



Tour #3 – Central Region

High Ridge Feeders – Ed & Glori Dalke

Location: North of Morden, Manitoba

Contact: High Ridge Feeders, Ed Dalke, RR#1, Box 114, Morden, MB R6M 1V9

Ed and Gloria have been involved in feeding cattle for many years and in 1995 built a new state-of-the-art feedlot. The couple designed the feedlot themselves after much research, having traveled to Alberta to visit many feedlots and consulted with Doug Jackson, Livestock Engineer with Manitoba Agriculture and Food. Temple Grandin's handling design philosophies, which are evident in the layout of the feedlot and handling facilities, also influenced Ed and Gloria's decisions.

High Ridge Feeders' feedlot has a one-time capacity of 2500 head and they generally finish between 3800-4000 head each year. The cropping side of the operation complements the feeding operation. The Dalkes currently crop approximately 1500 acres of land, concentrating mostly on feed crops such as forages, grain corn, silage corn, barley and canola for a cash crop. This year they are also trying faba beans as a potential protein source. Although barley is grown for feed, it fits well as a crop that is harvested early, leaving an adequate window in which to spread the manure generated by the feedlot. The Dalkes maintain a vigilant eye to nutrition/fertility levels in their soils, through a regular program of soil testing.



Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association

The Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association (DSWMA) is a group of 150 local landowners who are committed to the goals of:

- Continued support of “on-farm” soil- and water-conservation demonstrations
- Improving the economic sustainability of the local farm community
- Improving our collective understanding of agriculture’s impact on the environment
- Providing communication and extension activities, based on sound, valid information, to rural and urban communities and school education programs
- Enhancing wildlife habitat and general esthetics through conservation activities

Deerwood was formally established in 1984 and in 1989 became one of 44 Local Organizations of Manitoba producers to control and co-ordinate local conservation program delivery. Deerwood’s members farm within an 875 square kilometre area (342 square miles) along the Manitoba Escarpment in South-central Manitoba. The Deerwood group has shown leadership by integrating conservation activities into individual farm-management plans and by addressing soil- and water-management problems where they originate.

Deerwood’s activities focus on the promotion, demonstration and adoption of conservation measures including:

- Zero and minimum tillage
- Rotational grazing
- Alternative stockwatering methods
- Small dam construction/watershed management
- Gully stabilization
- Grassed waterways
- Capping abandoned wells
- Shelterbelt planting and maintenance
- Soil nutrient management
- Forages on sensitive lands
- Wildlife habitat enhancement

The Association also has had an active school conservation awareness education program.

www.cici.mb.ca/deerwood

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The South Tobacco Creek Project

Working with many partners, the Deerwood Association has been the focus of several small watershed research projects designed to find out what cost effective conservation measure could be undertaken along the Manitoba Escarpment, in South-central Manitoba. Their most important research effort to date is the South Tobacco Creek Project. It is comprehensive and encompasses many smaller, highly focused projects. Researchers are studying water samples taken from:

- Two farm fields at the headwaters of the South Tobacco Creek
- A sampling station on the South Tobacco Creek below the base of the escarpment
- The Red River
- Lake Winnipeg

Researchers hope to gain a greater understanding of the point of origin (or source) of pesticides, nutrients and sediments in the ecosystem, in addition to detailed hydrology research. They are also studying the methods (or process) of movement of these materials as they progress through the ecosystem. The result of the research will be improved knowledge and awareness about how these processes occur. This knowledge and awareness will lead to possible suggestions to improve land use management practices. Common sense and progressive attitudes have helped local residents and project participants implement the results of these research projects. Recently, a site was established within the watershed to monitor the water quality from a field applied with liquid hog manure. The site is a defined small watershed where all runoff water is directed through a sampling system. Collection sites are established at point of runoff as well as further along the runoff path.



Sanalta Farms

Location: Altamont, Manitoba

Contact: Sanalta Farms, Odiel Sanders
Box 39, Altamont, MB R0G 0A0

Sanalta is a layer operation owned by the Sanders families from Altamont, Manitoba. Egg production has been part of the Sanders family's way of life for more than four decades. Prior to the Sanalta facility, the Sanders recognized a need for egg production for the export market. The facility was built with this market in mind.

This facility has 500,000 laying hens, as well as replacement pullet production. The on-site feed mill purchases as much grain as possible from the immediate area. The air quality is of the best in the industry, with tests showing the quality superior to some office buildings. The layer cages were built with bird comfort in mind. The number of cage tiers was limited to five in order to ensure adequate light and proper air dispersion for all birds.

Manure is removed from the barn twice a week and conveyed to the storage facility by totally enclosed stainless steel conveyors. The manure is stockpiled in an insulated concrete structure, then field stored in windrows to later be spread on fields as fertilizer.



Manure Condo Inc.

Contact: Ed Grenier
St. Leon, MB R0G 2E0

Edward Grenier and six other local area hog farmers have decided to share the cost of building a manure storage facility near Altamont. Although all the producers have their own individual manure storage, none are large enough to avoid spreading manure during the winter. From October to April, these producers will now haul to the condo storage while using their own existing storages and spreading the manure on their own land for the rest of the year.

The initial investment for each farmer depends on how much manure they want to store. Maintenance and upkeep is the responsibility of all the investors. The capital investment and maintenance costs are based on the percentage of the tank volume need to store each producer's manure.

The storage tank is a prototype galvanized steel structure called "slurry pool." The structure has a double PVC liner, holds 1.1 million gallons and is supported on 36 nine-foot screw foundation augers. Rosset Machinery Co. Ltd. of Winnipeg is the distributor for slurry pools.



Cottonwood/Sunnydale Hogs

Contact: Cottonwood Pork, Blake Friesen,
42 Brambleforde Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2N 3S3

Sunnydale Hogs is a 6,000-head hog-finishing operation that was built in 1996. The manure is stored in a 575-ft. by 270-ft. two-cell earthen storage. In June 2000, Jeff Siemens and Blake Friesen established Cottonwood Pork; a division of Sunnydale Farm Ltd. located just down the road from the Sunnydale facility. Cottonwood is also a 6,400-head hog-finishing operation. Both operations are located near Sperling, Manitoba.

A lighter gauge negative air pressure (NAP) cover was installed at the Sunnydale site to determine the durability of a lighter material. A NAP cover with an air-assisted agitation system is to be installed at the Cottonwood site. Encon Technologies Inc., which specializes in the design and installation of environmental containment systems for farm, industrial and municipal applications, supplies both covers. Encon also specializes in the design and installation of high-density polyethylene liners for earthen storages, landfills and effluent pools. The company is located in St. Andrews, Manitoba.



For further information on Tour #3, please contact Doug Jackson (Regional Engineer, Manitoba Agriculture and Food) at (204) 239-3364.