

## CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

### Manitoba's Livestock Stewardship Initiative

In March 2000, the Government of Manitoba formally announced its Livestock Stewardship Initiative (LSI) with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of Manitoba's livestock industry. In essence, this means giving consideration to environmental stewardship and social factors as well as to economic viability. In June 2000, the Government of Manitoba, through three provincial departments - Manitoba Agriculture and Food, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs - released the document, *Livestock Stewardship 2000: A Public Discussion Paper*.

The objective of this document was to raise awareness, stimulate thought and focus public discussion. It provided an historical overview, trends influencing the industry, and outlined the existing regulatory and approval process in Manitoba and other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States. It also summarized Manitobans' foremost concerns surrounding livestock industry expansion – specifically, environmental protection, land use planning, quality of life and the vibrancy of the rural economy.

This document was the starting point for public discussions to be conducted by the Livestock Stewardship Panel.

### Livestock Stewardship Panel

The Livestock Stewardship Panel was appointed by the Government of Manitoba on June 7, 2000. Members of the Panel were Nick Carter, John Whitaker, and Ed Tyrchniewicz (Chair).

### Mandate

The Panel was given the following mandate:

- To seek the views of Manitobans on the expansion of the livestock industry in Manitoba, and to present these to government in a report so that government and the public may take these views into consideration for future policy development.
- To hold public meetings in a manner designed to encourage maximum involvement and input from the public. The Panel could engage in both formal and informal discussions with citizens.
- To hear submissions from citizens at the public meetings on issues mentioned in the *Livestock Stewardship 2000 Discussion Paper* and any others that, in the opinion of the Panel, were related to the issues mentioned in the paper. The Panel would also receive written submissions.
- To produce a report and recommendations that were to be based on:
  - information gathered through presentations and written submissions,
  - the Panel's own knowledge and expertise,
  - information provided by departmental staff at the request of the Panel, and
  - other relevant information.
- To present a report with recommendations to the Ministers of Agriculture and Food, Conservation and Intergovernmental Affairs in the fall of 2000.

The Panel was not expected to deal with the operation of meat processing plants, the expansion of Schneider's Winnipeg facility or the location of specific hog barns.

## The Process

After the release of the *Discussion Paper* in June 2000, six public meetings were held in Morden, Arborg, Brandon, Dauphin, Winnipeg and Steinbach between June 29 and August 1. The Panel heard more than 225 presentations totaling over 60 hours from a broad cross-section of people and organizations. In addition, the Panel received approximately another 150 written submissions and additional information pieces. The Panel also attended a series of one-on-one follow-up meetings with key industry, government, and public interest stakeholders to gather further elaboration on points made during public presentations. The Panel wishes to acknowledge the overall quality, sincerity, and thought-provoking nature of presentations and submissions made by those who participated in all aspects of the public consultation process.

After reviewing the material presented in oral and written submissions, the Panel concluded that there was a need for a better scientific understanding of a number of technical issues. Accordingly, four research round tables were convened at the end of August to consider issues relating to water quality, air quality, manure management, and monitoring and information systems. Scientists and practitioners knowledgeable on these matters were invited to meet with the Panel to discuss each of these topics. Dr. Ross Bulley, a noted authority on these matters, served as a scientific advisor to the Panel at these discussions. Dr. Bulley, now retired, is the former Head of the Department of Biosystems Engineering at the University of Manitoba. He is a recognized authority on environmental aspects of livestock production, especially manure management.

In order to gain a better understanding of the state of knowledge and experience in other jurisdictions, the Panel traveled to Ottawa, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta to consult with federal and provincial agencies, university specialists, industry research and development groups, and producer/industry organizations. This was an opportunity to learn about regulatory approaches, and their effectiveness, that had been

implemented elsewhere, as well as to become familiar with new technologies and management practices that might be applicable in Manitoba.

## Organization of the Report

Chapter 2 of this report provides background that is useful in understanding the issues, including the changing structure of Manitoba's agriculture, a perspective on livestock sector development and a historical perspective on livestock and the environment. Chapter 3 outlines some principles for sustainable development. Chapter 4 is a summary of what the Panel heard at the public meetings. Chapters 5 through 9 contain an analysis of the key livestock sustainability issues, specifically: planning and regulatory issues, environmental and health concerns, management issues, socio-economic issues, and information systems and research issues. Chapter 10 is a summary and synthesis of the Panel's conclusions and recommendations.

The report also includes a list of selected references and appendices. Appendix A contains a list of all those individuals who made presentations at the public meetings. Appendix B contains a list of all those individuals and organizations that made written submissions and provided additional information to the Panel. Appendix C lists the participants in the Panel's research round tables. Appendix D lists the various individuals and organizations visited by the Panel outside of Manitoba. Various technical documents prepared for the Panel by Heather Gregory of Pivotal Plus Consulting and Ross Bulley are included in a separate technical report.