Animal Producer’s Viewpoints on Managing the Environment: What the Producer Can Do

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Introduction

• 700 sow herd producing 15,000 pigs/yr
• Gilt multiplier for Premier Swine Breeding Systems
• SEW system (maximum weaning age 18 days)

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Introduction

• Manure from the sow herd stored in a 2-stage anaerobic lagoon system
• Irrigate the second stage onto growing crops with a center pivot
• Manure from grow-finish pigs into a deep pit system; inject manure
• Operate 600 acres of row crops in a no-till production system
Introduction

• To keep pace with population growth, world food supplies must double from 1995 to 2025 (CAST, 1999).
• Over 1 million acres of US farmland is lost to urban development each year (1997-American Farmland Trust).
• During the 90s, Indiana is losing 100,000 acres of farmland per year to development.

Urban-Rural Conflict in IN

Percent of land in farm use:
1940  86%
1974  73%
1992  68%
2020 ?

Indiana Confined Feeding Control Law

• First adopted in 1971 as an approval program with zero discharge requirements.
• Effects producers with 300 hd. cattle, 600 hd swine and sheep, 30,000 hd poultry.
• Since 1993, stricter requirements (MMP) this year, added greater restrictions and adopted rule as a 5 yr. permit program.
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**Challenges in Managing the Environment**

- Separating environmental issues from social issues
- Predicting profitability
- Developing better application equipment
- Understanding global competitive advantages

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**Issues Confronting Producers**

- Air quality and odor regulations
- Defining the phosphorus standard
- Implementing new rules and regulations
- Rules will adversely affect the small operations and drive the industry to more consolidation

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**What a Producer Can Not Do in Managing the Environment**

- Make pigs not stink
- Control the weather
- Replace all existing facilities
- Control the location of new neighbors
What a Producer Can Do to Manage the Environment

- Be a good manager
- Properly select the farm site
- Treat manure as a resource
- Be a good neighbor
- Producers will need to be proactive

Questions ???