

# Village of Rama

2008/10/19

Don Walters  
Spirit Creek Watershed Monitoring Committee

Dear Mr. Walters:

It is hard to believe that it has been 8 years since Big Sky Farms began operations in our area. It is difficult to believe, now, all of the controversy that was stirred up when they first proposed to begin operations.

Fast forward 8 years and Big Sky is a valued member of our community and seen as an important cog in supporting and maintaining our small area and family farms.

The Village of Rama and Area appreciates the unwavering support from Big Sky Farms

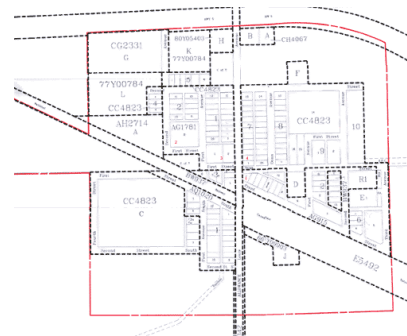
- Their annual Pork Chop Barbecue is an annual hit; with even the most diehard doubter dropping in for supper,
- the donations to help with local fundraisers,
- and the fact that they use local facilities almost exclusively for their training sessions and meetings

provides strong support for our Village.

One of the biggest fears, which never materialized; was the potential issue of air and water pollution. Thanks, to the **Spirit Creek Monitoring Committee**, for carefully watching the situation and providing empirical evidence that there is no water and or air pollution from the production operations.

The hard fact is that new residents to the Village of Rama don't even realize that there are two hog production facilities within approximately 3 miles of them.

There were concerns 8 years ago that our community would begin to dwindle due to the effect of living so close to hog barns, but in



reality the Village has sold almost every available building lot to people looking to move into the area.

One huge advantage for us, having the barns and the feed mill so close, is that there are jobs available locally for new residents.

A few years ago when times for the agricultural community in general were very tough, having available jobs, with benefits and decent rates of pay, we are sure, helped many people stay in the community.

Other benefits for our local farmers include:

- access to inexpensive, long acting, high, quality fertilizer that not only produces great crops but also improves the soil when applied
- Big Sky Farms is a major purchaser of feed grains in our area – providing producers with a local outlet for their product and saving them from having to truck their grain long distances.

This translates into increased profits for local farmers and when farmers have money our businesses and residents prosper.

The Village, in particular, will always be grateful to Big Sky Farms for coming here, as their purchase of our former water supply allowed us to finance our connection to the Canora Rural Public Utility Board Pipeline. Which now provides the residents of Rama with water that has won an award for being the best municipal water in Canada – in short it is really really good.

In closing I would just like to recap that in the larger scheme of things, Big Sky Farms has had a positive influence in our community and I am looking forward to their continuing for many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Darrell Dutchak  
Mayor  
Village of Rama

