

Appendix

Educational Tools

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Family Farms NOT

Factory Farms!

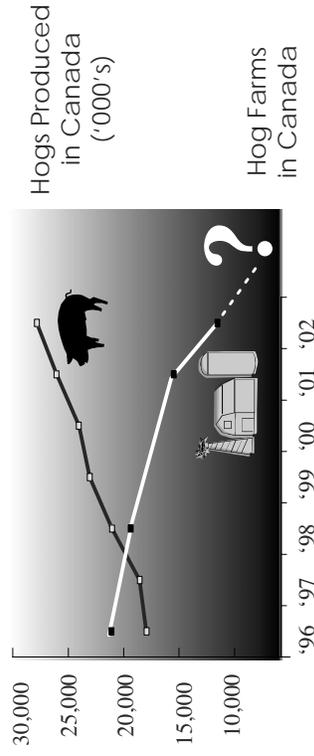
Do you know where the meat YOU eat comes from?

Factory farming ...

- Pollutes soil, air and water
- Requires few, low-paying and unhealthy jobs
- Routinely feeds antibiotics
- Keeps animals in inhumane conditions
- Is run by large corporations
- Is an industry that uses rules designed for family farms as a way to avoid regulation and taxation
- Has expanded due to government support

Family farming ...

- Done by family members who provide the majority of their farms' labour, management and capital
- Suffers under policies that favour factory farms
- Forms the economic, social and cultural base of healthy rural communities
- Has long-term commitment to healthy land, air & water
- Can produce environmentally friendly certified organic, free-range, grass-fed, natural & pastured meat
- Would provide all the safe, healthy, affordable meat Canadians need **if** we make it a purchasing priority, and **if** we stop the growth of factory farms



Where do YOUR tax dollars go?

- Factory farm tax write-offs
- Gov't investment in factory farms
- Factory farm loan guarantees
- Public infrastructure built for factory farms
- Factory farm income support programs
- Technical services to factory farms
- Public Relations to promote factory farms

Millions of tax dollars are being used to prop up factory farming!

Where does YOUR meat come from?

- Ask your grocery store and restaurant managers
- Eat meat produced by local independent family farmer - get to know a local farmer and buy direct!
- Seek meat that is not factory farmed - visit www.beyondfactoryfarming.org for more information.

Ask your provincial and federal representatives to stop funding and promoting factory farming!

Tell your agriculture minister that you want agriculture policies that support family farm livestock production using environmentally friendly, humane and healthy methods!

Organize to fight factory farming and promote livestock production for health and social justice. For more information contact us:



Beyond Factory Farming Coalition

#501-230 22nd St E., Saskatoon, SK S7K 0E9
 Phone: (306) 955-6454 Fax: (306) 955-6455
 Toll free: 1-877-955-6454

Alberta: (403) 867-2999 - Fax (403) 867-2658
 Manitoba - (204) 943-3945 - Fax (204) 989-8476
 New Brunswick (506) 854-9530 - Fax (506) 854-4824

E-mail: info@beyondfactoryfarming.org
www.beyondfactoryfarming.org

Putting it All on the Table:

Adopting a Sustainable Food Policy

Does your group have a food policy?

You may not realize it, but your group may already have an unspoken food policy. Do you incorporate potluck meals into your meetings? Do you buy refreshments at your local coop? Do you avoid purchasing products from certain companies?

What difference would adopting a formal food policy make?

Developing a food policy is a good way to clarify what food purchasing means to you as a group and how these decisions affect your community, your political work and the world. It's also a great way to support local farmers and small businesses. You may find that food can play a bigger part in your grassroots organizing work, helping to build community by making events more enjoyable.

Why local food?

Local food reduces greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. It's fresher too. It does not spend a long time in transit, so it does not have to be "picked green" or treated with preservatives to extend its shelf life. Farm animals that are raised, slaughtered and processed locally do not have to undergo long stressful transport or endure crowded holding pens as happens when livestock is shipped to a large centralized slaughterhouse.

Local food is produced by local farmers and/or processed by local small businesses. The income they gain from selling locally will be spent locally, building your community. Choosing local is a way to resist corporate domination of our food supply.

How do we know if local food is sustainably produced?

The three pillars of sustainability are: ecological soundness, social justice and economic viability. When you apply these principles to your buying decisions, you are doing your part by strengthening the third pillar! It may require research into labels and methods of production. As you explore sustainable food options, you may start getting to know local farmers and food processors as you seek to understand your local food system better.



For more information and resources, visit www.beyondfactoryfarming.org

Bon Appetit!

Lawsuit in Paradise

There are about 3,500 people living in the predominately Acadian Local Service District of

Sainte-Marie-de-Kent, in southeastern New Brunswick. How did three of these residents find themselves slapped with a lawsuit and all others (and even you as the reader, now that you are aware of it) become subject to one of the widest ranging injunctions ever imposed by a court in New Brunswick?

Let's start in June of 1999 at a community meeting called to discuss the establishment of the largest hog factory under one roof east of Manitoba. At the meeting were representatives of the proponent and several officials of the government of New Brunswick. Two quotes rang out over the capacity crowd of 500 people.

“The barn will be built”

The proponent, despite considerable objection from the crowd, insisted that “the barn will be built”. A government official made the other remark, in response to a mother's question regarding the disruption that the hog factory was likely to cause to her life. He told her that if

there was a problem in one year's time, “you can move away”.

The tone for the next seven years was set. Citizens realized that they were not going to be heard and that despite their objections; this operation was being foisted upon them.

A major car rally ended at the road beside the construction site of the hog factory, on Canada Day 1999. Immediately, the dis-information machine was cranked up. First an article appeared in the newspaper that a break-in and vandalism had occurred at the site and “protesters” were suspected (later proven to be a petty crime unconnected to citizens). Then the attempt was made to discredit the spokesperson for the Committee Against Hog Factories by calling him a racist. At the July rally, he stated that the government was not supporting local citizens but was supporting “those from away”.

The operating license, the first under the newly passed Livestock Operations Act, was granted on the New Brunswick Day weekend by then Minister of Agriculture,

Milt Sherwood.

Small pigs began arriving at the operation in the fall of 1999 and by early 2000, the full compliment of hogs were inside the building. Trucks came and went daily bringing young pigs, taking animals to market, and delivering feed. Then came the inevitable. The first manure spreading was to begin in the fall of 2000.

Government obfuscation

There had been conditions placed on the license by the Department of Agriculture but citizen's attempts to have them enforced were met with government obfuscation. Citizens put the government on notice that if they did not monitor the operation for violations then the citizens themselves would perform this function.

The first “spreading season” began. Huge 10,000 gallon tanker trucks, like the kind you see delivering gasoline, roared through the village past the school and playground with no regard for the speed limits. The trucks appeared to citizens to be in serious disrepair. There were spills of liquid manure on the road and as observed, there were spills of manure in the ditches

at the spreading sites.

Poop Patrol

Citizens decided to again organize a car rally. Citizens had obtained the use of an abandoned house near the operation. It was christened the “Poop House” and soon after the “Poop Patrol” was born. On one weekend afternoon, the car rally was proceeding to the Poop House when a tractor trailer truck was returning to the hog factory for another load of manure. Citizens on the road in front of the Poop House detained the truck, which was later taken off the road by provincial officials as being unsafe. Out of this incident, three citizens were charged in a lawsuit and the courts imposed the injunction.

The proponent had hired a private investigation company to observe the actions of citizens. As was revealed in court, the firm had several observers and collected both videotape, photographic, and journal evidence.

The court case to impose a temporary injunction was heard 17 October 2000. Judge Rideout of the Court of Queen's Bench heard the case. Judge Rideout found in favour of the proponent and imposed the temporary injunction that was put forward by

the proponent's lawyer with only one exception.

The Judge removed the section that pertained to gathering and having meetings because it was obviously against the Charter of Rights.

As stated earlier, the injunction was one of the widest ranging ever passed by a New Brunswick court. It made it illegal to even observe the operations or the spreading of manure.

Judge Rideout's decision was appealed. Judge Hugh McLellan, who heard the appeal, gave a glowing dissertation on the efforts of citizens to protect their way of life, and decided in favour of citizens and quashed the injunction. The proponent appealed this decision to the New Brunswick Court of Appeal. Judges Robertson, Turnbull, and Larlee heard this appeal and decided in favour of the proponent and imposed a permanent injunction as it now stands.

Citizens challenged the injunction once, with no effect, because it was not available in French.

Judge Rideout's decision: <http://www.canlii.org/nb/cas/nbqb/2000/2000nbqb10110.html>

Judge McLellan's decision: <http://www.canlii.org/nb/cas/nbqb/2000/2000nbqb10190.html>

Court of Appeal decision: <http://www.canlii.org/nb/cas/nbca/2001/2001nbca11.html>

Former hog proponent soured on experience

Editor's note: The writer of this letter lives in Neilburg, Saskatchewan which is located 40 km east of the Alberta border and southeast of Lloydminster.

He admits the hog operation built by Heartland Livestock was one of the first in the province, and things may have changed at other locations. He does, however, provide a first hand experience in dealing with a hog operation.

Dear Editor:

At the time the idea of the 2500 sow Heartland Barn surfaced in 1996 we had owned and operated a 100 sow farrow-to-finish operation for the past 18 years. I therefore became involved with the committee looking after site selection and the selling of shares. As an RM councillor and community-minded person I believed the barns would benefit our area.

Discussions and a public meeting with representation of Heartland Livestock led us to believe that we were indeed lucky people to have Heartland build their first hog operation in our area. My brother decided to sell 40 acres for the weaner barns on a quarter section of land three miles west of our yard. The following is a list of the changes and benefits we understood

having this size of hog barn close by would mean and what has actually come to pass:

1. The lagoon would be straw-covered and produce very little odour. We found out this is very different. When the lagoons are agitated each fall the straw goes to the bottom. Therefore the company no longer wants to cover them. The odour problems occur the opposite of when you might think. When the wind is blowing it keeps things more stirred up but as it calms down between 9 and 11 p.m. a very rank odour descends upon us since the farmyard is at a lower elevation. We are forced inside and must close all the windows for the night. We no longer invite people over for a summer campfire. Anyone working in the fields within a mile finds it hard to stomach the smell. The unfortunate person in the grain truck on a warm day in harvest must tolerate a cab full of flies along with the smell.
- In the fall the pits are emptied and the manure injected anytime after the crop is off. This year it was the Thanksgiving weekend. The first few years the trucks hauled directly from the lagoon (24 hrs/day). Even when conditions weren't right they kept on going leaving rutted fields and rocks popped out on top. A

horse with a maximum reach of three miles is now used to transport the manure to the field where it is injected with a three point hitch cultivator.

This also means the smell is that much closer. People living seven miles away have complained about the smell.

2. Trees would be planted as a windbreak around each site to lessen air movement. Trees were planted - almost immediately without proper site preparation, weeding and watering. Today there are strips of mostly weeds with 20 percent or so of the trees surviving.

3. Manure would be applied to land in a two mile radius free-of-charge. They quickly decided that anyone wanting manure would pay approximately \$15/acre. Soil test showed that the nutrient quality of the manure was half of what they thought it would be.

4. There would be employment opportunities for 15-20 people. Economic spin-offs for the community would include more children attending school, houses easily sold or rented, increased economic activity.

Most of the people employed at the barn are local women or young single people. Turnover is quite high - very few stay more than two years. Those quitting complain of skin problems from the mandatory showering and breathing difficulties from the ammonia. The only family moving in is

the barn manager with three children attending school.

Economic spin-offs are not as good as hoped. One farmer moves weanlings for the barn. Another has supplied straw for the pits. The RM has had the extra cost of dust control in front of the farms on the roads to the sites.

5. Investors would have priority to supply barley to the barns. However, a feed mill was built 60 miles away (60 miles of typical Saskatchewan highway) and offered less per bushel than could be obtained locally at the elevator or the Alberta feedlots.
6. Water wells within a three mile radius would be tested for water quality each year.

- Only one test was done at the beginning, none since.
7. We assumed that like our other farm neighbors that Heartland would respect the countryside.

Garbage has been one of our biggest headaches. The wind often blows garbage (mostly plastic bags) out of a large open area dumpster over the fields. Employees and truckers also spread their share of litter from their vehicles. During construction we observed garbage being buried on the site and covered with only a few inches of soil.

Any complaints we've made go largely ignored. The bigwigs are far away in Regina. To sum it all up I very much regret that we became a part of letting this operation set-up in our community. It simply has

not been worth it. When the day comes to sell our farm I seriously wonder who would buy it and put up with the odour and other problems.

Glenn Goodfellow
Neilburg, Sask.



FACT SHEET: Avian Flu

Control Bird Flu by Controlling Intensive Poultry Operations

Governments in various jurisdictions around the world are responding to fears of Avian Influenza (AI, or bird flu) by destroying backyard flocks and making indoor confinement of poultry mandatory. In Canada, Quebec outlawed the outdoor raising of poultry as of November 12, 2005. The theory behind these measures is that avian flu is carried by wild birds, which can pass it to domestic birds that are outdoors, which could then infect intensive poultry farms and the people who work there.

Outdoor poultry caught in the crossfire

Forced confinement threatens the livelihood and food security of small scale farmers and poor families in countries affected by AI – and by the fear of it. Confinement also threatens certified organic poultry operations, grass-fed pastured poultry and free range egg production – all of which are increasingly popular with consumers as people become more aware of health, animal welfare, labour and environmental issues around factory farming.

Prevention of a world-wide flu pandemic that could kill millions is certainly a worthy cause. The question is – will outlawing outdoor poultry production save us from an AI pandemic? Or will it actually increase the risk of the disease?

The rationale for forced confinement measures is the need to separate the flu virus from the commercially raised birds. Quebec now requires all farmers not only to keep poultry indoors, but to ensure the building is tight enough to prevent wild birds from getting in.¹ Only one species and one age group of birds is allowed on the farm at a time, and surface water must not be used as drinking water for the birds. Yet the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre survey of wild birds has found no incidence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Canada, and only a few cases of the common North American low pathogenic form of the disease, which is not considered a threat.²

Clearly, confining birds in North America at this time has nothing to do with protection of human health.

AI spread along trade routes, not migratory routes

In Europe and Asia the highly pathogenic strain of AI has been discovered in wild birds. Are they the source of the flu? Or are they victims? According to BirdLife International, a global partnership of non-governmental conservation organizations, "... if wild birds had been spreading the disease across continents there would have been trails of dead birds following migration routes, which

isn't the case. The "wild bird" theory for the spread of H5N1 provides no explanation as to why certain countries on flight paths of birds from Asia remain flu-free, whilst their neighbours suffer repeated infections, nor of why only a single strain of H5N1 is found in outbreaks west of China."³

AI source factory farms, not wild birds

There is growing evidence that HPAI originates in the factory farm system and is then spread through commercial pathways, not migratory flyways.

In a low-density, dispersed population, such as flocks of wild birds or backyard chickens, a virus can only survive as a low pathogenic agent. If a virus happens to mutate into a highly pathogenic form in these circumstances, it quickly dies out, as it kills all available hosts.⁴

However in a factory farm situation, perfect conditions exist for a virus to mutate from a low pathogenic to a high pathogenic form. Thousands of hosts (chickens) with near identical genetic makeup, all the same age and size, crowded in close conditions, allow a virus to kill its host, and move onto the next victim with great speed and ease. The HPAI virus depends on the factory farm system to continue supplying it with new hosts through the vertically integrated industrial poultry operations, linked to each other via the global trade in live birds, eggs and virus-contaminated feed and manure.

There is also a strong correlation between exposure to factory farms and incidence of HPAI. In Thailand, China and Vietnam there is a highly developed industrial poultry industry which has expanded dramatically in the past decade. The large poultry companies raise millions of birds, hatch chicks to supply other intensive poultry operations, export live birds and eggs to countries such as Nigeria (where the first HPAI outbreak in Africa was recently reported) and produce and export feed which often includes "litter" (ie manure) in the ingredients. Manure that may contain live virus is spread on surrounding farmland, or exported as fertilizer, and through run-off may end up in surface waters where wild birds feed and rest. Chicken manure is even found in fish farm feed formulations where it is introduced directly into the aquatic environment.⁵

Wild birds and poultry that have fallen victim to HPAI in Asia, Turkey and Nigeria appear to have been directly exposed to HPAI virus originating in the factory farm system. In Asia, a flock of wild ducks died from HPAI – after having come into contact with the disease at a

remote lake where a fish farm used feed pellets made from poultry litter from a factory farm.⁶ In Turkey a massive cull of backyard flocks – and the deaths of three children – took place after a nearby factory farm sold sick and dying birds to local peasants at cut rate prices.⁷ Nigeria has a large and poorly regulated factory poultry production sector which is supplied with chicks from factory farms in China.⁸ Losses due to bird flu in Nigeria are being paid for by the hunger of poor rural families now without their main source of dietary protein.

Safe food, poultry gene pool, food security at risk

The danger of a 1918-style world-wide human pandemic due to AI mixing with a human flu virus may well be overstated.⁹ We have better social conditions and medical knowledge now compared to what existed in the aftermath of World War 1. However, if there is a risk of a serious disease epidemic, it will victimize the weakest and most vulnerable people. We have a collective responsibility to prevent such catastrophe. However a wide-spread mandatory shift to industrialized poultry production via forced confinement of birds combined with massive culls of genetically diverse, dispersed backyard flocks is exactly the wrong response. Mandatory poultry confinement increases the risk of HPAI outbreaks, making us more vulnerable to future disease problems.

Solution to pandemic risk is strict control of factory farms

The way to reduce the risk of a human pandemic is to strictly control intensive poultry operations and thus protect wild bird populations and outdoor poultry production from exposure to HPAI. At the same time a separate infrastructure to promote a genetically diverse, dispersed, low-density poultry production sector to serve local consumers should be supported.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Ban use of industrial poultry litter in domestic and imported animal feed.
- ✓ Enact and enforce strict regulations on industrial poultry manure, including records to allow tracing of any disease outbreak to manure source.
- ✓ Enact and enforce strict regulations on international trade in live poultry and eggs.
- ✓ End subsidies and regulatory measures designed to increase industrialisation of poultry production.
- ✓ Vaccinate (instead of cull) backyard poultry within certain radius of HPAI outbreaks.

- ✓ Keep a database and map of HPAI affected poultry facilities including ownership, subsidiaries and trading partners, location, virus info (what sub-type), operational practices and customers.

Footnotes

- 1 *Une nouvelle mesure préventive : le confinement d'oiseaux domestiques* – Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation Québec <http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/79EB5A72-464A-48B5-B7A3-481803ED4D75/0/TCN10nov05.pdf>)
- 2 *Highly Pathogenic Asian Strain of Avian Influenza not Detected in Wild Birds* - Canadian Food Inspection Agency media release, November 19, 2005 <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2005/20051119e.shtml>
- 3 *Avian Influenza: Virus Backgrounder (Wild Birds)* – Canadian Food Inspection Agency <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/2005wildsauv/virtype.shtml>
- 3 *Reality takes wing over bird flu* - Leon Bennun, BirdLife International <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4721598.stm>
- 4 *Paul Ewald: Infectious Disease and the Evolution of Virulence* – Excerpt from PBS interview with Dr. Paul Ewald http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/01/6/l_016_06.html
- 5 *Bird flu could be linked to fish farming* - Michael McCarthy, *New Zealand Herald*, Dec. 28, 2005 http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=5&objectid=10361729
- 6 *Foul Play: the Poultry Industry's Central Role in the Bird Flu Crisis* - GRAIN <http://www.grain.org/>
- 7 *Foul Play: the Poultry Industry's Central Role in the Bird Flu Crisis* - GRAIN <http://www.grain.org/>
- 8 *Illegal imports probable cause of Nigeria flu* – BirdLife International, http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/02/avian_flu_nigeria.html
- 9 *Fuss and Feathers: Pandemic Panic over the Avian Flu* — Michael Fumento, *The Weekly Standard*, November 21, 2005 <http://www.fumento.com/disease/flu2005.html>

Organizations working on Avian Flu issues:

Union paysanne

202-2587 Ave Sainte-Anne,
Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec J2S 5J2
(450) 774-7692.
paysanne@unionpaysanne.com
www.unionpaysanne.com

Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals

213-33 Hazelton Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2E3
(866) 303-CCFA (2232)
Info@humanefood.ca
www.humanefood.ca

GRAIN

Girona 25, pral., E-08010,
Barcelona, Spain Tel: +34 933011381
ain@grain.org
www.grain.org

Beyond Factory Farming Coalition

#501-230 22nd Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0E9
Phone: (306) 955-6454
Toll free: 1-877-955-6454
Fax (306) 955-6455

Email: info@beyondfactoryfarming.org
Web: www.beyondfactoryfarming.org

Local contact information:

*X Farms
Box X
Somewhere, AB*

21 August 2000

Dear Mr. X,

This letter is in regard to our telephone conversation on August 19. I commend the County of Forty Mile on their decision to turn down the initial decision to put in the proposed pig barns within your area. Had harvest not come on as quickly as it has I would have personally delivered my findings to the residents of Forty Mile. Hopefully this letter will help you uphold the appeal, by answering your questions from our experience.

Our farmstead is three and a half miles north of a four-barn finishing pig operation. Each barn holds approximately 4000 head of swine. This intensive livestock operation has two sewage ponds. It has been in operation now for just over one year.

We were given the big sales pitch about how good Dynamic Swine was and how they would benefit the area and local economy. We wouldn't even know there would be pig barns in the area. Don't believe them. Their pigs stink. They find cheaper feed and have it trucked in from wherever they can find it. The jobs that are available are minimal, and the working conditions are not pleasant. Property values have decreased within the area. The owners that you may be dealing with may have integrity, and keep their promises, but don't count on it. A word of caution, in the event this appeal is overturned keep very good records of their promises and the codes within which they are to operate, then keep notes.

In answer to your first question, do the barns stink? YES, they do! We were told they would not be noticed in the area; but there may be an odor when injecting the manure. This unpleasant odor would only be for about four days a year. We get stench at least four times a month, and when they inject the manure, it is very pungent. I have smelled the pigs when servicing machinery, cutting hay, riding horses, activities in which they have their own distinct odor, but being overtaken by the stench of pigs. We are the fortunate ones. As I mentioned earlier, our home quarter is north-northwest of the pigs, and seldom have winds from the south, those who live in usual wind patterns are far worse off, and we have it bad.

This past year I have documented the days we have smelled the pig barn, that we were told would not affect our lifestyle. The three I will share will be the ones that show how much we have been affected. On one particular occasion during Easter break, we were rebuilding fence one mile west of this intensive livestock operation. We were unfortunate that day as the breeze was from the east. The piercing stench from the pigs made the working conditions almost unbearable. When I got home, I had to take off my coveralls outside as to not contaminate the house of such a foul odor. While working in our shop (three and a half miles north-northwest) with the big overhead door open to the east, and a south wind I still was inflicted with the unannounced and unwanted pungent smell of pigs. Just imagine what the stench would have



been for those living closer or within the normal wind patterns have to put up with. Another time while I was adjusting the alignment of one of our pivots, one mile north of the pig operation, I was almost overcome by the urine-saturated air.

The feed that was to be purchased for the local feed producers has not been brought to fruition. The barley that was used was brought in from Saskatchewan, as it was thirty cents cheaper a bushel. The feed peas did benefit, though slightly.

The jobs that were, and are, available have been short term. The construction crew hired a few locals to do the grunt work. A few are hired to feed the pigs, clean and disinfect the barns. The manure injection was done by people outside of the area.

There have been four quarters up for sale within a two-mile radius of the pig operation. Two of the quarters were purchased by the X Hutterite Colony. An adjacent landowner purchased a quarter for less than market value as no one wanted to live northeast of the pig barns because of the southwest winds. The other quarter one mile west from the barns is still up for sale.

The barns have been in operation for over a year now. The M.D. of XX has been getting calls about the violations to the conditions of development, at the time of issuing the permit for the operation. The operators were given specific travel routes, to erect a wind fence, time of injection, and clean up the odor. The landowners around this area are currently working on a list of complaints, along with specific dates the given conditions were violated.

The good Lord put all things on the earth for the benefit of man to use with prudence. I feel these large factory pig operations are of more harm and detriment to mankind than of benefit. Best wishes in your endeavors to keep the County of Forty Mile a wholesome environment to work and raise a family.

Yours truly,
Mr. X X
B.S. Ag Econ.

All names have been changed to protect those involved. If you wish to get in contact with the author, please contact the Beyond Factory Farming Office at 1-877-955-6454.



