



# **Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program**

**Al Kemmere**  
**Division 7 Councillor**  
**Mountain View County**



**Mountain View**  
C O U N T Y

# Program Beginnings



The increasing use of plastic materials in agriculture was creating a waste issue.

The Mountain View County (MVC) Agricultural Service Board (ASB) in May of 2005 discussed the increase of ag plastic littered throughout the County.

It was after this meeting MVC started their ground work with our Waste Commission to address waste agricultural plastics.

# Initial Consultations



Polling of local residents began to identify the barriers to recycling plastics, the most common response was “no access to an agricultural plastics recycling collection program/facility”.

The Waste Commission assessed the feasibility of recycling farm plastics and to see if there was commercial interest in receiving the recycled product.

Initial consultations found there was wide spread support for the program from producers, residents, Council and industry provided it was practical, accessible and made fiscal sense.

# Reasons to Support an Agricultural Recycling Program

- Burning plastic releases harmful toxins to the environment and is illegal under the Substance Release Regulation of the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
- Reduce the dependency of on-farm dumps, burning barrels and reduce the amount of waste agricultural plastic products from going into our landfill system
- Recycling agricultural plastics saves the producer money by avoiding the transfer station fees
- The use of plastics only seems to be increasing. Polypropylene (twine and cord) sold in Alberta is in range of 2000 – 6000 tonnes and the polyethylene material (sheet materials like silage bags and cover) is at 3000 – 6000 tonnes (Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study, Clean FARMS 2013)

# First Program Launch

## Trial Run

In 2007 an advertising campaign was run through to make producers aware of the one day Farm Plastics Round Up, and requirements.

This program collected 19.3 tonnes from 76 participants and of the \$7600 payout, \$2100 was donated to local 4-H Clubs.



# The Farm Plastic Round-Up Program



In 2008, after the success of the one day Farm Plastic Round-Up event the program has expanded to offer more convenience for busy producers.

- The first **100** Mountain View County residents who deliver a minimum of **100 kgs** of agricultural waste plastic for recycling will receive **\$100**
- Local 4-H Clubs may recycle agricultural waste plastics on behalf of landowners to receive the \$100 per farm that contributes 100 kgs, as a source of revenue towards club activities
- The program accepts tarps, twine and silage plastic at the Olds Transfer Station. Netwrap is no longer accepted

# Program Details

- Limit of one payment per farm. Mountain View County residents only
- Twine must be bagged in clear plastic bags, with no foreign material and tied off. Clear plastic bags are available at the Waste Transfer Station and at the Mountain View County office. The 5 mil clear poly bags were made available for twine with the result that the material was cleaner and easier to handle
- Black tarps, silage tarps, and poly need to be in 3'x3' bundles and secured-able to handle. Silage plastic and tarps must be clean (no frozen lumps or clumps of silage please). Mini bulk bags may also be recycled if bundled separately
- The Waste Commission reserves the right to charge for any plastics deemed unacceptable
- Estimated 40% polypropylene and 60% polyethylene plastics collected under the program

# Program Collection

## Historical Amounts Collected

2007 - 19,610 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2008 - 18,950 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2009 - 19,265 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2010 - 23,830 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2011 - 19,110 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2012 - 28,290 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2013 - 20,150 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2014 - 55,250 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2015 - 44,680 kgs farm plastic recycled  
2016 - 23,940 kgs farm plastic recycled



# Plastic Recycled Under the Program

2012 – 16,680 kgs Twine – US Bound (Minnesota based Company)

2013 – 33,600 kgs Twine – US Bound (Minnesota based Company)

2014 – 22,680 kgs Silage Wrap – Overseas Bound (Meridian Wealth Management Inc.)

2015 – YTD – 103,450 kgs of Twine – Overseas Bound (SWA Developing Company LTD)

2017 – In Progress – Load of Twine – US Bound

**“First load of  
recycled twine  
makes history ”**

*Mountain View Gazette,  
March 13, 2012*



**Mountain View  
COUNTY**

# Program Findings

1. Used plastics must be sorted at source by resin type, mixed resin have much lower value
2. Minimal contamination is important (**CLEAN AS POSSIBLE**)
3. Ease of handling at collection sites – twine rolled or folded and bagged at <1cubic metre).  
Manual handling is inefficient (baling of accumulation periodically or use of bags/bins)
4. Producers are willing to bring used plastics to landfills and support the program
5. Seasonality of processing
6. Education is key



**Start saving your waste farm plastics**  
*It pays to save your farm plastics for recycling in Mountain View County.*

Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission will be accepting net wrap, tarps, twine and silage plastic for recycling at the Olds Transfer Station (located north of Belshe's Equipment on Range Rd 20) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates:

**April 17 & 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Special Saturday May 3**

The first 100 Mountain View County farmers to deliver plastic will receive **\$100.00** (minimum of 100 kgs of plastic in order to receive payment), which they may keep, or donate to a 4H Club of their choice. **Limit of one payment per farm. Only Mountain View County residents are eligible.**

To ensure our staff is able to handle your waste plastics, please bag or bundle your load prior to delivery. Upon delivery, twine and net wrap must be bagged in either nine bale bags or large plastic bags (no straw or loose hay). Silage plastic and tarps must be clean (no large frozen lumps or clumps of silage).

Call Lesley Lovell at 335-3311 for more information.

**It pays to keep your waste farm plastic until Spring, 2009**

Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission is **always** accepting net wrap, tarps, twine and silage plastic for recycling at the Olds Transfer Station (located north of Belshe's Equipment on Range Rd 20) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**However, Mountain View County residents who wait until Spring, 2009 to deliver a minimum of 100 kgs of waste plastic for recycling will receive \$100 to keep, or donate to a 4H Club of their choice. (Limit of one payment per farm. Only Mountain View County residents are eligible.)**

**If you're planning to recycle waste plastics, please remember:**

- Upon delivery, twine and net wrap must be bagged in clear plastic bags- no straw or loose hay- and tied off.
- Clear plastic bags for twine and net wrap available FREE at transfer sites and the County office.
- Black tarps, silage tarps, and poly need to be in 3'x3' bundles-tied and secured-able to handle.
- MVRWMC has the right to charge for any plastic deemed unacceptable.
- Silage plastic and tarps must be clean (no large frozen lumps or clumps of silage).

For more information, call Lesley Lovell at 403-335-3311 ext. 163.

**Turn Agricultural Plastics into Cash**

• You know it, the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission is accepting hay tarps, baled twine, poly film and clean silage plastic at the Olds Transfer Station.

• If you are a County agricultural producer with a minimum of 100kgs of recyclable Ag plastic to recycle, bring it to the Olds Waste Transfer Station. The first 100 producers to do this before October 26, 2012 will receive \$100.

• Clean Plastic bags can be picked up at the County office or at any of the three MVRWMC Transfer Stations.

**To all MVC 4-H clubs looking for revenue towards club activities:**  
Every MVC based 4-H club is also eligible to recycle 100 kgs of farm plastic and receive \$100 from the Farm Plastic Recycling Program. The club must be one of the first 100 participants to deliver the recyclables to the Olds Transfer Station in order to qualify for the funding.

**From April 2nd – October 26th, 2012 Monday – Saturday each week**  
**Limit of one payment per farm**  
**Mountain View County residents only**

If you are planning to recycle agricultural waste plastics, please remember:

- Upon delivery, twine must be bagged in clear plastic bags, with no foreign material and tied off.
- Hay tarps, silage tarps, and poly need to be in 3'x3' bundles and secured and able to handle.
- All Ag agricultural waste plastic being recycled MUST be FREE of mud, metal, straw, hay, manure, wood and any other debris.
- The Waste Commission reserves the right to charge for any plastics deemed unacceptable.
- If you are bringing in 500kgs or more at one time contact the Waste Commission one day in advance at 403-335-3311.

**Net Wrap is NOT being accepted under this recycling program!**

All Net Wrap MUST be bagged separately to be considered under the 2012 trial program to dispose of Net Wrap free of charge.

# Program Challenges and Review

Despite best attempts there is no market for netwrap and the County program no longer accepts it.

Agricultural Plastics is often contaminated with dirt and manure. Moisture levels, UV breakdown and cross-border shipping are some of the issues encountered. Any plastic that will be used in the manufacturing of another product must meet tight specifications and minimal contamination threshold.

Asian markets are not always available, however, local markets exist for twine and grain bags as they often can be collected with low contamination.

If we can keep ag plastics out of the waste stream we can extend the life of our landfill, however, few other options exist at this time.

As we celebrate 10 years of the Farm Plastic Round-Up Program, our Agricultural Service Board, along with the original group involved in getting us to our first twine shipment, are going to look at our current program, the marketable plastic and evaluate the best use of the incentive.





# Questions & Closing Remarks

