

AG STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Annual
Report
2015



CleanFARMS®

OUR MEMBERS



Mission

Enable environmental sustainability through effective stewardship of waste agricultural plastics and packaging.

Who we are

CleanFARMS is a non-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility through the proper management of agricultural waste. CleanFARMS' programs manage agricultural waste from farms across Canada and have been emulated internationally. The success of these programs highlight the commitment of farmers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, municipalities and provinces to agricultural environmental responsibility.

Vision

To be the leading Canadian stewardship organization for recycling agricultural plastics and packaging.

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adopting sustainability practices adds an extra challenge to the complex challenges facing today's farmers. At CleanFARMS, we understand that, but we also know that farmers willingly participate in our programs because they contribute to a healthier environment, are socially responsible, and create opportunities for economic prosperity that are at the core of farming best practices. CleanFARMS is committed to adapting and responding to a growing, shifting industry to embody ag stewardship in action.

Ag stewardship in action is the philosophy that guides CleanFARMS. This principle motivates us to adapt our programming to meet the changing needs of farmers across Canada. We are continually adding new ways to responsibly manage ag waste.

CleanFARMS originally started as a program exclusively for pesticide containers, but has evolved to address new opportunities for farm recycling. The program's first expansion was in 2013 to include fertilizer containers.

Year after year, our programming continues to provide avenues for farmers to recycle waste packaging such as empty pesticide and fertilizer containers, and seed and pesticide bags for proper end-of-life management. Last year, we partnered with the Canadian Animal Health Institute to bring livestock and equine medication collection to meet the new demand for safe disposal.

CleanFARMS' empty container recycling program ensures that empty plastic containers are recycled into new products like drainage tile for use back on the farm. By collecting thousands of kilograms of obsolete pesticides and livestock medications we continue to ensure these products are managed responsibly.

Ag stewardship in action was behind our decision to introduce the seed and pesticide bag collection program. Collection totals of over 150,000 kilograms of material collected thus far has exceeded our expectations.

In 2015, farmers in Alberta had a brand-new way to recycle non-refillable bulk pesticide containers. In Manitoba, another pilot project gave farmers a responsible way to recycle twine and plastic film. CleanFARMS established these programs to tackle changing practices on the farm.

Despite the fact that agricultural stewardship is 30 years old, CleanFARMS is creating new opportunities to develop innovative programs and keep up with change in the industry. We are proud of our ability to match the desire of Canadian farmers to protect the environment by creating successful, high-demand pilot projects. This partnership between industry and farmers exemplifies agricultural stewardship in action.

Providing farmers with convenient programs that adapt and grow with Canada's changing agriculture sector is our priority. We're proud that CleanFARMS programs are among some of the most successful voluntary stewardship programs in the world.

We look forward to working together to achieve new sustainability goals in 2016.



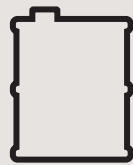
Barry Friesen, P.Eng
General manager
CleanFARMS Inc.



Brad Orr, CEO, Dow AgroSciences
Chair
CleanFARMS board of directors



2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



Nearly
2.5 MILLION KG
of pesticides collected since
the program's inception in 1998



Hosted the GREAT ONTARIO CLEAN FARMS CHALLENGE

PROFILED THREE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY FARMERS



4.66 MILLION empty pesticide and fertilizer containers returned

- Over 60% of the total amount of containers sold

Over 6,500 non-refillable bulk containers

were collected in Alberta

213,049 KG of obsolete pesticides returned

- BC – 27,672 kg
- AB – 70,737 kg
- SK – 89,832 kg
- NB – 15,019 kg
- NS – 9,789 kg

4,435 KG of livestock and equine medications

- BC – 349 kg
- AB – 2,162 kg
- SK – 1,289 kg
- NB – 330 kg
- NS – 305 kg




566,613 EMPTY seed and pesticide bags returned

- Goal exceeded by 55%



AWARDED the Mobius Award of Environmental Excellence

IN THE COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT CATEGORY
FROM RRFB NOVA SCOTIA



“CleanFARMS’ innovative programming ensures that seed packaging is responsibly managed, adding to our seed companies’ commitment to full life cycle stewardship.”

Crosby Devitt,

*Executive director,
Canadian Seed
Trade Association*

COLLECTION PROGRAMS



RINSE

TRIPLE OR
PRESSURE **RINSE**



REMOVE

CAPS AND BOOKLET



RETURN

TO YOUR LOCAL
COLLECTION SITE

EMPTY CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM

This award-winning program, which operates across Canada, is run by CleanFARMS in partnership with agricultural retailers and municipalities to collect and recycle empty pesticide and fertilizer containers from the agricultural community.

Farmers triple or pressure rinse their containers, remove the cap and paper booklets and then return the containers to one of the collection sites. All plastic collected through the container management program is shredded and sent to an approved end-use recycler for processing. The majority of plastic being recycled gets turned into drainage tile to be used again on the farm.

The empty container recycling program plays an important role in protecting the environment by keeping recyclable materials out of landfills and preventing them from being burned.

In 2015, 4.66 million empty pesticide and fertilizer containers (23 litres and less) were collected and responsibly recycled.

Environment, health, and safety are very important to CleanFARMS. The operations of all service providers and recyclers are reviewed each year to ensure they are operating to industry standards.



4.66 MILLION

empty pesticide and fertilizer containers
(23 litres and less) were **collected and
responsibly recycled**.

PROVINCE	KGS.	ESTIMATED CONTAINERS COLLECTED	COLLECTION SITES
BC	34,111	94,001	21
AB	522,191	1,398,660	146
SK	654,630	1,753,582	379
MB	211,255	517,480	111
ON	217,351	544,514	172
QC	89,177	194,653	90
ATL	46,335	152,463	33
Total	1,775,050	4,655,143	952

Over 60 per cent of the total amount of containers sold into the marketplace were returned through the program which represented 1,775,050 kilograms of plastic in 2015.

CleanFARMS also helps manage shredded plastic from containers over 23 litres in size when they reach the end of their lifespan. In 2015, 477,671 kilograms of plastic was recycled through this program.

Until recently, manufacturers were responsible for collecting all of these large containers. However, responsibilities for the large containers weren't always clear. Recognizing the changing needs of farmers, CleanFARMS responded with a pilot project to collect all single-use containers over 23 litres in Alberta.

Over 6,500 non-refillable containers over 23 litres in size were collected through this Alberta-wide collection program in 2015. This program is expected to expand to Saskatchewan and Manitoba in 2016.

OBSOLETE PESTICIDE AND LIVESTOCK MEDICATION COLLECTION PROGRAM

COLLECTION TOTALS

returned
OBSOLETE &
UNWANTED
PESTICIDES



returned
LIVESTOCK &
EQUINE
MEDICATIONS

B.C.

turned in
27,672 KILOGRAMS
of obsolete and
unwanted pesticides,
and
349 KILOGRAMS
of livestock and
equine medications

Alberta

(southern half) returned
70,737 KILOGRAMS
of obsolete and
unwanted pesticides
and
2,162 KILOGRAMS
of livestock and
equine medications

Sask.

(northern half) returned
89,832 KILOGRAMS
of obsolete and
unwanted pesticides
and
1,289 KILOGRAMS
of livestock and
equine medications

New Brunswick

returned **15,019 KILOGRAMS**
of obsolete and unwanted
pesticides and
330 KILOGRAMS of livestock
and equine medications

Nova Scotia

returned **9,789 KILOGRAMS**
of obsolete and unwanted
pesticides and
305 KILOGRAMS of livestock
and equine medications



213,049 KG

of **obsolete pesticides** and

4,435 KG

of livestock and equine medications
were **collected and safely destroyed**

CleanFARMS collects and safely disposes of expired or unused agricultural pesticides. To ensure that all Canadian farmers have the opportunity to participate in this program, collections rotate across the country with each province typically covered by a collection at least every three years.

In 2014, the CleanFARMS obsolete collection program was extended to include the collection of livestock medication, in partnership with the Canadian Animal Health Institute. This year was the first time livestock and equine medication were collected with obsolete pesticides in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Alberta.

In total, 213,049 kilograms of obsolete pesticides and 4,435 kilograms of livestock and equine medications were collected and safely destroyed in 2015. Nearly two and a half million kilograms of pesticides have been collected and safely disposed since the program was first delivered by CropLife Canada in 1998.



British Columbia

Collections took place at 10 ag-retail and municipal sites in the Okanagan, Kootenay and Interior regions of the province. CleanFARMS partnered with the British Columbia Agricultural Council, and the federal and provincial governments to help communicate the program to growers.



Alberta

Collections took place at 20 ag-retail locations in the southern half of the province and partnered with several crop, livestock, and producer associations, along with the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks to help promote the program to growers.



Saskatchewan

Collections took place at 20 ag-retail locations in the northern half of the province. CleanFARMS partnered with several crop and livestock producer associations to help promote the program to growers.



New Brunswick

Collections took place at 12 ag-retail locations province wide. CleanFARMS partnered with the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick and the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries to help promote the program.



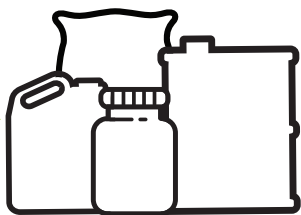
Nova Scotia

Collections took place at 11 ag-retail locations province-wide. CleanFARMS partnered with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Nova Scotia Environment to help promote the program.

Fall 2016 collections will be held in Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland, as well as in the northern half of Alberta and in British Columbia's Peace Region.

EMPTY SEED AND PESTICIDE BAG PROGRAM

PROVINCE	KGS.	ESTIMATED BAGS COLLECTED
ON	81,000	300,000
QC	62,000	229,629
NB	700	1,982
NS	350	1,521
PEI	11,450	33,481
Total	155,500	566,613



155,000 KG

of material was collected,
exceeding the goal by 55 per cent.

CleanFARMS has, for the past three years, operated a pilot collection program for empty seed and pesticide bags in eastern Canada. The program has collected bags in a range of sizes and materials. Pleased with the success of the pilot program, CleanFARMS is now preparing to transition this into an industry-funded program in 2016 for Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. Responding to demand from the changing agriculture industry is an important part of CleanFARMS' stewardship responsibility.

In 2015 the goal for the pilot was to recover 100,000 kilograms of bags. Thanks to exceptional farmer and retailer participation, 155,000 kilograms of material was collected, exceeding the goal by 55 per cent.

While the program was delivered by CleanFARMS, additional support and funding for the pilot project was provided by CropLife Canada, the Canadian Seed Trade Association, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs under the *Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health*.

The success of the pilot project demonstrates farmers' interest and need for a bag recycling program. CleanFARMS is proud to accommodate growing areas of demand to better meet the needs of Canadian growers who are committed to managing farm waste responsibly.



Manitoba project

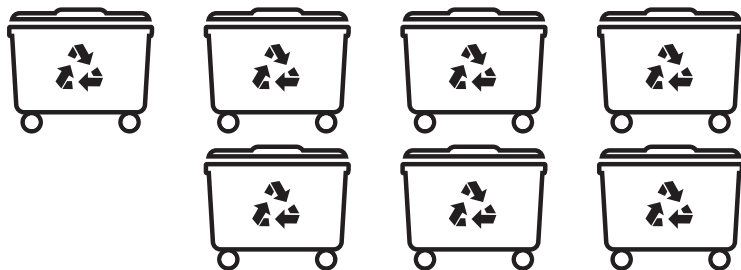
CleanFARMS was granted funding to collect bale and silage wrap, grain bags and twine in Manitoba in 2015 by Green Manitoba, an agency of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. This is another example of CleanFARMS' commitment to respond to changes in agriculture—farmers now have a responsible way to recycle ag film and twine, which is a significant source of plastic in agriculture.


This pilot program was well-received in 2013 and 2014, and was expanded this year to continue to evaluate the challenges of collecting film and twine in Manitoba. In 2015 the program collected more than 10,000 kilograms of ag plastic from seven collection sites across the province.

Being involved in pilot projects gives CleanFARMS a unique perspective on the best practices and challenges of running a new program. In the event that CleanFARMS is asked by the film and twine industries to establish a program on their behalf, CleanFARMS will have a lot of the initial groundwork complete, expediting the process of establishing a permanent program.



the program collected more than **10,000 KG** of ag plastic from seven collection sites across the province.



A man wearing a blue protective suit, a black cap, and safety glasses is handling a large white bag. He is standing next to a green metal container. The background shows a green field and a blue sky. The image is partially covered by a large teal triangle on the left side.

“Our industry is proud to be a leader in proper life cycle stewardship of its products. CleanFARMS programs are crucial to fulfilling this commitment.”

Ted Menzies,

*President and CEO,
CropLife Canada*

REGULATORY WATCH



MANITOBA

In Manitoba, the container collection program is regulated under the province's *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation*. The five-year program plan approved by the province is approaching the end of its term. In late 2015 CleanFARMS began the process to renew the provincial program plan, which has expanded to include fertilizer containers. CleanFARMS' empty container collection program allows members to easily meet their provincial stewardship obligations through their membership in CleanFARMS.


The proposed plan was submitted to Green Manitoba after CleanFARMS held stakeholder consultations and made it available for comments online. CleanFARMS is currently awaiting government response.

ONTARIO

The province of Ontario began revising its waste management strategy and accompanying regulations in late 2015. CleanFARMS will be an active participant in the *Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy*. The new act and accompanying strategy is currently under public consultation. The new act will not have immediate impact on CleanFARMS activities, however it does establish a process whereby new regulations could be put in place that would require industry to establish new stewardship programming for products and packaging.

QUEBEC

In Quebec, stewardship of all containers falls under the province's *Regulation Respecting Compensation for Municipal Services Provided to Recover and Reclaim Residual Materials*. CleanFARMS has been exempted from the regulation based on its container program. In order to maintain the exemption, CleanFARMS is required to report annually to the province on the container program's performance. The Quebec government has also expressed a desire for programming for all agricultural packaging. As CleanFARMS develops new programming, such as for its seed and pesticide bag collection program, it will apply for exemption to this regulation similar to the container program.



“The animal health industry is proud to work with CleanFARMS to ensure that obsolete animal health products are safely managed at the end of their life. This is just one of the ways in which our members demonstrate their commitment to full life cycle stewardship.”

Jean Szkotnicki

*President,
Canadian Animal
Health Institute*

AG STEWARDSHIP ON DISPLAY



AWARDS

2015 MOBIUS AWARD
OF ENVIRONMENTAL
EXCELLENCE



3 WINNING ENTRIES

GREAT ONTARIO CLEAN FARMS CHALLENGE

AWARDS

CleanFARMS was awarded the 2015 Mobius Award of Environmental Excellence in the Community-Based Project category from the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) Nova Scotia. While awarded to CleanFARMS, this accolade also recognized the work of collection partners who help make the program accessible in Nova Scotia, grower groups who promote the program and the farmers who use it.

THE GREAT ONTARIO CLEAN FARMS CHALLENGE

In 2015, CleanFARMS invited Ontario farm families to take the Great Ontario Clean Farms Challenge and demonstrate their ongoing commitment to sustainable farming. By encouraging farmers to share stories about their environmentally friendly practices on their farms, CleanFARMS has started a dialogue about the innovative solutions farmers use to tackle reducing, reusing, and recycling agricultural waste.

The three winning entries emphasized how farmers care about the environment on their property and more broadly.

CleanFARMS partnered with the Ontario Agri Business Association, Farm & Food Care Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to judge the entries.



THE NUMBER OF COLLECTION SITES

increased from **42** in 2014 to **126** in 2015

POLLING

CleanFARMS conducted a seed and pesticide bag survey in Ontario and Quebec to measure the impact of the bag recycling program. The survey was conducted in two phases—one in March 2015 prior to collections, and phase two in November 2015 post-collections. The survey also included some questions about overall attitudes towards recycling. The survey showed that there was an increase in use, awareness and satisfaction of disposal methods for empty seed and pesticide bags. The survey emphasizes what we already know—when good stewardship programs are available to farmers, they will overwhelmingly use them. Farmers want to be good stewards and this new program fits this need.

The survey was partly paid for by the Ontario government—\$80,000 was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

The number of collection sites increased from 42 in 2014 to 126 in 2015. The greater accessibility was made possible by our collection partners.



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