

Yankton County Planning Commission
May 22, 2017

The meeting of the Yankton County Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michael Welch at 7:00 p.m. on May 22, 2017.

Members present at call to order: Becker, Welch, Williams, Sylliaasen, Bodenstedt, Gudahl, Kettering, Guthmiller and Klimisch.

Members absent: Pietila and Kretsinger.

The meeting tonight is a continuing education program for the Comprehensive Plan. The guest speaker is Brandi Pravecek, C.N.P. and South Dakota State University professor. Mrs. Pravecek is a resident of rural Scotland and the family farm is grain production and beef / pork production. The Praveceks' have a 2400 head pork finishing barn.

Mrs. Pravecek noticed the economic activity in Sioux County, IA and with research discovered the animal production impact for the local economy was considerable compared to Southeastern South Dakota. The pork barn near SDSU campus is located near the new football stadium and no adverse issues have occurred since its completion.

The family is invested in rural Bon Homme County and became an agriculture activist when misleading statements regarding health issues in agriculture production began to appear in public meetings and publications. The swift negative reaction to proposed pork barns in the county required a more analytical and evidence based research regarding pork operations.

A few issues explored by Mrs. Pravecek were antibiotic resistance and MRSA disease. Mrs. Pravecek stated no evidence of direct Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation impact regarding the claims in various public meetings and publications.

The issue of odor is real and all livestock producers work to mitigate the odor intensity. Many industrial and manufacturing entities have odor issues which need to be monitored and mitigated. Most producers are concerned with the environment and will do any and all activities to protect the environment.

The Praveceks' work very hard to be responsible producers with attention to best agriculture practices and work to mitigate environmental impacts. The decision to build 2400 head pork barn was to improve water quality, capture nutrients and feed local grain. They encourage citizens to make informed decisions based on factual, peer reviewed information.

The meeting was opened to questions. Dan Klimisch stated Dawson Creek in Davison County is polluted according to a report from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The creek is rated very poor quality because of feedlot runoff in the watershed.

Mrs. Pravecek stated this was a major consideration when they went to the "no discharge" system under the DENR rules. She is concerned about any animal production operation and the environmental issues that can result from bad management. Best management practices are very important in modern agriculture.

Biofilters use in pork barns is limited at current time due to cost / benefit factors and design requirements. The barn at SDSU is a biofilter design and is very effective with odor control. The design of the Pravecek barn is a roll-up sides, cross ventilated barn. The design for a biofilter barn is different and more expensive. The methods of odor control in cross ventilated barns is feed management and pit additive products.

Yankton County Planning Commission
May 22, 2017

A discussion about the a health breakout at Maxwell Colony, an Iowa study with incidences of health issues from CAFO's, potential "blue baby" syndrome and possibility of various illness capable of colonizing in areas that have CAFO's. The discussion also stated if exposure to antibiotics in feed is not regulated, antibiotics can create immune discrepancy. Mrs. Pravecek stated many research studies are done regarding the health concerns and the evidence does not support direct relationships to agriculture.

The Planning Commission sincerely appreciates Brandi Pravecek's input.

Action 52217A: Moved by Becker, seconded by Gudahl for adjournment.

By voice vote, all members present voted aye.

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Yankton County Planning Commission will be held at 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:
Patrick Garrity AICP
Zoning Administrator