

January 25, 2012

Lea Ann E. Seiler, CPM

Hodgeman County Economic Development Director

PO Box 121

Jetmore, KS 67854

620-357-8831 (o) 620-357-5561 (c)

Recently I had the opportunity to visit Thompson Farms in Broken Bow, NE. Thompson Farms has a partnership with PIC, a subsidiary of Genus International. PIC is the North American Pig Improvement Company – a Swine Genetics Development Company. Although they don't fall under the Kansas definition of Corporate Hog Farm...or the regulations of such, I was invited here this morning to share my findings with you as you discuss the opportunities for diversified Agriculture in Kansas.

Overview of my quick-trip:

- I arrived early and visited with members of the community.
- BIO-Security and Animal Health were the prime concerns of those at Thompson Farms
- Cleanliness/Odor Control/Utilization of Technology
- Negative comments

Hodgeman County was very serious about Murphy Family Farms in the early 90's. Things went South/County Commissioners were sued/very contentious atmosphere.

Hodgeman County has a current total county valuation of \$38,237,279. We have 864 square miles and a population of under 2000 people. This means that we are challenged to provide all the services that a County provides...with a very limited budget. We have had the second highest mill levy in the State (although I have not checked lately). This needs to change if we are going to remain viable.

Hodgeman County may be uniquely suited for a swine multiplier unit...for the same reasons that we are often overlooked for other opportunities:

- Distance from Interstate Highways
- Isolation and low population
- Strong Agricultural Base and Workforce

RJ Thompson's story of Broken Bow's "phoenix"

The cost of lost opportunities is difficult to determine...but I believe that we need to look at all of our opportunities. There is no one-size fits all – but Counties/Communities need to be able to look at these opportunities to see where they might fit.

I appreciate the opportunity to visit with you today.

House Ag. & Natural Resources
January 25, 2012
Attachment 5