



Rolf Penner

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Rolf is a 41 year old, third generation farmer from Morris, Manitoba who is running a well diversified operation of 1900 acres of land and a 2000 head feeder finishing hog barn. He also has a 20% share in two other similar barns with some neighbors. Rolf is married with three young children and runs the farm together with his father.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba's Agricultural Diploma program in 1988, Rolf's main source of income has always been farming. In the past he has been an elected delegate for Manitoba Pork and for many years did agricultural policy research work for the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, a Winnipeg-based thinktank. Rolf has also represented farmers interests on various committees throughout the years. Currently he is the Manitoba Vice President of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

Rolf's hands-on experience, education and communication skills make him a natural choice for working on today's critical farm issues. He is a prolific writer who has won awards from Manitoba Pork and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association. His writing on agriculture has been published in the National Post, Winnipeg Free Press, Calgary Herald, Saskatoon Star Phoenix, Regina Leader Post, The Southeast Agri Post, as well as other publications. Last year he was asked by the federal government to make the case for marketing choice in the information package which accompanied the barley plebiscite ballot. He is also a contributing editor to the SiemensSays weblog and a regular radio commentator on CJOB Winnipeg.

Rolf is not afraid to speak his mind when it comes to agriculture and is a firm believer in the power of free markets, free enterprise and the entrepreneurial spirit to improve the fortunes of farmers. He once said: "When I look around me, the first thing I see on the prairies is this incredible amount of potential - we have all this land, all this space, all these great hard working people. But there's a problem, we have all sorts of road blocks that keep getting in our way again, again and again. It's high time we get rid of those road blocks so we can finally live up to our full potential instead of continually watching the world pass us by."

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