

To: Livestock Technical Review Committee
Re: Concerns expressed – Anseeuw Dairy expansion, R.M. of MacDonald
May 16, 2018

I would like to acknowledge the concerns raised by the seven area residents regarding our proposed Anseeuw Dairy expansion project in the RM of Macdonald. We want to assure them that we respect their opinions.

As many of the comments raised common themes this is a response to all the concerns expressed.

To provide some background Anseeuw Dairy has existed at our present site for 98 years. During that time we have had no complaints regarding the operation of the farm and anticipate that the impact on the surrounding area will not substantially change with the proposed increase in herd size at our farm. We believe we are good stewards of the land.

Provincial Government requirements for new and expanding farms

Manitoba livestock producers are required to go through a provincial government approval process for developing or expanding operations. The process includes the preparation of a detailed site assessment, public review and a municipal conditional use hearing prior to receiving a permit to construct the facility. All aspects of the site assessment proposal including municipal siting requirements, manure management and potential environmental impacts are reviewed by the Provincial Government Technical Review Committee.

Water Quality

Surface and groundwater protection is provided through environmental regulations and through monitoring and enforcement. Manure storages must be designed by a professional engineer and approved by Manitoba Sustainable Development. Manure application is controlled by requiring manure management plans and soil, manure and source water testing. If an operation is over 300 animal units a manure management plan must be filed annually and approved by Manitoba Sustainable Development prior to manure application. We have sufficient land (acres) to inject/spread the manure for the proposed expansion. We are committed to sustainable farming practices.

Property values

The expansion should have no impact on current or future residential properties. We do not anticipate any noticeable effect on air quality as we will continue to maintain our high standards and farm practices that we have developed over the last 98 years of operation on this site. I cannot see that property values would be affected.

Odours and Allergies

The proximity of our farm to neighbouring homes should have no impact on their allergies to animals. Concerns were also expressed about odours – if nearby residents have not encountered a smell in the past, I doubt they will in the future. The lagoon would give off a smell when we are agitating it, but that would only affect neighbours if the wind was in a specific direction and might only occur 2-6 days per year.