

Globe and Mail
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Letter to the editor

Response to Environment Prairie 'agripreneurs' battle megafarm waste – Gwyn Morgan

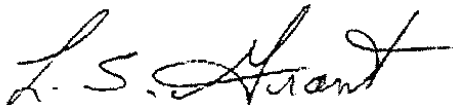
It obviously takes an energy guy to 'sniff' out an energy solution. Agriculture has actually been working on a practical digester for years.

Byproducts from potato and meat processing, hog plants and other cattle feedlots are going into digestors across the country. Challenges of finding investing capital and not being able to easily get connected to the grid have slowed the building of digestors.

Agriculture is continually exploring ways to use byproducts more efficiently. The organic matter in cattle manure holds water in the soil, and provides nutrients. Many cattle producers are composting manure, killing pathogens and weed seeds. Good management practices include not spreading on frozen soils, staying well back from waterways and incorporating soon after spreading. The tragedy in Walkerton was the failure of technology and people. Water treatment plants around the world have changed their procedures to prevent such a reoccurrence.

Mr. Morgan doesn't have to worry that Canadian livestock greenhouse gas byproducts are more than what is produced by the cars. The vast majority of livestock emissions come from developing countries where people are struggling to feed themselves with nary a car in sight. Canadian agriculture is much more efficient than that. Our consumers demand it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. S. Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lynn Grant
Chairman, Environment Committee
Canadian Cattlemen's Association
306-298-2268