to fruition for the town of Landmark only a few weeks ago, which as I mentioned above, is located 2 miles East of Rising Hope Dairy. And although boiling water deals with ecoli and other bacterial contamination in water, it would only concentrate nitrate levels, making them higher. An expensive short term solution would be to re-dig or upgrade our wells. But if our water table is contaminated that would not even be a viable solution.

I believe that community and people need to come first. Large livestock operations should be located away from people and community water supplies and have access to ample land base to spread the manure they produce. Is there even enough land available for this expansion to take place? Has a director at Manitoba Conservation determined that there is suitable land available to implement an appropriate manure management plan? Rented land should not be included in this calculation. Rental agreements can change at any time and operators who produce such large quantities of manure should also own land enough to accommodate this. In this particular case not having this expansion go through would not be detrimental to the operators of this dairy and they would not suffer serious economic hardship. I understand that this dairy farm yard site has been present and established for well over 30 years, and although it has changed ownership over the years it has remained relatively the same size. I have not seen any change in proximity to the public (to the contrary the amount of people to consider is now greater), water systems or improvement in land quality that would justify it expanding.

I find it interesting that such dairy expansions are still being proposed considering that over the last 20 years dairy production has decreased ([http://www.dairyinfo.gc.ca/pdf/mbmilkcream\\_e.pdf](http://www.dairyinfo.gc.ca/pdf/mbmilkcream_e.pdf)). The consumption of every form of dairy product in Manitoba, according to the Government of Canada, has gradually decreased. So why are these huge expansions taking place? Just because you can afford to build it doesn't mean it should be built.

On a more personal note, I and my family live directly across the road from this farm and we know the owners personally, not the people that actually live on the farm as renters though, I believe it makes it more difficult to deal with issues when the farm owners don't actually live on the farm site. We have over the last few years had experiences such as our dog bringing home pieces of cow carcasses, freshly sawed off calf legs, whole cow heads and spinal columns from this farm, to name a few. With the rampant spread of PED in the hog industry in the last

few years and the devastation of BSE in the cattle sector over a decade ago, which is only now starting to recover, seeing dead cow parts being easily accessible is concerning. We have small children and while I don't mind going over the yard picking up toys, I don't appreciate having to pick up pieces of cow. Not to mention that if dogs can get to your dead animal disposal area, so can wild animals.

I grew up within a few miles from the site of this proposed expansion and over the last few decades I have seen ditches become overgrown with vegetation and algae, a consequence of fertilizers in the form of both chemicals and manure. I have seen during wet seasons manure running off fields and into ditches. I used to, as a child play and swim in the ditch in front of my parents' country home. I would now be incredibly hesitant to let my own small children do the same, 30 years later. I recognise that agriculture has done good things for the community, but when it comes to the environment I believe that the effects have been very detrimental and will take decades to repair, and then only if people make changes in farming practices that respect the environment and the people living in it. I attended university to study agriculture with a specialty in livestock, I can appreciate dairy and meat production. We use and consume dairy products in our home, I eat bacon and hamburgers. I also am willing to pay a higher price for certain products if that will ensure that the animals used for production are treated humanely and the operation itself is not negatively affecting the environment and community around it.

Ideally I would like to see a greater separation between communities of people and large scale livestock facilities. But if that is not going to be the case I hope that the operators of these facilities are extremely diligent in respecting the people living around them and are aware of what kind of impact they are making on the environment and in turn the lives of the people who live in the area, not to mention our children who will be responsible to clean up our messes and live with the consequences of our poor choices.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Schroeder, Dip.Ag.

A Concerned Neighbour

Mun. Rd. 30E

August 31'2015

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit

Manitoba Municipal Government

604-800 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Rising Hope Dairy Inc.

To whom it may concern:

We are sending this letter to respond to some of the concerns that were addressed in some of the letters sent to you in regards to Rising Hope Dairy's request for more manure units.

It was a surprise and disappointing to see some of the responses that were sent in to the Technical Review Unit as we have never been approached personally or by phone about any complaint, or inquiry about our plans for expansion by any of these individuals, (some of who we know very well). It was a shock to see some of the accusations voiced.

We want to seek to respectfully respond to some of the issues raised.

**1. In response to the concern about "factory" farms and the concern of quality milk and meat products raised.**

We feel that it is unfair to classify our farm as a "factory" farm because we are owned and operated by 3 families who have grown up on this farm and are hugely involved in the day to day operations. We want to endeavor to raise each of our children to love farming just as we do, and give them the same experiences that we had growing up on the farm. (Currently we have 10 children growing up on this farm)

Approximately 2 years ago, the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, (DFM), took milk quality very seriously and linked the capability of the farm to expand, to the quality of milk it produced. The DFM has classified all farms in a Gold, Merit, Standard, or Infraction status based on their milk quality. To obtain Gold status, farms must have been free of any antibiotic residue, and have extremely low bacteria counts for 12 consecutive months. The DFM has limited expansion to any farm that has not fallen within the Gold Status. The Merit and Standard farms are only allowed to expand by small increments. Although this had a huge outcry from the Dairy Farming Community, we feel that the DFM made a critical decision in ensuring that the milk produced in Manitoba would have superior quality. We have been blessed to be operating in Gold Status at Rising Hope for a few years. Only 10% of Dairy Farmers in Manitoba are in Gold Status. **We are confident that we are producing top quality milk and also confident in the DFM by the leadership it has shown by setting these parameters and allowing only top quality producers the biggest opportunity to purchase quota.**

Also exciting for us this year was our Herd Management Ranking through DHI this year, (Dairy Herd Improvement Program). This is a program which works together with milk producers to give them the tools to improve their fertility, milk production, and overall cow health. They have a few components that they look at to classify you in their Herd Management Ranking. The two farms we manage, together, got ranked at number 10 in the province. We felt so blessed and rewarded to be able to be in the top 10.

The link that references milk and its link to prostate cancer states that milk has in it "rBGH (recombinant bovine growth hormone)".

The “rBGH”, or recombinant bovine growth hormone is **banned** in Canada due to its link to cancer. Only Dairy Farms in the US are allowed to use it. (If you are one of the ones crossing the border to purchase Dairy Products, BUYER BEWARE!)

In response to the link that refers to animals being increasingly antibiotic resistant, we feel confident in the CQM (Canadian Quality Milk Program) requirements. They monitor all antibiotic use on ALL dairy farms in Canada. For the past 5 years, in order to be proactive, we have asked them to come twice a year, instead of the required once a year. Also, it is important to note, that all tanker loads of milk are tested for any antibiotic residue before they are unloaded at the plant.

**2. In response to us not being clean operators, and not maintaining our equipment.**

Paul heads up our shop crew, and has a yearly check list through which all of our equipment is put through a servicing routine. It is puzzling to understand how one comes to the determination that equipment is not maintained when he has never been near or around any of our equipment. Like all semi-trucks, we have to undergo a yearly safety for our tractor and trailers just like any other transport operator on the road.

**3. In response to traffic issues.**

We understand people’s concerns when it comes to adherence to traffic laws. Being an avid jogger and mother of children who love to ride their bikes, I know all too well what it means when someone does not slow down, or does not stop at a stop sign. I know that we have failed in some situations, and we have tried to make improvements. Every year we meet with our shop crew, and speak of the importance of slowing down for pedestrians, stopping at stop signs, adhering to speed limits etc. They are advertising our farm by how they drive. I believe we have made huge progress in this area, but because we are not on each and every truck, we don’t always know what is happening. When we have been approached by neighbours at our other farm site, we have expressed our appreciation in them letting us know, and have sought to improve the situation. Please make us aware promptly when these things happen, so that they can be dealt with the specific driver accordingly.

**4. In regards to potential aquifer contamination.**

We trust that the Technical Review and Manitoba Conservation is qualified to make sure that soil types, manure amounts, and application, etc. meet all required specifications. This is where they specialize. We also do not want aquifer contamination. We drink the water, our neighbours drink the water, and so do all of our cows. We want clean water for all of us. It is interesting to note that our Manure Management Plan and the Canadian Milk Quality Program require yearly water testing.

**5. In response to Manure Management.**

Unlike smaller farms, we are required to file a Manure Management Plan, and have been doing so since the start of this operation. We have to adhere to all the rules and testing required and have even had an audit on this farm, and passed it with flying colors.

In response to the criticism that people are hesitant to rent our land due to manure application practices..... We do not offer up our land to rent, and want to be farming our land ourselves. This is an unfounded rumor.



**6. In response to wild life having access to our mortalities.**

Since the date of purchase at the Rising Hope Farm, if and when we have a mortality, they have been promptly transported to our composting facility at our other farm. The composting facility was a pilot project partnering with Manitoba Conservation to experiment with composting and to give farmers concise and strategic measures to be successful at composting mortalities. We cannot speak to how the previous owner handled their mortalities.

**7. In response to the suggestion that we have been turned down in Tache for expansion.**

One individual states that we have been turned down in Tache for a similar expansion. This is not true, and is in fact rumors and gossip. We have applied for two expansions in Tache, and they were passed with **NO** resistance.

**8. In response to the suggestion that the vegetation and poor drainage in the ditches are a result of our farming practices.**

It is interesting to note that when we purchased this farm, the drainage around the farm, on the farm, and farm land in the area was abhorrent. The first years farming there was a struggle to successfully get crops off the field due to the poor drainage. We have worked hard, together with the neighbouring farmers and the municipality, to improve the drainage and have already seen tremendous improvement. With all our manure confined to a manure storage facility, and our straw pack manure in a barn, it is hard to understand how the suggestion can be made that manure runoff is responsible for the bulrushes in front of the farm. I know that I can say with confidence, that yes, the ditch in front of our property needs a good cleaning by the municipality, but like any one operating on a budget, things are prioritized according to the highest need.

**9. In response to the link that milk consumption is going down in Manitoba.**

It is interesting to note that the link only includes fluid milk and butter. There is no mention of cheese, ice cream, yoghurt and numerous other dairy products that are consumed in Manitoba. People are consuming more milk than the past just in **different** ways. Contrary to the statement made, milk consumption has significantly gone up in Manitoba, and milk producers in Manitoba have received a 4 percent increase in quota in the last year, and a 3 percent increase in the year before, to meet the demand of consumers.

Finally, we would like to share some of what we have been doing.

It was a pleasure to purchase the farm from Mr. Jones, and move into a new, up-to date facility, with some unique European ideas that were foreign to us. Since the purchase, we have also endeavoured to make several improvements of our own to the farm. These improvements included: cleaning up a lot of garbage, rotting bale piles, and old fence lines on fields. We filled in a huge water hole that was created to harvest fill for the new barn they built. We built a new barn to house some of the outside cattle. We have purchased manure pumping equipment so that all liquid manure is pumped to the field with a drag line to be more neighbourhood friendly and also a lot easier on the roads. We have added 160 acres to our land base there. This spring, we planted 700 trees on the North and South sides of the farm. We built a large cement pad on the East side of the farm for silage storage. This enables Rising Hope to mix their own feed year round in hopes to reduce or eliminate the added transport of hauling feed from a different farm.

We file our manure management every year and have even passed a random audit with flying colors.

At the Rising Hope farm, it has been exciting to see some of our employees rise to the challenge, and they have achieved Gold Status for milk quality. Only 10% of milk producers in the province have achieved Gold.

We have sought to be more visible in the community, providing free chocolate milk at tournaments, allowing the free use of our equipment and fuel for installations of a few play structures in Landmark, and supporting community projects financially. We also feel that we are having a positive impact on the community with the number of people we employ. It has been exciting to see some of our employees mature, gain confidence and feel a part of a team. Over the years, we have seen many youth have their first job here, purchase their first vehicle and even their first house. It is exciting to have been able to impact the trajectory of their life.

Why are we telling you this? We want you to be aware, that we are doing our best to operate a well-run, conscientious dairy farm that is making a positive impact on our community.

Thank you,

Cheryle Warkentine and the operators of Rising Hope Dairy.

Kevin and Connie Plett

Paul and Cheryle Warkentine

Alvin and Katherine Plett