

Jack & Wenda Patton:

Thank you for expressing your concern for protecting the environment. Clean water and a healthy environment are of great importance to me and my family as well. Our family chooses to live right beside our livestock operation and drink the water and breathe the air here. We do not wish to compromise our water resources or the quality of the environment in which we live either. We will be taking steps to mitigate these concerns during the expansion of our livestock facilities.

In order to help livestock producers protect the environment, the Government of Manitoba has set out requirements for the establishment or expansion of confined livestock areas above 300 animal units in its Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulations. We will be abiding by these regulations while constructing and operating this expanded facility going forward.

There are several components in the Manitoba Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulations designed to address the risk of groundwater contamination. These components range from how the facility is designed and how surface runoff is managed, to how the manure nutrients are managed on spread fields, to annual well water testing and specific setback distances from groundwater wells and other water bodies.

Shelter belt planting has been included in our facility site plans as a measure to control odor from the facility. Prevailing west/north-west winds are also favorable to the location of the facility for carrying any odors in the opposite direction of populated areas and neighbours. Planning for manure application will take into consideration the appropriate methods and time of year to spread manure to make the best use of nutrients and generate the least amount of odor for the least amount of time at the spread fields.

I hope this response has mitigated your concern for the expansion of my livestock facility. My family and I rely on the sustainable production of livestock for our livelihood and we hope that we can add value to the local economy and can be good neighbours by doing things right.

If you would like additional detailed information, I encourage you to review the Manitoba Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulations. Also, if you are currently consuming water from a groundwater well and you are unsure if it is potable or have never had it tested, I would highly encourage you to take a water sample and have it analyzed for your own safety, health, and peace of mind.

Best regards,

Kirk Kliever