Reviewer's report

Title: The association between farming activities, precipitation, and the risk of acute gastrointestinal illness in rural municipalities of Quebec, Canada: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 25 September 2009

Reviewer: Michael Bisesi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Case Definition states "three or more loose stools w/in 24 hr" which although same as reported results stating "more than two . . . ", reviewer recommends stating the criterion one of two ways, but not both to minimize potential confusion.
2. Consider looking at data among group aged 12 yr and above to determine if conclusion is the same. It appears from table that many of the cases were among very young who may more likely engage in practices such as pica. This group is possibly directly exposed to AGI pathogens unrelated to amount of precipitation. This may be a limitation.
3. Carefully review to identify and correct the spelling errors throughout the manuscript(e.g. p. 20 "signification")

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'