

## 2019 Alberta Farmer Survey Summary – October 24, 2019

This document provides a high-level summary of a survey conducted in the summer of 2019 with 428 Alberta crop and livestock producers regarding disposal practices of agricultural plastics as they relate to a grain bag and twine recycling pilot project. Contact [us](#) for the full results.

### Key takeaways:

- The following plastics are most commonly used on Alberta farms: pesticide/fertilizer containers, twine, seed/pesticide bags, feed/supplement bags, silage wrap, net wrap and grain bags.
- The top three disposal methods reported for the following items:
 

Grain bags	Twine	Containers ( <i>benchmarking</i> )
- Return for recycling (32%)*	- Burn (46%)	- Return for recycling (75%)
- Landfill (24%)	- Landfill (28%)	- Return to a retailer (10%)
- Store to deal with later (20%)	- Return for recycling (13%)*	- Landfill (7%)
- \* In a 2012 survey, 16% of grain bag users and 8% of twine users reported that they returned these items for recycling.*
- The majority of grain bag users (69%) and twine users (72%) report that it is either somewhat or very difficult to recycle these items.
- Satisfaction amongst users who recycle is high with 94% (twine users) and 81% (grain bag users) reporting that they are satisfied with this method.
  - Satisfaction with other disposal methods is lower. 61% of twine users who burn and 54% of twine users who landfill are satisfied with their disposal method. 27% of grain bag users who landfill and 19% of grain bag users who store to deal with later are satisfied.
- Attitudes towards recycling are positive and supportive towards the pilot's objectives.
  - 77% of producers are very/somewhat concerned about how to deal with ag plastics and 92% of producers report that recycling ag plastics is very/somewhat important to them.
  - 83% of producers feel strongly that if a recycling program is convenient and easy to use, it is a good alternative to disposing of agricultural waste. Producers indicated that recycling supports other values like building public trust, and environmental protection.
- 92% of grain bag users and 86% of twine users are very or somewhat likely to participate in the pilot if a site is in their area.
- 92% of twine or grain bag users are supportive (66% very supportive + 26% somewhat supportive) of making a recycling program for these items permanent.
- Concerns related to long-term program financing were raised.
  - 58% of producers either strongly or somewhat agree that users of the materials (grain bags or twine) should contribute to the cost of the recycling program.
  - 82% of producers either strongly or somewhat agreed that while there is a need to support a recycling program, producers don't like additional costs.
  - 50% of producers strongly or somewhat oppose to paying an environment handling fee.