

March 31, 2022  
Livestock Technical Review Co-ordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Reference: Westfarm Holding Co. Ltd. (TRC 12-088)

Subject: Response to Public Comments

We want to address some of the concerns raised by neighbors about our proposed livestock operation. We appreciate the opportunity to engage openly and honestly with the community in this process, as we have never intended to hinder anyone's use and enjoyment of the land. From the outset of the project, our goal has been to make informed, conscientious decisions. That is why we've retained outside professionals to direct technical decisions for our proposal and ensure that all laws, regulations, recommendations, guidelines, and best practices are adhered to.

While we hope to offer some clarifications in this letter, we look forward to the opportunity to discuss the project and provide more details at the Public Conditional Use Hearing.

### **Scope of Conditional Use Application**

Some neighbors raised concerns that the "full picture" wasn't presented on the conditional use application. For clarity, we want to further explain what has been proposed.

Over the next 20 years, we are proposing to build and operate:

- one (1) all-barn that will house animals for colony use,
- one (1) layer barn for commercial production,
- one (1) broiler barn that will produce birds for commercial sale, and
- two (2) future hog barns that, when developed, will be for commercial hog production.

These are being proposed as part of a long-term, phased plan. We chose to disclose our full dreams in order to be open and transparent about where we would like the operation to be in 20 years. In reality, establishing the barns and commissioning the different operations will occur as market demand and opportunities arise over the next two decades.

The site plan also shows a manure storage facility and a domestic lagoon. These were included for transparency, but they are not part of the livestock application. The conditional use application is only for the five (5) proposed barns. The manure storage and domestic lagoon are permitted uses that are regulated by other permits and licenses that will be applied for separately.

The site plan also alludes to a residential site to the west on NE 32-14-8. The proposed residential development is not part of the Livestock Technical Review Process, since no animals will be housed on that site. A different conditional use application has been submitted to the RM for consideration regarding the proposed communal farm operation that would contain our shops, kitchen, church, and residential buildings.

## **Conditional Use and Livestock Technical Review Process**

We want to clarify for our neighbors what “Conditional Use” means. There are three types of uses in the RM: “permitted” (allowed with basic building or development permits), “prohibited” (not allowed), and “conditional” (reviewed case by case). The Brokenhead Zoning Bylaw says:

*“There are certain uses deemed conditional uses which, because of their unique characteristics, cannot properly be classified in any particular zone or zones without consideration, in each case, of the impact of those uses upon neighboring land and of the public need for the particular use at the particular location.”*

Council needs to review livestock applications on a case-by-case basis, hence “conditional use”, but that doesn’t imply the development is prohibited. For context, the same “conditional use” case-by-case review also applies to home businesses, campgrounds, rental cabins, and churches in this zone. By applying for a conditional use, we are not looking to go around the zoning for the site. We want to work with the RM and the community to make sure our development is beneficial, sustainable, and safe.

Since not all council members are experts in environmental regulation, the Province of Manitoba has a Technical Review Committee (TRC) that prepares objective, technically-based assessments to help Council to make informed Conditional Use Order decisions.

This is the Livestock Technical Review Process we are in. This process includes the detailed application that was reviewed by the public, and will also be reviewed by relevant government departments. By sharing with our neighbors now, we’re able to openly discuss our application, hear your concerns, and make adjustments to the application to mitigate those concerns and reduce risks.

## **Errors, Omissions, and Accidental Misleading Information**

We acknowledge some information was presented in error, without malicious intent. We appreciate these items being brought to our attention so that we can correct them. These items have been corrected in a revised application and resubmitted to the TRC and Council:

1. The letter of intent accompanying the conditional use application included a typo wherein “NW 33-14-8” was incorrectly mentioned as “NE 33-14-8”. We apologize for any confusion caused by this error, as it was never our intent to represent colony ownership or other interest in NE 33-14-8. This correction was made on page 2 of the Letter of Intent.
2. We are not proposing truck access to highway 12 by crossing the Brokenhead River north of 32-14-8. We acknowledge this is a dead-end road, and we have no intent to change that. This correction was made on the Land Use map in the Site Assessment appendices (SAA 5).
3. Some residences in the region may have been accidentally overlooked on the map. This correction was made to the Land Use map in the Site Assessment appendices (SAA 5).

A revised application has been submitted with corrections to these three items.

## **Technical Concerns**

Though the information provided to the public with this application is substantial, there were more reviews completed and, if Council approves this application, more approvals are still required. If approved, there are many environmental regulations for the development and operation of the facilities that we must follow. We will also require additional approvals, such as:

- development permits (municipal)
- building permits (municipal)
- a manure storage facility permit (provincial)
- a license to construct and operate lagoon (provincial)
- a water rights license (provincial)
- an Office of Drinking Water permit (provincial)
- annual source water monitoring reports (provincial)
- annual manure management plans (provincial)

To make sure all laws, regulations, recommendations, guidelines, and best practices are followed, we took the initiative to include technical professionals for the project design and approvals. We intend to do our part to prevent the pollution of water, air, and soil. We intend to develop a sustainable operation, without negative impacts to the surrounding environment and community.

We recognize our neighbors have questions about some of the technical aspects of the application and proposed operation. We will defer more detailed discussions of these items to the Public Hearing, where Burns Maendel Consulting Engineers Ltd. can provide clarifications in person and the Technical Review Committee can address questions about the approvals process. We look forward to engaging more with the community at the Hearing, as this is an opportunity provided for the purpose of clarity and consideration.

### **Closing**

We are grateful to have so many neighbors that care about environmental sustainability, health, and safety as much as we do. We value the land and natural resources that sustain agricultural legacies, as the viability of agricultural industries and the very quality of life as we know it depends on the sustainability of the environment. This region is our home, and we intend to be part of the community for many years. We consider ourselves to be good, accommodating neighbors, ready to lend a hand – whether by sharing our fire trucks and accessibility van or helping in all seasons with farming, snow clearing, gardening, repairs, and more.

We believe that as a multi-family farm, we can contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of the Brokenhead and Beausejour region. Our families live in complete safety and enjoyment of our rural home, and we welcome the opportunity to tour others through our existing site to demonstrate this quality of life to any neighbors who may be interested. We firmly believe that just as we enjoy the land, others can similarly enjoy their nearby properties unaffected by our proposed livestock development. To this end, we have attached letters from neighbors of the existing Greenwald Colony to speak to life adjacent to our colony and livestock development.

We look forward to discussing our application further at the Public Hearing and appreciate the opportunity to include the community in the review of our technical proposal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Hofer  
Westfarm Holding Co. Ltd.

28 March 2022

From: Dave Prestidge

To: Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit

604-800 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3G-0N4

Subject: Support for WESTFARM COLONY MS TRC12-088

I Dave Prestidge live in between where the proposed WESTFARM COLONY operation is proposed for and Greenwald Colony.

As being a neighbour of Greenwald Colony for now over 33 years am pleased to see that such an operation can expand.

Any time I needed help, they are the FIRST to lend a helping hand. In the last 33 years there has only been a few problems with smell from an operation of there size, but that was from them trying to apply the animal waste to there fields and that only took a few days to disapate. Very understandable to be applying natural waste as opposed to just pure chemicals.

As far as any road problems to my observation on my road the colony always did the best they could to correct any issues untill the municipal grader could make there way from town to grade the road. We live in a farming community so noise has never been a problem.

I see they are possibly getting there water source from a few miles away. As WESTFARM COLONY is beside the river and know a few people along the Brokenhead river, there water is too salty to drink. I am sure that environmental issues will be taken into account if anyone downstream of the aquafire has negative issues.

I am glad to see that the colony is always trying to improve in there everyday way of life.

Thank You

Dave Prestidge

204 - 265 -3396

2022 03 26

*Livestock Technical Review*

*604-800 Portage Ave*

*Winnipeg MB*

*R3G0N4*

*Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms ( TRC 12-088)*

*My name is Eddy Kowalik. I am a neighbour to Greenwald Colony Farms living at 41068 RD 88N.*

*NW-24-15-07E a mile from Greenwald Colony Farms.*

*My family and I have lived and run farming operations at this location since 1945 before the inception of Greenwald Colony and have some knowledge of the original and now expanded operations and their effect on the surrounding farming community.*

*We have found the Greenwald Colony over the years to be hard working and innovative in running a full and successful farming operation including their expansion into both a hog and bird operation along with farming and crop production.*

*We have read the concerns of some farmers in the proposed development area of the daughter colony (WestFarm Colony) and would like to address and share our experiences.*

- 1. Water - Over the years we have only drilled 1 well at the home property and even with the much increased water usage as operations have grown at Greenwald have seen no decrease in our water availability*
- 2. Being only a few hundred metres to the river we can still enjoy the use of it for walks, canoeing, and other summer ventures without contamination from any Greenwald operations.*
- 3. Manure- The smell of the hog and chicken operation has been minimal and we are less than a mile away from these barns. The spreading or injecting of manure into our surrounding fields only occurs for a few days during end of summer or early fall and has never prevented the enjoyment of the outdoors at our farm ie: BBQ ing or use of pools set up outside.*

*In closing, this type of farming operation needs to be present in todays farming society to provide for our ever increasing and diverse needs.*

*The Kowalik Family support the new development of Westfarm Colony Farms*

*Eddy Kowalik family*

*1(204)265-3413*



March 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

To: whom it may concern

We at Sollio Agriculture have been the supplier of nutrition services to Westfarm Colony since 2003. During that time we have seen this business successfully improve their operations on a consistent basis. Both upgrading their facilities and investing long-term in very eco-friendly energy sources for their livestock operations. Westfarm and Greenwald Colony's are both leaders in our industry when it comes to a sustainable future of food production.

We are very in favour of the proposed expansion of their livestock business as this business not only brings new money to the local economy it truly creates momentum for some expansion to our entire industry in Manitoba.

This expansion creates new tax dollars for the local municipality, potentially future employment opportunities, business for local service providers and long-term business for those supplying products and services. Any project such as this has greatly more positive impacts than otherwise.

Our business Sollio Ag currently employs and supports 7 families who reside in the area of this proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason McNaughton", written over a horizontal line.

Jason McNaughton

General Manager, Livestock Production, Western Canada Sollio Agriculture

[Jason.mcnaughton@sollio.ag](mailto:Jason.mcnaughton@sollio.ag)

204-941-3370

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Rosemarie Kunzmann. I'm a retired medical laboratory tech.

I formally owned a property 6 Km away from the Greenwald Hutterite Colony. I lived as a neighbour to the Colony for nearly a decade.

I write in support of their proposed development of a sister colony south east of their present location.

Unlike other people in the areas around the new proposed farm development, I have only good things to say about my numerous years spent as one of their many neighbours.

As a small acreage owner, I truly benefitted by their presence and helpfulness.

They were always willing to help if I had a problem with my property and often the ladies and girls would come to assist me with my household and garden needs.

Much of the labor needed on occasion was supplemented by these generous people. They were always just a phone call away.

I made many friends at Greenwald and was always well-received.

I've read through many submissions of others which brought to light potential problems of living in close proximity to a large Colony Farm. I can tell you that I never experienced or witnessed any of these potential concerns.

Yes, they were a big farm, but they were also a big help to me for all of the years that I lived close by. They cared for their land, animals, their neighbours, their community in general and they kept their place very clean and never polluted the river to my knowledge.

I sold my small farm to them and received way more than market value.

Get to know them personally and you will agree with me. They are good People.

Sincerely,  
Rosemarie Kunzmann RT (retired)  
Rose2279@gmail.com



28 March 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

This letter is written in support of the proposed livestock operation, Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088). I am a registered professional agrologist with the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists and a Certified Crop Advisor for the Prairie Provinces. I have worked with Greenwald Colony Farms for the past ten years with their crop land management.

The land in the proposed livestock operation has very good yield potential and limited soil test phosphorus. These fields will greatly benefit from the regular application of manure. High soil test phosphorus that would lead to run off into waterways will likely not be a concern as the farm has many acres that will benefit from the manure application. The manure rotation and high yield potential of those fields will allow the STP to be drawn down before the next application of manure.

The members of Greenwald Colony Farms are excellent to work with, friendly, generous, and compassionate. They are good stewards of the land and treat their environment respectfully, there is no reason to conclude their daughter colony would be anything but excellent.

I am in support of Westfarm Colony Farm's (TRC 12-088) proposed livestock operation.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Karpinchick, P.Ag. CCA  
[elizabethkarpinchick@toneag.com](mailto:elizabethkarpinchick@toneag.com)  
(204) 433-7189

28 March 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

This letter is written in support of the proposed livestock operation, Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088). I am a registered manure management planner with the Province of MB and a Certified Crop Advisor for the Prairie Provinces. I have worked with Greenwald Colony Farms over the past ten years in regard to their manure management and soil testing program.

Greenwald Colony Farms has ensured all regulatory requirements are met with the application of manure and best management practices are utilized on their current operation near the Brokenhead River. The proposed operation from a manure management standpoint looks good. The soils in the area are a great fit to be used as spread fields as they are all Class 2 and 3 and have very low to low soil test phosphorus. In terms of setback distances from the proposed EMS location, all of them exceed the minimum requirements. The proposed shelterbelt around the EMS will work to mitigate any potential for odors in the surrounding area.

I am in support of Westfarm Colony Farm's (TRC 12-088) proposed livestock operation.

Sincerely,



Jordan Karpinchick, CCA  
[jordankarpinchick@toneag.com](mailto:jordankarpinchick@toneag.com)  
(204) 433-7189

March 27, 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

I am writing this letter to state my support for the development of the proposed colony, Westfarm Colony Farms in the RM of Brokenhead. I grew up just a few miles from the parent colony (Greenwald), and still have a relationship with them to this day. I have already heard of several other people that are opposed to this new colony, and sadly the opposition appears to be based on fear due to a lack of knowledge or understanding of who or what a Hutterite Colony is or how modern barns are designed.

The fact is that Hutterites as a rule are great people to know, and the members of Greenwald (and therefore Westfarm) are no exception. They are well known for being there to support their neighbours in time of need, and I have witnessed countless examples of this. Whether it was helping sandbag and save homes during the flood in 1997 or assisting in completing the harvest on my brother's field, I have never found a time when the members of Greenwald were not willing to help out. Hearing that some community members would make statements that "no one would want to live next to Hutterites" is not only inaccurate but also offensive. If this proposed farm were to be denied based on such claims, then that would be nothing less than blatant racism. I cannot imagine it being said that a permit would be denied to any ethnic group simply because of who they were, that is not how we operate as a society.

I have read and studied the proposed farm and barn details, and as an expert in this specific field I can assure you that not only would all the proper procedures be followed to eliminate potential pollution of the river or surrounding waterways, the air quality and odour concerns that are being brought up are no longer valid. Although historically there would have been a legitimate concern about odour from a barn of this size, the industry has made a lot of advancements and changes that are designed to eliminate this. I have personally toured European countries where a large hog farm is in close proximity to a town/business/residential area and have witnessed the lack of odour in the areas around. And when I say close proximity, I mean that in many cases the barns were next door or across the road and they still did not present a problem. This is all due to the design of the barn and specifically the ventilation system within, and this technology and design has been something we have implemented in Canada as well. A modern hog or poultry facility would produce no "noxious gases" that would affect the surrounding neighbours. This should be self-evident as the members of the colony will be the ones living the closest to the barn and they obviously do not want to be bothered by that either, so someone on the next section would not have any concerns about smell.

Another concern I am sure will be brought up is the land value and availability and what it will mean for the surrounding farmers, this seems to be a common theme anywhere I hear about a colony starting a new farm. Although it may seem at first glance that a Hutterite Colony takes up and therefore eliminates access to a large chunk of land, the second you look at any of the facts that theory falls apart. Most colonies operate at less than 300 acres per family, which is a ratio I have not seen on any other family farm in Canada for several decades. In fact, knowing many of the surrounding farmers in Brokenhead I can state that the majority of them control/own thousands of acres per family. The theory that Hutterite Colonies own too much land and therefore make surrounding farmers suffer just doesn't stand up to any actual scrutiny. And as for the value of the land, I have now heard that some are concerned it would drive the price up, while others are concerned that the price of their land will crash if a Hutterite Colony is allowed to be built in the area. These conflicting statements only prove what I previously pointed out, and that is that the people opposed to this project are only working from fear of something they clearly don't understand. If there were any truth or facts behind their concerns they would at least be able to come up with the same problem.

In closing, I would only ask that this application be considered in the manner that it should be; based on facts and regulations and free from emotion. All the facts point to Westfarm being designed based on the rules and following recommendations of experts, and I firmly believe that if you look at it from that perspective there should be no choice but to approve this farm.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kurbis  
1-204-485-4600

28 March 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

This letter is written in support of the proposed livestock operation, Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088). I am a registered professional agrologist with the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists. I have worked with Greenwald Colony Farms for many years as an Agricultural Consultant.

The people at Greenwald Colony are good members of their surrounding community. I have been fortunate to work with them over many years. They are good people to work with and have helped their neighbours in times of need (flood protection and mitigation, vehicles broken down etc.). They have always acted with integrity and been good stewards of their environment.

I am in support of Westfarm Colony Farm's (TRC 12-088) proposed livestock operation.

Sincerely,

Ron Tone, P.Ag.  
[rontone@toneag.com](mailto:rontone@toneag.com)  
(204) 346-2064

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Review Coordination Unit,

My name is Dr. Gerry Bohemier. I am a former neighbour of the Greenwald Colony Farms and wish to speak in favor of the Westfarm Colony Farm development proposal.

My hobby farm was located just 300 meters north of Highway 317 on PTH 12 north. Our 36-acre hobby farm was just (straight-line) 2-3 Km south-east of the Greenwald Colony Farm. My wife Rose and I had never lived in the country before this move from Kelowna, BC. We were pure city folk. We were soon welcomed to the area by close neighbours including the Hutterite families at Greenwald. They became good friends and very good neighbours. As senior adults in our early 60's, it was reassuring to know that we could count on these folks if we needed help.

For example, the 12 acres of grass land which lined HYW 12 was very neglected and when I asked the Colony if they would plow the field to give the land a fresh start, they agreed and sent a young man with the proper equipment to assist us. When I asked how much I owed for the work, they responded they were happy to be able to help and their work was complimentary. My wife and I were touched by their true kindness. This kindness continued over the 9 years we were at this small farm.

North west winds would always cause deep and large snow drifts on our 700 ft. driveway and until we had our own tractor and snow removal equipment, the Colony would come and assist us and always for no cost. Once, on a return from a winter vacation from Florida, we were unable to drive into our yard because of 2 weeks of accumulated snow and wind-drifts. A quick distress call to our Colony neighbours had the senior Minister himself, came to our rescue with a large front-end loader which, (with one pass) cleared the road right to the house. We offered to pay but were greeted with a "welcome home" smile.

On 5-6 occasions, I needed some small welding repairs done. They did the repairs in their shop with expertise and a smile and no charge.

On one occasion, during a January -35C cold spell, our main water deep well pump quit and a quick call to the Colony for advice led to their sending 3 abled men who removed the pump and piping from a depth of 90 feet. They sized the pump replacement need and as luck would have it, they had a perfect new pump in their inventory at the colony. Without hesitation, they

brought it over and re-wired the 220V connection and re-plumbed the unit in no-time at all. An attempt to re-connect the diversion into the house system was difficult. It was quickly evident they would need a specialized tool to complete the task. Not having this necessary tool, they hurried back to their shop and fabricated one for the urgent job at hand. In less than 2 hours, the job was done and we had running water restored to our home. Our only cost was for the new well pump. They would not accept any offers for labour or the tool manufacturing. In fact they gave it to us for future need. I left it with the family which bought our farm latter in 2019.

One summer we installed a wood-burning stove in the basement of our home and sure enough, they found out about it and sent 3 young men to chop and stack a chord of firewood to get us started.

The following year, we removed the electric furnace and install a Geo-thermal system to heat and cool our home, our new greenhouse and insulated shop. This system over the next several years had periodic problems with pumps and other minor plumbing problems. Rather than bring in outside commercial help, a quick call to the Colony plumber would suffice to get the problem resolved. Often, he would come out and do the work himself. Always with a smile and never would he accept offers for his labour. What kindness!

Having gotten to know the other surrounding immediate neighbours over the years while we were there, all were of the same opinion. This Colony was the best neighbour we could have. They had the man-power, the shops and equipment and the kindness to assist when and where they could and always with no expectation of remuneration for their labour or equipment use. As neighbours we all felt a degree of security having such diverse talent available at moment's notice. We never heard an utterance of bad feelings toward this Colony in all the years we lived in the area.

I have read in other submissions that living downwind from a large animal farm would be horrible because of the constant smell of manure from these operations. I can testify as a close "down-wind" neighbour, that at no time was the odor unbearable and definitely never very often. The only occasions that we even notice a smell was on the day they would clean the barn between herd re-population operations. For city people, this was not un-expected nor un-pleasant. We were given tours of their waste-remediation operations and being lovers of our Brokenhead river, and armature environmentalists we were happy to find the many ways which they processed and prevented any contamination from reaching the river. The new proposed farm is significantly further away from the river as is their present farm. The concern should therefore be geographically much less of a risk.

On the topic of municipal road surface damage caused by large farms implements and truck travel, I witnessed for the 9 years we were neighbours to Greenwald Colony Farms, none of the adjoining roads were ever in disrepair and that the up-keep of these roads was always done by the Colony itself. They used their own graders and heavy rollers on the roads they commonly used. When I asked if they were hired by the municipalities to do the work, they said no and added that they used their own equipment and resources to maintain these roads as part of

their neighbourly responsibilities and community commitments. That tradition and commitment will surely be followed at their new proposed location.

Annually, all neighbours were invited to their Colony children Christmas concerts and summer end-of-school barbeque celebrations. The occasions saw dozens of neighbours participating and enjoying the festivities. Fun for all. Very generous and giving people indeed.

On the topic of land valuation, I can say that large farms are always looking for extra land and get into bidding wars which ultimately always favors the sellers. In my neighbourhood the Colony was not the only big farm with large acreage. There were, to my knowledge, no less than 4 equal or larger farm operations. All were family-owned and feeding less than a dozen mouths per operation. None were feeding 180 mouths as is Greenwald. All these farms were growing by buying small less-productive farms unable to keep up to the evolving trends and costs of doing agri-business. The days of small farms for commercial usage are getting more and more less attractive. The owners of these small farms are getting usually more than market value for their farmland.

To say that living near one of these large farms leads to decreased value of the small properties, has not been our experience. When we decided to move to Winnipeg in 2019, and after only 9 years of living on a small acreage, we sold for nearly double the price we paid. We left making a profit. Our experience of living very close to Greenwald Colony Farms has been nothing less than a great experience.

Where else could you live and have a fire brigade less than 5 minutes away. Does your neighbour own a fire truck? Where else could you live and have so many certified trades personnel ready to help at a moment's notice. Where else could you live and have kind and caring neighbors with a work-ethic and genuine concern for their neighbours and environment.

All fears and concerns about living next to a large Hutterian farm enterprise are trumped by the kindness and friendship we experienced throughout our 9 years living next to the Greenwald Colony Farm.

Should we expect any less from their sister operation, the Westfarm Colony Farm which will be built and operated with the same committed and sensitive guidance, transmitted to them by their experience and customs learnt from their mother operations at the Greenwald Colony farms? I think not and having known this community for 9 years as close neighbours and the last 3 years as close friends, I doubt if anything will be different at the new proposed facility.

As to the concern of water usage for such a large animal growing operation, I can say that their modern water distribution to each animal is metered and controlled by computerized equipment which significantly lessens the potential for waist and contamination. I was impressed when I toured a new Hog facility, they built to replace their older and outdated facility. The attention and expense to adopt the latest technologies to minimize waist of feed and water required for each animal was impressive indeed.



Ground aquifers are replenished with high precipitation seasons just like the one we are experiencing this year, (2022) I can say that every year we lived adjacent to the Brokenhead river, it always rose more than 10 feet during spring runoff. I witnessed only 1 year where the rise was only half that amount.

The water concern is not supported by long-term evidence. "Global Warming" has not materialized since it became the predicted threat 30 years ago and thus the narrative has quickly switched to "Climate Change" which is a null term which does not ultimately predict cooling or warming which has occurred for thousands of years without climatologists making conflicting predictions every decade.

On energy use, I have witnessed in the short 9 years as neighbours to the Greenwald Colony Farm their installing a heating boiler system which serves all homes and animal facilities. This high-tech heating system burns only forestry waste materials brought in from pulp and paper facilities of close-by industries unable to dispose of this waste. Greenwald has been able to recycle this waste and cleanly burn it in their state-of-the-art boilers thus assisting our environment by using a readily available fuel instead of electricity and/or petrochemicals or coal.

I also observed their installation of a large solar-panel array to offset their need for electricity from the power grid. Which other local farm has taken the initiative to lessen their carbon footprint to that degree? They have shown their leadership and desire to be good citizens and Stewards of the land and environment.

Finally, I hope that my testimony of first-hand experience of living as a close neighbour to Greenwald Farms will help diffuse the fears and anxieties held by neighbours in their planned Westfarm Colony proposed project. In my humble opinion, the benefits will far outweigh the perceived problems of having a large operation in the neighbourhood. My wife and I benefited greatly, (as did so many other immediate neighbours) while living next to these peaceful, loving serving and considerate Hutterite communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gerry Bohemier (retired)  
204-797-6311

Livestock Technical Coordination Unit

604- 800 Portage Ave.

Winnipeg, Mb. R3G- 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms. TRC 12 - 088

Very close Neighbor to Greenwald Colony.

Richard Kowalik

Lived, and Father still owns Farm right across from Greenwald Colony.

I have lived across from Greenwald colony for 32 yrs. And still go to home place every weekend to see my Father

Edward Kowalik. Things have changed over the years, and with the pig manuer being injected into the land ,

it is not spread over the soil. It has been very beneficial for us to have grown up next to the colony.

If you ever needed help with a fire, they would be there 1st. Snow removal to get out of your yard.

If you ever needed food or a helping hand they would and have been the first people to help.

The people on the colony and the friendliest, nicest people you will ever meet.

The colony is very modernized now and things have changed over the years, as far as pig barns etc.

They always have vegetables and chickens for a small fee if needed.

They are our neighbors and our friends. We have grown up with them and their children.

It would be very beneficial for the colony to split and have a daughter colony. To the whole community.

Sincerely Richard and Wanda Kowalik

204-268-1694

March 27, 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

Good Afternoon

My name is Travis Patenaude I work with Penner Farm Services and we have been working with Greenwald Colony in various renovations this past year.

Our experience with Greenwald has been exceptional. We have worked together to honour agreements and they have been very consistent with us on this.

To speak to their development, we do believe that they are moving to expansion for the benefits of their members. They also are taking every step reasonable with consultants and engineering to ensure this process is followed properly. We do believe that this is a family community looking to build for their future. Not a large corporation looking to push out their neighbours.

We hope that you consider this letter our support for moving forward on Westfarm Colony Farms.

Sincerely,

Travis Patenaude  
Penner Farm Service  
(204) 392-6618

March 24, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Westfarm Colony Farms - TRC 12-088

I'm shocked and saddened to hear some of the complaints in opposition to the Westfarm Colony Farms - TRC 12 - 088 proposal.

We live in the vicinity of Greenwald Colony and they rent or own the farmland on the north, south and west sides of our property. They are clean, efficient, organized and put time and effort into their operation with excellent results.

I worked part-time at Greenwald Colony for 12 years and witnessed the efficiency and structure of the Colony. They use solar energy. Their chicken and hog barns are set up with up-to-date technology and they follow environmental laws and regulations. They are subjected to testing as is any large operation.

Their kitchen, as well, is state-of-the-art following laws and regulations of commercial operations

We have been neighbors to Greenwald Colony for 29 years and have consistently found them to be kind, hospitable, courteous, friendly, community-minded, generous, helpful and respectful. They are first to offer help in times of need such as sandbagging and help with other flooding problems, forming search parties and firefighting, to name a few. They also make large and regular donations to food banks, soup kitchens and various charities.

As we experience a time of expensive, sporadic, and poor delivery of food items and the encouragement to "buy local" we are fortunate to have this large farm operation in our area.

The Hutterites are humble land-loving people who use the land to sustain themselves. The proposed site of Westfarm Colony Farms is already owned by Greenwald Colony and has been farmed by them for about 20 years, so they are already established in the area and have been using the roads and bridge in question. Greenwald Colony is getting too large, and they need a new start-up. Please give them that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Eloise Chorney

1-204-265-3221

Dr. Joel Ballard  
Innovative Veterinary Services  
627 Plinguet St, Winnipeg MB, R2J 2W9  
334 Park Ave E, Brandon MB, R7A 7A7  
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March 27, 2022

Livestock Technical Review Coordination Unit  
604-800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0N4

Subject: Support for Westfarm Colony Farms (TRC 12-088)

I have been working as a livestock veterinarian with Westfarm Colony Farms for 3 years. I provide professional veterinary services for all of their livestock operations including swine, poultry, and apiculture. Over the past 3 years I have been able to gain an in-depth understanding of how important raising high quality, sustainable, humane, and eco-friendly livestock is to Westfarm Colony Farms.

The reasons described below outline why I am in favour of development:

1. Westfarm Colony Farms is at the forefront of raising livestock using only the most humane methods available. Recently the sow barn underwent a complete major renovation in order to provide the animals with the highest standards of welfare currently available. Legislation is in place to ensure that all sow barns will comply with loose housing gestation by 2029, however Westfarm Colony Farms took it upon themselves to invest in this housing system over 9 years before they were legally required to do so.
2. Westfarm Colony Farms is committed to reducing their environmental impact, as well as raising livestock sustainably. All farming practices at Westfarm Colony Farms come full circle. High quality hogs and poultry are raised using the grain that was grown on the land that was fertilized using hog manure. Cereal grains and crops are pollinated using bees from the apiary. The honey from the bees is used in the kitchen for baking. These eco-friendly practices are the epitome of how farming should be practiced by all.
3. Westfarm Colony Farms is exactly who you want raising livestock that will feed Canadian mouths. As Canadians, sometimes having high quality meat and protein sources can easily be taken for granted. There are no fathomable reasons, be it smell, land values, etc that should prevent Westfarm Colony Farms from raising the highest quality livestock and Livestock products that us as Canadians should be proud of and extremely grateful for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joel Ballard", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Joel Ballard DVM MB license #5371 AB license #3792  
joel.ballard@ivs.ag  
204 451 0936