The Future of Sustainable Poultry Farming

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Turning a growing problem into useful Agri-products:
- Currently applied to the land in raw form
- While a good source of nitrogen it is also high in phosphates, which are a growing issue across BC
Anaerobic Digestion can solve several common issues with Poultry manure

- A well-established technology that has proven effective in many Canadian jurisdictions for other livestock producers
- Poultry wastes can be incorporated into Dairy or Hog farm-based digester systems with the proper loading schedule
- Poultry only digesters, or systems with the majority of inputs from poultry are also feasible, but require pre-processing of the poultry material to reduce ammonia
Issues and Opportunities in the Poultry Industry

- A common issue for poultry farming throughout Canada is lack of usable land to dispose of waste.

- This effect is even more acutely felt in BC with so little arable land.

- Innovative technologies and better practices are the only way to sustainably grow the poultry industry in BC without having major environmental impacts.
A Case of Before…

- Poultry Farmers in British Columbia have traditionally relied on outlets for their material within the ancillary agricultural industries.

- With other livestock operations growing, poultry manure becomes prohibitively burdensome on the land and other, more tailored fertilizers are required.
And After…

- Poultry manure won’t be land applied in such heavy quantities in the future without pre-treatment

- New biological and chemical systems are required to convert the caustic raw material into more useable forms
- By incorporating poultry waste, systems will be able to produce a wider range of useful agri-products for farmers in BC as well as being able to export nutrients throughout Canada or abroad.

- Poultry manure and wastes have inherent value for the producers and only by sustainable exploiting that resource can farmers continue to grow their operations.
Development Roadblocks

- Significant bureaucratic hurdles to innovative developments within the ALR
- Lack of support from regulatory agencies
- Misunderstanding of the industry and the newly available technologies
- Major time and capital required to pass through the bureaucratic mire prevent smaller operations from innovating
Figure 3. Flowchart of the Regulatory Approval Process
The Future…

- Fortunately BC is full of forward thinking Farmers and Agri-Businesspeople

- Although early adopters will face the initial challenges, they will pave the way for BC farming to not only remain sustainable, but grow substantially into the next generation
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