

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

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In the Matter of

Agency File: E2007-041

LEWIS FAMILY FARM, INC.,

Respondent.

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**AFFIDAVIT OF KLAAS MARTENS**

State of New York    )  
                                  ) ss.:  
County of Yates        )

Klaas Martens, being sworn, deposes and says:

1. I live at 1443 Ridge Road, Penn Yan New York. I have been a certified organic farmer for 14 years and grow 1400 acres of grains, beans, vegetables and seed crops.

2. In addition to my work as an organic farmer, I also work as a professional consultant to organic farmers across the country, and have done so for the last ten years. I speak regularly at conferences on organic farming and both my wife, Mary-Howell Martens and myself have written many published articles on organic farming. We work closely with many university researchers and have authored several research papers ourselves.

3. As part of my work as an organic farmer and professional consultant, I have had the opportunity to meet Sandy and Barbara Lewis, and familiarize myself with their farm, the Lewis Family Farm, Inc. ("Lewis Farm"). I have visited and toured the

Lewis Farm on several occasions and am quite familiar with its business and agricultural practices.

4. I believe that Lewis Farm is the most modern and innovative organic farm in New York State, and is a national leader in organic farming.

5. Lewis farm has implemented extensive conservation practices including contour farming, strip cropping, diversion terraces, extensive subsurface drainage, sod waterways, and rock surfaced field roadways that protect and greatly improve the quality of the watersheds that it drains into.

6. They have cleaned up the roadsides and farmsteads on their property making the area far more attractive. They have constructed well built attractive new farm buildings on their property and keep them in excellent condition.

7. Lewis farm has invested heavily in the world's most advanced organic agricultural technology. They employ the most up to date agronomic practices and produce very high yields of excellent quality organic crops.

8. Many organic farmers benefit greatly from the Lewis Farm's presence. Many of the superior practices and machinery that were first employed at Lewis Farm have been adopted by other organic farmers all over the United States and are now common practice on the best operations.

9. Lewis Farm is unique among large organic farms in it's rapid and successful conversion to organic management and adoption of the newest technology.

10. I and other organic farmers have benefited by having the Lewis Farm in New York State because it serves the valuable role of showing other organic farms how to properly implement and use new technology and practices.

11. Due to the complexities of organic farming, any successful organic farm requires skilled professional employees that produce crops and animal products that will meet strict organic standards.

12. Such employees need to be housed onsite so that they can properly monitor and survey the farm and provide around-the-clock surveillance. Due to their high levels of education and training, such employees require proper onsite housing.

13. The Lewis Family Farm faces these same demands and pressures, and has undertaken an ambitious plan to renovate its onsite housing by tearing down all of the old housing and replacing it with new housing.

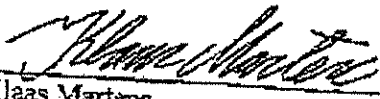
14. The new employee housing on the Lewis Family Farm is essential and vital for the continued success of the Lewis Family Farm because without, it is unlikely that the Lewis Family Farm will be able to recruit and retain employees with the requisite level of education and training needed to maintain the high standards to which the Lewis Family Farm aspires.

15. The Lewis Family Farm's need for highly educated and well trained employees is even more acute than that of other organic farms because the Lewis Family Farm, due to the resources that the Lewises have dedicated to it, is on the leading edge of agricultural practices and technology.

16. In my experience, on-farm employee housing is a sound agricultural practice and a foundation stone of a self-sustaining farm.


17. I understand that if the APA is successful in imposing its large and unfair fines on Lewis Farm that it will force them into bankruptcy. That would be a tragic loss both to the Adirondack Park and to the many organic farmers in this country who benefit

from the advanced knowledge and organic practices that the Lewis Farm demonstrates and generously shares with other farmers.

  
Klaas Martens

STATE OF NEW YORK            )  
  ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF Yates         )

On the 17 day of January in the year 2008, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said state, personally appeared Klaas Martens, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same in her capacity, and that by her signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

  
Notary Public     Kate H. Decker  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Reg. No. 01DE6141307  
Qualified in Yates County  
Commission Expires May 15, 20 10