



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PLAN FOR DESIGNATED AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS

Regulation: Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation
195/2008

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List of key acronyms or abbreviations

PSP – Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Program
SPPDAP – Stewardship Program Plan for Designated Agricultural Plastics
PRO – Producer Responsibility Organization
Steward – Steward of designated material
Ag plastic - Agricultural plastics
PEI - Prince Edward Island
WCASC - Western Canada Agricultural Stewardship Committee

Key definitions

Definitions taken from Section 1(1) of the [Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation, 195/2008](#)

- Designated materials - a material designated in Section 2.
Excerpt from Section 2:
The following are designated as designated material for the purposes of the Act:
(a) packaging, but not including containers for which a refundable deposit is payable when the goods are supplied at retail and the packaging of those containers; (b) printed paper.
- Packaging and printed paper stewardship program - a waste reduction and prevention program for waste packaging and printed paper approved under section 6.
- Steward of designated material
(a) the first person who, in the course of business or a prescribed activity in Manitoba, supplies a designated material to another person; or
(b) a person who, in the course of business or a prescribed activity in Manitoba, uses a designated material obtained in a supply transaction outside of Manitoba.
- The Regulation – Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation, 195/2008

Other

- Member – A steward of designated materials that subscribes to a packaging and printed paper stewardship program via Cleanfarms.

1. Executive summary

Since 2013, Manitoba farmers have been participating in various ag plastic collection programs. These recycling programs have been made available through various funding sources like provincial government funding for initial pilots, funding from a national grower group (Dairy Farmers of Canada) and industry funding pursuant to the [Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation](#).

Upon approval, this stewardship program plan for designated ag plastics (2026 – 2031) will expand the number of agricultural plastics that are designated as designated materials. This will ensure that a permanent program is in place for the main types of ag plastics used in Manitoba. This aligns Manitoba-based programming with other Canadian jurisdictions and ensures farmers can count on these programs for the long term.

Ag plastics recycling is still relatively new in Manitoba (compared to mature programs for empty pesticide containers). Approval of this product stewardship program will allow Cleanfarms to continue the progress that has been made and further customize programming to meet the needs of Manitoba farmers.

Version Control

It is anticipated that this document will undergo changes throughout the consultation and approval process. This section is intended to assist with version control.

- This is Version 01. It is being made available for comment on Cleanfarms' website.

1.1. History of ag plastics recycling in Manitoba

	Grain bags	Twine	Bale wrap	Silage bags	Silage bunker covers & tarps
2013 – 2020	Micro-pilots & Gov't funding				
Apr 1, 2021	Province-wide programming & Industry funding		Province-wide programming & Grower Group funding		
2022					
2023					
2024					
2025					
Mar 31, '26					
Apr 1, '26	Province-wide programming & Industry funding (proposed)				
2027					
2028					
2029					
2030					
Mar 31, 2031					

1.2. Key changes proposed in this PSP

This PSP recommends that bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps be designated as designated materials.

2. Program synopsis

This section provides a high-level summary of how the Stewardship Program Plan for Designated Agricultural Plastics (SPPDAP) will operate, the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders involved, important dates and key principles that were factored into the development of the MAPP.

Designated materials

Upon approval of the SPPDAP, the following designated materials can be recycled in Manitoba.

Ag plastic	When did/will the ag plastic become a designated material?	Are farmers able to recycle this ag plastic (as of 2025-10-01)?
Grain bags	2021-04-01	Yes
Baler twine		
Bale wrap	2026-04-01 (proposed)	
Silage bags		
Silage bunker covers & tarps		

Collection system

Farmers will prepare the designated materials on the farm and bring them to a collection site. There are no user fees at the collection site. Cleanfarms then arranges for the pickup, transportation, and recycling/processing of the designated materials.

On-farm pickup is available for high volume farmers that are able to accumulate sufficient volumes of material on their farms and meet additional criteria related to how the material is prepared (e.g., bagged and/or compacted), providing assistance with loading and storing the material in an accessible area.

Shared responsibility

Stewards, consumers (farmers/producers), and the government all have a role to play.

- Stewards are responsible for providing a collection and recovery program that will manage all designated materials.
- Stewards are responsible for reporting data on designated materials to Cleanfarms and for remitting the funds to Cleanfarms to cover all aspects of the program.
- Consumers, in this case, farmers, are responsible for preparing and dropping off their designated materials at a designated collection site.
- Cleanfarms (the Producer Responsibility Organization) is responsible for day-to-day operations that ensure the items will be recycled or managed responsibly in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy and to ensure there is no unacceptable health and safety risk.
- Government is responsible for approving the SPPDAP and managing compliance and enforcement.

Program financing - Environmental Handling Fees

Like many Manitoba stewardship programs, the SPPDAP is funded through an Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) that is applied to designated materials.

Agricultural plastics	Estimated EHF (per kg)	Start date for EHF
Grain bags	\$0.225	Already in place
Baler twine	\$0.33	Already in place
Bale wrap	\$0.55	January 1, 2027
Silage bags	\$0.55	January 1, 2027
Silage bunker covers & tarps	\$0.55	January 1, 2027

Key dates

The following dates are relevant to the consultation process and the launch of the SPPDAP.

- Initial consultations with key stakeholders – December 2024
- Quantitative grower survey fielded – January & February 2025
- Preliminary program plan consultations (one on one) – Summer 2025
- Draft program plan (version 01) available for comment – October 7, 2025 – November 25, 2025
- Submission of final program plan to government – November 30, 2025
- Ministerial approval of the program plan – February 28, 2026 (tbd)
- Program start – April 1, 2026
- Implementation of the EHF on newly designated materials (bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunk covers & tarps – January 1, 2027

Program efficiencies

Compared to other prairie provinces, Manitoba farmers use relatively small volumes of agricultural plastics and therefore programs need to be developed carefully to accommodate these small volumes. In order to deliver cost effective programming, there needs to be a focus on creating economies of scale and harmonizing programming with other jurisdictions.

3. Organizational structure

This section outlines how stewards of designated materials obligated under the Regulation who choose to work with Cleanfarms will be represented through Cleanfarms and can provide feedback into the organization. It also outlines how affected stakeholders will be able to provide input into the SPPDAP.

3.1. Cleanfarms

Cleanfarms is a not-for-profit industry stewardship organization that operates under Canada's Not-for-profit Corporation's Act. In some regions like Manitoba, Cleanfarms is referred to as a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO).

Cleanfarms is governed by a private-sector Board. Membership in Cleanfarms is open to companies whose products or packaging fall under the industry-funded programs the organization operates. Annual Reports are available at www.cleanfarms.ca.

Cleanfarms operates another approved program in Manitoba, the [Stewardship Program Plan for Designated Crop Input Packaging](#) (2023 – 2028), in addition to the existing [Stewardship Program Plan for Designated Ag Plastics](#) (2021 – 2026).

3.2. Steward of Designated Material

The Regulation states that a “steward of designated material” means:

- (a) The first person who, in the course of business in Manitoba, supplies a designated material to another person; or
- (b) A person who, in the course of business in Manitoba, uses a designated material obtained in a supply transaction outside of Manitoba.

Cleanfarms programs allow stewards to meet regulatory requirements in multiple jurisdictions. Regulations in different jurisdictions use different terminologies to identify the party that takes on the regulatory requirements. The terms ‘first seller’ (Saskatchewan), ‘brand owner/retailer’ (Prince Edward Island), and ‘enterprise’ (Quebec) have very similar meanings to the term ‘steward.’

Cleanfarms uses the term ‘member’ to identify a steward of designated material that is subscribed to a Cleanfarms program.

3.3. Cleanfarms’ Governance model

3.3.1. Board

The Cleanfarms Board provides overall strategic direction to the organization and its activities consistent with its mission and Articles of Incorporation. The Board approves the organization’s annual budget, financial statements, and business plan.

A listing of Board members is available at <https://cleanfarms.ca/staff-board/>.

3.3.2. Western Canada Agricultural Stewardship Committee

The Western Canada Agricultural Stewardship Committee (WCASC) is a committee of the Cleanfarms Board which provides oversight and feedback to Cleanfarms staff. The WCASC’s key responsibility is approval of an annual budget that determines Environmental Handling Fees.

Stewards of Designated Materials who are Cleanfarms members are eligible to participate in the WCASC, although they will not be required to do so.

While the WCASC is the formal mechanism to provide feedback into Cleanfarms, stewards can provide feedback to Cleanfarms informally through one-on-one discussions with staff.

3.3.3. Manitoba Advisory Committee

A Manitoba-based advisory committee has been put in place to provide feedback into the Stewardship Program Plans that Cleanfarms operates in Manitoba.

This advisory committee helps ensure that the resulting programming meets the needs of and provides value to the various stakeholders who play a role in it. Membership includes representatives of the provincial government, rural and municipal associations, ag-retailers and farmer groups.

While this advisory committee is the formal mechanism to provide feedback into Cleanfarms, stakeholders can provide feedback to Cleanfarms informally through one-on-one discussions with staff.

3.3.4. *Staff*

Cleanfarms staff are responsible for day-to-day operations of the program.

- Cleanfarms has an office in Manitoba and a program coordinator that is responsible for supporting collection site operations in Manitoba.
- Additional support such as end market development, health, safety and environment monitoring, communications, administration and finance services are all available through Cleanfarms' national network which includes an Ontario-based head office and regional offices. This allows stewards to efficiently use the resources that Cleanfarms already has in place.

3.3.5. *Additional governance documents*

Over its 15 years of existence, Cleanfarms has developed a comprehensive and well-documented set of governance and code of conduct policies.

The following documents (most are available at <https://cleanfarms.ca/join-cleanfarms/>) outline Cleanfarms' governance and the expectations of staff, members and contractors:

- By-laws
- Code of Conduct
- Board approved policies – available to members. These are available to outside stakeholders on demand and cover the following: board-management delegation, executive limitations, governance process and operations policies.
- Membership agreement

3.4. *Guiding Principles*

The following are key factors that guide Cleanfarms' work, both in relation to the SPPDAP and in all other aspects of the organization.

- The program must be operated in a manner that ensures there is no unacceptable health and safety risk.
- The program must be managed by the manufacturers/brand owners/distributors of the products.
- The program must strive to achieve the highest and most practical end use of products while following the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) hierarchy.
- The program must achieve reasonable, high participation rates. While they may never actually achieve this goal for practical reasons, programs should still strive towards 100 percent recovery.
- The program must provide reasonable accessibility for all users of the products to facilitate and promote their full participation in the program.
- The program must strongly encourage participation by all manufacturers/brand owners/stewards.
- The program should be designed in a way that promotes harmonization across different regions or provinces.

4. Designated materials - Description of ag plastics targeted by the program

This section identifies and defines which materials will be targeted by the SPPDAP.

4.1. What's in

Designated Material	Definition	Also known as	Exclusions
Grain bags	A large, bulky, single-use bag, commonly known as a grain bag. Made from plastic and used to protect and temporarily store grains, pulses, and other agricultural produce. Grain bags are usually black & white.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain storage bags • Grain silo bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain seed bags • Grain seed totes
Baler twine	Single-use twine made from plastic and used to contain hay and straw.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nylon twine • Sisal twine
Silage bags	A large single-use bag, most often used to store loose silage crops (grains and hay) on fields. Silage bags are usually black and white.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silage bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Silage bunker covers and tarps	A large sheet that covers silage crops that are stored in concrete bunks or pits. Silage bunker covers and tarps are usually black and white. Silage bunker covers and tarps include a built-in oxygen barrier film/sheet. Oxygen barrier films/sheets can also be purchased separately from silage bunker covers and tarps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silage sheeting • Silage covers • Oxygen Barriers • Oxygen Barrier silage film • Oxygen Barrier silage sheeting • String reinforced silage plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse roofing film • Mulch film
Bale wrap	A thin stretch film that is often used to wrap round or large square bales of hay (and some cereal crops) after the bales have first been wrapped by twine or net wrap. Bale and silage wrap is usually white.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bale tubes • Silage film • Silage wrap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat wrap

4.1.1. Rationale for recommending new ag plastics as designated materials.

Cleanfarms recommends the designation of three additional types of ag plastics for several reasons:

- Continuity of recycling services for farmers.
 - Farmers have recycled bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps since 2013. The availability of recycling programs for these three ag plastics is dependent on year-to-year funding by a national grower group, which can make planning difficult. By designating these ag plastics as designated materials, funding will be in place for a 5-year period.
- Program efficiencies can be realized via economies of scale
 - Designating additional types of ag plastics increases the volume of ag plastics available for collection, which can lead to program efficiencies around transportation and collection. Larger and consistent volumes make potential contracts more appealing to contractors, which could increase contractor availability.

- Harmonization with other Western Canadian jurisdictions.
 - Harmonization is a key concern for stewards. With potential new EPR requirements pending in Alberta and Saskatchewan¹, the designation of new ag plastics as designated materials will support harmonization.

4.2. What's out

Ag plastic	Definition	Also known as	Exclusions
Net wrap	A knitted high-density polyethylene (HDPE), or mixed plastic netting used to make round bales.	• Netting	• N/A

4.2.1. Rationale for not recommending net wrap as a designated material.

Cleanfarms does not recommend that net wrap, also known as netting, be designated as a designated material at this time because there are technical barriers to recycling this material. Progress in the form of chemical recycling and other technologies is underway to support the recycling of net wrap. Cleanfarms anticipates that it will recommend the designation of net wrap as a designated material in 2031 when this PSP is made available for approval again.

5. Program details

Farmers primarily prepare their materials on farm before dropping them off at a designated collection site. Collection sites are responsible for ensuring that materials are prepared properly and temporarily stored to ensure efficient transportation and recycling.

5.1. On-farm preparation

Farmers will properly prepare items prior to drop off.

- Grain bags must be machine-rolled and tied with baler twine.
- Loose baler twine must be placed in a collection bag with holes poked in the bottom and tied closed.
- Silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps must be placed in collection bags or folded and secured with twine.
- Bale wrap must be placed in collection bags or folded and secured with twine.

Farmers will drop off materials at a designated collection site. There is no fee for dropping off designated materials that are prepared properly.

Note: Farmers/producers are not obligated to recycle designated materials under the Regulation.

5.2. Collection system

5.2.1. Collection sites

Cleanfarms does not own or manage collection sites. Cleanfarms partners with interested organizations, primarily municipalities, to provide collection services. See Appendix A for a list of collection sites.

¹ In August 2025, Alberta began a [stakeholder engagement exercise](#) to explore regulatory approaches for various agricultural plastics and Saskatchewan began a review of Cleanfarms' [Product Stewardship Program](#) for grain bags. These exercises could lead to extended producer responsibility obligations for a wide variety of ag plastics in both provinces.

It is important to note that the end users of these products are farmers who are located primarily in agriculturally-intensive areas and therefore collection sites are predominantly located in agriculturally-intensive areas.

5.2.1.1. *Key collection site responsibilities*

Collection sites are primarily responsible for temporarily storing ag plastics to minimize contamination (which maximizes recyclability) and this includes monitoring drop off procedures.

Collection sites are asked to do the following to minimize contamination of ag plastics:

- Use vector control such as bait boxes.
- Temporarily store designated material in a segregated area (about 12 square metres).
- Store designated material separately. In other words, grain bags need to be stored separately from baler twine.
- If possible, make rolling and/or baling equipment available. Collection sites that offer rolling and/or baling equipment may be eligible for additional compensation.
- Restrict access using fencing or other means to minimize contamination, illegal dumping and to maintain site cleanliness.

Collection sites are also asked to do the following to ensure smooth drop off of designated materials:

- Make staff available during collection hours to assist users and ensure that they only drop off properly prepared, designated material.
- Use promotion & education materials (supplied by Cleanfarms) as appropriate:
 - Signage (to ensure that designated materials are stored properly and separately) should be displayed.
 - Content (or use in websites and newsletters (that helps explain proper preparation steps to producers) should be employed.
- Provide farmers with plastic collection bags (that are used to store separated ag plastics and provided by Cleanfarms).

5.2.1.2. *Collection site compensation*

A funding model where Cleanfarms incentivizes collection sites for annual capital costs plus compensation (\$/kg) based on the volume of material collected will be rolled out. The incentive is currently \$55/tonne.

5.2.2. *Enhancing farmer access via alternatives to collection sites*

5.2.2.1. *On-farm/facility pickups*

Since 2016, Cleanfarms has been collecting various ag plastics directly from certain high-acreage farms or other users (e.g., racetracks or hay processing facilities). Farmers or users are required to properly prepare the material prior to pickup.

On-farm compactors have been made available in various regions across Canada since 2021. Starting in 2022, some Manitoba farmers have tested different compactor models as an alternative to bringing bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps to collection sites.

These compactors can compress approximately 500 pounds of plastics into one bale. They minimize the space (on-farm) needed to store used ag plastics. The use of on-farm compactors can mean fewer trips to collection sites to drop off material for recycling.

5.2.2.2. *Alternatives under consideration*

Blitz-style collections, targeted campaigns that engage with community groups closely linked to agriculture may be used to increase awareness and provide farmers with alternatives to bringing designated materials to collection sites.

5.3. *Transportation and consolidation of designated materials*

One to two times a year, Cleanfarms will arrange for the pickup and transportation of the designated materials from collection sites to a centralized consolidation point where it will be stored and/or processed (e.g., baled) if necessary. Once a sufficient volume of material is accumulated at the consolidation point, Cleanfarms will send it to a pre-approved recycling facility.

As the volume of material available for pickup increases, the frequency of pickup will likely increase accordingly. Cleanfarms may even be able to ship material directly from a collection site (or collection sites) to pre-approved recycling facilities.

5.4. *Processing of designated materials*

Processing of designated materials involves the following:

- Grain bags – Baling is sometimes required to ensure grain bags can be transported to end markets efficiently.
- Baler twine, bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps – These ag plastics are each individually baled prior to being shipped to end markets.

5.5. *End of life management of designated materials*

The SPPDAP will provide a solutions-based approach that relies on sound environmental stewardship principles following the 4Rs hierarchy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover.

For all designated ag plastics, the primary goal is to recycle these into marketable end-use products rather than other disposal practices like high temperature incineration or energy recovery.

5.5.1. *Energy recovery as an alternative*

In the unlikely event of a recycling market shortage, Cleanfarms would consider energy recovery as the next best alternative.

6. Program funding

This section details how the program is funded and incorporates accounting standards and financial best practices for PROs.

For each designated material, Cleanfarms calculates an Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) that is applied to each designated material that a steward supplies into Manitoba. EHF's are released in September for the following year. Stewards are responsible for remitting levies to Cleanfarms to cover the costs of the program.

Consistent with the requirements of the WRAP Act, the levy is not collected by the provincial government and is not a tax.

6.1. *EHFs at a glance*

The table below identifies the 2026 EHF materials that are in place for designated materials and estimates for EHF materials on new designated materials.

Agricultural plastics	Estimated EHF (per kg)	Start date for EHF
Grain bags	\$0.225	Already in place
Baler twine	\$0.33	Already in place
Bale wrap	\$0.55	January 1, 2027
Silage bags	\$0.55	January 1, 2027
Silage bunker covers & tarps	\$0.55	January 1, 2027

Designated materials are sold in various sizes and weights. Thus, the EHF will be determined on a per kilogram basis. The EHF reflects the cost of managing the designated ag plastics.

Note: That very few farmers are purchasing ag plastics in January and therefore this is an ideal time to implement changes.

6.2. *Setting the EHF*

The Cleanfarms Board, with input from the WCASC, approves a yearly budget, which determines the levies.

The levy is calculated based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Program Costs (A + B + C + D + E + F) – Recycling Revenue}}{\text{Supply volume – (kilograms sold into the marketplace)}}$$

6.2.1. *Program costs*

Program costs are currently categorized as follows:

- (A) Operations/direct costs - This typically includes recycling bags used for storage, compacting equipment auditing, processing and transportation costs.
- (B) Operations/indirect costs - This captures education and promotion, legal, insurance, travel, meeting, annual regulatory and compliance review costs.
- (C) Program management - This captures staffing and shared costs (e.g., website, photocopier, telephone).
- (D) Program development - This often includes administrative costs related to recruiting stewards and start up duties.
- (E) Contingency – This helps manage unknown costs and fluctuations in collection volumes.
- (F) Reserve fund development – These funds are allocated to cover the costs of winding down operations in the event this occurs (typically 50 to 150 per cent of operating costs).

6.2.2. *Recycling revenue*

Revenue can sometimes be generated from the sale of designated ag plastics. Any revenue received will be directed to the SPPDAP budget and will be incorporated into the EHF calculation.

6.2.3. *Supply volumes*

Stewards will report, in confidence, their supply volumes, which include the weight of designated ag plastics supplied into the Manitoba marketplace on a quarterly basis.

6.3. *Budget and EHF approval process*

The budget approval process takes place each September and involves the following:

- 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. This allows staff to estimate the variables noted in Section

6.2.1 and determine expenses associated with the collection, transportation, storage processing and disposal of materials designated under the CIPRP.

- Cleanfarms' Finance & Audit Committee reviews the budgets and provides recommendations to the Cleanfarms Board.
- Cleanfarms' Board reviews and approves the budget.
- Cleanfarms informs its members on the Board decision.

6.4. *Steward compliance reviews*

A steward compliance review program will be used to ensure that stewards are reporting accurately. (Similar compliance review programs are already in place in other jurisdictions where Cleanfarms operates government-regulated programs.)

Some key aspects of the program may include:

- Stewards will typically be selected at random for compliance reviews. However, certain factors such as significant changes in reporting and compliance history may trigger a non-random compliance review.
- Stewards will be notified in writing that they have been selected for a compliance review and advised of the requirements of the process.
- Cleanfarms will use two types of compliance reviews:
 - Level 1 - A desktop audit or review of records and documentation that a Steward has provided to Cleanfarms.
 - Level 2 – In the event that a Level 1 review indicates inaccuracies, a more in-depth review will take place. A Level 2 audit is conducted onsite, at the Steward's office. It will likely include a review of data and reporting/record-keeping procedures, as well as interviews with staff or management.

In most cases, a Level 1 review is sufficient and effective in addressing member reporting and remittance errors or omissions.

- Findings will be reported (in confidence) to the Steward and Cleanfarms' finance staff. Corrective actions, as required, will be undertaken and in extreme cases may involve deregistration from the approved stewardship program, in which case the Steward may be subject to further penalties established and enforced by government regulators.

7. **Stewards of Designated Materials recruitment process**

This section outlines how Cleanfarms will onboard stewards, or companies that are obligated under SPPDAP and who are not yet Cleanfarms members. The onboarding strategy is based on techniques used in other provinces and for other programs.

- **Company Identification** - Cleanfarms uses a variety of tools to identify (potential) stewards. This includes desktop research, outreach at farm shows and member referrals. Once Cleanfarms identifies a company as a potential steward, the steward is contacted in person, by phone or by email to better determine if the company meets the definition of a steward.

Cleanfarms attempts to identify a key individual within the company who is responsible for regulatory compliance or end of life stewardship (In some cases, after learning more about a company, it may not meet the definition of a steward. Records and interactions are documented in the event that the company's product line or circumstances change).

- **Education and awareness** - Cleanfarms emails the steward informing them of the benefits of Cleanfarms' programs and their obligations. A meeting by phone or in person is requested.

Repeated attempts by phone or email are made to set up a meeting. These interactions are documented.

Cleanfarms will engage with the steward at least four times over 20 business days before the steward is internally identified as 'non-responsive'.

Please note: Cleanfarms has found that direct outreach outlining regulatory obligations from government officials to steward (e.g., in the form of a letter) is very effective. Upon approval of this PSP, Cleanfarms will ask the Department of Environment and Climate Change to send a letter to stewards advising stewards of their regulatory obligations and options.

- Steward meeting - Cleanfarms and the steward meet to review program benefits, pricing, key policies, and registration procedures. The steward is asked to register or sign up for membership.

Following the steward meeting, Cleanfarms will engage with the steward at least four times over 20 business days before the steward is classified as 'non-compliant'. These interactions are documented.

- Ministerial engagement - In the event that stewards are not responsive or non-compliant, Cleanfarms will engage with the appropriate ministry/department. Cleanfarms will provide ministry officials with documentation of interactions and steward contact information upon request.

8. Promotion & Education

Cleanfarms has a comprehensive and well-developed education and awareness approach that has been specifically developed to meet the needs of farmers, collection sites and additional stakeholders that are impacted by the SPPDAP.

8.1. Areas of focus for 2026 - 2031

Cleanfarms is presently developing plans for targeted outreach and messaging that is more customized to Manitoba farmers.

This section will be completed prior to the submission of this document to Manitoba Environment and Climate Change.

Note: Promotions & education related to steward onboarding is noted in Section 7.

8.2. Sample tactics

Research shows that farmers look to their ag-retailer, trade publications (e.g., farm newspapers) and collection sites as key sources of information about recycling ag plastics. Cleanfarms makes use of these channels, in addition to trade shows and meetings with associations/grower groups.

A sample of tools that have been used are available in Appendix D.

Farmer focused promotions & education tools usually include:

- Paid media – A variety of advertisements in trade publication that aim to increase awareness
- Earned media – News releases are used to raise awareness and highlight successes.
- Collection site signage
- Electronic tools – Web banners and other artwork is available on Cleanfarms' website and are often used by grower groups, collection sites and others to help promote awareness.

- Point of sale materials (posters, invoice stuffers) – These are available to ag-retailers to help raise awareness amongst customers.
- Website – This is the key tool that Cleanfarms uses to ensure a variety of stakeholders has access to information about the program.

Trade shows and industry meetings are extremely valuable because they allow for dialogue and one-on-one outreach.

Cleanfarms anticipates that trade shows/meetings hosted by the following groups will be prioritized:

- Farmer-focused: Crop Connect, Manitoba Beef Producer Annual Meeting & Trade Show, meetings organized by Keystone Ag Producers, Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association and Dairy Farmers of Manitoba.
- Municipal-focused: Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers (MARR) Fall Forum

9. Performance measures

9.1. Recovery rates

The primary way that Cleanfarms measures the success of its programs is through a recovery rate, which compares the volume of designated ag plastics sold into the marketplace with the volume collected.

Because there are a very small number of companies that supply designated ag plastics into Manitoba, Cleanfarms is unable to share individual recovery rates of specific designated ag plastics (i.e., a recovery rate for grain bags or a recovery rate for twine).

As an alternative to reporting individual recovery rates for each designated ag plastics, Cleanfarms recommends the usage of a recovery rate for all designated ag plastics as a performance measure.

The following recovery rates are recommended:

Year	Target recovery rate
2027	25%
2029	30%
2031	35%

9.2. Additional performance measures

Additional performance measures that may be considered include:

- Contamination rates
- User/public awareness
- Program efficiency
- Number of collection points (access)
- User exit surveys to assess user satisfaction
- Collection site surveys to assess collection site experience and satisfaction
- Volumes collected

Performance measures will be reported through the Annual Report to government. The fiscal year of the SPPDAP is the calendar year.

9.3. Important considerations

When considering performance measures for ag plastics recycling programs, Cleanfarms recommends careful consideration and the impact on program costs. For example, omnibus surveys

are often used to measure awareness of recycling programs. While this can be an efficient way to measure awareness for certain designated materials, this is not applicable to specialized users like farmers. As of October 2025, omnibus surveys are not available for the agricultural sector and measuring awareness through proprietary surveys can significantly impact program costs.

10. Dispute Resolution

All Cleanfarms members must abide by a very explicit Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct comprises a number of important policies that include a code of business ethics, lobbying, privacy, complaints from public and a dispute resolution process.

Cleanfarms' Dispute Resolution Policy is broken down into two parts ('Complaints from the public regarding Members' and 'Complaints or disputes among Member') and is available online at www.cleanfarms.ca. Please see Appendix E for the full policy.

11. Consultation

11.1. *Grower survey*

A grower survey was undertaken in winter 2025 to capture farmer attitudes and behaviours, including their reaction to the pilots and a potential permanent program. A summary of these results is available in Appendix D.

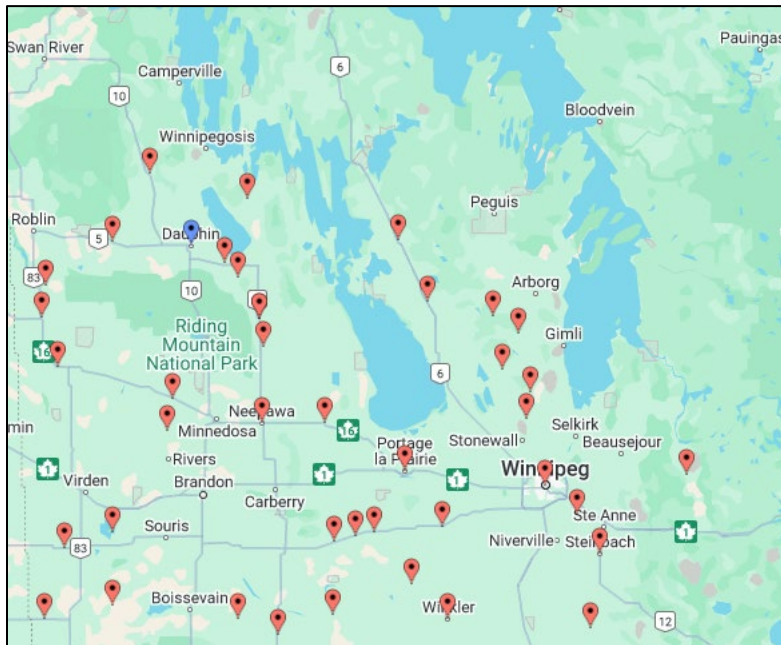
11.2. *Stakeholder consultations*

This section will be completed following the consultation process that is taking place in fall 2025.

Appendix A – Collection site list (as of October 1, 2025)

Name	Location	Products collected
City of Steinbach, Landfill	Steinbach	All proposed designated materials
Grandview Municipality Waste Transfer Station	Grandview	All proposed designated materials
Mossey River Municipality	Winnipeg	All proposed designated materials
Municipality of Harrison Park - Newdale	Newdale	All proposed designated materials
Municipality of KillarneyTurtle Mountain	Killarney	All proposed designated materials
Neepawa Area, Evergreen Regional Landfill	Neepawa	All proposed designated materials
Prairie View Municipality - Foxwarren/Birtle	Foxwarren	All proposed designated materials
RM of Armstrong - Chatfield Transfer Station	Chatfield	All proposed designated materials
RM of Armstrong - Inwood Transfer Station	Inwood	All proposed designated materials
RM of Armstrong - Meleb Waste Disposal	Armstrong	All proposed designated materials
RM of Brenda-Waskada	Medora	All proposed designated materials
RM of Cartwright - Roblin Waste Transfer Station	Cartwright	All proposed designated materials
RM of Coldwell Eriksdale	Eriksdale	All proposed designated materials
RM of Dauphin, Sammy's Farm Supply	Dauphin	Twine only
RM of Dauphin, Sifton Landfill	Sifton	All proposed designated materials
RM of Ethelbert - Mink Creek Waste Transfer Station	Ethelbert	All proposed designated materials
RM of Grey Landfill	Elm Creek	All proposed designated materials
RM of Lakeshore, Makinak	Makinak	All proposed designated materials
RM of Lakeshore, Ochre River	Ochre River	All proposed designated materials
RM of Lakeshore, Rorketon	Rorketon	All proposed designated materials
RM of Louise - Pilot Mound	Pilot Mound	All proposed designated materials
RM of McCreary	McCreary	All proposed designated materials
RM of Norfolk - Treherne Rathwell Transfer Station	Rathwell	All proposed designated materials
RM of Norfolk - Treherne Transfer Station	Treherne	All proposed designated materials
RM of Pipestone - Reston Landfill	Reston	All proposed designated materials
RM of Portage La Prairie, Landfill	Portage la Prairie	All proposed designated materials
RM of Riding Mountain West - Inglis Waste Disposal	Inglis	All proposed designated materials
RM of Rockwood - Teulon/Rockwood	Teulon	All proposed designated materials
RM of Rockwood - Winfield Waste Transfer Station	Rockwood	All proposed designated materials
RM of Rosedale - Kelwood Landfill	Kelwood	All proposed designated materials
RM of Russell/Binscarth	Russell	All proposed designated materials
RM of Stanley SWAMP Landfill	Winkler	All proposed designated materials
RM of Stuartburn	Stuartburn	All proposed designated materials
RM of Tache - Lorette	Lorette	All proposed designated materials
RM of Thompson	Miami	All proposed designated materials
RM of Two Borders	Pierson	All proposed designated materials
RM of Victoria - Holland Waste Disposal	Holland	All proposed designated materials
RM of Westinterlake - Ashern	Ashern	All proposed designated materials
RM of Westinterlake - Oakview	Oakview	All proposed designated materials
RM of Westlake-Gladstone Gladstone location	Gladstone	All proposed designated materials
Whitemouth-Reynolds-North Whiteshell Waste Management Facility	Whitemouth	All proposed designated materials

The following map provides a geographic representation of collection sites:



Notes:

- Cleanfarms is actively recruiting collection sites, so this list may differ from the list on its website (www.cleanfarms.ca).
- This list captures public collection sites only. It excludes collection sites that may offer blitz-style collections or offer collections to a limited cross section of users (e.g., their customers only) and farms/sites that have been serviced through Cleanfarms large volume pickup service.

Appendix B – Program overview

The following table identifies key developments and challenges related to the Stewardship Program Plan (SPP) for designated ag plastics (grain bags and twine, 2021 - 2026).

Year	Sites	Volume collected (kg)	Key developments	Key challenges
2020		38,400*		
2021	35	76,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Approval of SPP (2021 – 2026). -External funding secured to offer collections of bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps for 2021 & 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Steward engagement – low awareness and understanding of regulatory requirements.
2022	35	77,116	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Compactors made available at select collection sites & farms. -External funding secured to offer collections of bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps for 2023 & 2024. -Start of industry financing or Environmental Handling Fee. -Dedicated Manitoba staff hired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Challenges securing in-province contractors (ongoing).
2023	36	81,614	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work to secure agreements with collection sites started (ongoing). -Additional compactors provided to farmers; compactors retrofitted from manual to hydraulics (with some battery powered). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Large volumes of legacy material at collection site.
2024	41	110,165	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Steward-related challenges largely resolved. -Twine EHF changes from a per-size-category charge to a per-kg charge. -Multi-year data points now available and allow for better budgeting & planning. -Additional improvements to compactors made. -On farm pickups tested. -New Manitoba-based contractor identified & tested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Challenges securing end market challenges (ongoing).
2025 (ongoing)	42	tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research activities undertaken to better understand farmer behaviours & barriers (both traditional & new research techniques used). 	

Year	Sites	Volume collected (kg)	Key developments	Key challenges
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -External funding secured to offer collections of bale wrap, silage bags and silage bunker covers & tarps for 2025. -One-year agreement with Manitoba-based contractor secured. 	

*Data point provided to illustrate collection volumes prior to the approval of the current PSP (2021 – 2026).

Appendix C – Sample promotion & education materials

Point of sale materials:

Poster/insert for paid advertisement

NEW!
Now collecting silage plastic and bale wrap, too!

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MANITOBA FARMERS
Got used grain bags or baler twine?
Please recycle them.

Recycling used grain bags and twine keeps them out of landfills and the environment.

A provincially-regulated recycling program for grain bags and baler twine is in place in Manitoba.

- This program is funded through a non-refundable Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) applied to all grain bags and baler twine at the time of sale
- EHF on all sizes of grain bags – 22.5 cents per kilogram
- EHF on all sizes of baler twine – 33 cents per kilogram

MANITOBA'S GRAIN BAG AND BALER TWINE RECYCLING PROGRAM IS OPERATED BY CLEANFARMS.

Find a recycling collection site near you. See QR codes.

info@cleanfarms.ca | @cleanfarms

twine recycling.ca | grainbagrecycling.ca

SCAN ME | SCAN ME

Rack card

Manitoba Twine Recycling

3 steps to ensure your used plastic baler twine can be accepted and recycled:

Pick up free twine collection bags from collection sites.

- Shake**
Remove as much debris, snow, or ice as possible. Run the twine through a gloved hand to help remove debris.
- Bag**
Place loose twine* in a collection bag & secure tightly closed with twine or a zip tie.
- Return**
Bring full bags of twine to your local collection site. Visit canap.cleanfarms.ca/FindMap

*Plastic baler twine only. Bags of twine mixed with netting, steel twine, or other materials may be rejected, subject to a landfill tipping fee or to additional charges at drop-off.

Manitoba Grain Bag Recycling Program

3 steps to ensure your used grain bags can be accepted and recycled:

Grain bags that are returned loosely rolled require more space, are time consuming and difficult to manage with equipment, and they fill up a trailer quickly, which is inefficient for transportation to a recycling facility.

- Remove Debris**
Grain bags need to be free of as much foreign material (spillage, dirt, rocks, etc.) as possible. Using a grain bag roller will help.
- Roll**
Grain bags must be rolled tightly with a grain bag roller* or old hay baler, and then secured tightly with twine.
- Return**
Bring rolled and tied grain bags to your local Cleanfarms collection site. For your nearest site, visit canap.cleanfarms.ca/FindMap

*Collection sites cannot accept unrolled or hand-rolled grain bags. Any improperly rolled bags may be rejected or subject to landfill tipping fees.

cleanfarms | 877.622.4460 | info@cleanfarms.ca | @cleanfarms

Handouts:

What Becomes What

What Becomes What | **cleanfarms**

Find out what happens to the used agricultural packaging and products that you bring to Cleanfarms collection sites.

Containers less than 23L	End Products	Recyclers
	Agricultural fence posts, composite dimensional lumber used in industrial construction, plastic pallets, drainage tile, guard rails, and parking lot curb stops	AB, ON, QC, USA
Totes & Drums	Plastic pallets, drainage tile, composite dimensional lumber used in industrial construction, and specialty parts for various industries	AB, ON, QC, USA
Unwanted Pesticides & Livestock/Equine Medications	Solids & liquid products: sent for safe disposal via high temperature incineration at an approved facility Recycled plastic: Agricultural fence posts, composite dimensional lumber used in industrial construction, plastic pallets, drainage tile, guard rails, and parking lot curb stops	Incineration: CAN & USA Recycling plastic: AB, ON, QC, USA
Seed, Pesticide & Inoculant Bags (paper/plastic & FIBC)	Paper/plastic – Plastic lined paper bags – alternative fuels – waste to energy – cement kiln or district heating FIBC bags – lumber wrap	Paper/plastic: BC, MB, QC, PE FIBC bags – lumber wrap
Grain Bags	New agricultural film plastics, plastic bags and construction sheeting, composite dimensional lumber, and agricultural fence posts	AB

Cleanfarms.ca | Please turn over

cleanfarms

Twine	End Products	Recyclers
	Car parts, flowerpots, composite decking, and dimensional lumber	USA, Canada
Bale Wrap	Containers, pots, buckets, garbage bags, pouches, and flexible tubing	AB (developing market), QC
Silage Plastics	New agricultural film plastics, plastic bags and construction sheeting, composite dimensional lumber, and agricultural fence posts	AB, USA
Maple Tubing	Agricultural drainage pipe, plastic containers, accessories for parks and stakes for trees	QC

About Cleanfarms
Cleanfarms is a non-profit, industry funded, charitable organization. Its vision is to contribute to a healthier environment and a sustainable future by recovering and recycling agricultural and related industry plastics and packaging.

Cleanfarms.ca | 877.622.4460 | info@cleanfarms.ca | @cleanfarms

Options for MB Farmers

Expanding ag waste recycling options for Manitoba farmers!



Manitoba agricultural producers can drop-off ag waste materials, free of charge at participating collection sites across the province. Our ag-retailer and municipal partners collect and store your ag waste materials; then we arrange for them to be transported for recycling or safe disposal.

Here's what we're collecting

Where & when

	Commercial pesticide & fertilizer jugs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> empty jugs up to 23L, 1-hole or pressure-rinsed and placed in a collection bag; bag seed treatment containers separately collection bags available free of charge through retailer at point of purchase 	Ag-retailer April to October
	Totes & drums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drained and rinsed 'bulk', non-deposit pesticide and fertilizer totes and drums 	Ag-retailer April to October
	Unwanted agricultural pesticides & old livestock/equine medications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unwanted (or "obsolete") commercial pesticides old livestock/equine medications used in agricultural operations 	Ag-retailer (3-year rotation) Fall 2025
	Seed, pesticide & inoculant bags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fold bulk bags & tie in bundles of six; place small bags in a collection bag provided free of charge through retailer at point of purchase excludes fertilizer & feed bags 	Ag-retailer or seed dealer April to October
	Grain bags & twine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> empty grain bags, mechanically rolled or baled & secured with twine place used twine in collection bags; bags are available free at collection sites 	Municipal collection sites Year-round
	Silage Plastic & Bale Wrap – Pilot Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recycle used silage plastic (silo bags, tarps, and bunker covers for silage) and bale wrap (stretch wrap for silage and haylage bales) in select municipalities. 	Municipal collection sites Year-round

Check csmap.cleanfarms.ca to find collection sites.

About Cleanfarms

Cleanfarms is a non-profit, industry-funded, membership organization. Its vision is to contribute to a healthier environment and a sustainable future by recovering and recycling agricultural and related industry wastes and packaging.

Cleanfarms.ca

204.390.8850 | 877.652.4460
[info@cleanfarms.ca](http://info.cleanfarms.ca) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cleanfarms) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cleanfarms) | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cleanfarms)

Web content:

Manitoba Programs & Events

Manitoba Growers! Container recycling (up to 23L jugs) has moved from municipal to retail collection [Learn more](#)

What you can recycle

- Seed, pesticide & inoculant bags & large tote bags
- Containers up to 23L
- Grain bags
- Silage film
- Totes & drums
- Twine
- Unwanted pesticides & livestock meds

Open Map in a New Tab

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What to Recycle & Where

Where to Recycle
Use the filters below to find the best option for you

Display sites in a Province

OR

Display sites near a Postal code

OR

Find by site name

- Collection sites are located on the maps. You can also look for details on how to recycle on any of the [material pages](#).
- In addition to permanent programs to recycle 23L, totes & drums and bags & large tote bag, and unwanted pesticides and old livestock/equine medications (on a rotating schedule), recycling opportunities for MB growers include:
 - A permanent, legislated program to recycle baling twine and grain bags that came into effect in May 2021.
 - Silage plastics can be recycled province-wide through a project funded by Dairy Farmers of Canada's Here for Tomorrow campaign.
 - Unwanted pesticides & livestock/animal medications locations will take place in Manitoba in the Fall of 2025. [Find out](#) what you can set aside.
- Cleanfarms developed "A snapshot of EPR obligations on ag plastics" to provide industry (brand owners, suppliers, manufacturers, distributors) with a summary of where regulated extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations are in place for different types of ag plastic.


FAQs

- + What regulatory obligations apply to pesticide and fertilizer stewards in Manitoba?
- + What regulatory obligations apply to grain bag and baler twine businesses in Manitoba?
- + Are pesticide or fertilizer containers used on golf courses accepted?
- + What about pesticide containers used for mosquito control?

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Are you a high volume grower/business in Western Canada who is interested in free Ag Plastics & Packaging pickup service?

[Learn more](#)



Resources & Regulations

- Grain bag and baler twine stewards are required to support a government approved program for these materials; this includes financial responsibilities. Stewards can meet their regulatory requirements through their membership in Cleanfarms. See: [Approval letter | Industry Stewardship Program \(2021 – 2026\)](#)
- Pesticide, seed, fertilizer and inoculant stewards are required to support a government approved program for containers and bags; this includes financial responsibilities. Stewards can meet their regulatory requirements through their membership in Cleanfarms. See: [Approval letter | Industry Stewardship Program \(2023-2028\)](#)
- The Environmental Farm Plan program, a popular assessment tool, helps highlight a farm's environmental strengths. Find out how proper handling of farm waste fits into this in [Manitoba](#).



1.877.622.4460
info@cleanfarms.ca
webmaster@cleanfarms.ca

Office Locations

Etobicoke (ON)
Lethbridge (AB)
Moose Jaw (SK)
St-Bruno-de-Montarville (QC)
Winnipeg (MB)

Cleanfarms publications

Up to date information on program developments and other opportunities for your farm and community. Sign up today!

[Sign up](#)

[X@cleanfarms](#)

[f @Cleanfarms](#)



[Collection Sites](#)

[Collection Site Login](#) | [Board Login](#) | [Member Sales Survey](#) | [Contractors](#) | [Français](#)



[What to Recycle & Where](#) | [Programs by Province](#) | [Research, Pilot Projects & Consultation](#) | [Resources](#) | [Partners](#) | [News & Blog](#) | [About](#) | [Q](#)

Grain Bag Recycling Information

Ag recycling – it's easy to do when you know how and the prep-steps really matter. Let's make it 100%!

Manitoba

Follow these 3 steps to ensure that your used grain bags can be accepted and recycled:*

1. Shake – Remove debris; grain bags need to be as clean as possible with care to remove as much organic material (spoilage, dirt, etc.) before or during rolling. *Excessively dirty or loose/unrolled bags may be rejected, or subject to a landfill tipping fee or additional charges at drop off.*
2. Roll – Prepare grain bags by rolling and tying with twine. Contact your local collection site for information on rolling grain bags.
3. Return – Please contact a collection site before dropping off material.



For more information about program background, please see: [Manitoba Ag Plastic Plan](#)

What's In & What's Out in Manitoba

WHAT'S IN

- Mechanically rolled or baled grain bags

WHAT'S OUT

- Unrolled grain bags*
- Hand-rolled grain bags*
- Silage tarps
- All other bale/silage films or bags

*Some sites that have a compactor may be able to accept unrolled or hand-rolled grain bags. Contact your local collection site for further information.

Collection Sites | Collection Site Login | Board Login | Member Sales Survey | Contractors | Français

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What to Recycle & Where | Programs by Province | Research, Pilot Projects & Consultation | Resources | Partners | News & Blog | About

Twine

Twine is being collected for recycling in Manitoba and Quebec (see program details – French only).

It is also included in pilot projects in parts of:

- British Columbia
- Saskatchewan
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island



For details on these pilots, see: [Building a Zero Waste Strategy for Agriculture](#)

It is also collected as part of the Alberta Ag Plastic. *Recycle It!* program in Alberta.

Open Map in a New Tab

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What to Recycle & Where

Where to Recycle
Use the filters below to find the best option for you

Display sites in a Province

OR

Display sites near a Postal code

OR

Find by site name

Follow these 3 steps to ensure that your used twine can be accepted and recycled

1 Shake

Remove as much debris, snow or ice as possible. Excessively dirty twine may be rejected, or subject to a landfill tipping fee or additional charges at drop off.

2 Bag

Plastic twine only. Bags of twine mixed with netting, sisal twine, or other materials will be rejected.

Place twine in a clear collection bag and close the bag with twine or a zip tie.

You can pick up free twine collection bags*, with perforated holes that include post-consumer recycled content, from the following locations; please call ahead to confirm availability:


- AB – Pilot twine collection sites and select County/MD offices
- MB – RM office or twine collection sites
- SK – Pilot twine collection sites

**Producers who choose to use their own clear collection bags are asked to poke holes in the bottom to ensure proper drainage.*

3 Return

Please contact your local collection site prior to dropping off material if unloading assistance is required, to check hours of operation or if you are unsure if you have prepared it properly.

- AB – many sites accept both grain bags and twine, under the Alberta Ag-Plastic. 'Recycle It!' program. (Note: these materials must be stored and prepared separately.) View the [Grain Bag recycling page](#) for details and [collection site map](#).
- SK – many sites accept both grain bags and twine. (Note: these materials must be stored and prepared separately.) View the [collection site map](#)



Obligations on Agricultural Suppliers in Manitoba

Manitoba's Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation obligates many businesses in the ag sector to operate or subscribe to a government-approved recycling program.

[See the Regulation](#)

Becoming a Cleanfarms member is the most efficient way to meet the regulatory obligations.

Businesses (referred to as "Steward of designated material" in Manitoba's Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation (The Regulation) that supply designated plastics and packaging into Manitoba, can meet their obligations under The Regulation in two ways:

- subscribe to a government approved program, i.e. enter into an agreement with an organization like Cleanfarms that has developed approved programs to meet the requirements of The Regulation.

OR

- operate their own government approved program

Businesses wishing to fulfill their obligations through Cleanfarms must register and adhere to financial and administrative rules. Please see below and our membership agreement.

What's New!

- Cleanfarms' Stewardship Program Plan (SPP) for designated ag plastics will be reviewed in 2025 & 2026

Key references

- Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation
- Grain bags and twine: Approved Stewardship Program Plan & Approval Letter
- Designated crop input packaging: Approved Stewardship Program Plan & Approval Letter
- A Snapshot of EPR Regulations on Ag Plastics
- Becoming a member
- Information for Manitoba farmers

Work with Cleanfarms to meet your obligations related to Manitoba's Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation

This is how Cleanfarms works with businesses (stewards of designated materials) to develop and operate farmer-focused programs that also allow businesses to meet the regulatory requirements:

- Businesses sign an agreement with Cleanfarms to become Members.
- Cleanfarms develops and manages programs on behalf of its members.
- Businesses finance the programs. Businesses must submit confidential data (g. the volume of wine sold in Manitoba) of designated material to Cleanfarms on a quarterly or annual basis.
- Cleanfarms establishes a levy or EHF per bag, per container, or by unit, in order to fairly allocate the costs of the programs amongst businesses.
- The businesses pay a levy or EHF to Cleanfarms to finance the programs.
- Cleanfarms manages all reporting and financial requirements.

Cleanfarms manages all activities associated with program delivery. This includes:

- Collection site selection, training and support.
- Transport and logistics.
- Sourcing and selection of end markets, managing all related health, safety and environmental standards.
- Financial management including the handling of confidential information.
- Promotion and education (farmers, collections site personnel and other stakeholders).
- Government reporting.
- Financial audits.

Frequently Asked Questions

Regulatory

+ What is a 'steward of designated material'?

+ What is a 'designated material'?

Where does it say that businesses supplying grain bags, baler or crop inputs have regulatory responsibilities related to recycling/recovery programs?

+ What is a 'packaging and printed paper stewardship program'?

How do I know that/if...

+ My business is obligated by these regs?

+ The products that I sell are impacted by these regs?

Does joining Cleanfarms allow my business to meet these reg. requirements?

+ My suppliers have taken on this obligation on my behalf?

Admin/finance

+ Why is a levy or EHF necessary?

+ How does a business remit an EHF/levy to Cleanfarms?

I'm registered with Cleanfarms to meet my obligations in other regions. What do I do next?

+ I am an ag-retailer/seed dealer that acts as a collection site. What do I do next?

Appendix D – 2025 Manitoba farmer survey summary

This document provides a high-level summary of a survey conducted in the winter of 2025 with 272 Manitoba crop and livestock farmers regarding disposal practices of agricultural plastics as they relate to a recycling pilot project. Contact [us](#) for the full results.

Key takeaways:

- The following ag plastics are most commonly used on Manitoba farms: baler twine, silage tarps & bunker covers, bale wrap, grain bags and silage bags.
- Farmers report that there the top three disposal methods for ag plastics are as follows:

Grain bags	Twine	Containers (<i>benchmarking</i>)
- Recycling (37%)	- Burn (71%)	- Recycling (68%)
- Burn (30%)	- Landfill (13%)	- Burn (16%)
- Landfill (11%)	- Recycling (10%)	- Store on farm (6%)
Bale wrap	Silage bags	Silage bunker covers & tarps
- Burn (62%)	- On-farm dumpster (38%)	- Burn (58%)
- Recycling (15%)	- Store on farm (31%)	- Recycling (18%)
- Landfill (9%)	- Burn (17%)	- Store on farm (15%)
- When it comes to satisfaction with their disposal method, a higher proportion of those respondents who return their ag plastics for recycling are satisfied relative to those who use an alternative disposal method.
- 66% of bale wrap/silage plastic (silage bags, silage bunker covers & tarps) users that currently recycle these ag plastics are very supportive of a permanent solution.
- Producers identified the following as the top three potential barriers to recycling ag plastics:
 - Difficulties with transportation
 - Difficulties with cleanliness
 - Lack of a nearby collection site
- The majority (77%) of Manitoba farmers are opposed to paying an additional cost for ag plastic recycling programs.
 - 89% of producers also state that they strongly or somewhat agree that ‘they don’t like any additional fees but understand the need to support a recycling program’.
 - 33% of producers also state that they strongly or somewhat agree that they are okay with paying an additional cost for ag plastics recycling programs, if the program is easy to use and accessible.

Appendix E – Dispute Resolution

The following is an excerpt from Cleanfarms' Code of Conduct and outlines the organization's Dispute Resolution process (available at www.cleanfarms.ca).

SECTION 7: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

7.1 Complaints from the public regarding Members

7.1.1 Complaints made to Cleanfarms by a member of the public concerning the conduct of a Member must be addressed in writing to the official representative of the company and the General Manager of Cleanfarms. On receipt of such a complaint, the General Manager will refer the matter to the Member involved for resolution of the issue.

7.1.2 Members hereby agree to indemnify and hold Cleanfarms harmless from any from and against all costs, charges and expenses, including all amounts paid to settle any action or satisfy any judgment reasonably incurred by or on behalf of Cleanfarms in respect of any civil, criminal or administrative action, private arbitration, or other proceeding, to which Cleanfarms is or may become a party (or any such proceeding which might be threatened and in respect of which Cleanfarms is threatened to be made a party) by reason of any negligence or wilful misconduct of the Member or by reason of a failure by the Member or any of its representatives to conduct itself in accordance with this Code of Conduct or with any requirements prescribed by Cleanfarms with respect to its stewardship programs.

7.2 Complaints or disputes among Member

7.2.1 Members consent and agree that disputes or controversies among Members, Directors, Officers, committee members, or volunteers of Cleanfarms concerning matters relating to Cleanfarms' articles, by-laws, Code of Conduct, approved corporate policies or operations ("Eligible Disputes") are to be resolved in accordance with mediation and/or arbitration as provided in Section 7.2.2.

7.2.2 Dispute Resolution Mechanism

In the event that an Eligible Dispute is not resolved in private meetings between the affected parties within 30 days of the written notice of an Eligible Dispute delivered by one of the parties to Cleanfarms and the other affected parties, then such Eligible Dispute shall be settled by a process of dispute resolution as follows:

7.2.2.1 The dispute or controversy shall first be submitted to a panel of mediators whereby the one party appoints one mediator, the other party (or if applicable the board of the organization) appoints one mediator, and the two mediators so appointed jointly appoint a third mediator. The three mediators will then meet with the parties in question in an attempt to mediate a resolution between the parties.

7.2.2.2 The number of mediators may be reduced from three to one or two upon agreement of the parties.

7.2.2.3 If the parties are not successful in resolving the dispute through mediation, then the parties agree that the dispute shall be settled by arbitration before a single arbitrator, who shall not be any one of the mediators referred to above, in accordance with the provincial or territorial legislation governing domestic arbitrations in force in the province or territory where the registered office of Cleanfarms is situated or as otherwise agreed upon by the parties to the dispute. The parties agree that all proceedings relating to arbitration shall be kept confidential and there shall be no disclosure of any kind. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal on a question of fact, law or mixed fact and law.

7.2.2.4 All costs of the mediators appointed in accordance with this section shall be borne equally by the parties to the dispute or the controversy. All costs of the arbitrators appointed in accordance with this section shall be borne by such parties as may be determined by the arbitrators.