2018

# 2018 YEAR **IN REVIEW OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**



## Contributing to Cleaner Farm **Communities** in Canada

Thanks to our member companies, Cleanfarms helps farmers keep their farms and communities clean. We develop, implement and operate programs to safely dispose of or recycle agricultural plastics and products.

#### Cleanfarms Members



























































































































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#### PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

#### Who We Are

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

#### Vision

Cleanfarms contributes to a healthier environment and a sustainable future by recovering and recycling agricultural and related industry plastics, packaging and products.

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On the Cover:

**Tammy Shields**, Cleanfarms Western Region Program Coordinator Located in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Tammy stands among rolled grain bags that are awaiting shipment to recycling markets.

# STRENGTHENING OUR LEADERSHIP LEGACY THROUGH

In the business world today the promise of innovation as a harbinger of leadership is a cherished theme. We hear and read about 'innovation' continuously. Yet it is a word fully worthy of this repetition as it not only suggests 'out of the box' thinking and action, it also embodies a sense of hope that the future will be changed and will be better. For that reason, we think the word is ideally suited to our purposes.

In the agricultural industry, plastics are important tools that help our members deliver products to customers effectively, economically and safely. Cleanfarms exists to steward these plastics and other on-farm products and packaging.

Around the world today people are talking about plastics and how single use packaging has to be curtailed. Is the world on the edge of significant change concerning packaging? Maybe. How will it affect Cleanfarms and the industries we serve? It will drive us to become even more innovative to make the agricultural world better. We already see signs of it throughout our industry and it is proudly reflected in this 2018 Cleanfarms Annual Report.

Nearly 10 years ago, Cleanfarms began operating the highly successful voluntary stewardship programs for empty pesticide containers and unwanted pesticides and obsolete animal health medications.

Our mandate was to expand these core foundational programs and to take on

new material groups to best serve Canadian farmers and the industries that support them.

Every year since, we've added innovative ideas, establishing and maintaining Cleanfarms as a leader in the agricultural stewardship arena. We have increased accessibility to our programs and we manage a wider range of items. For example, ag-retailers across Canada now use the non-deposit bulk container program which got its start in Alberta in 2015. On a similar note our Eastern Canadian seed and pesticide bag collections have now been micro-piloted in the west. One of our most notable accomplishments this year was the addition of a program to collect and recycle grain bags under a provincially-regulated program in Saskatchewan—the first of its kind for agriculture in Canada—during a unique and challenging period for plastics recycling.

China's decision to stop accepting recycled plastic commodities impacted the entire



Brad Orr and Barry Friesen

recycling industry during a time period where circular economy thinking gained significant traction. Still, our team stuck to and achieved our goal: any material collected for recycling went to a recycling market.

Our organization and industry members also recognize the benefits of circular economy policies and will be investigating this framework. In 2018, we saw 46% of pesticides delivered to farm customers in reusable totes and drums based on their needs. This creates further opportunities for full lifecycle stewardship of not just our products but also our packaging.

You can also expect that Cleanfarms will still lead in the development of new programs and focus on continuous improvement. We will do this by collaborating and partnering

with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the changes result in better ways to help farmers manage ag-waste responsibly and operate sustainably.

**Brad Orr,** 

Marketing Leader Canada Corteva Agriscience™ Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™ Chair, Board of Directors

Barry Friesen, P.Eng.

General Manager
Cleanfarms Inc.

# 2018 IN REVIEW— MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN TOGETHER

Cleanfarms plays a unique and important role in Canadian agriculture. We are the only stewardship organization in the country that delivers customized programs for farm and rural communities that help them keep agricultural waste out of landfills and burn piles. Our signature program for small pesticide containers and jugs (23L and under), which began in 1989, paved the way for other industry sectors to join in the stewardship of their products and packaging.

Cleanfarms now offers national programs that manage all single-use pesticide containers (regardless of size), small fertilizer containers/jugs and unwanted pesticides and old livestock and equine medications. Regional programs for seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags (Eastern Canada) and agricultural plastics (Manitoba and Saskatchewan) round out the suite of services that helps Canadian farmers keep their farms and communities clean for future generations.

All of this is made possible through the contributions of Cleanfarms members and through partnerships across the agricultural spectrum. Look at what we have achieved together so far.

#### **BY THE NUMBERS:**

Collected since Inception (Numbers rounded)

#### 126 million containers

Pesticide and fertilizer containers (23L or under)

#### 128,000 drums/totes

Non-refillable bulk pesticide containers

#### 1,300,000 kg

Empty seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags

#### 42,000 kg

Unwanted and old medications

#### 3.2 million kg

Unwanted and old pesticides

#### 1,400,000 kg

Grain bags, film and twine

#### **BY THE NUMBERS - 2018:**

#### 5,777,030

empty pesticide and fertilizer containers returned

#### 44,367

non-refillable bulk containers collected

#### 365,792 kg

of empty seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags returned

#### 181,362 kg

of unwanted and old pesticides collected

#### 2,483 kg

of unwanted and old livestock and equine medications collected

#### 1,291,010 kg

of grain bags, film and twine collected



# SHAPING NEW LONG-TERM VISION

Cleanfarms is supported by a Board of Directors representing the industries whose products and packaging we manage.

Board directors bring experience, skills and oversight to ensure Cleanfarms' ongoing success.

In addition to developing a new five-year (2019–2024) strategic plan, during 2018 the Board undertook a thorough governance exercise to ensure we are well positioned for the future.

The two exercises combine to form a robust foundation that will support the organization as we evolve.

The new approach allows Cleanfarms to be more responsive to Canadian farmers' stewardship needs, to changing market requirements, and to a growing and more diverse membership.

#### CLEANFARMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2018

Back row, left to right: Sébastien Chénard, Howie Kroon, Terry McMillan, Pierre Petelle Front row, left to right: Phil Bailey, Brad Orr (Chair), Barry Friesen (General Manager), Trish Jordan, Paul Lake, Darren Palendat, Lachie McKinnon Absent: Paul Hoekstra, Mei Chung-Lewis, Lana Zdunich

Board member affiliations listed on page 20.



# MEET JAY BRADSHAW

Cleanfarms Founding Director (Retired)

Doing what is right for the future of Canadian agriculture is in Cleanfarms' DNA. This commitment has been, and will always be, front and centre.

According to founding director Jay Bradshaw, this positive, forward-thinking approach has always been deeply rooted in Cleanfarms, even during the very early days in 2010.

First, the vision was to build on the achievements of the existing small pesticide container recycling program that had already gained recognition as a successful voluntary agricultural industry stewardship program.

"Almost the entire crop protection industry had stepped up to pay levies voluntarily to fund the recovery of their containers at end of life. By doing that, these companies clearly demonstrated their willingness to take responsibility for their product and packaging beyond the farm gate," Jay said.

Next, the strategy was to broaden the product mix of waste materials collected and expand the programs so farmers from one end of the country to the other had access to them

It was a vision that came to fruition. The leadership displayed by the crop protection industry led the way for other sectors to recognize the social and environmental value of taking responsibility for their



products and packaging. Today, they are members of Cleanfarms, too. While recovering plastic containers and jugs is still the core Cleanfarms program, Bradshaw is pleased to recognize the companies that now support expanding programs to collect seed bags and now grain bags.

"I'm very proud of what Cleanfarms and its members have accomplished in just a decade and look forward to watching how Cleanfarms continues to lead in agricultural stewardship in the coming years."

# 2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Cleanfarms puts programs that manage farm waste responsibly within reach of Canadian farmers from coast to coast. Farmers put these programs to good use, which pushes our team and partners towards continuous improvement.

#### Agricultural Plastics Leadership

Our goal is to develop and deliver practical, cost effective stewardship programs that help farmers and our members meet their sustainability commitments.

Our collection network helps us provide convenient programs that farmers have integrated into their operations. The increase in our collection figures stand as tangible proof of this.

2018 was a dynamic year for any enterprise involved in plastics management, including Cleanfarms. All of the plastic recovered through our container program continues to be managed within North America.

With the addition of the grain bag recycling program, our team took on the responsibility of managing increased volumes of ag-film. Even with the disruptions in the recycling market due to China's restrictions on recycled plastic imports, we succeeded in finding markets for these materials, primarily in North America.

Cleanfarms continued to adapt our programs to meet the regulatory landscape and changing needs of ag-retailers and farmers.

#### **IN 2018, CLEANFARMS:**

- Launched, on behalf of industry, a provincially-regulated extended producer responsibility program in Saskatchewan to collect and recycle empty grain storage bags and recruited 26 grain bag collection sites.
- Added fertilizer bags to the collection of seed and pesticide bags in Quebec.
- Increased the collection of seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags in Eastern Canada by 22%.
- Managed an increase in collection volumes of small pesticide and fertilizer containers of nearly 14%.
- Collected 34 metric tonnes of film and twine for recycling in a Manitoba pilot.

## Pesticide and Fertilizer Containers

(23L or under)

#### **RINSE**

Triple or pressure rinse



#### **REMOVE**

Caps and booklet



#### RETURN

to your local collection site



## 65%

Approximately 65% of small containers sold into the marketplace are returned through this program.



Clean 50 recognizes national leaders in sustainability, which means this awards program is a natural fit for the agricultural industry.

Clean50 named Cleanfarms one of <u>Canada's Clean50 Best Projects for 2019</u> in recognition of our progressive, innovative and unique programs that promote environmental sustainability through the proper management of agricultural waste in Canada's farm communities.

Clean50

# EMPTY SMALL CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM

Cleanfarms is best known in the agricultural community for our longest running, highly successful resource recovery program—the collection and recycling of small commercial pesticide and fertilizer containers (23L and under). Thanks to Canadian farmers and 1,000 ag-retail and municipal collection sites, 2018 collection volumes increased by nearly 14% over 2017 figures.

14%

2018 volumes up by nearly 14% over 2017

#### **BY THE NUMBERS:**

Empty Small Containers (23L and under)

90,630

Prince Edward Island

33,898

Nova Scotia

61,475

New Brunswick

501,028

Quebec

945,476

Ontario

**768,431**Manitoba

1,894,769

Saskatchewan

**1,360,613** Alberta

Alberta

**120,710**British Columbia

TOTAL COLLECTED

5,777,030

#### **REGULATORY UPDATE**

Manitoba Sustainable Development approved Cleanfarms' Industry Stewardship Program Plan for empty pesticide and fertilizer containers for another five-year period (2018 to 2023). This means that industry can continue to meet provincial regulatory obligations through their ongoing support of Cleanfarms.

#### Non-Deposit Bulk Container Collection Program

2018 heralded the second year that Cleanfarms operated a collection program across the country for non-deposit bulk pesticide containers ranging in size from over 23L to 1,000L. More than 900 ag-retail partners are now taking advantage of this program.

Cleanfarms' online pickup request system was further enhanced making it easier for retailers to meet their Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) requirements through more robust data management and automatic bill of lading generation.

**44,367 COLLECTED** 

# MEET GERALD BRYKALO

Crop Management, Alberta

"Farmers here are acutely aware that managing a farm operation isn't 'one and done'. It's a 12-month operation. When they're not planting, spraying or harvesting, farmers are in meetings in the winter to learn about new technology and product/program enhancements. Cleanfarms is always part of that discussion."

In Gerald Brykalo's area of east central Alberta, about 95% of the farms are family owned and growing mainly canola, wheat, barley and some field peas. He's the agronomist at Crop Management in Vegreville, and part of an ag-retail industry that is a vital link in the agricultural supply chain and a neighbour in the community.

Gerald is part of a team that each year gives farm customers a road map to using the new products that come on the market, including what to do with empty containers.

He credits the farmers in his area with being fully onside with recycling 100% of the containers they use on the farm. His colleagues, in addition to his customers, want these containers to be recycled through Cleanfarms so they are assured that they are managed properly.

"We all have an interest in being part of the Cleanfarms programs," Gerald said, noting that everyone benefits. Farmers benefit because they want to be good stewards of their land. Communities benefit from a healthier environment. Retailers are connected to both.



"It's a good feeling when we know crop protection products and packaging are managed properly. End of life stewardship is a good business practice for ag-retailers and for farmers."

# MEET CHRIS MICHAUD

Farmer, New Brunswick

"We live in a new era of environmental consciousness. It's up to each one of us to make sure we keep our farms clean, so it reflects positively on our entire industry."

Chris Michaud is the fourth generation of his family to till the 600-acre farm bordering New Brunswick's east coast near Bouctouche, northwest of Moncton. He shares his deep French roots with many neighbours in that part of the province. In any given year, his crop rotation strategy might see him growing strawberries, string beans, sweet corn, potatoes, carrots, beets and other vegetables along with hay, which he mows down for nutrient value

Part of his love of and commitment to farming involves giving back to his farm community and he does that by serving on the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick. Now in his sixth year as a director and second as Alliance president, Chris has a clear vision of the vital role environmental stewardship plays in farm planning and practices.

"The Alliance strongly promotes the farmer's place as a steward of the land. People are much more conscious these days of the importance of being sustainable and sustainability must include managing the ag-waste we all generate responsibly," Chris said.

As a farmer, Chris credits Cleanfarms programs as the way to help him meet his sustainability commitments. He is a regular user of Cleanfarms' core program



to recover small, empty pesticide and fertilizer containers (23L or less). And he is also grateful to his local ag-retailer for partnering with Cleanfarms to offer the unwanted pesticide and old livestock medications collection program.

"Cleanfarms' programs give me peace of mind. I know when I take my empty containers back to my ag retailer, Cleanfarms will recycle them. It takes the worry out of what to do with them."

# SEED, PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER BAG COLLECTION PROGRAM

Collecting empty agricultural seed and pesticide bags for proper management at end of life has been an industry-funded program in Eastern Canada since 2016. Collection figures soared in 2018 to a 22% increase over 2017, largely as a result of adding large fertilizer bags to the program in Quebec.

Over 300 collection sites are supporting this program.

22%

2018 collection volumes were 22% higher than 2017

#### **BY THE NUMBERS:**

Seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags

9,920 kg

Prince Edward Island

**193,915 kg** Quebec

**600 kg** Nova Scotia

**160,487 kg** Ontario

870 kg

New Brunswick

TOTAL KG COLLECTED

365,792

#### Moving west

Working with three ag-retailers in the Moose Jaw area of Saskatchewan, a Cleanfarms micro pilot program resulted in the collection of more than 600 kg of seed and pesticide bags destined for responsible disposal. The results confirmed that farmers are interested in participating in a collection program and this will translate into an expanded pilot program in southeast Saskatchewan, as well as targeted micro-pilots in Manitoba and Alberta in 2019.



Seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags placed in plastic bag for safe collection and transportation.

# UNWANTED PESTICIDES AND LIVESTOCK MEDICATIONS COLLECTION PROGRAM

This program provides farmers across the country with the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted and obsolete agricultural pesticides and outdated livestock and equine medications. The collection program rotates to regions throughout Canada every three years.

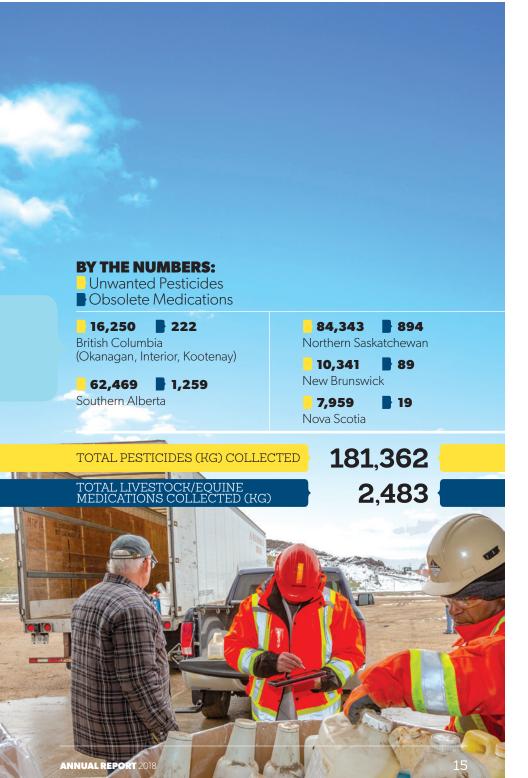
This specialized collection program is part of the plant science and animal health industry's commitment to the responsible lifecycle management of their products. Cleanfarms partners with ag-retailers to ensure safe drop off. Products are then transported by a licensed waste hauler to a high temperature incineration facility where they are disposed of safely.

In 2014, Cleanfarms formalized pilot projects through a partnership with the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) to add the collection of livestock and equine medications to the existing pesticide collection program on a long-term basis.

In the fall of 2018, collection events were held at 74 ag-retail partners in five regions of Canada—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Northern Saskatchewan, Southern Alberta and the interior of British Columbia in the Okanagan and Kootenay regions.

In 2019, collections will take place in Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba, Northern Alberta and the Peace River regions of British Columbia.





# MEET KELLY DEARBORN

4 Hire Welding, Saskatchewan

"Everyone knows you reap what you sow. Everyone should do their part when it comes to recycling ag-plastics whether it's pesticide and fertilizer containers or grain bags. And if everyone takes care of their part, the rest will take care of itself." By that, Kelly Dearborn means that everyone should take advantage of the opportunity to use the recycling programs that Cleanfarms offers. He figures it's good for farmers, good for the environment and good for business.

Kelly Dearborn comes across as a man of conviction. Right from the start, he wanted to be part of it. He calls it being "part of the solution" when it came to figuring out what to do with used, empty grain bags. Being part of the solution seems to be at the core of his business, 4 Hire Welding, near Eatonia in the southwest corner of Saskatchewan. In a region where large family-owned farms of 10,000 acres or more are common place, his business helps keep farmers where they should be...in the field.

"We're all about the four Rs," he says, "reduce, reuse, recycle...and repair". While the repair part is mostly what his business is about, he also sells grain bags, among other farm related equipment and supplies, plus he offers a grain bag rolling service as part of his business operation.

Kelly doesn't shy away from conversations about the Environmental Handling Fee. He knows firsthand that costs are involved when it comes to the proper management of these one-time use bags. In his opinion, if a farmer sees value in using a grain bag as a storage

tool, then covering the cost of recycling them is the right thing to do. Helping Cleanfarms to recycle grain bags? Well, he wouldn't have it any other way.



# SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIALLY-REGULATED GRAIN BAG RECYCLING PROGRAM

Cleanfarms, on behalf of the grain bag first sellers (companies that supply grain bags into Saskatchewan), launched a new program that allows industry to meet its regulatory obligations and helps Saskatchewan farmers recycle single-use, plastic grain bags.

Government-funded pilot programs have been available in Saskatchewan since 2011. In 2016, the province passed The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations setting the ground work for establishing a regulated recycling program similar to many other programs for products such as electronics, paint and oil containers.

With the regulation in place, financial responsibility for the recycling program transfers from public funding to industry. A non-refundable Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) came into effect on November 1, 2018. The EHF covers the cost of collecting the bags at designated collection sites and transporting them to end markets for recycling into new products such as garbage bags.

The following stakeholders are supporting Cleanfarms as this program rolls out:

- Grain bag first sellers have formed the Saskatchewan Agricultural Stewardship Council (SASC) to provide oversight.
- A multi-stakeholder advisory committee is in place.
- 26 collection sites are helping make the program accessible in 2018.

Funding for the 2018 grain bag recycling program was provided, in part, by Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture through the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 initiative.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

#### **1,257 tonnes**

of grain bags collected for recycling

# MEET WENDY MACLENNAN

Evergreen Environmental Technologies Corporation, Manitoba

Evergreen Environmental Technologies Corporation is a 'one stop recycling shop' for residents. Thanks to Cleanfarms, it's also becoming a 'one stop ag-recycling shop' for farmers, as well.

Evergreen Environmental Technologies Corporation is a licensed, Class 1 landfill that also operates a comprehensive recycling depot. The facility is owned and operated by six local rural municipalities and towns in western Manitoba—the RMs of Minto-Odanah, Elton, North Cypress-Langford and the Towns of Neepawa, Minnedosa and Carberry.

"We set this up to be the 'go to' place for our combined 13,000 residents," said Wendy MacLennan, Evergreen's Scale Operator/Administrator. She's proud that Evergreen takes a broad range of materials for recycling and is happy to see farmers



pull up with their trucks loaded with empty ag containers for recycling, along with hard-to-recycle items like grain bags, film and twine.

"It's about keeping those materials out of landfill and the environment. We work hard to educate farmers and their families about the importance of recycling. Cleanfarms is great partner. They send us very good educational materials, and we are always telling people to go to their website. We use it a lot," she added.

Wendy is quick to point out that because of Cleanfarms, Evergreen has been able to expand the recycling programs it offers to farmers beyond empty pesticide and fertilizer containers, having been part of a government-funded pilot program to collect other materials since the beginning.

Their involvement in these pilots has allowed them to go further. Evergreen now serves as the consolidation point for materials collected from the 24 collection sites and provides baling services to Cleanfarms, which has created a revenue stream for Evergreen's municipal owners, too.

"Cleanfarms is a great partner for us," Wendy said. "They help us make it easier for farmers to be more effective stewards of their land when it comes to ag-plastic waste."

# MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

Cleanfarms began operating a government-funded pilot program in 2013 to help Manitoba farmers manage agricultural plastic waste beyond pesticide and fertilizer containers to include grain bags, bale and silage wrap and twine.

What started as a micro-pilot with three collection sites has grown to a collection network of 24. Municipalities now have access to a reliable service that helps them divert plastic materials from landfills and discourages on-farm burning, both of which provide environmental benefits to their communities.

In 2018, Manitoba farmers turned in more than 34 metric tonnes of film and twine for recycling.

This project shifted focus in late 2018 when Manitoba Sustainable Development asked Cleanfarms to explore the development of a long-term program that is financially self-sustaining.

With funding from Manitoba Sustainable Development, Cleanfarms began conducting consultations and undertaking other background work that will assess attitudes, behaviors and support for a long-term, industry-funded, province-wide model. This work is currently underway.

The final phase of this project will provide recommendations for transitioning the pilots into a program that is regulated under Manitoba's Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation. This will provide farmers with increased access to collection sites and put appropriate measures in place to transfer financing to industry.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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