



Environmental Sustainability and Hog Production in Manitoba

The Planning Act

- Clause 72 – Zoning By-Laws for Livestock Operations
- Clause 42 – Livestock Operation Policy
- Clause 107 – Conditions on Small Livestock Operations
- Clauses 111 – 118 – Large-Scale Conditional Use Livestock Operations
- Clause 187 – Limited Restrictions on Livestock Operations
- Clause 201 – Development Plan By-Law Deadline
- Clauses 208 & 209 – Transitional Measures re: Small- and Large Scale Livestock Operations

CEC Recommendation 9.1

The phase-in dates for the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation phosphorus provisions be adjusted so that all operators are required to be fully compliant with the regulation by 2013.

Five years from now.

Between now and 2013, in some municipalities and in many farm fields, the application of P will need to be adjusted downward to come into compliance with the current regulation. This may require more fields to apply manure to. A needs assessment to determine the current availability and, short and long term impacts should be considered

CEC Recommendation 9.2

The ban on winter application of manure in the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation be extended to all operations by 2013.

Again the phase in period is only 5 years from now. This change will require retooling of operations (construction of storage structures) and likely the requirement for additional fields to accommodate a year's worth of manure in a few short months. This may also result in the decommissioning of operations.

- The requirement of appropriate spread fields requires address in the development of LOPs.

CEC Recommendation 9.3

The Manitoba government undertake a review of the phosphorus application provisions of the Livestock Mortalities and Manure Management Regulation after the regulation has been in place for five years.

CEC Recommendation 9.4

The Manitoba government immediately conduct, facilitate, collaborate on and commission research on soil test phosphorus and transport mechanisms that will lead to the calculation of a phosphorus threshold specifically for Manitoba soils and climatic conditions. This research should include an examination of the effectiveness of a phosphorus index for Manitoba. This threshold should be considered in the review of the regulation.

Recommendations 9.3 and 9.4, as discussed in the report are likely to lead to lower threshold indices, impacting upon the area of spread fields needed to balance P with crop production. These long-term considerations for appropriate spread fields should be incorporated into LOP development.

CEC Recommendation 9.7

The Manitoba government amend the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation to require that new and expanding operations be required to demonstrate that they have a sufficient cropped land base available to balance phosphorus application rates with removal rates over the long-term.

- In planning LOP areas requiring a 1X P crop removal rate, planners must ensure there is sufficient space for existing operations under current regulations as well as a buffer, should thresholds be decreased in the future. Expansion should be considered only after this.

CEC Recommendation 9.9

The Manitoba government, facilitate, encourage, and undertake further studies into cumulative effects of applying manure fertilizer to marginal lands. This should include the examinations of pathogen movement and transfer, and nutrient run-off.

Soil types to be included in LOP areas should be carefully considered. Light, fragile and permeable soils and, crops that do not allow for injection or incorporation should not be considered suitable for application of liquidified hog manure.

CEC Recommendation 10.1

The Manitoba government require that all new manure-storage facilities have synthetic covers.

Currently, RMs can order covers on manure-storage facilities. Until the time or if the government fails to amend the regulation, RMs could include this as a mandatory provision for conditional use.

CEC Recommendation 10.2

The Manitoba government require all new and expanding operations to either inject or incorporate manure, with incorporation taking place within 48 hours.

This recommendation was developed in consideration of reducing odour and greenhouse gas emissions. In developing LOPs RMs should ensure that inappropriate soil and crop types for injection and incorporation are avoided for application of liquified manure.

CEC Recommendation 10.7

The Manitoba government facilitate, encourage, and collaborate on the research and data collection in the following areas:(odour related research).

Municipalities should ensure proper spacing and assessment of prevailing wind direction in development planning to manage odours. This applies not only to storage facilities but to spread fields. Injection and incorporation will help with difficulties experienced in the past but further considerations are required for the future as well.

CEC Recommendation 11.1

The Manitoba government include biodiversity conservation considerations into its decision-making process regarding expansion in the livestock sector or significant changes in land use. Policies should identify and respect regional critical wildlife habitats, discourage the conversion of natural habitats to serve as manure spread fields, and discourage the fertilization of native grasslands and prairies.

Municipalities can include these principles in the development of LOPs and development plans at the local and regional levels. In changing the landscape, consideration should be given to impacts for downstream water and nutrient management.

CEC Recommendation 11.2

The Manitoba government identify ecologically sensitive sites (such as tall and mixed grass prairie remnants) and establish no-manure-application buffer zones around them. These zones should be established in consultation with eco-system specialists and hydrologists on a site-by-site basis.

- Municipalities can work with eco-system specialists in identifying these sites as well as develop special management considerations that can be incorporated into LOPs and development plans.

CEC Recommendation 11.5

The Manitoba government take the lead in developing a contingency plan to address the animal welfare consequences of a border closing. The planning should account for both border closings caused by a large-scale animal disease outbreak and those that arise for reasons such as erection of trade barriers.

Although it is recommended that the province develop a contingency plan, some municipalities are much more vulnerable to these eventualities than others. It would be advisable to assess the situation in each municipality and identify and develop plans at the local level should they be required. These plans can then be meshed with those at the regional or provincial level as they develop. Such plans should be part of an LOP.

CEC Recommendation 12.1

The Manitoba government adopt a new approval process for new, modified, and expanding manure storage-facilities operations as detailed in Chapter 12. Under this process, proponents would submit detailed site assessments that would be screened by a provincial Technical Advisory Committee coordinated by Manitoba Conservation. The review process would produce a report that would be available to the public, along with the site assessment. This report, the site assessment, and the TAC comments, would go to the municipality and the local offices of relevant provincial departments. Responsibility for determining land-use issues would remain with the municipal authority, while the provincial government would retain responsibility for the issuance of environmental approvals.

CEC Recommendation 12.1 cont'd

Changes in the approval process will make it much more transparent and predictable. Once a municipality has an LOP in place it will be much easier for a proponent to determine if their proposed operation will fit in with the other activities within the said municipality. Providing more information up front to the approving bodies will allow better and more environmentally sustainable decisions to be made. The public will have more opportunities to be involved at the start of the process hopefully, making conditional hearings less contentious as comments and concerns can be provided and addressed well ahead of hearing. This process also allows municipal representatives to request clarification of information prior to the conditional use hearing and facilitate well informed decisions.

CEC Recommendation 13.1

A Watershed Studies Institute be established to coordinate information collection, analysis, and evaluation, direct research and provide support to agencies and organizations undertaking watershed management in Manitoba.

Once a Watershed Studies Institute is established, it could serve to greatly assist municipalities and conservation districts in watershed management. A two-way communication and information exchange would benefit both municipalities and the province.

CEC Recommendation 9.20

The Manitoba government report all significant manure-storage facility design changes to the appropriate municipality.

Receiving updates from Manitoba will assist the municipalities to keep abreast of what is happening within their jurisdiction.

CEC Recommendation 9.24

The Manitoba government obtain accurate data on livestock water sources, quality, and usage. This would include the reading of meters at livestock operations by Manitoba Conservation Environment Officers at the time of inspection of manure-storage facilities, the comparison of meter readings with allocated amount, and the publication of annual summaries of use versus allocation for each sector.

Municipal authorities could assist the province in gathering some of this information by monitoring and assessing water use from municipal sources.

CEC Recommendation 10.5

The budget of the Farm Practices Protection Board be increased to allow it to undertake more outreach work to make members of the public aware of its services.

Although municipalities have no role in the operation of the FPPB, they should become more informed of the role the Board plays and more actively refer citizen inquiries to the Board as appropriate.

CEC Recommendation 10.6

The Manitoba government establish a dispersion-theory-based farm odour guideline. Such a guideline would give consideration to the various factors that affect odour emission and dispersion including topography and technology.

CEC Recommendation 10.7

The Manitoba government facilitate, encourage, and collaborate on the research and data collection in the following areas: List of odour research activities.

Municipal officials could assist researchers in identifying study sites and by providing practical experience examples to be included in the research.

CEC Recommendation 11.1

The Manitoba government take steps to have a modified version of the National Building Code apply in Manitoba following consultation with concerned parties.

Municipalities should be part of the discussion and pay close attention to those parts of the code that could be incorporated into the municipal building permits.

CEC Recommendation 11.9

The Manitoba government monitor surface water for microbial contaminants, especially in regions with high concentrations of intensive livestock operations.

Municipalities could play a role in assisting with all water monitoring activities either through active participation (collecting and analysis of samples) or through financial assistance to other organizations and agencies that would conduct the sampling and analysis.

CEC Recommendation 13.1

Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives develop a common database to record the operations.

Municipalities could be a significant source of information to assist the government in developing this database. Municipalities should also use the database in their planning activities.

CEC Recommendation 13.2

The Manitoba government develop and publish a series of trend reports on the data that it collects and compiles on water quality, soil quality, air quality, and health issues related to the raising of livestock.

Municipalities should take notice of these reports in their planning activities.