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Welcome to the first edition of *CleanFARMS Forum*, our quarterly newsletter aimed at ensuring that our partners and farmers are aware of the full suite of stewardship programs CleanFARMS provides.

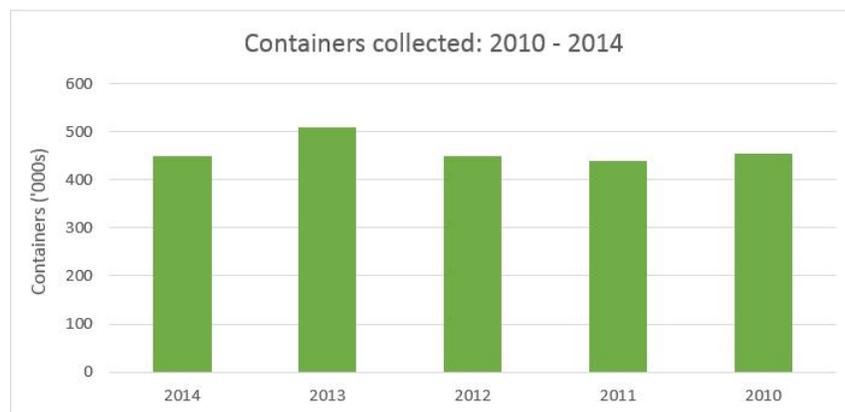
Tune in for the latest news: May 20, 2015 @ 3pm

CleanFARMS is holding its inaugural *CleanFARMS Forum* webinar on May 20th at 3pm EDT. Join us for an overview of how our programs operate in various jurisdictions and our priorities for 2015. This will also give you the opportunity to share your thoughts and questions.

Click [here](#) for more details & RSVP to [Lydia Skrt](#).

Empty commercial pesticide and fertilizer container recycling

This program helps farmers recycle empty commercial pesticide and fertilizer containers into valuable new products like farm draining tile. Here is a look at our collection totals for the last five years:



CleanFARMS and its 1,000 collection partners collected over 1.7 million kilograms of <23 litre containers, or approximately 4.5 million containers in 2014. Collection totals were down slightly in 2014, which may be an indication that some of last year's containers may be returned in early spring.

Keeping this volume of plastic out of landfills helps municipalities with waste diversion and extends the life of landfills.

The energy savings from this type of program are also quite significant. Creating (new) plastic requires the use of crude oil and fortunately, this initiative reduces oil consumption. Since the

program launched in 1989, over 100 million containers have been recycled which equates to a savings of 500,000 barrels of crude oil.

What's in store for 2015?

- An online service request system is now available in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. This provides a one-stop portal for all service requests and better quality assurance.
- CleanFARMS will be working with Alberta retailers to streamline the collection of single-use, one-way bulk containers by providing a single contact point and service provider.
- CleanFARMS is working with several collection sites in Alberta to pilot the use of a tool, the Jet Rinse, to make the rinsing process more convenient for growers using <23L containers.
- Education and promotion tools have been refreshed and are available [here](#).

Obsolete pesticide and equine/livestock medication collections

CleanFARMS collects and safely disposes of obsolete or otherwise unwanted agricultural pesticides and equine/livestock medications. The program offers farmers an environmentally responsible way to dispose of old or unwanted product and is usually delivered in each province once every three years.

2014 collection data is now available:

Region	Volume collected (kilograms)	
	Pesticide	Equine/livestock medication
British Columbia (Vancouver Island & Fraser Valley)	19,791	156
Saskatchewan (southern half)	93,935	540
Quebec	77,105	4,005
Prince Edward Island	33,000	350
Total	223,831	5,051

This brings the total amount of obsolete pesticides collected and safely destroyed to over 2 million kilograms since the program was launched in 1998.

2015 programs:

The obsolete collection program will be operating in British Columbia (Okanagan Valley, Kootenay Valley and Interior Region), southern Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Empty seed & pesticide bag collections

CleanFARMS has operated an empty pesticide bag collection program in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island since 2006. Starting in 2014, this program was expanded to include seed bags and made available to farmers in select regions of Ontario and Quebec. Bags collected through this program are kept out of landfills and disposed of through waste-to-energy.

Farmers in southwestern Ontario and the Montérégie region of Quebec disposed of approximately 162,000 empty seed and pesticide bags last year.

In Atlantic Canada, farmers disposed of 35,000 empty bags in 2014 bringing the total volume collected in the region up to 274,000 bags.

What's happening next?

- Expanded collections will be available in Ontario and Quebec. To learn more about becoming a collection site, please click [here](#).
- We are pleased to welcome seed dealers, in addition to ag retailers, as collection partners which allows us to extend additional collection options to farmers.
- Click [here](#) to help us promote this new, but very important program.

Interesting links: partner resources & more

- Views from leaders of Canada's plant science industry - [CropLife Canada's blog series](#)
- Interested in learning more about recycling initiatives in Western Canada? Check out these resources:
 - [Recycling Council of British Columbia](#)
 - [Recycling Council of Alberta](#)
 - [Recycle Saskatchewan](#) & [Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council](#)
 - [Green Manitoba's recycling hub](#)

Let's talk about good on-farm

stewardship! Farmers are some of the most environmentally conscious people around, and we want everyone to know it. Help us share their good stories.

[Nominations open soon!](#)



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