



# **Managing Agricultural Plastics in Alberta**

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group

# Agenda

- Introductions
- APRG Work
  - History
  - Whitepaper
  - Problem Statement
  - Outcomes
  - Pilot project



A Highland cow with long, shaggy brown fur and large, dark, curved horns stands in a lush green field. The cow is facing right, and its head is slightly lowered. The background shows a rolling landscape with more greenery and a cloudy sky. The word "Introductions" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters across the middle of the image.

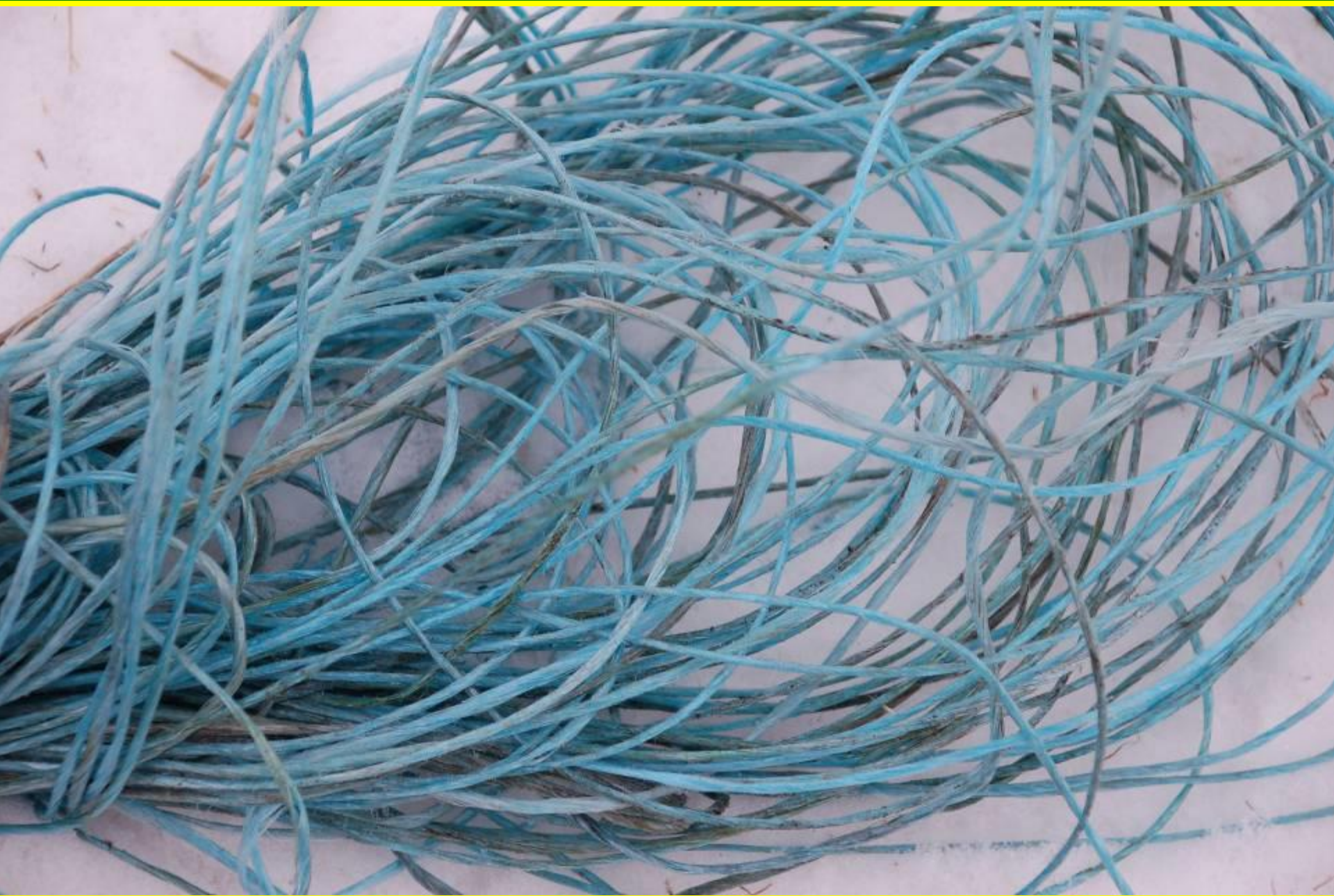
# Introductions





# Materials



















# **Current Management**

- **Landfill**
  - **More landfills banning material**
    - **Presents hazards to equipment**
- **Open Burning - ILLEGAL**
  - **Presents significant air pollution issues**
- **Bury on site**
- **Recycling**
  - **Sporadic options**



# Total Plastic Waste

Plastic Film Waste	Estimated Total Annual Generation (tonnes)
Bale Wrap	550 to 1,400
Grain Bags	700 to 1,800
Greenhouse Film	60 to 160
Silage Plastic	1,500 to 2,300
Total Ag Film Waste	3,260 to 6,360
PP Twine	2,000 to 6,000
Net Wrap	450 to 700
Polypropylene Totes	275 to 300
Pesticide Containers	620
Sanitation Containers	4
Total Plastic Ag Waste	6,600 to 14,000



# Challenges for Recycling

- Collection infrastructure
- Material contamination
- Processing capacity
- Markets
- Costs
  - Collection
  - Processing
  - Transportation





# APRG Committee

Organization	Sector/Representation
Agricultural Service Board	Ag Fieldmen
Alberta Agriculture & Forestry	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Barley	Barley Producers
Alberta Beef Producers	Livestock
Alberta Cattle Feeders Association	Livestock
Alberta CARE	Recycling and waste management
Alberta Environment	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Plastics Recycling Association	Plastics Recycling
Rural Municipalities Association (RMA)	Municipalities
RPC BPI Agriculture	Material Manufacturer
CleanFARMS	Industry Stewardship
Crop Sector Working Group	Crop Producers
Merlin Plastics	Recycler
Recycling Council of Alberta	Recycling and Resource Conservation

# APRG Work

December 2017:

- Group officially formed
- Created Whitepaper with background information on the state of agricultural plastics and recycling in AB
- Program agnostic – only focusing on the desired goals and outcomes



# APRG Work

2018

- April: Formed Problem Statement and Outcomes
- July: Met with Assistant Deputy Ministers for the Environment and Agriculture. No officially legislated program at this time but possible funding available.
- August-Oct.: Draft pilot program/business plan
- November: retailer outreach

# Problem Statement

Growth and change in the agriculture industry has led to greater use of agricultural plastics by agriculture producers to help manage their storage, improve efficiencies and improve cost-effectiveness. While there are some local initiatives for some plastics, there is a lack of western Canadian or Alberta-wide options for environmentally safe end of life management of all agricultural plastic. The lack of comprehensive end of life management of agricultural plastics will continue to have adverse impacts on the environment and human health.



# Program Principles

- Level playing field among all agricultural producers
- The program's financial responsibility is equitable amongst stakeholders – costs do not get downloaded on the municipality or gov't
- Program is based on outcomes with target enforcement penalties
- Addresses the immediate and long term needs of ag producers
- Program is measurable, transparent, and can be adapted for ultimate efficiency and effectiveness
- Program acts in the best interest of human and environmental health

# Next Step: Pilot Project

- Look to other provinces: Saskatchewan and Manitoba had pilot programs before moving into full programs
- Identify logistics and gaps
- Seek funding from the government