



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**cleanfarms**  **15**  
YEARS

**Innovation  
Through  
Partnership**





A Lasting  
Contribution to  
Environmental Health  
and Well-being in  
Canadian Agriculture:

# FARMERS & OUR MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN



Across Canada, growers undertake responsible crop and animal production while promoting the sustainability of farm communities. Not-for-profit agriculture industry stewardship—including participation in Cleanfarms programs—is a powerful way they achieve this year after year. These programs make a positive impact on the sustainability of farming and on environmental health. Through Cleanfarms, members recover agricultural products and packaging for recycling and safe disposal.

This community mindset contributes to greater well-being: transforming what would otherwise be waste from several individual sources into a communal resource that helps build a circular economy for Canadian agriculture.

Thank you, Cleanfarms members and to all those who participate in bringing these programs to life.

## VISION

Cleanfarms is the Canadian leader in agricultural plastic recycling and recovery, contributing to a sustainable future.



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## ABOUT CLEANFARMS

Cleanfarms is a not-for-profit, producer responsibility organization, committed to environmental leadership through the proper management of used agricultural plastics and other packaging. Cleanfarms programs are available across Canada and emulated internationally. These programs are successful, thanks to the unwavering commitment to agricultural environmental sustainability by Cleanfarms members, farmers/producers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, as well as all levels of government in Canada.

The organization is known in Quebec as AgriRÉCUP, and elsewhere as Cleanfarms, with offices located in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

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## SECTION 1

# A Message from the Chair & Executive Director

Canadian writer Hugh MacLennan observed in his novel, *Voices in Time*: “As flowers and vegetables grow from cultivated seeds, so do civilizations grow from carefully studied, diligently examined ideas.”

Over the last 15 years, we’ve seen the idea germinate that Canadian agricultural productivity growth and successful ecological protection *can* be achieved together. That idea flourished, thanks to the efforts of Cleanfarms and its members. Sustainability is now integral to how used plastics, packaging and unwanted products are sensibly managed in Canadian agriculture.

The Cleanfarms vision matured over the last decade and a half. With the launch of a range of new programs, Cleanfarms successfully transitioned from a niche service into being a core component of Canadian agricultural practices.

This year’s report documents a landmark year of record-breaking accomplishments in several of our programs. It showcases how steadily increasing collection rates across multiple Cleanfarms programs illustrate that circularity and sustainability have become the new normal in farming across Canada. It also shows how our early work aimed at educating stakeholders about Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has led to long-term solutions. This year’s report also demonstrates how the transition from municipal to retail collection in Alberta and Manitoba is resulting in uninterrupted, successful outcomes.

Through Cleanfarms, innovation continues to germinate, too. This includes the bold steps that Cleanfarms partners have taken toward circular container recycling via the successful engineering of refillable tote bases using only post-consumer recycled plastic from recycled agricultural plastic.



Farmers are key to the success of programs at Cleanfarms: both on the ground and around the boardroom table. In 2025, we took a further step in that regard with the appointment of Bob Lepischak to our Board of Directors: providing a strong, Canadian farmer perspective for the first time. Just as important, Cleanfarms continues to be seen rightly as the “easy button” for tackling challenging circularity issues (such as EPR), because our proven approach simplifies what would otherwise be a logistical nightmare.

Seeds of ideas have been well cultivated here over 15 years: bearing the fruit of accumulated wisdom and expertise. Now comes a new season in the form of a next generation of leadership, ready to fully embrace circularity: making it fundamental to the way things are done on the farm and in business in Canada’s agricultural sector.

We are all very proud of the legacy that Cleanfarms has created and look forward to seeing how this vibrant organization and its members embrace the opportunities we’ve collectively created for the road ahead.

**Boyd Bergstrom**  
Chair, Cleanfarms Board of Directors

**Barry Friesen, P.Eng.**  
Executive Director, Cleanfarms

# 15 Years of Sustainable Solutions for Canadian Agriculture



## Cleanfarms delivers ag-plastic collection programs that evolve with the needs of Canadian farmers.

Canada's agricultural industry has provided support to farmers over many years with innovation and collaboration, establishing opportunities to drive Canadian agriculture towards a more sustainable future.

Cleanfarms members represent key agricultural product lines essential to farming in Canada, including:

- ▶ Crop inputs
- ▶ Peat moss & growing media
- ▶ Animal bedding
- ▶ Maple sap tubing
- ▶ Agricultural film plastics
- ▶ Animal feed
- ▶ Animal health products



SCAN TO VIEW  
FULL LIST  
OF MEMBERS

  
cleanfarms

[cleanfarms.ca](https://cleanfarms.ca)

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# Cleanfarms 2025 Board of Directors & Staff



From left to right: Joel Varnedoe (Greif Inc.), Camille Ryan (Bayer CropScience Canada), Fernando Olea (Syngenta Canada), Lorelee Orr (Corteva Agriscience™), Pierre Patelle (CropLife Canada), Barry Friesen (Cleanfarms), Blair Swarbrick (Richardson International Ltd.), Boyd Bergstrom (Nufarm Agriculture Inc.), Calvin Mazurenko (AMCOR PLC), Lana Zdunich (BASF Canada), Bob Lepischak (Lepischak Farms), Stephane Perrault (Sollio Agriculture), Phil Bailey (SeCan), Mei Chung Lewis (IPCO – Interprovincial Cooperative Ltd.)

Not pictured: Matthew McWilliams (Tama USA Inc.), René Chouinard (Sollio Agriculture, replacing Stephane Perrault effective September, 2025)

**Barry Friesen,**  
Executive Director

**Alyssa Brown,** Member  
Service Coordinator

**Asad Mahmood,**  
Director, Finance

**Betty Lyver,** Executive  
and Administrative  
Assistant

**Brian Naud,**  
Communications  
Advisor

**Carly Fraser,**  
Special Projects  
Coordinator

**Catherine Lecomte,**  
Media Relations and  
Digital Communications  
Coordinator

**Chris Ghisyawan,**  
Logistics and  
Materials Specialist

**Christine Lajeunesse,**  
Director, Eastern Region

**Cori Nandur,** Manager,  
Sustainability  
and Performance

**Davin Johnson,** Alberta  
Program Advisor

**Eric Hudon,** Coordinator

**Francis Gauthier,** Senior  
Coordinator

**Heather Bradley,**  
Program Coordinator

**Helen Vuong,**  
Communications  
Assistant

**Kim Timmer,** Director,  
Stakeholder Relations  
and Policy

**Liz Peixoto,** Finance  
and Administrative  
Coordinator

**Lyndsay D’Entremont,**  
Eastern Coordinator

**Margot Beverley,**  
Director,  
Communications  
and Media

**Serena Klippenstein,**  
Program Coordinator

**Shane Hedderson,**  
Director,  
Western Region

**Sophie Doyon,**  
Coordinator

**Sydney Carter,**  
Communications  
Specialist

**Tammy Shields,**  
Saskatchewan  
Program Advisor

**Travis Jennings,**  
Financial Analyst

**Zaynab Domah,**  
Bilingual Member  
Relations Coordinator



Cleanfarms staff, Summer 2025



## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Cleanfarms staff use two annual community service days for any charity, including volunteering as coaches or coordinating community cleanups. Staff also donate to Kiva: a microloans platform that helps individuals lend small amounts of money to agricultural entrepreneurs in need around the world: empowering people to build businesses while supporting agriculture and sustainability.

Exceeding each of its key criteria, Cleanfarms was again certified in 2025—for the third consecutive year—as a Great Place to Work®. This achievement showcases the synergy between the passion of staff members for keeping Canadian farms clean and working together to bring innovative solutions to life.

## SECTION 2

# 2025 in Brief

It was a landmark year in several longstanding areas of Cleanfarms operations. Collection volumes\* reached the highest in program history for nine programs including:

Pesticide & fertilizer containers (<23 L)

**2.5M kg**

↑ 13%



Non-deposit bulk pesticide & fertilizer containers

**109,000 units**

↑ 13%



Small bags & large tote bags

**1.1M kg**

↑ 11%



Unwanted pesticides & old livestock/equine medications

**408,000 kg**

↑ 23%

(compared to the same region in 2022)



Grain bags collected in Alberta

**677,000 kg**

↑ 23%



Twine collected in Alberta

**165,000 kg**

↑ 65%



Grain bags & plastic baler twine collected in Manitoba

**81,300 kg**

↑ 91%



Quebec agricultural film & twine

**2.74M kg**

↑ 18%



Quebec maple sap tubing

**1.03M kg**

↑ 41%



*\*all numbers are rounded*

These annual gains in collection volumes were fueled by maturing programs, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandates in four provinces, and a steady rise in both sustainability awareness and public participation.

Cleanfarms also exercised its leadership and matchmaking skills in 2025 to help two stakeholders work together on an innovative product that represents a big step toward fully closed-loop container recycling (see *Setting the Stage for Circular Container Recycling: BASF & McKenzielBC/Snyder Industries*).



## 15 Years in Focus

Overseeing a 15-year expansion from core pesticide container programs to today's comprehensive management of grain bags, bale wrap, agricultural twine, maple sap tubing and more, Cleanfarms keeps making a compelling case for a scalable model of environmental stewardship.

"Where we are today comes from so much that happened in those first years," Cleanfarms Executive Director Barry Friesen notes. A key, early undertaking was a complete scan of agricultural products being used in Canada—along with the ensuing waste. "So for the first time ever, we developed an accurate understanding of how much twine, silage wrap, grain bags, pesticide and fertilizer containers, and seed bags were out there."

There's also been a maturing vision. Among the ways Cleanfarms celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary was in publishing its white paper *Circular Economy for Canadian Agriculture*, arguing persuasively about the opportunities in moving toward a closed-loop system for the agricultural supply chain.

Fifteen years occupies much of what comprises a generation. And for Cleanfarms, these achievements have helped us make great strides in bridging the gap between waste management and resource recovery: setting the stage for a better, more sustainable future for Canadian agriculture.

## Sustainability & Circularity at Cleanfarms

Multiyear efforts at Cleanfarms include sharing its sustainability and circularity reports with partners to help boost the signal about best practices. Also, Cleanfarms programs enable the use of recycled plastic content instead of using virgin plastics. In 2025, the direct result of container and grain bag recycling alone prevented 10.5 million kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e from being emitted into the atmosphere.

Those CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions avoided are equal to...



**2,290**  
cars off the road for one year, or



**398,000**  
tree seedlings grown for ten years, or



**4.48M**  
litres of gasoline consumed, or



**1,270**  
households' annual energy use emissions, or



**175,000**  
acres of forest sequestering carbon for one year.

Note: CO<sub>2</sub>e means "carbon dioxide equivalent." It is a measurement of the total greenhouse gases emitted, expressed in terms of the equivalent measurement of carbon dioxide as reported in the 2021 study of "Benefits of Agri-Plastic Recycling Programs" completed by Eunomia Research & Consulting for Cleanfarms.

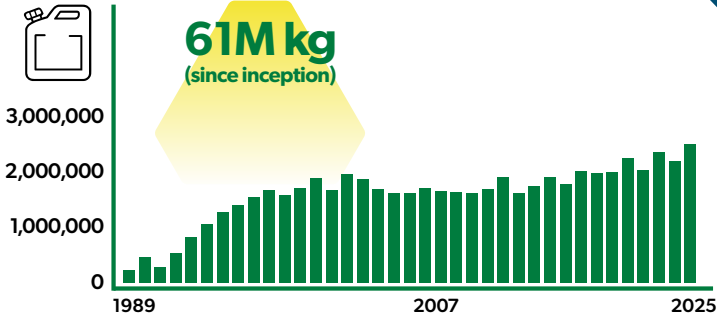
2025 Cleanfarms membership = 230 members  
...and growing.

## Cleanfarms by the Numbers

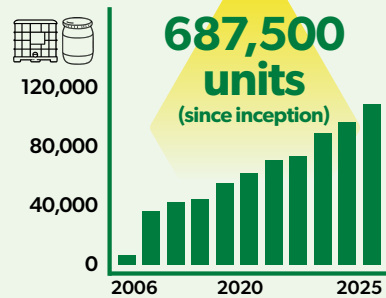
### MATERIALS COLLECTED SINCE INCEPTION

Green bars represent annual totals; all numbers are rounded.

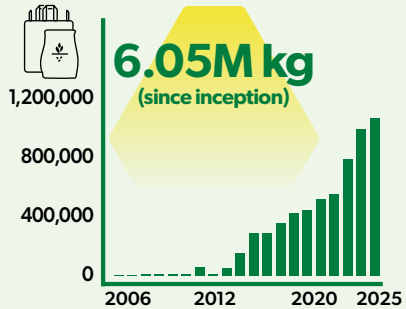
#### Pesticide & fertilizer containers (<23 L)



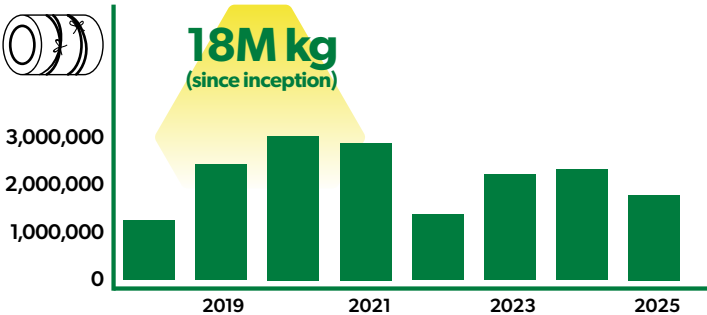
#### Non-deposit bulk pesticide & fertilizer containers



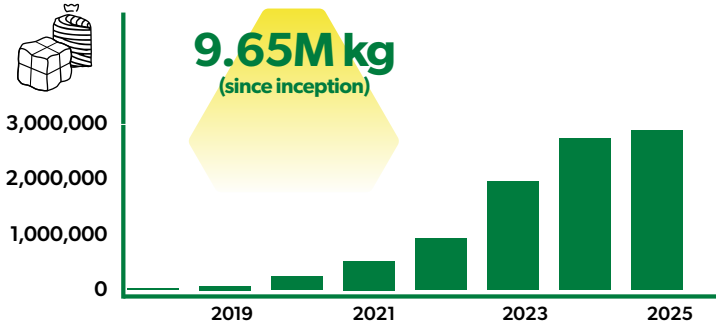
#### Small bags & large tote bags



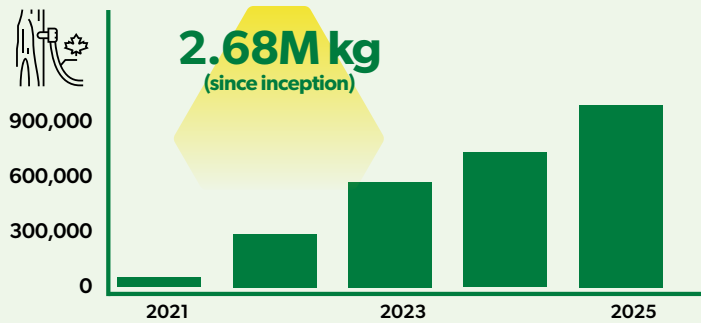
#### Grain bags



### Agricultural film & twine



### Maple sap tubing



Unwanted, pesticides\*

5.13M kg (since inception)



Old livestock/ equine medications\*

85,800 kg (since inception)



\* Data collected for these initiatives is derived from different regions each year: year-over-year comparisons do not apply.



## SECTION 3

# Program Operations

Strong, steady results from long-time programs, renewed examples of the mindset that characterizes so much of sustainable farming in Canada, and the rollout of innovative, new ways to achieve greater circularity in the country's agricultural sector. All of this is what Cleanfarms achieved in its program operations in 2025.

In this section of the report, Cleanfarms showcases core programs and pilots from the period in review.



*Note: All reported data in kilograms (kg) in this report are adjusted to remove non-program materials like waste, debris, and/or organics in collected material (based on waste characterization samples).*



“It is a welcome addition to a program that **makes a big difference** here.”

**Sherri Breen,**  
Government of Newfoundland  
and Labrador’s Department of  
Environment, Conservation  
and Climate Change

## PROFILE

### Cleanfarms Strengthens Agricultural Recycling Through Newfoundland Partnership

In Newfoundland, safe and responsible management of agricultural waste is supported every three years through four special, no-charge collection events held across the province. Led by Cleanfarms, these events are delivered in partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, with support from the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

Sherri Breen, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change’s Media Relations Manager, notes that 2025 marked an important first for the province. “With this year’s event, Cleanfarms provided the opportunity to include empty pesticide and fertilizer containers under 23 L, along with the traditional unwanted pesticides and old livestock medications collection. It is a welcome addition to a program that makes a big difference here.”

At the 2025 events in Foxtrap, Lethbridge, Lewisporte and Deer Lake, for the first time ever, growers were encouraged to

also bring triple or pressure rinsed empty pesticide and fertilizer containers, each placed in a Cleanfarms collection bag.

“For our farmers here, this is a convenient way to recycle,” adds Breen.

The environmental impact of ag plastic and other waste is uniquely challenging in this province on account of its unique geography, ecology and population density. Most recycled materials cannot be processed locally and instead must be shipped elsewhere.

Over time, the province’s unwanted pesticide collection program has continued to evolve and expand. It was first managed by Cleanfarms at three sites (East, Central, West) for agricultural and greenhouse producers, plus landscape and structural operators. In 2016, unwanted livestock medications were added to the collection events, thanks to our partner, the Canadian Animal Health Institute. Today, collections continue to grow and attract new participants and the program has bold plans to return to Newfoundland in 2028.

## Recycling Pesticide & Fertilizer Containers Under 23 L

As our organization's longest running initiative (created in 1989, preceding the establishment of Cleanfarms), this program was designed to help divert agricultural waste material from landfills.

In 2025, this program had another record-breaking year: 2.5 million kg of pesticide and fertilizer containers under 23 L were collected for recycling. That's a 13% increase over last year and represents the highest collection volume in the program's history. Also of note, as of 2025, nearly all jugs under this program are now collected at retail locations nationwide.

Steadily building a legacy of meaningful, lasting change in the realm of sustainability, Canadian farmers, as of 2025, successfully diverted more than 61 million kg of plastic agricultural containers (under 23 L) from the waste stream. Once collected, these containers are then processed by Cleanfarms partners and recycled into much-needed, new agricultural products, such as tile drainage pipes and other industrial products.

See our partner profiles in this year's annual report (and in previous ones) to learn more about how Canadian enterprise continues to create innovative solutions in this area.

As of 2025, most growers across Alberta and Manitoba can now rely on their ag dealers as the main drop-off site for used crop input packaging, which is in alignment with farmers across Canada. Also, as part of our mission to provide convenient and efficient recycling programs to Canadian farmers, Cleanfarms offers to pick up ag plastics (including containers and other materials) for recycling directly from **high-volume growers and businesses across Western Canada.**





### WHAT TO RECYCLE AND WHERE?

Cleanfarms offers a searchable online map for collections site locations across Canada.

Try it today on your computer or mobile device!

[csmap.cleanfarms.ca/findmap](https://csmap.cleanfarms.ca/findmap)

### » BY THE NUMBERS

Small containers collected for recycling, by province in 2025 (23 L and smaller, rounded figures):

**35,100 kg**

British Columbia

**387,000 kg**

Alberta

**921,000 kg**

Saskatchewan

**235,000 kg**

Manitoba

**544,000 kg**

Ontario

**316,000 kg**

Quebec

**19,900 kg**

New Brunswick

**13,000 kg**

Nova Scotia

**31,000 kg**

Prince Edward Island

**500 kg**

Newfoundland



2025 TOTAL

**2.5M kg**

(rounded)

CUMULATIVELY

**61M kg**

since program began

## Non-Deposit Bulk Container Recycling

Farmers participate in the Cleanfarms Non-Deposit Bulk Container management program by emptying 24–1,000 L totes and drums (including those used for one-time delivery of large volumes of pesticides and fertilizers) and returning them to Cleanfarms collection sites across the country. Once they are picked up from a collection site, they are processed by a local contractor, and then the processed materials are sent to recyclers to be made into new products: many of which get used again on farms across Canada.

In 2025, 109,000 units under this program were diverted from landfills and instead recycled, contributing to the circular economy. That's a 13% increase: a significant uptick from 2024. Since the inception of this program, 687,500 of these non-deposit bulk containers have been collected and recycled.



### » BY THE NUMBERS

Non-deposit bulk containers collected and recycled by province in 2025 (in units = 24 L–1,000 L, rounded figures):

**650**

British Columbia

**37,800**

Alberta

**57,100**

Saskatchewan

**6,760**

Manitoba

**4,850**

Ontario

**1,700**

Quebec

**140**

Prince Edward Island

**300**

New Brunswick

**10**

Nova Scotia

2025 TOTAL

**109,000**  
total units  
(rounded)



Up 13% from  
96,600 in 2024  
NEW RECORD!

CUMULATIVELY

**687,500**  
total units  
since program began

# Setting the Stage for Circular Container Recycling: BASF & McKenzielBC/Snyder Industries

It's a new product and a partnership that merges multiple innovations: a BASF technology that allows recycled resin to maintain structural integrity and safety standards. That includes a new packaging design from Snyder Industries with its Canadian representative, McKenzielBC, that integrates post-consumer recycled resin without compromising a container's durability or chemical resistance.

"Together with Cleanfarms, we've created an IBC (intermediate bulk container) that features 30% recycled content by weight," explains Brent Galbraith, Brand Manager of Canola Herbicides at BASF Agricultural Solutions. "It's ready for the Canadian market and adheres fully to very stringent United Nations testing."

Moving from zero to one-hundred percent recycled content in the base of the container in just one year, the product was proven through a series of rigorous tests in 2025, and is ready for market in 2026. For Cleanfarms, it marks a big step toward

achieving *circular container recycling*: a fully closed-loop goal in which used agricultural plastic containers are transformed back into new, high-performance packaging—thus eliminating virgin raw materials.

Galbraith notes: "All of this happened because we adopted an *if-you-build-it-they-will-come* mindset." "It was perfect timing," adds Don McKenzie, owner of McKenzielBC. "We had a solution that needed a home and in BASF we found an ideal end-user." The outcome is a product that both Galbraith and McKenzie agree is summed up as: *new tote, new technology, new chemistry*. Cleanfarms was instrumental in making this meeting of innovations possible, McKenzie concludes. "Cleanfarms is the bedrock here: without their inputs on disposal and processing, you can't make a quality product. But with all this together...we can work *magic!*"



# Unwanted Pesticides & Old Livestock/ Equine Medications Collection Program

Growers remained consistent in their commitment in 2025 to keeping unwanted pesticides and old livestock and equine medications (UPLM) out of the environment. That's a testament to both their desire to participate and to the sustained availability of this program across Canada via Cleanfarms and its program partners.

"What we hear in the fields is that growers like the convenience of this program: and for those who are hearing about it for the first time, they're welcoming it with open arms," says Cleanfarms Program Coordinator Heather Bradley. "We see that in the growing participation rates and volumes collected."

The collection program operates in select provinces each year on a rotating, three-year cycle. In 2025, collections occurred in

British Columbia (Peace Region), Alberta (Peace Region and Northern regions), Manitoba, Ontario and Newfoundland.

A total of 8,230 kg of medications were picked up in 2025: a drop of 15% from 2022, the last time events were held in these regions. But a total of 400,000 kg of pesticides were collected during that same period in review: an increase of 24% from 2022.

In total for the year, this represented 408,000 kg collected under the UPLM program: another record for highest collection volume in program history.

*Note: Region-by-region variation is anticipated every year due to differentials in location, harvests, weather and other factors that farms deal with in this line of work.*



"What we hear in the fields is that growers **like the convenience...**"

**Heather Bradley,**  
Cleanfarms

“...they’re welcoming it with **open arms.**”

**Heather Bradley,**  
Cleanfarms

» **BY THE NUMBERS**

Unwanted pesticides and old livestock/equine medications collected by province in 2025 (rounded):

Unwanted pesticides	Old livestock/equine medications
<b>7,450 kg</b> British Columbia (Peace Region)	<b>10 kg</b> British Columbia (Peace Region)
<b>67,600 kg</b> Alberta (Peace Region & North)	<b>800 kg</b> Alberta (Peace Region & North)
<b>67,600 kg</b> Manitoba	<b>1,300 kg</b> Manitoba
<b>255,000 kg</b> Ontario	<b>5,300 kg</b> Ontario
<b>2,800 kg</b> Newfoundland	<b>870 kg</b> Newfoundland



**NEW RECORD!**  
2025 TOTAL  
**400,000 kg**  
(unwanted pesticides rounded)

CUMULATIVELY  
**5.13M kg**  
(unwanted pesticides rounded)

2025 TOTAL  
**8,230 kg**  
(old livestock/equine medications rounded)

CUMULATIVELY  
**85,800 kg**  
(old livestock/equine medications rounded)

## Small Bags & Large Tote Bags

The collection of used agricultural bags—both small and large—is a well-established and growing Cleanfarms practice in many provinces. It encompasses multiple products, including: seed, pesticide and inoculant bags from Alberta to the Maritimes, fertilizer bags in PEI and Quebec and agricultural bags of all kinds in Quebec. The program helps producers manage used plastic and paper bags from crop input and other agricultural products on the farm in the most sustainable way via recycling and safe disposal. Seed, pesticide, fertilizer, inoculant and other bags are either sent to become an energy source, or for recycling.

When recycled, many of these bags can be turned into new products, such as lumber wrap, or mixed with additional plastics in manufacturing new car parts and other items.

Small plastic bags that are made from layered materials are fused together and are difficult to recycle. When returned, they—along with paper bags—are sent to specialized cement kilns for use as a low-carbon fuel source.

In Eastern Canada, Cleanfarms has operated a permanent, industry-funded program for seed and pesticide bags since 2015. In Western Canada and the Prairies, 2025 was the third year of a permanent program for seed, pesticide and inoculant bags.

The program set a new record in 2025, recording the highest collection volume in its history (1.1 million kg): up 11% from 2024.



## » BY THE NUMBERS

Seed, pesticide and inoculant bags used in agriculture, collected by province in 2025 (rounded):

**0\***

British Columbia

**2,100**

Alberta

**22,500**

Saskatchewan

**24,800**

Manitoba

**157,000**

Ontario

**883,000\*\***

Quebec

**12,000\*\*\***

PEI

**1,200**

New Brunswick

**550**

Nova Scotia

2025 TOTAL

**1.1M kg**



Up 11% from  
996,000 kg in 2024  
**NEW RECORD!**

CUMULATIVELY

**6.08M kg**

since program began

\* Bags are not collected in British Columbia.

\*\* Figures for Quebec represent a cumulative total that also included fertilizer bags, animal feed bags, wood chip and peat moss bags.

\*\*\* Figures for PEI include fertilizer bags in addition to seed, pesticide and inoculant bags.





## Saskatchewan's Provincially Regulated Grain Bag Recycling Program

Proper disposal of grain bags plays a key role in preventing pollution and promoting circularity. Thanks to Saskatchewan's provincially regulated grain bag recycling program, which Cleanfarms operates on behalf of companies that supply grain bags province-wide, farmers continue to prove their commitment to strong environmental stewardship.

In 2025, Saskatchewan reported 1.65 million kg of grain bags collected for recycling. While that represents a small 7% drop compared to 2024, it is accounted for by material on the ground to be shipped to recyclers in 2026.

### » BY THE NUMBERS

Grain bags recycled in Saskatchewan in 2025 (rounded):

**1.65M kg**

As in previous years, Cleanfarms increased the number of collection sites so that more growers can participate at the local level. With Cleanfarms looking after the logistics and funding, the local community looks after the rest to ensure their ratepayers have access to this recycling program.

## Manitoba's Provincially Regulated Grain Bag & Baler Twine Recycling Program

In the fourth full year of this provincially regulated program, adoption continues to align with expectations. This regulated program began in 2021, at the request of Manitoba's Department of Environment and Climate Change. As with grain bags in Saskatchewan, an environmental handling fee is applied at the time of purchase to grain bags and twine in Manitoba. This helps cover the cost of collecting, transporting and recycling these materials.

Cleanfarms also undertook the standard five-year review of its Stewardship Program Plan for grain bags and twine and submitted its recommendation to the provincial government.

In 2025, 81,300 kg of grain bags and plastic baler twine were collected in Manitoba: a new collection record for

the program that doubled the amount recorded in 2024 (40,900 kg). By the end of 2025, nearly 45 public collection sites for grain bags and twine were available across Manitoba: up from 35 in 2023.

### » BY THE NUMBERS



Grain bags and baler twine recycled in Manitoba in 2025 (rounded):

**81,300 kg**  
NEW RECORD!



# Jonathan Stratton & Jerry Valcamp, Flaman Agriculture: Environmental Stewardship as an Opportunity for All

To help smaller-sized growers in Saskatchewan, farming equipment supplier Flaman Agriculture started an initiative to help close the gap on full participation in grain bag recycling in the province.

As Jonathan Stratton, Flaman's Senior Manager of Operations and After Market explains: "grain bags are vital for temporary crop storage." But owing to their size—nearly 135 kg per bag, or roughly the weight of an upright piano—farmers look to heavy-duty rolling equipment to prepare their grain bags the way they need to be for collection through the provincially regulated Cleanfarms recycling program. "That's a capital expenditure of about \$15,000," adds Jerry Valcamp, Flaman's After Market Manager, "which can be a difficult-to-justify price for producers with smaller operations or lower storage volumes."

Powered by Pro Grain Equipment as innovative manufacturer, Flaman began offering grain bag rollers on a rental basis, available across Saskatchewan.

This solution solves many problems: closing the equipment gap, helping some

producers bypass high capital costs, while fully meeting stewardship requirements. Since Flaman is a longtime member of Cleanfarms, the company also collects and remits the Environmental Handling Fee for the grain bags they sell. This helps in transitioning these otherwise one-time use bags away from linear disposal and instead toward a circular economy.

Now every producer in Saskatchewan can participate fully—and affordably—in environmental stewardship. "Renting these rollers is the easiest, most cost-effective way to participate in recycling used grain bags," says Stratton. "There's zero maintenance, costs go from many thousands down to a few hundred dollars, and the rollers handle in minutes what would otherwise take hours to do."

"Being part of Cleanfarms helps us keep circularity a top-of-mind issue while we continue to grow our business," concludes Valcamp. "It supports our community and supports the environment, too... we're happy to be a part of it."



"Being part of Cleanfarms helps us keep circularity a top-of-mind issue while we continue to grow our business."

**Jerry Valcamp,**  
Flaman Agriculture



## The 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!' Pilot

According to a 2019 waste characterization study, Alberta farms use up to 3 million kg of plastic baler twine and 2.5 million kg of grain bags annually due to the scale of crop, livestock and hay production industries. This contributes a significant amount of potential waste to divert from landfills. To mitigate that risk to the environment, the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle it!' pilot is a vital way that Cleanfarms, as program operator, helps expand access for agricultural producers to recycle these materials across the province.

In 2025, the Government of Alberta renewed its funding and approved a two-year extension and expansion to include silage plastic and stretch bale wrap for this pilot, led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group, with funds administered by the Alberta Beef Producers. Since its inception in 2019, this pilot has collected over 4.52 million kg of used plastic baler twine and grain bags for recycling.

Also of note, 2025 marked the conclusion of the first edition of the Great Twine Round-Up contest. This highly successful campaign saw Albertan producers of all ages bring used plastic baler twine to Cleanfarms collection sites for a chance to win one of four cash (\$3,000) prizes for their 4-H club or Alberta ag charity of their choice.

### » BY THE NUMBERS

Agricultural plastic and grain bags diverted in Alberta in 2025 (rounded):

**679,000 kg**

20% increase from 2024

Agricultural twine collected:



**165,000 kg**

65% increase from 2024

**NEW RECORD!**



# Recycling Ag Plastics in Prince Edward Island

On account of PEI's unique geography, limited landmass and having a single active landfill site (the East Prince Waste Management Facility), the stakes for waste management are higher here than many other locations in Canada.

Growers here continue the practice of returning agricultural plastics, including bale and silage wrap, empty crop input containers and seed, pesticide and fertilizer bags. These recycling opportunities are made possible by suppliers meeting their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations under the province's Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations, which were implemented in part to build on the success of diverting ag plastics and packaging.

Prince Edward Island is the first Maritime province to have implemented an EPR program for products used in agriculture.

"PEI farmers in 2025 continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to recycling agricultural plastics", says Cleanfarms Eastern Coordinator Lyndsay D'Entremont. "Collections of empty small containers saw a slight increase, fertilizer bag numbers were up. And while agricultural silage plastics were down slightly from 2024 numbers, they remained higher than in previous years."

In 2025, 76,000 kg of bale and silage wrap in the province were sent to a recycling processor. While that's down 25% from the previous year, this level remains above 2022 and 2023 totals. It is likely the result of farmers working through existing stockpiles while program awareness stays steady.

## » BY THE NUMBERS

Bale wrap and silage bags diverted in PEI (rounded):  
**76,000 kg**

"PEI farmers continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to recycling agricultural plastics"

**Lyndsay D'Entremont,**  
Cleanfarms





## Quebec Hay & Silage Plastics and Maple Sap Tubing Programs


*Note: Our organization is known in Quebec as AgriRÉCUP and as Cleanfarms in the rest of Canada.*

In response to Quebec regulations, these two programs came into effect in mid 2023, and are designed to increase the collection of hay and silage plastics, as well as maple sap tubing—thereby diverting these items from landfills.

It was another successful year of achieving that goal in 2025. “We had a significant increase with both of these programs,” says Christine Lajeunesse, Cleanfarms Eastern Region Director.

“And that’s because while we continue to broaden the base of these important programs, the work is being greeted warmly by growers. The proof is in the consistently high participation rates and greater integration of recycling into daily work practices on Quebec farms.”

New records were set for ag film (hay and silage) and twine collection (2.74 million kg), as well as maple sap tubing (1.03 million kg).



“we continue to broaden the base of these important programs”

**Christine Lajeunesse,**  
Cleanfarms



“When farmers visit us at trade shows,” Lajeunesse notes, “what we continually hear about these programs is *this is the right thing to do for farming and for the environment.*” She adds that maple syrup producers see special value in these recycling efforts, because it gives them one more way to preserve the pristine state of their lands—a crucial component to the long-term success of this vital sector. Cleanfarms continues to work with its partners to expand participation in available programs — adding more collection sites, blitz (one-day) events and direct, on-farm recycling collections.

The result: better access by more producers who have to drive a shorter distance to arrive at a collection site.

*Note: In 2025, collection volumes for hay and silage plastics and for maple sap tubing are identified individually, while other Quebec ag plastics are aggregated with similar items from across the country.*

“...this is **the right thing to do** for farming and for the environment”

**Christine Lajeunesse,**  
Cleanfarms

## » **BY THE NUMBERS**

Ag plastics collected for recycling in Quebec in 2025 (rounded):



Ag film and twine  
**2.74M kg**  
NEW RECORD!



Maple sap tubing  
**1.03M kg**  
NEW RECORD!



Agricultural plastics  
**3.77M kg**  
(rounded)  
NEW RECORD!





## Targeted Innovation in BC

Throughout 2025, Cleanfarms continued to promote targeted innovation in several BC regions, creating effective recycling solutions for agricultural communities across the province.

First, building on the earlier success of a pilot to collect ag plastics in BC's Agassiz region, Cleanfarms expanded the project to reach more farmers in Chilliwack in 2025. This was done with support from the Fraser Valley Regional District and BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Thus, Cleanfarms launched a new pilot program during the year in Fraser Valley for bale wrap and silage plastics recycling, involving the use of on-farm compactors. Cleanfarms also launched a similar pilot program in Thompson-Nicola for bale wrap and silage plastics recycling involving the use of on-farm compactors.

Second, a 2021 program was renewed in the Peace River Regional District, focused on collecting grain bags and baler twine. Since its launch in 2021, farmers in the region have demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable waste management, diverting over 45,100 kg of these items from landfills.

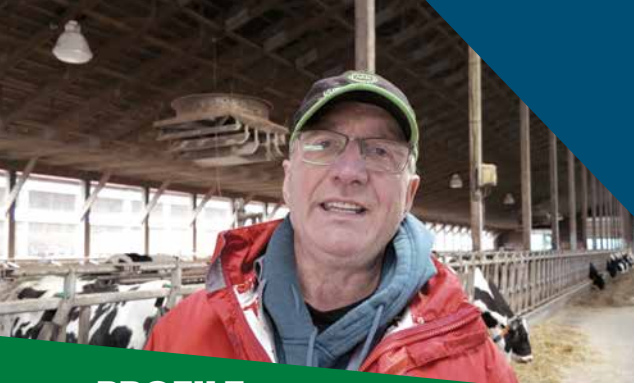
Next, two similar pilots in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George were each extended one year into 2025. In both cases, all remaining bale wrap, silage film and twine were collected before the pilot concluded. In the latter pilot, compactors remained in the possession of the local community for use and the regional district agreed to use the leftover pilot funds to transport on-farm baled material to be recycled.



### » BY THE NUMBERS

Bale wrap, silage and twine recycled in BC in 2025 (rounded):

**20,100 kg**



"It's a terrific program that helps you create something meaningful."

**Holger Schwichtenberg,**  
Holberg Farms Ltd.



## PROFILE

### Stewardship in Practice: Holger Schwichtenberg

For several years, Holger Schwichtenberg of Holberg Farms Ltd., and a dozen neighbouring farmers participated in a program within BC's Kent District to recycle plastic agricultural waste produced on their lands. It entailed collecting and shipping it to nearby Langley, BC. "When that program ended, we all wanted to keep doing this," Schwichtenberg explains. But that would entail shipping non-compacted, loose plastic waste further to Alberta. "Transportation suddenly became a chunk of money we didn't have."

That's when the group learned about the Cleanfarms pilots in other BC regions.

With funding provided through a Cleanfarms partnership with the Dairy Farmers of Canada, Schwichtenberg and neighbouring farms received compactors to condense ag plastic waste and reduce transportation costs. Cleanfarms then connects compacted materials with end markets for recycling.

"Circularity is a community mindset here," Schwichtenberg observes. It's achievable because ag plastic compactors simplify

the task. Growers stack the plastic, press it, leave it for a few days, then remove the block to add more. "When it's this easy, people do it," he says.

Schwichtenberg notes recycling is fundamental to farming here. "Our group leads by example, practicing what we preach about responsible stewardship," he says. "These are all highly visible farms people see from the roadside: they're tidy and responsible, showcasing how to manage the land and manage waste." The outcome is both a choice and a necessity, he adds, "because the cost of doing something today to not mess up the land is small compared to the risk of doing nothing."

Today, in partnership with Cleanfarms, Schwichtenberg and others can continue practicing this community mindset about circularity...making a difference in a cost-effective manner. "It's a terrific program that helps you create something meaningful," he concludes. "It doesn't get better than that."

# Dairy Farmers of Canada: Ag Plastic Film Recycling

On behalf of Canada's dairy farm sector, the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) is committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Through its ongoing partnership with Cleanfarms, DFC enabled Canadian dairy farmers to implement innovative plastic waste diversion solutions throughout 2025.

The DFC pilots in 2025 contributed to diversion of 90,600 kg silage film collected in Manitoba: up 34% from 2024.

The 2025 partnership also focused on profiling farmers who have made significant strides in recycling on their farms. Learn more about their commitments at [cleanfarms.ca](https://cleanfarms.ca) today.

## » BY THE NUMBERS

Bale wrap, silage bags and bunker covers diverted in Manitoba as a result of pilots funded by DFC in 2025 (rounded):

**90,600 kg**





"I knew what was possible for the future of this program..."

**Barry Friesen, P.Eng.**  
Cleanfarms

## PROFILE

### Barry Friesen: From Employee One to a Pathway of Innovation

It started with a bold idea: take a successful stewardship program under CropLife Canada and transition it into a standalone operation as Cleanfarms. "I knew what was possible for the future of this program," says Cleanfarms Executive Director Barry Friesen. "Just as important," he adds, "taking that step forward meant more autonomy for the industry."

Having already achieved a distinguished career in the broader recycling industry—including recognition via the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal award—Friesen became Employee One of Cleanfarms, founded in 2010. Under more than 15 years of his leadership, Cleanfarms started as a single program and grew—both in terms of staff and mandate—into a kind of comprehensive "blue box model" for Canada's agricultural sector.

Solving circularity begins by understanding what you're measuring. And as Friesen notes: "our earliest work meant that for the first time ever, Canadian agriculture gained an accurate picture of the volumes of twine, silage wrap, grain bags, pesticide and

fertilizer containers, and seed bags out there." Helping producers comply with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is another major accomplishment under Friesen's leadership. He notes that by the end of 2025, four provinces had EPR frameworks targeting agricultural plastics, adding: "I'd like to see all provinces be prepared for EPR within the next half decade."

Under Friesen's leadership, Cleanfarms has set the stage for next-generation innovation: finding circularity-focused solutions that create new products out of old ones. "Since Cleanfarms is a not-for-profit," he notes, "it means the private sector can compete for that business while ensuring there's enough volume (i.e., of materials to recycle) to make it feasible."

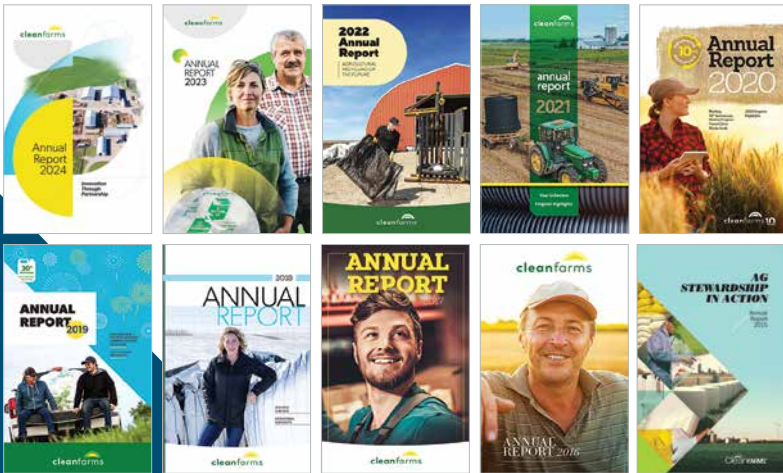
"I'm extremely proud of where we are in that journey," Friesen concludes. "The circularity opportunity is right in front of us. Self-reliant Canadian agriculture is imperative, and that includes managing all our resources in the best possible way."



# About This Report

This annual report documents activities and progress made during the 2025 calendar year by Cleanfarms/AgriRÉCUP. It showcases work made possible by ongoing stewardship and funding support of our members, comprising more than 230 manufacturers, distributors and retailers in the following industries: crop protection, seed, fertilizer, animal health medication, peat moss, animal bedding, feed, ag plastics and mande tubing.

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