

Mivelaz Farms Inc.

Response to Comments posted during Public Review Period

Mivelaz Farms Inc. would like to take the time to address the concerns raised by area residents addressing the proposed dairy farm expansion. We appreciate the time our neighbours have taken to voice their concerns and we respect all opinions. The comments submitted share common themes and the following is a response to the major concerns expressed during the public review period. Since 2004, we have had a Manitoba Environmental Farm Plan certification in place to be a producer of safe, high-quality food in a sustainable manner. It should be noted that no new barns or confined livestock areas will be built. Our farm has permits from the RM for all barns built, with the last built in 2016. This site assessment and proposal is to expand the existing lagoon and ensure the farm is in compliance with the existing rules and regulations from the RM of Ritchot and the Province of Manitoba.

1. MANURE APPLICATION, STORAGE AND ODOR CONTROL MEASURES

Mivelaz Farms Inc. would like to take this opportunity to correct a mistake in the Site Assessment that was submitted under odor control measures for the lagoon expansion. A new shelterbelt will be planted around the expanded EMS, working with the local watershed district to determine the trees that will be most suitable to the soil.

Mivelaz Farms Inc. currently utilizes an earthen manure storage (EMS) to store the liquid manure produced on the farm until used as fertilizer on agricultural land. We are working with DGH Engineering on a plan to add an additional cell to the current EMS. This is being done to reduce the amount of times manure needs to be applied throughout the calendar year (ie. odor and traffic mitigation). Also, this will allow more flexibility and avoiding having to spread when there is overland flooding from the Red River. EMS systems are regulated and routinely audited by the Province of Manitoba to ensure that manure stays within the lagoon and does not contaminate ground and surface water.

Mivelaz Farms Inc. uses a licensed custom manure applicator to inject our liquid manure in the spring and fall. This process normally takes around 8 days to complete. The additional cell and expansion of the EMS included in this proposal should allow the farm to be more efficient and eliminate the need for spring spreading. This benefits the farm as well as the surrounding community by reducing odour from agitating the lagoons and the amount of farm traffic on the roads in the spring. For solid manure, the manure that is produced on the farm is hauled out and stored on the field designated for spreading that year. All fields utilized for manure spreading have been filed in a Manure Management Plan and approved by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change prior to manure application. Mivelaz Farms Inc. conducts annual manure analysis and soil

testing to determine crop nutrient requirements and monitor soil residual nitrates and phosphates to ensure soil test levels stay below the regulatory limits.

Manure is a valuable natural fertilizer for crops grown on affected lands. It should be noted it replaces commercial chemical fertilizer that is used on fields not utilizing manure. Manure is a valuable resource and helps our farm be sustainable by cycling nutrients and not having to import conventional phosphorus fertilizer. We do not want to see any of these nutrients applied for crop production leave our fields and cause any harm to the surrounding environment.

Lastly, and most importantly, we encourage our neighbours to contact MB Environment and Climate Change or contact the farm directly to address any concerns they may have.

2. WATER USAGE AND QUALITY

Surface and groundwater protection are provided through environmental regulations and monitoring done by the Province of Manitoba through, for example, monitoring wells adjacent to the proposed multi-cell earthen manure storage structure. Provincial regulation also strictly prohibits the application of manure near wells, drains and inundated areas to prevent manure from escaping the fields designated for spreading. In terms of water usage, Mivelaz Farms Inc. currently has a Water Rights License that is regulated by MB Environment and Climate Change. Working with the province, we want to ensure that water supplies will not be impacted by the proposal. Clean, abundant, and safe drinking water is not only important for our community but essential to the health of our herd. We pride ourselves on having outstanding herd health and milk production and are committed to continue to provide Manitobans with high quality dairy products.

3. ROADS AND TRUCK TRAFFIC

There are two components to issues relating to roads: safety and damage. With respect to the safety aspect, truck drivers for Mivelaz Farms Inc. are licensed and must follow all the rules of the road pertaining to farm equipment and vehicles. All drivers must stop at all stop signs and exercise caution at uncontrolled intersections. Additionally, and most importantly, there have been no farm related accidents that we're aware of and we encourage Mivelaz Farms Inc. to be contacted directly and promptly should issues arise so that specific situations can be addressed as soon as possible. Traffic on roads comprise basically three components: commercial trucks and service vehicles supplying the daily needs of the operation, including feed; truck hauling

operations by the dairy for daily requirements, including solid manure and silage transport, etc.; and vehicles used by employees. Silage operations occur in September and October and generally last 4-5 days depending on the weather. There were a few comments relating to road traffic on Sood Rd. and there is an opportunity for the farm to work with the RM of Ritchot on ways to alleviate long-term negative effects on the road. There will be no increase in traffic or road noise from this proposal.

Mivelaz Farms Inc. had requested that MB Infrastructure put in a crossing directly from the farm to PR 210 but was denied as there are already two road accesses on the south side of PR 210 on our section of land. In the case of the commercial, service truck and employee traffic, drivers are encouraged to use the most direct route to the operation from the main paved road, being PR 210 ¼ mile north wherever possible.

4. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TAXES

Residential development and Agricultural land in the Rural Municipality is addressed through the RM of Ritchot's Development Plan, which designates the various land uses throughout the municipality. There has been a cattle/dairy operation on this land since the 1950's. Our operation, as well as all the identified manure spread fields included in the site assessment, is found within the Rural Agriculture Area, which is appropriate for the operation as proposed. The farm cannot comment on its potential effects on individual residential property values and taxes but can say that we employ residents from the RM of Ritchot and purchase supplies locally from within the RM and surrounding communities.

We genuinely appreciate the time and effort taken by each member of the community to share their thoughts, both positive and negative, and concerns regarding our proposal. Your feedback was invaluable to us. Our door is always open for further discussions as we strive to find solutions that benefit our community while ensuring sustainable farming practices. Thank you once again for your engagement and understanding.

Sincerely,

Pierre Mivelaz
Mivelaz Farms Inc.