



Date: September 30, 2025  
To: Active Members  
Subject: Cleanfarms 2026 Levies/ecofees

Last month Cleanfarms' Board of Directors approved the organization's 2026 budget and associated levies/ecofees. The purpose of this letter is to make members aware of the levies and highlight key changes.

Strong performance, as demonstrated through year-over-year increases in collection volumes, is a recurring theme for all programs. This is no surprise to the agricultural sector: Cleanfarms' programs are well utilized and are key to helping farmers manage the agricultural plastics that are part of their farming operations.

To maintain this strong performance and ensure the longevity of our programs while managing higher program costs, the Board approved levy increases for some Cleanfarms programs for 2026.

The Board also approved a significant change to the way the bulk, non-deposit pesticide & fertilizer container program is funded. We are moving from a per-unit to a per-kilogram pricing model. This change ensures that costs are distributed more fairly.

The pages that follow explain these changes and other factors that weighed into the budgeting process. Board members have once again exercised sound judgement in making challenging decisions that will provide Cleanfarms' programs with the necessary stability to facilitate sustained growth.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our members for their ongoing support. We recognize that the industry is navigating an array of unprecedented challenges. Your commitment is critical to ensuring that we can continue to meet industry and farmer needs and continue to demonstrate good stewardship on the farm.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Barry Friesen, P.Eng.  
Executive Director



## Budget & Levies/Ecofees 2026 – Fact Sheet

### Last update – November 12, 2025

#### **Background**

This fact sheet provides an overview of the budgeting process undertaken to develop the 2026 budget and highlights key changes from the previous year.

#### *Overarching Budgeting Principles*

The following guides Cleanfarms' budgeting process:

- Budgets must adhere to Cleanfarms' Financial Planning and Budgeting Policy.
- Each program must set aside 50 percent to 150 percent of operating expenses in a reserve fund that is exclusive to each program.
- Each program must be self-sufficient, with no cross subsidization between programs.
- Levies must reflect the true cost of managing the materials within a program.
- Budgets must accommodate increasing collection volumes.

#### *Budget Approval Process*

The Board is responsible for approving Cleanfarms' budget (and associated levies/ecofees). The following process is undertaken prior to board review:

- Cleanfarms staff develop budgets based on various factors like contract reviews, regulatory requirements, planned activities, trends in plastic sales, anticipated collection volumes, a financial analysis and projected sales.
- Cleanfarms' Finance & Audit Committee reviews the budgets and provides recommendations to the Cleanfarms Board.

#### *Key Budget Highlights for 2026*

- Almost all programs are experiencing year-over-year increases in collection volumes, which directly contributes to higher collection costs.
- The bulk container program required a significant revamp in light of new types of containers supplied into the market, a wider variation amongst container weights and the need to build an appropriate reserve fund.
- Direct program costs, related to servicing collection sites and moving plastics to end markets are increasing.
- Projected sales of containers and bags for the 2026 budget is consistent with the 2025 budget levels.
- Revenue from plastic sales remains low.

#### **2026 levies/ecofees**

[View full listing of 2026 levies/ecofees.](#)

#### **National programs**

##### *Pesticide & fertilizer containers (23L and under)*

There is no change to the 2026 levy for pesticide & fertilizer containers (23L and under).

Item	Size/unit	2025 levy/ecofees (per container)	2026 levy/ecofees (per container)
Pesticide or fertilizer container (non-seed treatment)	≤ 1 L	\$0.088	\$0.088
	1.01 - 23 L	\$0.88	\$0.88
Seed treatment container	≤ 23 L	\$1.04	\$1.04

*Bulk, non-deposit pesticide & fertilizer containers*

Item	Size/unit	2025 levy/ecofees (per container)	2026 levy/ecofee (per kg)
Pesticide or fertilizer bulk container (non-seed treatment)	23.1 – 225 L	\$23.51	\$3.09
	226 – 550 L	\$32.73	
	> 550 L	\$45.79	
Seed treatment bulk container	23.1 – 225 L	\$30.58	\$4.09
	226 – 550 L	\$44.43	
	> 550 L	\$55.00	

The financing model for this program has changed significantly. Starting in 2026, Cleanfarms will begin using a per-kilogram levy model (rather than a per-unit levy model) to ensure that costs are fairly allocated.

Contractor costs (e.g., transportation or shredding) account for about 75% of the budget for this program and are paid on a per kilogram basis. The change to a per-kilogram levy ensures members are paying their fair share and allows Cleanfarms to be more responsive to packaging trends that impact this program.

The table below demonstrates why this change is necessary and its impact on certain container sizes.

Size (L)	Weight of the empty container (plastic only) (kg)	2025 levy/ecofee		2026 levy/ecofee	
		Per container	Per kg	Per kg	Per container*
23	6.0	\$23.51	\$3.92	\$3.09	\$18.54
115	7.2		\$3.27		\$22.25
	9.0		\$2.61		\$27.81
200	9.5	\$32.73	\$3.43		\$29.45
250	17.0		\$1.93		\$52.53
450	14.5		\$2.26		\$44.81
1,000	15.6	\$45.79	\$2.94		\$48.20
1,250	17.0		\$2.69		\$52.53

*\*Estimate only. Members will be required to provide accurate weights to Cleanfarms as part of their sales surveys. The data in this table is provided for demonstration purposes only.*

*Seed, pesticide and inoculant bags*

There is no change to the 2026 levy for seed, pesticide and inoculant bags. However, a new size category ( $\leq 1$  kg) has been introduced to more fairly allocate costs.

Item	Size/unit	2025 levy/ecofee	2026 levy/ecofee
Bag	$\leq 1$ kg	\$0.31	\$0.09
Bag	1.01 to 30 kg	\$0.31	\$0.31
Tote	31 to 500 kg	\$1.59	\$1.59
Tote	$\geq 501$ kg	\$3.18	\$3.18

*Unwanted/obsolete pesticides*

There is no change to the 2026 levy for unwanted/obsolete pesticides.

Item	Size/unit	2025 levy/ecofee	2026 levy/ecofee
Pesticide container (plastic)	≤ 1 L	\$0.012	\$0.012 per container
	1.01 - 23 L	\$0.12	\$0.12 per container
Pesticide container (bulk)	All sizes > 23L	\$0.12 per 10 L	\$0.12 per 10 L
Pesticide bags	≤ 1 kg	\$0.012	\$0.012 per bag
	1 – 30 kg	\$0.12 per bag	\$0.12 per bag
	All sizes > 30 kg	\$0.12 per 10 kg	\$0.12 per 10 kg

**Regional programs – Eastern Canada**

Some increases have been introduced to ensure that Cleanfarms’ Quebec-based programs, which are relatively new, have the stability they need as they mature.

Several new programs have also been introduced as a result of [Quebec’s Regulation respecting the recovery and reclamation of products by enterprises \(RRVPE\)](#).

Quebec

*Unwanted/obsolete treated seed – New, Quebec only*

Item	Size/unit	2025 ecofee	2026 ecofee
Seed bags	≤ 30 kg	N/A	\$0.02 per bag
	31 to 500 kg		\$0.45 per bag
	≥ 501 kg		\$0.90 per bag
Seed – ProBOX	All		\$0.90 per ProBOX
Seed – bulk	N/A	\$ 0.0009\$ per kg	\$0.0009 per kg

*Fertilizer and biostimulant bags*

Item	Size/unit	2025 ecofee	2026 ecofee
Bag	≤ 30 kg	\$0.31	\$0.31
Tote	31 to 500 kg	\$1.59	\$1.59
	≥ 501 kg	\$3.18	\$3.18

*Peat moss and growing media, including perlite, vermiculite, soil, ceramic and coconut fibers, wood chips (shavings, straw, etc.)*

Item	Size/unit	2025 ecofee	2026 ecofee
Bags	per kg	\$0.55	\$0.60

*Animal feed (including mixed feed, pre-mixes and supplements like medications, minerals and others) bags*

Item	Size/unit	2025 ecofee	2026 ecofee
Bag	≤ 45 kg	\$0.31	\$0.35
Tote	46 to 500 kg	\$1.61	\$1.82
Tote	≥ 501 kg	\$3.23	\$3.65

*Maple tubing*

Item	Size/unit	2025 ecofee	2026 ecofee
Mainline tubes (all diameters)	per kg	\$0.35	\$0.35
Tubing (5/16", 3/16", and others)			

*Bags used on farms for production purposes (e.g., bedding/forage additives, other) – New*

Item	Size	2026 ecofee
Bag	≤ 1 kg	\$0.09
	1.01 to 30 kg	\$0.31
Tote	31 to 500 kg	\$1.59
	≥ 501 kg	\$3.18

*Containers used on farms for production purposes (e.g. biosecurity products, water treatments, feed acidifiers, cleaners, other) – New*

Item	Size	2026 ecofee (per kg)
Small (23L and under)	All sizes	\$2.78
Bulk, one-trip (over 23L)	All sizes	\$3.29

*Agricultural plastics*

This program is in very high demand and collection volumes continue to grow, which has led to a 9% increase in ecofees for certain ag plastics.

Item	Size/unit	2025 ecofee	2026 ecofee
Bale wrap	per kg	\$0.55	\$0.60
Twine		\$0.46	\$0.46
Netting		\$0.21	\$0.21
Silo bags, bunker cover, tarps		\$0.50	\$0.60

Prince Edward Island (PEI)

*Fertilizer bags*

Item	Size/unit	2025 EHF	2026 EHF
Tote	≥ 500 kg	\$2.20	\$2.20

*Agricultural plastics*

Item	Size/unit	2025 EHF	2026 EHF
Bale wrap	per kg	\$0.55 \$0	\$0.55 \$0
Twine		\$0.46 \$0	\$0.46 \$0
Silo bags, bunker cover, tarps		\$0.50 \$0	\$0.50 \$0

*November 2025 update – EHF's on bale wrap, twine & silo bags, bunker covers and tarps in PEI have been postponed indefinitely.*

**Regional programs – Western Canada**

There are no changes to the 2026 Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) for grain bags in Saskatchewan, nor for grain bags and twine in Manitoba.

*Grain bags*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Size/unit</b>	<b>2025 EHF</b>	<b>2026 EHF</b>
Grain bags	per kg	\$0.225	\$0.225

*Grain bags and twine*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Size/unit</b>	<b>2025 EHF</b>	<b>2026 EHF</b>
Grain bags	per kg	\$0.225	\$0.225
Twine		\$0.33	\$0.33