

## Agricultural Plastics Recycling

Wondering what to do with that mound of plastic grain bags in the field or that pile of twine and bale wrap by the barn? The opportunities for recycling these agricultural plastics are early in development but growing in popularity. There are some pilot projects going on across Western Canada through CleanFARMS, such as Alberta with silage plastic. Some products that can be recycled here in Manitoba are: plastic grain bags, plastic twine, bale wrap and pesticide containers.

**Grain Bags:** They should be tightly rolled using a grain bag roller and bundled securely with twine. Grain bags must be kept as clean as possible to prevent rainwater infiltration and dirt/gravel contamination. They should never be moved with a bucket. Use a grapple or forks to prevent dirt contamination. There is a grain bag roller available in a select few locations in Manitoba, call 877-622-4462 to find out if a grain bag roller is available in your area.



**Silage Plastic/Bale Wrap/Twine:** must be clean in order to be recycled (less than 8% contamination is recommended). Only plastic twine and bale wrap can be recycled at this point in time; other materials such as net wrap and natural fibre twine such as burlap or carbon based twine cannot be recycled yet. It should be collected in plastic or mini bulk bags that are UV protected with minimum of 5mm thickness to prevent deterioration during storage. Bags should be tied securely to prevent contamination from rainwater or dirt. These bags are available through your local collection site or select MAFRD offices. The twine and bale wrap is forwarded onto a facility to be baled before shipping to the recycler in order to maximize truck weight.

**Pesticide Containers:** can be recycled at collection sites across the province as well. Containers 23 litres and smaller can be recycled through the CleanFARMS program. Go to [www.cleanFARMS.ca](http://www.cleanFARMS.ca) for more details and your local collection sites. Remember; Rinse, Remove and Return. All containers must be triple rinsed or pressure rinsed, caps and booklets removed from the containers and returned for recycling. Larger containers must be recycled through the retailer where they were purchased.

Manitoba will be hosting a series of blitz collections in March 2015 and October 2015. Locations and dates are posted at [www.cleanFARMS.ca](http://www.cleanFARMS.ca).

Here are some points to keep in mind to ensure your products can be recycled:

- Minimize contamination through proper on-farm handling. Heavily contaminated materials cannot be recycled.
- Control pests to maximize recycling end markets. Pests can cause serious issues for material import/export and transportation.
- Improve site logistics for fast, clean material drop off and pick up. Adequate space and a conveniently set-up yard will help keep the site clean and organized minimizing material handling.

Let's protect our environment by doing our part to keep these products out of landfills and prevent burning and burying! Contact your local MAFRD office, Rural Municipality or CleanFARMS for more details to get started today!

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