

## **Eaglebrook Farms**

### **Response to Comments posted during Public Review Period**

Eaglebrook Farms 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.

#### **1. MANURE APPLICATION, STORAGE AND ODOR CONTROL MEASURES**

Eaglebrook Farms 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 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). 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. Eaglebrook Farms will work with the MB Environment and Climate Change to ensure the EMS meets all regulatory requirements. Straw bedding is used in our dairy and once it goes into the lagoon it acts as a mat to help mitigate odours. The nearest residence is over 1/2 mile away from lagoon.

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. Eaglebrook Farms 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 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. 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. Eaglebrook has been producing gold standard milk for many years and was nominated dairy farm excellence award in 2019. 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 Eaglebrook Farms 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. When neighbours have talked to us about dust, we have taken multiple paths to fields to mitigate dust when possible. On muddy years, we have put a tractor on the road and scooped mud back to field, sometimes all day, every load. We have not used custom large tankers for over 10 years. We use either drag line hose or our own smaller tankers. To decrease road wear and tear. Eaglebrook Farms also hauls as much solid manure in winter when roads are as frozen as possible and stockpile on fields to reduce spring road usage and summer dust. We have floatation tires on many feed and manure and silage wagons to spread weight as much as possible on roads.

We encourage Eaglebrook Farms to be contacted directly and promptly should issues arise so that specific situations can be addressed as soon as possible.

## **4. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TAXES**

Residential development and agricultural land in the Rural Municipality is addressed through the RM of Hanover's Development Plan, which designates the various land uses throughout the municipality. There has been a cattle/dairy operation on this land for four generations. 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 Hanover and purchase supplies locally from within the RM and surrounding communities.

Eaglebrook has always been a part of the community and willing to help neighbours when called. We have had the pleasure of offering employment to many young people and neighbours over the years. And we will continue to be the best neighbours we can. If issues arise, please stop in and we can address them, and we will accommodate if possible. We have been doing this and will continue to do so for our community. Thank you once again for your engagement and understanding.

Sincerely,

The Klassen Family  
Eaglebrook Farms