

March 18th 2014

As a land owner and producer within the municipal development plan I feel I need to address a few concerns regarding the counties acreage bylaws.

In the past agriculture and country living was a life style and for many it still is today, but as with other industries agriculture is changing, farms are getting larger profit margins are getting narrower and the environmental impact is a growing concern.

With the increasing size in farms field sizes are extremely important in being efficient and in keeping our farms sustainable. I dare say that there isn't a single sustainable farm under 300 acres and the only way you could be sustainable with 300 acres would be by growing specialty crops like vegetables or something, to the best of my knowledge these crops make up a very small portion of our total crops, the big crops are canola, wheat, barley, oats and peas, there is no way it is feasible to grow any of these crops on an acreage scale.

The main concern for me is the environmental aspect. With the agriculture industry being the biggest consumer of chemicals of any industry and the increasing awareness of food safety and chemical exposure I feel its important that we keep these concerns at the forefront when dealing with acreages. We don't see people building houses in a sawmill yard or on an oilfield lease, to me this is what its like putting a house in the middle of a grain field.

Having said all this I totally support acreage living but I feel we need to take a more organized approach I don't think subdividing and acreage or two off every farm quarter is the right approach. My suggestion is we take a section that already has acreages off of each quarter, zone that section residential and let them subdivide them totally, than change the bylaws for agriculture zoned property to prevent residences from being built where equipment interference and chemical exposure are a possibility. This approach would also make other luxuries more cost effective like the rural water project, or our school buses, as well as our internet and phone systems.

I have traveled in Europe and Asia where I have seen first hand the impact this could have on our future as an exporting country, lets face reality, plan ahead and keep future generations fed locally and Canada on the exporting side.

Jay Krahn

