

To the Technical Review Coordination Unit.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to some of the concerns that have been raised with regards to our application.

Environmental Concerns:

Every year we file our Manure Management Plan, which includes soil samples. This means; before we apply manure, we have to ask permission from the government. Depending on the soil sample and the crop we put in, they calculate the amount of manure we may apply. After the application, we have to confirm which field, how many acres, the application date and the application rate. This is all in their database. Manitoba Sustainable Development conducts regular audits to confirm compliance. In the Fall of 2019, we were scheduled for an audit as well.

We are aware of the 20m setback to drains and roadside ditches. Our general aim is to go above and beyond that, so we have 30m (98 feet) setback with the application of manure. All our employees who are involved with fieldwork know this and must follow this rule.

Our goal is to handle and spread the manure in an environmentally sustainable way because this will be a benefit for us, as well as the environment. We try to incorporate the manure on cultivated land as soon as possible. The sooner we can incorporate the manure, the more nutrients we keep in the soil, and the less fertilizer we have to apply. Weather conditions sometimes restrict us in doing so consistently. Dry conditions in the past couple years, have prevented us sometimes from doing so, due to the risk of erosion.

We do our best to avoid incidents, but when they happen, the 4Cs of Spill Management come into place: Control – Contain – Call – Clean. In the past we have strictly followed this procedure, which MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP can confirm.

Land base:

We have a more than sufficient amount of land for the application of manure¹. The land is mostly owned by Riedbow Dairy or a related family member. For land not owned by Riedbow Dairy, there are long term contracts in place, which legally enable Riedbow Dairy to spread manure on that land.

¹ See chapter 8.8 Site Assessment

Public Road Concerns:

Safety

Despite some people's perception, safety is a very serious matter for us. We strive to train and implement practices that help improve safety on our farm, as well as on the public roads. For example: It was by our request, that a stop sign got placed on road 29/50 intersection. Numbering our vehicles will help with identifying drivers, in case of a concern by a neighbour. During a summer season, we have several driver meetings, where we discuss safety, and possible concerns from our neighbours.

Equipment

In the last two years, we've invested in equipment to reduce the impact of the roads. Trailers behind a tractor haul twice the amount of feed, so we cut the number of loads on the roads in half. The load sizes are bigger, but the weight per square inch per tire is less, because the trailers contain more and bigger tires than our truck. Tractors are also less noisy than our trucks. The trailers we use have two steering and one fixed axle. In corners, they don't damage the roads nearly as much. In addition, tractors drive slower than trucks, which should help in reducing dust and noise, and thereby increase safety.

Dust

Previous Conditional Use agreement stipulated that we pay for dust control on road 29W till highway 2. We identified several additional yard sites on road 50N that we decided to voluntarily paid dust control for. We have noticed that the timing of dust control is not always at the same time of the year, and our harvest season is sometimes already halfway done. This is however out of our control.

Drag Line

Whenever conditions permit, we prefer to use a dragline to haul and incorporate our manure. Due to distance, and field nutrient levels, this is not always possible. In the Fall 2019, most of the manure was applied to the fields by drag line and incorporated at the same time as application. A custom worker did this for us. We don't have the equipment ourselves yet, but with more fields close around the farm, it becomes more interesting. This will reduce the amount of manure loads on the road, the possibility of runoff and will reduce the smell. The fields further away from the farm, we still have to haul with our manure tanks.

Future:

We agree that we operate a large dairy, but we are still very much a family farm. With the current family members, a number of children and grandchildren are interested in farming in the future.

Regards,

Ale Riedstra

Riedbow Dairy Ltd