

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
Acting Commissioner

November 8, 2007

Lou-Ann Clement, C.H.O.
Director of Public Health
Tewksbury Board of Health
999 Whipple Road
Tewksbury, MA 01876

NOV 13 2007

Dear Ms. Clement,

It was good meeting you yesterday at Krochmal Farm.

As I said yesterday, DAR has no authority over this farm outside of animal health issues. We have no authority on which to take action based on odor complaints. Our role in this is strictly advisory.

Bill Blanchard of DAR has been involved in Krochmal Farm issues as a result of a request from Marilyn Curran of Representative Miceli's office. To that end he has been investigating complaints of odors related to Krochmal Farms and BMC Composting, which operates under lease on Krochmal property in Wilmington. At a meeting with the BOH and Rep. Miceli's staff, Bill agreed to monitor odors related to neighbor complaints. His main purpose was to ensure that BMC compost site, where DAR does have some authority, was not responsible for the odors. Bill, during his visits, was unable to confirm the presence of odors in the surrounding neighborhoods.

I attended yesterday at the request of Pam Gorrasi of your staff. She asked that DAR provide input on whether the farm is following *standard agricultural practices*. I will provide you with a brief report on my agency's assessment of this issue within the next two weeks. I also brought along two members of my DAR who I thought might be helpful to the situation:

- Gerald Palano – Gerry oversees our farm energy program. Manure digesters are being used successfully in many states to create electricity or heat. They essentially use methane coming from manure as a source of energy. This has the added bonus of reducing odors associated with the methane. My understanding from Gerry is that he will be exploring this option further with the farmers and some engineers from Vermont who have some experience in this area.
- Gerard Kennedy – Gerard oversees the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP). AEEP provides funding to farmers who need to make infrastructure improvements to farms that would protect the environment. This might include cost-share to help with a manure digester.

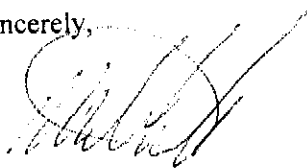
Aside from our assessment relative to *standard agricultural practices*, DAR is happy to continue to provide technical advise on this matter, to the best of our ability. Among our efforts, we will be providing a meteorological

assessment of this location and it's susceptibility to thermal inversions. This information may prove useful as it can help to identify time periods when "high odor" activities on the farm should be avoided.

I understand that you are forming a "Piggery Task Force" and that my name is included on the list. We are happy to provide advice and opinion on this farm to the Board of Health upon request. However if I am to serve on a formal committee at the municipal level, I request that a formal invitation be sent to our agency through the Commissioner's office that provides greater detail regarding the intent, membership, expectations and responsibilities of the Task Force's members.

I look forward to working with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Mitchell", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Brad Mitchell
Director, Division of Biosecurity and Regulatory Services

CC:
Representative Miceli
Scott Soares, DAR Acting-Commissioner