

Purpose of GUIDELINES

1.1 Guideline Objectives

These guidelines describe manure management systems and practices designed to protect the environment, reduce the risk of pollution⁽¹⁾ and minimize the odours experienced by neighbours.

The objectives of these guidelines are to:

- provide local governments with a basis for evaluating livestock operations
- assist livestock producers in their efforts to optimize the use of manure, prevent pollution and minimize odour
- provide a standard which may be used by the Farm Practices Protection Board in determining normal farming practices
- provide information to the general public
- provide information for government officials who evaluate livestock operations about potential effects on the surrounding area.

1.2 Background

Manitoba's pork industry has undergone significant changes, in size and production methods. In the past, pig production was generally part of a mixed farming operation. It has become a specialized industry, with a high degree of integration between livestock and crop production. To remain competitive, operations have become much larger than the farms of 20 years ago. The trend toward larger

operations is likely to continue and will need considerable capital investment from producers.

The character of Manitoba's rural population has changed. People have built or bought houses in areas previously used for agriculture alone. These properties represent a major personal investment, and the owners are sensitive to any activity that may interfere with their enjoyment of the property, or affect the property value. Changes in the pig industry and increased rural residential development in agricultural areas have created a situation where conflicts may occur.

1.3 Dealing with Nuisances

Normal farming practices may cause odours, dust, noise and smoke that are a common cause of conflict between neighbours. Odours produced when storing and applying manure are the most likely causes of conflict between pig producers and their neighbours.

Nuisance conflicts may be best avoided through appropriate land use planning. In Manitoba, land use planning is the responsibility of local governments. This is set out in *The Planning Act* (see Section 2 for details). Under *The Planning Act*, local governments must uphold broad provincial and public interests in land use. This includes maintaining the province's ability to produce food and feed by protecting agricultural land and agricultural uses of land from non-agricultural development. Ideally, planning documents will direct developments that may

⁽¹⁾ Refer to the definition of pollution in the "Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation", Appendix B.

be incompatible with agriculture away from agricultural areas. To the greatest extent possible, agricultural land uses will be directed away from residential and recreational uses. Local planning documents also establish siting and development criteria, such as minimum separation distances between livestock and residential uses, with the intent of protecting the interests of all users of the land.

While land use planning is one method of avoiding conflict, an additional process is required to resolve conflicts when they occur. Nuisance complaints, such as odour, noise, dust or smoke, must be dealt with under *The Farm Practices Protection Act*. The scope of this Act is presented in Section 2.

1.4 Dealing with the Environment

Society is becoming increasingly concerned with environmental protection. Producers who follow the recommended practices described in these guidelines can expect to be in compliance with the relevant provincial regulations.

The viability of the livestock industry is dependent on the sustainability of the environment. Environmental protection, especially water quality, is a major concern for the livestock industry. Water quality is an environmental and health concern. The protection of water is regulated under *The Environment Act* and *The Water Protection Act*. Pollution of water and soil resources is illegal. Manitoba Conservation is responsible for the enforcement of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation under *The Environment Act* (see Section 2 for details).

Water quantity is also a concern for the public and livestock producers. Some operations require a significant amount of water for livestock. Under *The Water Rights Act*, these operations may require a water rights licence (see Section 2 for details).

Many livestock operators employ commercial manure applicators to apply manure. In 2002, *The Pesticides and Fertilizers Control Act* was amended to require commercial and off-farm manure applicators to be trained and licenced (see Section 2 for details).