Henervic Farms

Presentation to
Clean Environment Commission (CEC)
April 12, Friedensfeld MB
Current Farm

- True Family Farm
  - 4 Brothers
  - 6 Cousins
- 3400 Sow Farrow to Finish
- Ability to finish 60,000 Hogs / Year
- Farm 3650 Acres
- Approximately 8500 AU of Manure

- Explain about yourself
  - High school 2001
  - U of M 2005
- Expand due to family
- Rent is to remain, explain later
Cropping Practices

- Crop rotation
- Try to utilize fertility
- Major increase in SOM due to manure
  - From 3 – 5.5
- Herbicide rotation

- Soil test yearly for crops as well as manure management plan
Livestock Practices

- Participate in Environmental Farm Plan Program
- One of the first farms to start deep soil sampling (1994)
- One of the first farms to inject manure (1997)

- Deeper sampling using SECSO
  1994-2003 (0-10 ft)
- Injected due to variability of nutrients
- We have field mapped in an effort to minimize some of these variations
Lagoon Cover

- One site has a plastic negative pressure cover
- Through EFP will cover the other site
- Cover increases N from 20lb/1000 to 30lb/1000
- Improves our N / P ratio
- Very economically and environmentally friendly.
Other Practices

- Phitaze in the feed
- Sites are very well maintained
- Well mowed
- Conservation of natural bush
Are We Sustainable?

- New manure regulations
  - New land requirements
- Wells located close to barns
  - Well monitoring
- Yields increasing
- Hog production is more efficient
- Utilizing all manure
  - Cost of synthetic fertilizer
- Hoping to be a 4th or 5th generation farm

- New land requirements increase pumping cost almost double from $8,000 to $18,000 on 60 acres.
  - With the new changes from 3x to 1.5x, we were forced to stop an expansion project due to increased land availability. Increase in operating, pumping, and storage costs have made this project unfeasible.
  - Time and energy.
- Impossible to plan. It rules keep changing.

Yields: Conventional wisdom told us that Red River clay didn't lend itself to building commercial phosphorus for yield improvements, now it's building up a problem.
We need to be sure that the regulations are based on science. Do we really know the phosphorus threshold of the soil? Is agriculture actually the major contributor to water quality issues or is it a consolidated target? Is it possible that household products used in urban homes might contribute more to the water quality issues than manure injected into the soil? The farming community is being asked to shoulder more than its fair share of the responsibilities for the environment than our urban neighbors. The consequences of increased regulation to our farm are direct costs to us and it is becoming less likely that we will be able to continue running a profitable farm that we can pass down through the generations. Nobody wants to be sustainable more than us. We are confident we will be sustainable because we drink the water and live on the land and want to leave something to pass down through the years.