Aeration Key

(Continued from Page 8)

"With a management company, we have access to veterinary resources, nutrition resources, environmental permitting and all of those types of things," said Reed. "A big benefit is if they need a nutrient management plan, one will be written for them."

Even with the positive measures that have been undertaken, Country View Family Farms and Hostetter Management still are victims of public perception.

"I think that what we are the victim of right now — and this is my own personal opinion — is the Internet," said Reed.

"You can put anything you want on the Internet. I go to these meetings and I hear doctors and lawyers quoting things from the Internet that aren't even right. What's on the internet sells on emotion."

"Agriculture is being driven to get bigger, and we can argue the good and bad of that, but it's just the economic facts," said Frame. "I always come back to anyone who says that farms have gotten too big and that we need to go back to the old days by saying, where are the people who will have all the small farms and try to make a living?"

They also hear the argument that people should

support local farms and butcher shops and, Reed agrees, for rural residents, it is possible to travel to a local butcher shop to purchase meats.

"What they're forgetting that there's a New York City and a Philadelphia and a Washington DC and those people want to buy meat and eggs too and they can't drive up here to get it," she said.

Both Reed and Frame agree that all the arguments will never be won, however, they are confident that they are doing all they can to help alleviate the concerns of the public.

"We're spending the majority of our time on research, quantifying and looking for things to do better and be better neighbors and to address the community's concerns. We realize that there are some people who just don't want a poultry barn or a pig barn and we'll never appease them.

There are also some people who would just like it to not smell as much and if there are things that we can do like this, we'll do it. Every day society is getting smarter, research is getting better, technology is changing and there are new things being invented.

"We just want people to allow us to get smarter. To do the research and find what works," said. Reed.

