

To the Technical Review Coordination Unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to some of the concerns that have been raised with regards to our application.

Size

We would like to clarify that this proposal is not an expansion. The total amount of animal units that are in the proposal are the same as in the 2008 application. There seems to be some misunderstanding about how animal units work. A dairy cow with its associated young stock = 2 AU. A beef cow with its associated livestock = 1.25 AU. These AU numbers are based on how much nutrients (manure) each species or size of animal produces. This means that if a producer is approved for 200 Animal units he can either have 100 Dairy cows with its young stock ($200/2$) or the equivalent in beef cows which would be $200/1.25= 160$ beef cows. All livestock species have an AU rating which allow them to be used in these kinds of calculations. These numbers are readily available on line. This does allow producers to switch between different types of livestock as long as they do not exceed the Animal Units that they are approved for.

Drainage and water

Regarding excess water and drainage concerns we strongly support that a long-term plan for drainage be developed and implemented in this area. This would benefit all landowners and residents in the area and would over time eliminate the damage that is done by local spring flooding.

Roads and drivers

When it comes to road construction and maintenance we also would like to see improvements made. It is not a surprise to anyone that there is a lot of traffic coming and going from our operation. This has been the case for many years. Road construction and maintenance have not reflected this reality. This is frustrating for all residents including everyone who lives and works on our operation. We also would like to encourage residents to call us if any of the drivers who work for us is driving improperly on the roads. When we receive a call, we do take it seriously and address it with the driver. All drivers are expected to follow the rules of the road and the Manitoba Highway traffic act.

Manure handling and odours.

We file an annual manure management plan and soil sample all the fields that are included in it. In addition, it is our goal to handle and spread the manure in an environmentally sustainable way. When we spread on cultivated land it is our goal to incorporate the manure within 2 days. When we spread on established perennial forage stands we do not incorporate the manure as that would destroy the forage stand. We do try to take weather and local conditions into consideration but at the same time we need to balance hauling with the provincial manure regulations which does make for short application

windows. We do see merit into adding trees as shelterbelts around the manure storages if that helps alleviate some of the concerns that residents have.

Sincerely

Anton Borst

Halarda Farms Ltd