



9 Investigate the Corporation Involved

The intensive livestock production system is dominated by large, vertically integrated corporations. If there is a local committee or individual farmer promoting the ILO in your community, they are likely acting on behalf of a large corporation, or intending to set up a contract to produce for a large corporation. Find out which corporation is involved with the proposal.

Once you know which corporation is involved, look for financial records, liens, security statements and information on the company behind the proposed ILO. Find out the names of the investors and the directors of the corporation.

Investigate the past track record of any investors and the operator. Find out where this proponent's other operations are, and find out about the environmental impacts they have had. Gather evidence of problems, such as photographs and signed statements from nearby residents, and present them to the decision-makers and media for your community.

To find information on corporations

Corporation filings

Look up the company on the “*System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval*” (SEDAR) website www.sedar.com. This website provides information for investors in all publicly traded corporations in Canada. Click on *Company Profiles* and choose the first letter of the company's name, then scroll down to click on the name. Then click on “*View this company's public documents*”. Some of the useful public documents are the Annual Report, the MD&A (Management's Discussion and Analysis), and any Prospectus that has been issued.

Not all companies are publicly traded. For companies that are not listed on SEDAR, find out which province the corporation is registered in and look up the company on that province's corporate registry. Most provinces allow you to do this on the internet and charge a nominal fee for the service. (See the *Provincial Resources* section for more information). You will be able to get information about the location of the head office and the type of company (sole proprietorship, limited company, etc.) from the basic listing. Order the company's Annual Return to get more details, including the names of all the directors, a listing of the investors and the number of shares each one holds.

Review the documents closely and look for any information that will help. You may want to do an internet search on each of the company directors' names to see if they are involved with other ILO enterprises, corporations or government agencies.

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To find out more about the company's and its directors' track record you can search for news articles that mention them. Use "quotation marks" around the full name so you don't get too many irrelevant hits. You can go to your local public library, or use its website, to access specialized news databases to find archived articles from many different sources. Ask the librarian to help you get started. You may be able to use your community college or university libraries to gain access to more sophisticated searching tools.

Make notes as you go and share your results with members of your group and with allies. You are building a picture of the company.

Loans or liens against the Corporation

Learn if there are any liens against the company or the land proposed for the ILO development. Each province has a system for searching for liens. You will need to have specific information about the debtor or the land concerned in order to do an effective search. There is a nominal fee for doing a lien search.

Public loans or funding

Find out about any government loans or other public funding to the company, particularly any funds or loans specific to the ILO proposal in your community. There are federal funding programs common to all, or several, provinces. There are provincial programs in each province. And, some municipalities may give grants or loans to the ILO proponent as an incentive to locate there. "Public-private partnerships" for infrastructure development are another form of public subsidy to ILOs in situations where the risk (pollution and cost over-runs) is born by the public and the benefit (profit) is captured by the company. There are many forms of public subsidy to the industrial livestock sector.

Federal programs, funds and loans

ACAAF

The Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program is a five-year, \$240 million program aimed at positioning Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector at the leading edge to seize new opportunities. ACAAf was launched in April 2004 as a successor to the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund.

www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf/index_e.html

For the administrators of ACAAf grants in your province, see:

www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf/information/acaafcouncils_e.html



The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund (Prior to 2004)

Initially started in 1995, the CARD program was the Government of Canada's initiative to foster the increased long-term growth, employment and competitiveness of Canada's agricultural and agri-food industry and agricultural rural areas. CARD supported change by providing measures to assist the sector in adapting to structural changes and to capture market opportunities. See:

www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf/card/cardinfo_e.html

Federal Investment Tax Credit

Deducted from federal tax payable, this credit is 10 percent of net investment in equipment and buildings in manufacturing, processing, mining, oil and gas, logging, farming, and fishing. Investment Tax Credits which exceed federal tax payable can be carried back to reduce federal tax in the three previous years or carried forward up to ten years. This credit applies only in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec's Gaspé region.

www.gnb.ca/0398/investment/incentives/index-e.asp

Western Economic Diversification Fund

Provides grants to businesses and organizations promoting economic development in Western Canada.

www.wd.gc.ca/default_e.asp



How to find out about provincial programs, funds and loans

Each province has programs to encourage economic development in agriculture. Use the internet to search for:

- Livestock-related sales tax rebate programs
- infrastructure cost-sharing programs that provide public money for things like roads, water treatment facilities, that will primarily be used by the ILO
- labour-sponsored venture capital funds that primarily invest in ILOs, which have high levels of tax exemptions
- direct investment into ILOs
- Immigration assistance programs that are primarily geared to providing labour to ILOs

Use the internet and search for “livestock” plus any of the following terms:

- tax credit
- investment incentive
- tax rebate
- investment program
- development
- value-added incentive
- workforce expansion
- work placement
- job creation

Search archived government press releases for announcements about large one-time grants, loans and investments.

How to find out about local grants and loans

Review past Minutes of your local rural and urban councils and look for:

- any motions authorizing loans or grants to the ILO proponent, to the local committee acting on behalf of the proponent, or to the individual farmer seeking a contract with the ILO corporation.
- authorization of infrastructure development proposals or feasibility studies that would provide things like a water supply, a road, water treatment facilities, etc. required by an ILO.
- tax exemptions, tax rebates, or tax reductions for the ILO proponent.

