

Midwest Poultry Ltd.
#120-1777 Clearbrook Rd.
Abbotsford, BC V2T 5X5

To: Manitoba Livestock Technical Review Committee
Department of Municipal and Northern Relations
604-800 Portage Av | Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Public Response– Midwest Poultry Farm Ltd. expansion TRC 12-102 RM of Ritchot

May 9, 2024

We have received copies of the public comments regarding our proposed Midwest Poultry Ltd. (TRC 12-102) expansion in the municipality of Ritchot. We want to assure area residents that we acknowledge and respect their opinions. We would also like to respond to their concerns and comments. As many of the concerns raised were general in nature and not specific to Midwest Poultry Ltd, our response will deal with those concerns relating to Midwest Poultry. It should be noted that none of the neighbours living in close proximity to the farm expressed a concern about the proposed expansion.

Midwest Poultry Ltd Background

What is known today as Midwest Poultry Ltd. has existed on this farm site since the early 1970's and our family has run this operation since 1999. The farm has never been formally expanded and while this is an expansion application process it remains important to recognize the anticipated expansion is simply the result of gradual growth in the chicken business spread over many decades. During the last two and a half decades of our ownership, we have had no complaints regarding the operation of the farm and anticipate that the impact on the surrounding area will not substantially change with the proposed increase in broiler capacity at our farm. We believe we are good stewards of the land and bring good husbandry practices to raising our birds.

Provincial Government requirements for new and expanding farms

Environmental issues that were raised are addressed in detail through a very rigorous approval process in Manitoba. Manitoba livestock producers are required to go through a provincial government approval process for developing or expanding operations. The process includes the preparation of a detailed site assessment, public review and a municipal conditional use hearing prior to receiving a permit to construct the facility. All aspects of the site assessment proposal including municipal siting requirements, manure management and potential environmental impacts are reviewed by the Provincial Government Technical Review Committee.

Manure Storage and Handling

Broiler chickens are raised on straw for bedding, at the end of a production cycle (every 7 weeks) the resulting bedding/manure is immediately transferred under contract to a mushroom production facility where it is composted and used as feed stock in the mushroom production process. The farm is required to complete a manure management plan each year showing where the manure is going. **No** manure is applied to the land surrounding the poultry facility, nor is any manure stored on site. Odours emanating from the farm is extremely limited.

Concerns were expressed about odours. Nearby residents should not experience any increase in odours with the expansion. By today's standards ours will not be a large farm and we will continue to use good farming practices as we have in the past 25 years of operation at this site. The expansion should have no impact on current or future residential property values. As in the past, Midwest Poultry Ltd. is committed to sustainable farming practices.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M Heppell".

Mike Heppell

President,
Midwest Poultry Ltd.