



March 2023 Agricultural Plastics Pilot Program Report Grant Agreement: ESB-047715

Reporting period: January 1 to March 31, 2023 |



The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

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1 Introduction

The Alberta Ag-Plastic. *Recycle It!* program is a government funded pilot project that helps farmers recycle used grain bags and twine. The program started in 2019 and has been granted an extension to August 2023. In addition to on-the-ground pilots that divert used grain bags and twine out of landfills and into new products, the program delivers a number of research projects that will help transition the pilot into a long-term, sustainable and self-funded program.

This report summarizes the key activities from the pilot that took place between January 1 and March 31, 2023, namely the operation of pilot collections.

The Alberta Ag-Plastic. *Recycle It!* program is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG). The APRG, a group made up of over 20 stakeholder organizations from sectors across Alberta, representing municipalities, producers, non-profits, recyclers and retailers among others, provides oversight of the program and a network to disseminate information and build support.

The program is funded through a grant from the Government of Alberta and funds are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

Cleanfarms is the program operator, responsible for identifying and accessing end markets, handling program logistics including the collection and transportation to recycle the materials and leading the research projects.

We understand that there is a strong appetite for data and stakeholder feedback about the pilot. The pilot collections have now operated for forty-one months (collection started in October 2019) and there is sufficient data to report on the majority of the plastic quantities collected.

1.1 Program Key Highlights – January 1 to March 31, 2023

Collection rates for grain bags continued to increase compared to the lower numbers across the prairies in early 2022 due to drought, low crop yield and less storage needs in the Fall of 2021. Based on anecdotal accounts and harvest reports, it is anticipated that grain bag collections will continue to increase throughout the next quarter. The MD of Willow Creek was added as a collection partner (Table 1) in January of 2023, adding one new grain bag and twine collection site at the Willow Creek Regional Landfill. There is still a strong appetite throughout the province from new municipalities to join the pilot program to manage and recycle these products. Cleanfarms is currently working with three potential new partners which would fill additional geographic gaps in the province.

Three twine micro-pilot municipal partners hosted ag-plastic roundup collection days in May and June 2023. To increase participation, Cleanfarms leveraged the collection of bale wrap, and silage plastic offered via a separate Cleanfarms collection program and were accepted with grain bags and twine at the events.

Table 1 – Alberta Pilot January to March 2023:

Material type	Tonnes collected		
	Total	Legacy material ¹	Pilot material
Grain bags	104	-	104
Twine	22	-	22
Total tonnage collected ²	126	-	126

¹Legacy material' is defined as grain bags and/or twine that were collected and stored onsite by the collection sites prior to becoming a pilot collection site.

²The total tonnage excludes disposal waste contained in legacy material.

See Appendix A for a list of collection partners and a map of their locations in Alberta.

Collection site summary

Total number of collection sites	147
Sites collecting grain bags only	1
Sites collecting twine only	101
Sites collecting grain bags and twine	45

Total collection partners: 47 partners with 147 collection locations for either grain bags or twine or both.

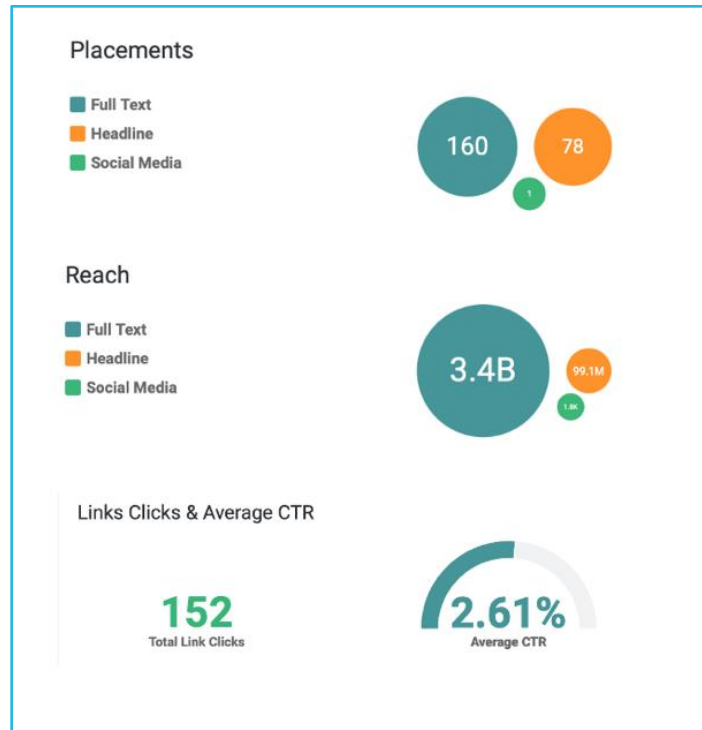
1.2 Communications & Twine Collection Micro-Pilot

In the second quarter of 2022, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation encouraged the implementation of an integrated communication program deployed through late spring, late summer and fall of 2022 to build awareness among farmers/producers about the 'Alberta Ag Plastic. *Recycle it!*' program. The goal is to gather enough data and spread awareness to transition the program from a pilot to a permanent program at a later date. As a result, Cleanfarms developed an extensive communications plan and a twine micro-pilot work plan to be operated within the 'Alberta Ag Plastic. *Recycle it!*' program.

Communication activities since the last report include:

- January: earned advertising, Alberta Dressage Association created a FB post advertising twine recycling (Appendix D).
- January/February: paid advertising (Appendix D)
 - [Alberta Beef/ACFA Anniversary](#) (Print)
 - Alberta Wheat & Barley (Print)
- January-March: seasonal program webpage updates, including a new collection site map to simplify locating collection sites (Appendix D).
- Woodlands County: interview for 2023 publication to come in spring.
- March: Twine recycling article published in [Alberta Bites Equestrian Magazine](#).
- March: News release - [Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It! Gaining Ground Recovering Ag Plastics for Recycling](#).

Media contact from the news release: Lethbridge



New release statistics (CTR = Click Through Rate)

1.2.1 Micro-Pilot Overview

In April 2022, Cleanfarms developed a work plan for the micro-pilot to investigate and test two perceived barriers to farmer participation in baler twine collection:

1. A lack of awareness of the program and how to participate; and,
2. Density/availability of collection locations.

The plan will advance direct outreach, municipal-wide communications, as well as advertised pop-up collection events in several municipalities across the province. Pre- and post-surveys in various municipalities are also planned to evaluate program awareness and participation. Section 1.2.3 presents the communication activities to date in further detail.

1.2.2 Site Selection

The pilot team worked to identify several municipalities to fill geographic collection gaps in the province for twine-only collection sites.

Four collection partners (Lethbridge County, Starland County, Clearwater County, and Lac La Biche County) have been selected to participate in an enhanced twine collection strategy. The sites were selected based on the following criteria:

- two existing and two new twine collection partners;
- geographic distribution to cover south, central, and northern Alberta; and,
- municipalities willing to display and help place road signage.

These partners received electoral-sized road signage (Appendix E) in late October/early November, advertising the twine recycling within their respective municipalities. Additionally, they have been provided with a newsletter article (adapted from the [Ag Forward Article 5](#)) advertising twine recycling and spring ag plastic roundup collection events (Appendix E). Work is underway to

coordinate and advertise the spring ag-plastic roundup collection events to be held in May/June 2023

Lastly, it is well understood that twine users won't participate in the program if they must travel significant distances for recycling. Therefore, Cleanfarms has been working with all current collection partners and those recently added to increase the number of twine collection sites throughout the province. Several municipalities now offer twine collection at most, if not all, their waste transfer sites (Appendix A). All collection partners have received an updated newsletter article (Appendix E) to help advertise twine recycling in addition to the resources in Appendix E.

2 Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG)

The multi-stakeholder APRG aims to meet in person/virtually to keep members informed on the pilot updates and allow for feedback and engagement from members on key topics. The APRG committee has a board meeting twice a year. An executive of five representatives is elected each year by the members and the executive meets monthly to interact with and oversee the program operator, advocate for a permanent program and report back to the group. All APRG members provide valuable input to the pilot from their unique perspectives and also play a key role in disseminating information back out to their members and partners.

The Committee mandate is to assist in the development of recommendations to manage ag plastics including:

- Promote ag plastics recycling actions and programs that are sustainable, and
- Implement the terms as set out in the Alberta ag plastics pilot program business plan.

A list of members of the APRG is included in Appendix B.

2.2 APRG Executive Activities

The executive met three times during this reporting period in addition to one committee-wide virtual meeting in early January.

APRG activities and communication outreach included continued work and support for Cleanfarms' implementation of the pilot as well as outreach to a new minister, stakeholder groups and teams to brief and bring groups up to speed on the pilot and next steps.

This group will be a key stakeholder when the Government conducts consultation about including ag plastics in provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation.

3 Pilot

The background for how the pilot is intended to operate can be found in the *December 2020 Agricultural Plastics Pilot Program Report*.

3.2 Overall Pilot Quantities Collected

A total of 2,732 tonnes of material has been collected since the program's inception.

Table 2 – Alberta Pilot October 2019 through March 2023

Material Type	Tonnes Collected		
	Total	Legacy Material ¹	Pilot Material
Grain bags	2374	526	1848
Twine	358	38	320
Total tonnage collected ²	2732	564	2168

¹'Legacy material' is defined as grain bags and/or twine that were collected and stored onsite by the collection sites prior to becoming a pilot collection site.

²The total tonnage excludes disposal waste contained in legacy material.

Legacy material was transported to end markets under the pilot program. 'Pilot material' is defined as grain bags and twine that have been collected after site agreements were executed. Please see Appendix C for a detailed breakdown of the quantity collected by the collection sites.

As of this report, two of the original twenty collection partners have yet to collect enough grain bags to constitute a full truckload for recycling; one of the sites has a partial load, while the other (MacKenzie Regional Waste Landfill) is in a transition phase with site management.

Limited locations for twine drop off is a perceived barrier amongst farmers. With the Twine micro-pilot underway, work continues to fill geographic collection gaps for twine-only collection.

3.3 Next Steps

- Cleanfarms will work with collection sites to monitor the quantities stockpiled for efficient collection and consider additional sites for twine collection.
- Cleanfarms will implement the micro-pilot communications and collection plan.
- A top priority for the APRG includes communication outreach to stakeholder groups about the program.
- Continued engagement with individual farmers and commodity groups is planned in 2023 at events as well as to pursue more media coverage about the pilot program through commodity group news and magazine publications.
- Continued engagement with government to extend the current program expansion past August of 2023 and look for bridge funding to a permanent program.
- A follow up survey of producers from the original 2019 survey to assess participation and attitudes about the pilot will take place in the summer of 2023.

4 Cleanfarms Presentations and Discussions

Collection Site Communications

- In-person events:
 - January 17-19 – Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen Agricultural Service Board Conference – tradeshow booth in Grande Prairie.
 - February 16 – MD of Willow Creek grain bag rolling demonstration.
 - February 22-24 – Alberta CARE Spring Seminar – tradeshow booth and presentation on ag-plastics and grain bag recycling.
 - February 28 - March 2 – Ag Expo Lethbridge – tradeshow booth.
 - March 15 – APRA Alberta Circular Plastics Day – presentation and tradeshow booth.
- Remote Events/Webinars:
 - March 9 – MD of Lesser Slave River ASB presentation – grain bag and twine recycling.

5 Budget Details January 1 to March 31, 2023

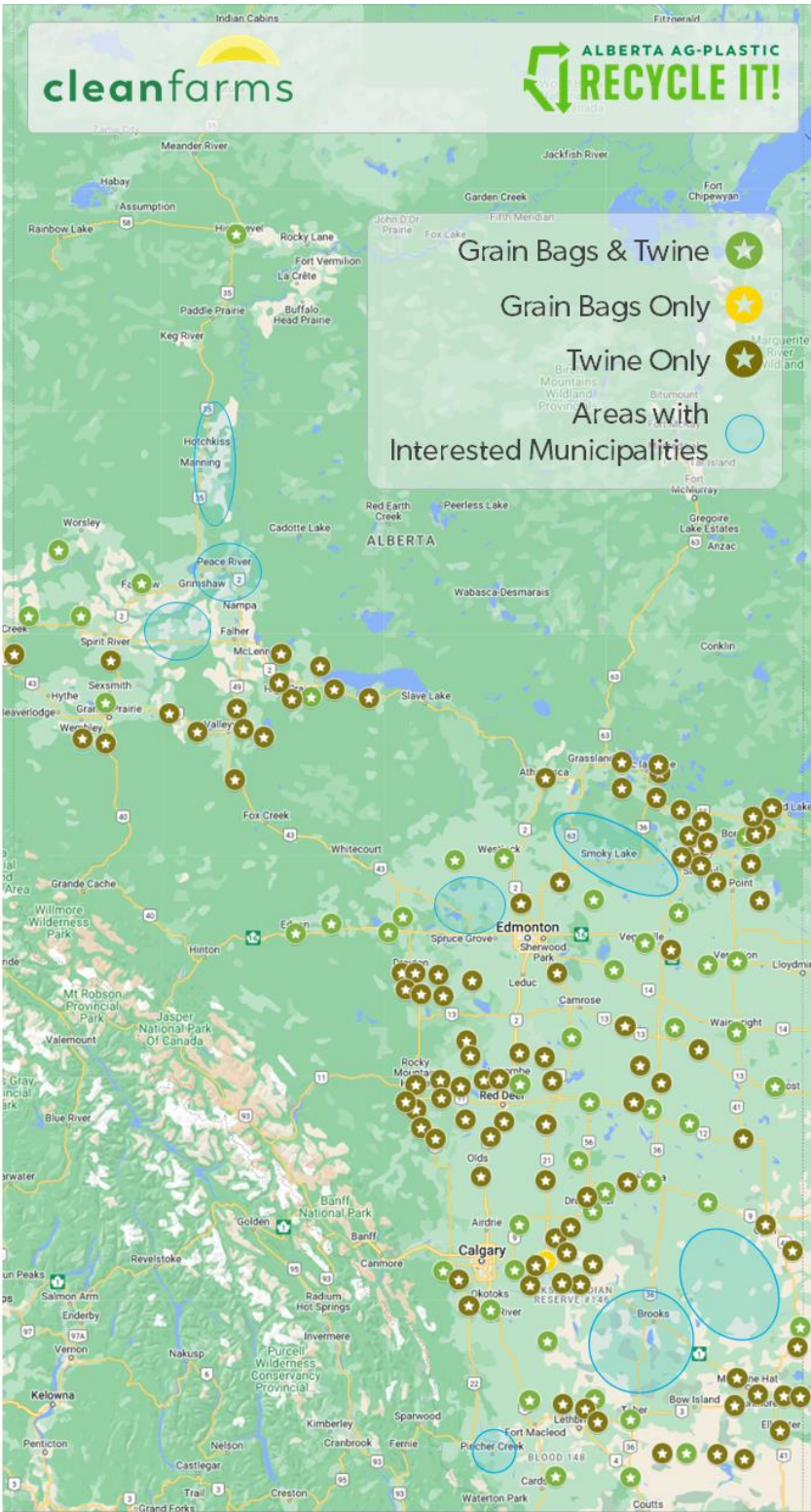
Balance spent in Q1 2023 \$ (71,102)
 Balance as of March 31, 2023 \$ (582,027)

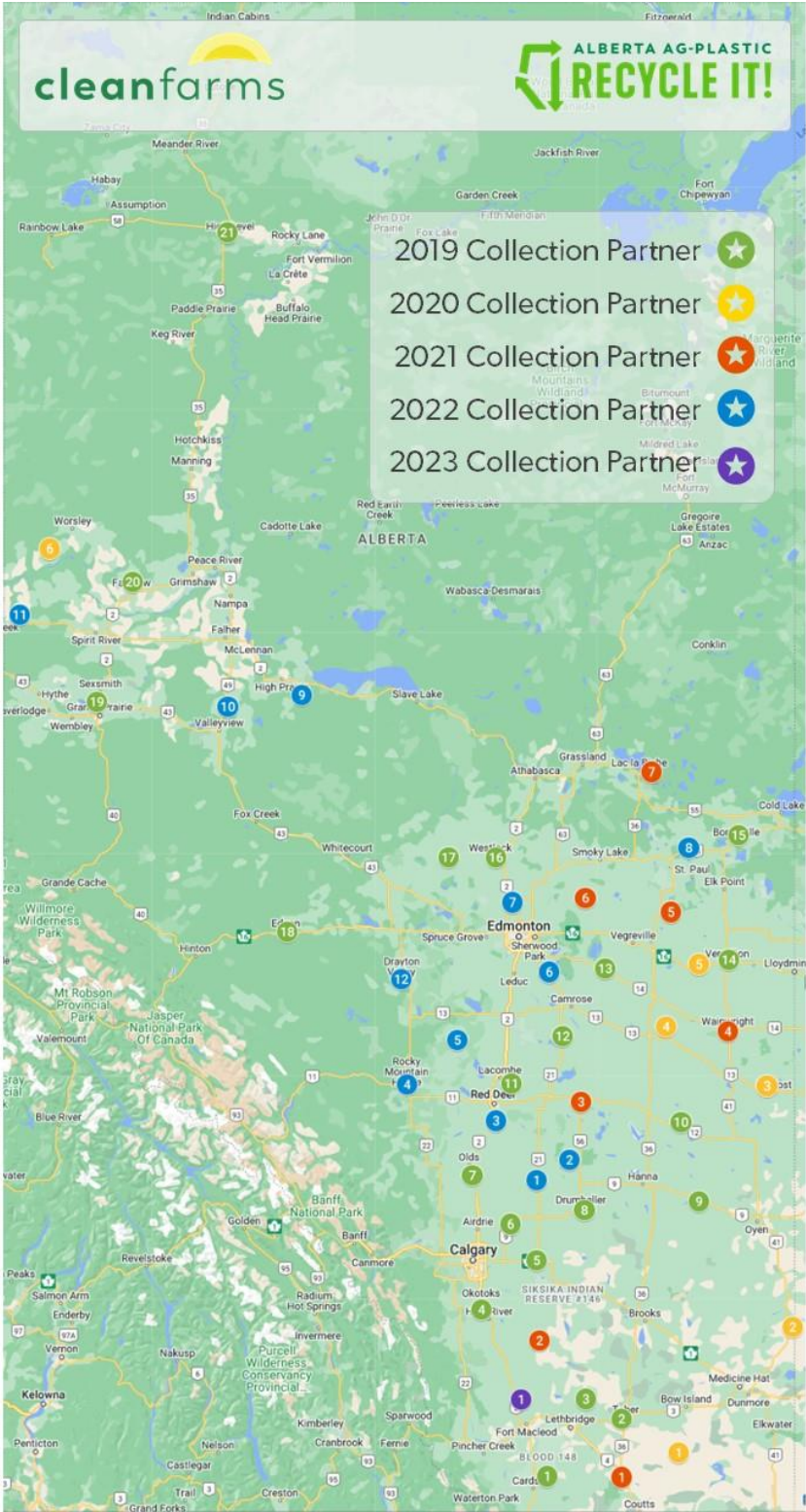
Revenue	Jan-Mar
<i>Funds Transferred to Cleanfarms from Alberta Beef Producers</i>	
Studies	-
Communications	\$ 19,024
Net Collection Costs	\$ 18,682
Program Admin (Cleanfarms)	\$ 17,322
Total Revenue from Alberta Beef Producers	\$ 55,028
<i>Recycling Revenue</i>	
Revenue from Marketing Materials	\$ 16,004
Total Program Revenue	\$ 71,032
Expenses	
<i>Studies</i>	
Ag Waste Characterization Study	-
Stakeholder Groups Survey	-
Market Analysis	-
<i>Communications</i>	
Brand Development	\$ 19,024
Printing Costs	-
Design Costs	-
<i>Collection Costs</i>	
Contractor Expenses	\$ 20,959
Collection Bags	\$ 10,836
Incentive Payments	\$ 2,891
Total Collection Costs	\$ 34,686
Program Admin (Cleanfarms)	\$ 17,322
Total Cleanfarms and Operational Expenses	\$ 71,032
<i>Committee</i>	
Secretariat - APRA	\$ 3,168
Technical Oversight - RCA	-
ABP Accounting/Grant administrator	\$ 1,200
Total Committee and Administrator Expenses	\$ 4,368
Total Program Expenses	\$ 75,401

Project inception until March 31, 2023
 Expenses \$ (579,627)
 Grant Received – April 2022 \$ 115,000
 Interest earned (since inception) \$ 29,410
 Balance \$ 582,027

Appendix A – Collection Partners and Location (Maps)

Collection Partner	Site Number	Year Joined Program
Cardston County	1	2019
MD of Taber	2	2019
Lethbridge County/DBS Environmental	3	2019
MD of Foothills/Foothills Regional Services Comm.	4	2019
Wheatland County	5	2019
Rocky View County	6	2019
Mountain View County (<i>twine only</i>)	7	2019
Drumheller & District Solid Waste Mgmt. Assoc.	8	2019
Special Areas 2,3,4/Big Country Waste Mgmt. Comm.	9	2019
County of Paintearth/Paintearth Regional Waste Mgmt.	10	2019
Lacombe County	11	2019
Camrose County	12	2019
Claystone Waste/Ryley Landfill	13	2019
County of Vermilion River	14	2019
MD of Bonnyville	15	2019
Westlock County/Westlock Regional Waste Mgmt. Comm.	16	2019
County of Barrhead	17	2019
Yellowhead County/Edson & District Recycling Society	18	2019
County of Grande Prairie	19	2019
MD of Fairview/North Peace Regional Landfill	20	2019
Mackenzie County/Mackenzie Regional Waste Mgmt. Comm.	21	2019
County of Forty Mile/South Forty Waste	1	2020
Cypress County	2	2020
MD of Provost	3	2020
Flagstaff County/Flagstaff Regional Solid Waste Mgmt.	4	2020
County of Minburn	5	2020
Clear Hills County	6	2020
County of Warner	1	2021
Vulcan County	2	2021
County of Stettler	3	2021
MD of Wainwright/Wainwright Regional Waste to Energy Authority	4	2021
County of Two Hills	5	2021
Lamont County/St. Michael Regional Solid Waste Commission	6	2021
Lac La Biche County (<i>twine only</i>)	7	2021
Kneehill County (<i>twine only</i>)	1	2022
Starland County	2	2022
Red Deer County	3	2022
Clearwater County (<i>twine only</i>)	4	2022
Ponoka County	5	2022
Leduc County (<i>twine only</i>)	6	2022
Sturgeon County (<i>twine only</i>)	7	2022
County of St. Paul (<i>twine only</i>)	8	2022
Big Lakes County	9	2022
MD of Greenview (<i>twine only</i>)	10	2022
Saddle Hills County	11	2022
Brazeau County (<i>twine only</i>)	12	2022
MD of Willow Creek	1	2023





Appendix B – APRG Member Organizations

Organization	Sector/Representation
Agricultural Service Board	Board Representation
AB Association of Agricultural Fieldmen	Agricultural Fieldmen
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Barley	Barley Producers
Alberta Beef Producers	Livestock
Alberta Cattle Feeders Association	Livestock
Alberta CARE	Recycling and Waste Management
Alberta Environment & Parks	Government (ex officio)
Alberta Federation of Agriculture	Producers
Alberta Milk Producers	Dairy Producers
Alberta Plastics Recycling Association	Plastics Recycling
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)	Urban Municipalities
Berry BPI Agriculture	Material Manufacturer
Committed Ag Supply	Retailer
Crop Sector Working Group	Crop Producers
Merlin Plastics	Recycler
Olds College	Academia
Peavey Mart	Retailer
PolyAg	Recycler
Recycling Council of Alberta	Recycling and Resource Conservation
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)	Municipalities
South/Central Waste Collaboration Group	Rural Municipalities
TAMA Canada	Retailer
The Jungle Farm	Crop Producer

APRG Executive include:

Assar Grinde, Alberta Beef Producers; Christina Seidel, Recycling Council of Alberta; Kevin Wirsta, Rural Municipalities of Alberta; Dean Hubbard, Alberta Wheat Barley; Molly Fyten, Alberta Plastics Recycling Association

Appendix C – Quantities of Grain Bags and Twine Sent for Recycling

Grain Bags and Twine Sent for Recycling Oct 2019 - Present					
Site Name	County	Legacy Material (kg)		Pilot Collection (kg)	
		Grain Bags	Twine	Grain Bags	Twine
Riley Landfill	Beaver County	-	-	26,440	1,475
Youngstown Regional Landfill	Special Areas 2, 3 & 4	-	-	12,970	2,100
Cardston County Composting Yard	Cardston County	-	-	7,945	-
Clairmont Landfill	County of Grande Prairie	22,020	-	9,350	-
Vermilion Waste Transfer Station	County of Vermilion River	9,780	-	65,565	1,440
Iron Springs Transfer Site	Lethbridge County	-	-	110,826	9,405
Drumheller & District Regional Landfill	Drumheller	-	6,320	125,008	5,860
Foothills Regional Landfill & Resource Recovery Centre	M.D. of Foothills	-	-	85,425	2,710
Prentiss Landfill	Lacombe County	-	7,110	94,970	9,045
MacKenzie Regional Waste Landfill	Mackenzie No. 23	-	-	-	-
Mountain View County Ag Shop Twine Collection	Mountain View County	N/A	-	N/A	8,096
Municipal District of Bonnyville Public Works Shop	MD of Bonnyville	10,670	-	24,010	5,100
MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance Building	MD of Taber	-	-	106,240	8,085
County of Barrhead Public Works Shop	County of Barrhead	-	-	-	-
Westlock Regional Landfill	Westlock County	-	2,000	-	18,664
North Peace Regional Landfill	MD of Fairview	57,870	-	95,290	1,110
Coronation Transfer Station	County of Paintearth	-	-	13,280	3,702
Irricana Transfer Site	Rocky View County	64,139	7,800	175,210	17,264
West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill	Camrose County	49,250	1,250	98,430	922
Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board Shop	Wheatland County	-	-	226,073	1,189
Edson & District Recycling Society	Yellowhead County	37,860	-	29,480	-
Cleardale Transfer Station	Clear Hills County	-	-	-	-
Foremost Transfer Station - South Forty Waste	County of Forty Mile No. 8	-	-	39,890	240
Mannville Waste Transfer Station	County of Minburn	33,060	12,970	83,330	7,960
Hilda Transfer Station	Cypress County	11,520	-	4,810	1,190
Flagstaff Waste Regional Landfill	Flagstaff County	-	-	73,510	5,965
Provost Regional Landfill	MD of Provost	33,060	-	6,650	1,069
County of Warner Ag Service Board Shop	County of Warner	-	-	19,100	1,565
Vulcan Waste Transfer Station	Vulcan County	-	-	59,940	-
Beaver Lake Landfill	Lac La Biche County	N/A	493	N/A	-
Two Hills Regional Landfill	County of Two Hills	-	-	46,015	-
Wainwright Regional Landfill	MD of Wainwright	62,405	-	8,225	-
Stettler County Operations Shop	County of Stettler	-	-	-	-
Horn Hill Transfer Station	Red Deer County	N/A	-	N/A	1,519
St. Michael Regional Landfill	Lamont County	-	-	1,630	720
Three Hills Transfer Station	Kneehill County	N/A	-	N/A	664
New Sarepta/Sunnybrook Waste Transfer Station	Leduc County	N/A	-	N/A	107
New Fish Creek Transfer Station	MD of Greenview	N/A	-	N/A	-
Bluffton Landfill	Ponoka County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Blueberry/Bonanza Transfer Site	Saddle Hills County	134,270	-	35,400	-
Rumsey/Michichi Transfer Station	Starland County	-	-	2,805	-
Central Transfer Station	Clearwater County	N/A	-	N/A	630
Mallaig Transfer Station	County of St. Paul	N/A	-	N/A	-
Roseridge Landfill	Sturgeon County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Big Lakes County Regional Landfill	Big Lakes County	-	-	-	-
Grain Bag Recycler	AB Recyclers	N/A	N/A	N/A	480
Farm (non-pilot site)	AB Farms	-	-	160,190	-
Hay Processing Plants (non-pilot sites)	Southern Alberta	N/A	-	N/A	201,885
Totals		525,904	37,943	1,848,007	320,161
Total Grain Bags		2,373,911		Total Twine	358,104
				Total Grain Bags and Twine	2,732,015

Appendix D – Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group Quarterly Report – Q1 2023





Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group Quarterly Report

2023-Q1 | April 17, 2023 | Final – Revision 1



The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

APRG Quarterly Report – April 17, 2023

Anecdotally, multiple collection sites have indicated that growers appear to be bringing more and more grain bags and twine to their sites, which is reflected in the volume of these materials being sent for recycling and indicates that we have moved past the drought period of 2021. Collection volumes are expected to continue to increase through the next quarter.

Although pilot collections are scheduled to end on August 31, 2023, work is underway on a term and funding extension proposal to the Government of Alberta, extending the pilot through the end of 2025 - the earliest indicated timeline for a provincially regulated EPR program.

There is still a strong appetite throughout the province from new municipalities to join the pilot program to manage and recycle these products. Cleanfarms is currently working with three potential new partners which would fill additional geographic gaps in the province.

Three twine micro-pilot municipal partners will host ag-plastic roundup collection days in May and June 2023 to collect grain bags & twine, and silage plastic & bale wrap (managed under a separate pilot program).

1. Collection Sites

The MD of Willow Creek was added as a collection partner (Figure 1 & Table 1) in January of 2023, adding one new grain bag and twine collection site at the Willow Creek Regional Landfill.

The province has 47 collection partners and 147 individual collection sites (Figure 2). One site collects grain bags only, 101 collect twine only, and 45 collect grain bags and twine.

Three additional grain bag and twine collection partners (Birch Hills County, Newell County, and MD of Pincher Creek) may join the program in the coming months following approvals from the local Councils. Other geographic gap areas that are being considered and addressed are highlighted in Figure 2.

A detailed map of all current collection locations (not including the high-volume twine users) can be found [online](#).

2. Site Signage

No new site signs are required for development at this time. Site signage and communication material for collection sites (Appendix A & B) are replaced as required.



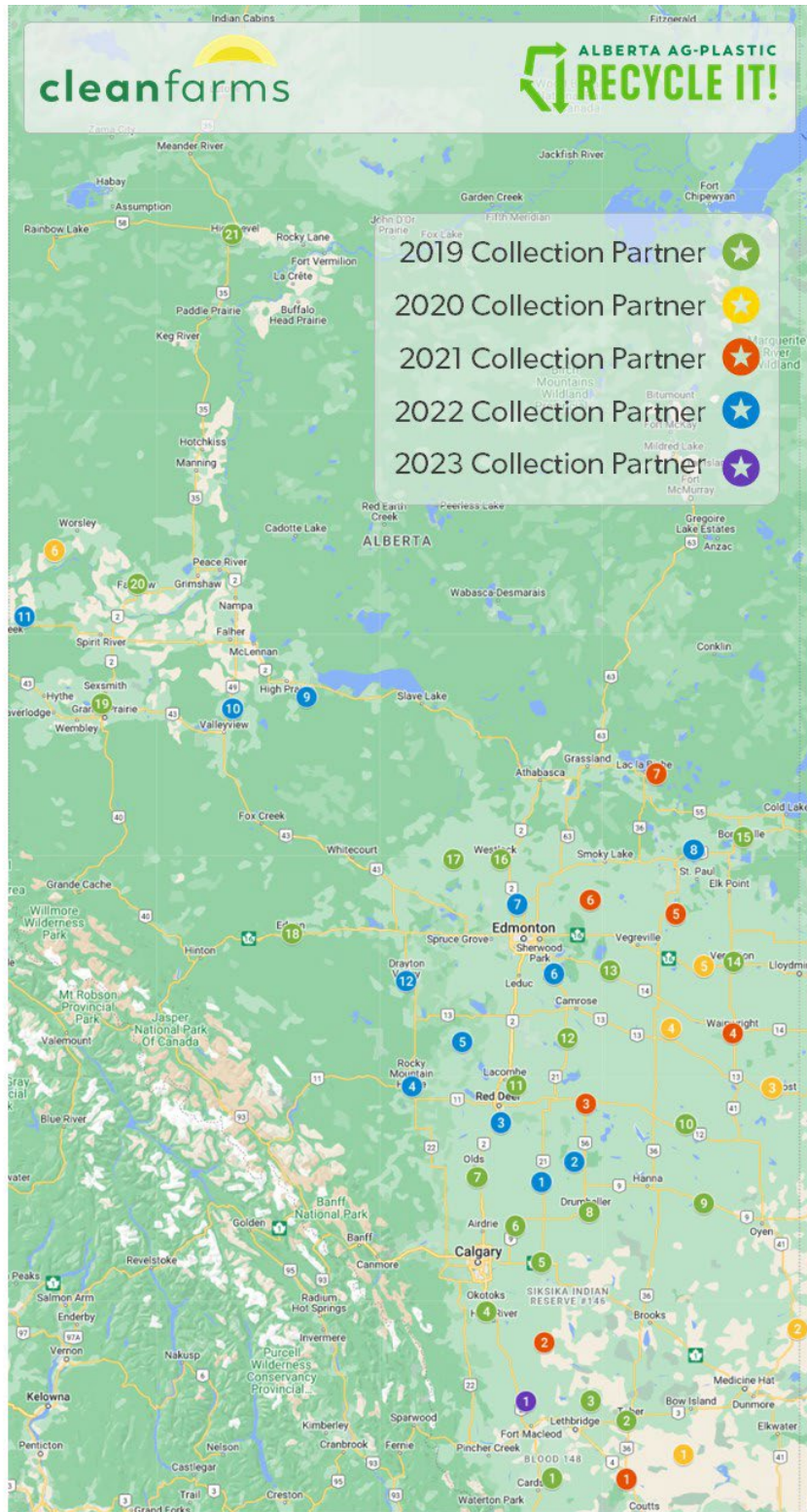


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of collection partners.

Table 1 – List of collection partners

Collection Partner	Site Number	Year Joined Program
Cardston County	1	2019
MD of Taber	2	2019
Lethbridge County/DBS Environmental	3	2019
MD of Foothills/Foothills Regional Services Comm.	4	2019
Wheatland County	5	2019
Rocky View County	6	2019
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Special Areas 2,3,4/Big Country Waste Mgmt. Comm.	9	2019
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Sturgeon County (<i>twine only</i>)	7	2022
County of St. Paul (<i>twine only</i>)	8	2022
Big Lakes County	9	2022
MD of Greenview (<i>twine only</i>)	10	2022
Saddle Hills County	11	2022
Brazeau County (<i>twine only</i>)	12	2022
MD of Willow Creek	1	2023

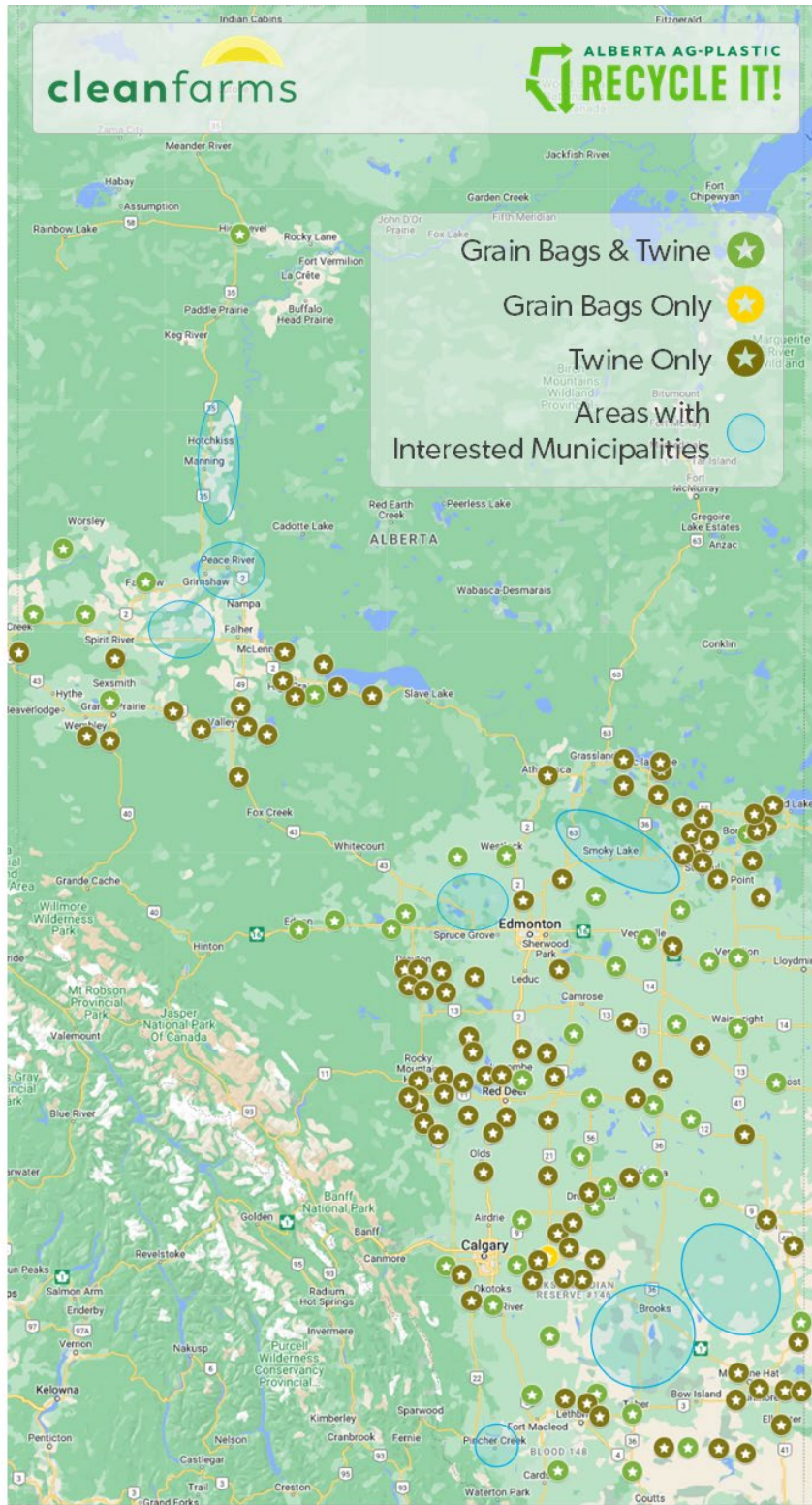


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of collection sites and interested municipalities.

3. Communications & Twine Collection Micro-Pilot

3.1 Micro-Pilot

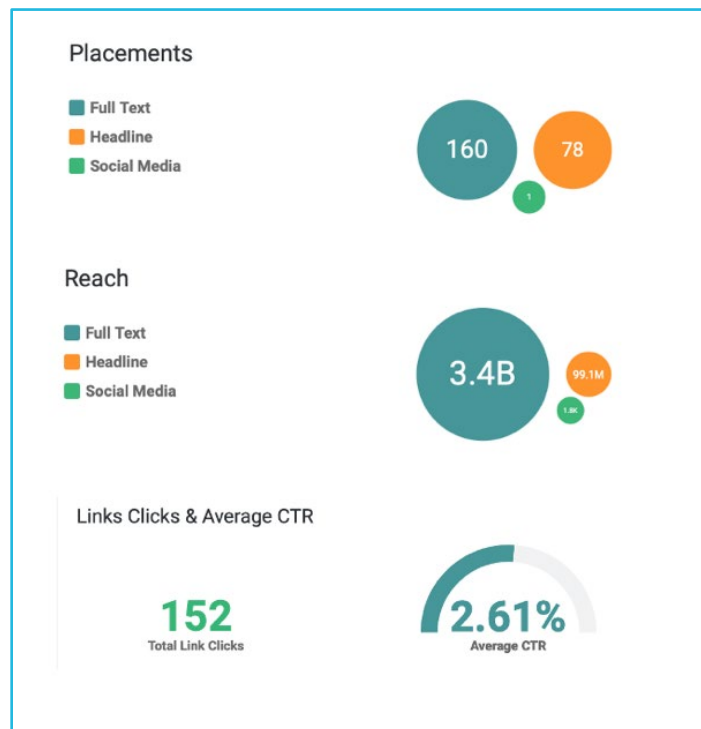
Cleanfarms will host ag-plastic collection events in partnership with three municipalities (Clearwater County, Lac La Biche County, and Starland County) in May and June 2023. To increase participation, Cleanfarms will leverage the collection of bale wrap, and silage plastic offered via a separate Cleanfarms collection program to be accepted with grain bags and twine at the events. The three municipal partners have received a poster (Appendix C) to advertise the collection events. Because the events will accept materials collected under several pilot projects with various funding partners, no program branding was incorporated into the poster material for functional purposes.

3.2 Communications

The provincial communications plan launched in April 2022 to build awareness of the pilot program is wrapping up in the spring of 2023.

Communication activities since the last report include:

- January: earned advertising, Alberta Dressage Association created a FB post advertising twine recycling (Appendix D).
- January/February: paid advertising (Appendix D)
 - [Alberta Beef/ACFA Anniversary](#) (Print)
 - Alberta Wheat & Barley (Print)
- January-March: seasonal program webpage updates, including a new collection site map to simplify locating collection sites (Appendix D).
- Woodlands County: interview for 2023 publication to come in spring.
- March: Twine recycling article published in [Alberta Bites Equestrian Magazine](#).
- March: News release - ['Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!' Gaining Ground Recovering Ag Plastics for Recycling](#).
 - Media contact from the news release: Lethbridge Herald, Canadian Plastics



New release statistics (CTR = Click Through Rate)

4. Tonnage Collected

To close the loop on ag-plastic recycling, 480 kilograms (kg) of waste twine used to secure grain bags was collected from a grain bag recycler in Alberta and sent for consolidation and baling in Lethbridge to be recycled.

In total, 2,732,015 (kg) of grain bags, twine, and other waste material have been collected for recycling under the pilot program since October 1, 2019. Of this total, collections included 2,373,911 kg of grain bags, 358,104 kg of twine, and 109,760 kg of other waste material. The total of recyclable grain bags and twine is 2,622,255 kg.

During this quarter, 104,630 kg of grain bags were sent to recyclers in Alberta. A total of 21,901 kg of twine was sent for consolidation and baling in Edson or Lethbridge, while 18,470 kg of twine that was previously consolidated and baled in Edson or Lethbridge was sent to a recycler in Minnesota, USA.

Tables 1 and 2 provide a breakdown of materials collected this quarter and collection since program inception, respectively.

Table 2 – Collection summary for Q1 2023

Grain Bags and Twine Sent for Recycling Jan - Mar 2023					
Site Name	County	Legacy Material (kg)		Pilot Collection (kg)	
		Grain Bags	Twine	Grain Bags	Twine
Ryley Landfill	Beaver County	-	-	-	75
Youngstown Regional Landfill	Special Areas 2, 3 & 4	-	-	-	-
Cardston County Composting Yard	Cardston County	-	-	-	-
Clairmont Landfill	County of Grande Prairie	-	-	-	-
Vermilion Waste Transfer Station	County of Vermilion River	-	-	-	-
Iron Springs Transfer Site	Lethbridge County	-	-	8,160	970
Drumheller & District Regional Landfill	Drumheller	-	-	29,235	-
Foothills Regional Landfill & Resource Recovery Centre	M.D. of Foothills	-	-	5,380	-
Prentiss Landfill	Lacombe County	-	-	14,585	55
MacKenzie Regional Waste Landfill	Mackenzie No. 23	-	-	-	-
Mountain View County Ag Shop Twine Collection	Mountain View County	N/A	-	N/A	880
Municipal District of Bonnyville Public Works Shop	MD of Bonnyville	-	-	-	-
MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance Building	MD of Taber	-	-	-	-
County of Barrhead Public Works Shop	County of Barrhead	-	-	-	-
Westlock Regional Landfill	Westlock County	-	-	-	-
North Peace Regional Landfill	MD of Fairview	-	-	-	-
Coronation Transfer Station	County of Paintearth	-	-	-	-
Irricana Transfer Site	Rocky View County	-	-	13,660	-
West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill	Camrose County	-	-	-	-
Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board Shop	Wheatland County	-	-	23,490	549
Edson & District Recycling Society	Yellowhead County	-	-	-	-
Cleardale Transfer Station	Clear Hills County	-	-	-	-
Foremost Transfer Station - South Forty Waste	County of Forty Mile No. 8	-	-	-	-
Mannville Waste Transfer Station	County of Minburn	-	-	-	-
Hilda Transfer Station	Cypress County	-	-	-	-
Flagstaff Waste Regional Landfill	Flagstaff County	-	-	4,320	-
Provost Regional Landfill	MD of Provost	-	-	-	-
County of Warner Ag Service Board Shop	County of Warner	-	-	-	-
Vulcan Waste Transfer Station	Vulcan County	-	-	-	-
Beaver Lake Landfill	Lac La Biche County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Two Hills Regional Landfill	County of Two Hills	-	-	-	-
Wainwright Regional Landfill	MD of Wainwright	-	-	-	-
Stettler County Operations Shop	County of Stettler	-	-	-	-
Horn Hill Transfer Station	Red Deer County	N/A	-	N/A	-
St. Michael Regional Landfill	Lamont County	-	-	-	-
Three Hills Transfer Station	Kneehill County	N/A	-	N/A	-
New Sarepta/Sunnybrook Waste Transfer Station	Leduc County	N/A	-	N/A	107
New Fish Creek Transfer Station	MD of Greenview	N/A	-	N/A	-
Bluffton Landfill	Ponoka County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Blueberry/Bonanza Transfer Site	Saddle Hills County	-	-	-	-
Rumsey/Michichi Transfer Station	Starland County	-	-	-	-
Central Transfer Station	Clearwater County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Mallaig Transfer Station	County of St. Paul	N/A	-	N/A	-
Roseridge Landfill	Sturgeon County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Big Lakes County Regional Landfill	Big Lakes County	-	-	-	-
Grain Bag Recycler	AB Recyclers	N/A	N/A	N/A	480
Farm (non-pilot site)	AB Farms	-	-	5,800	-
Hay Processing Plants (non-pilot sites)	Southern Alberta	N/A	-	N/A	18,785
Quarterly Totals		-	-	104,630	21,901
Total Grain Bags		104,630		Total Twine	21,901
		Total Grain Bags and Twine		126,531	

Table 3 – Collection summary since program inception

Grain Bags and Twine Sent for Recycling Oct 2019 - Present					
Site Name	County	Legacy Material (kg)		Pilot Collection (kg)	
		Grain Bags	Twine	Grain Bags	Twine
Ryley Landfill	Beaver County	-	-	26,440	1,475
Youngstown Regional Landfill	Special Areas 2, 3 & 4	-	-	12,970	2,100
Cardston County Composting Yard	Cardston County	-	-	7,945	-
Clairmont Landfill	County of Grande Prairie	22,020	-	9,350	-
Vermilion Waste Transfer Station	County of Vermilion River	9,780	-	65,565	1,440
Iron Springs Transfer Site	Lethbridge County	-	-	110,826	9,405
Drumheller & District Regional Landfill	Drumheller	-	6,320	125,008	5,860
Foothills Regional Landfill & Resource Recovery Centre	M.D. of Foothills	-	-	85,425	2,710
Prentiss Landfill	Lacombe County	-	7,110	94,970	9,045
MacKenzie Regional Waste Landfill	Mackenzie No. 23	-	-	-	-
Mountain View County Ag Shop Twine Collection	Mountain View County	N/A	-	N/A	8,096
Municipal District of Bonnyville Public Works Shop	MD of Bonnyville	10,670	-	24,010	5,100
MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance Building	MD of Taber	-	-	106,240	8,085
County of Barrhead Public Works Shop	County of Barrhead	-	-	-	-
Westlock Regional Landfill	Westlock County	-	2,000	-	18,664
North Peace Regional Landfill	MD of Fairview	57,870	-	95,290	1,110
Coronation Transfer Station	County of Paintearth	-	-	13,280	3,702
Irricana Transfer Site	Rocky View County	64,139	7,800	175,210	17,264
West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill	Camrose County	49,250	1,250	98,430	922
Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board Shop	Wheatland County	-	-	226,073	1,189
Edson & District Recycling Society	Yellowhead County	37,860	-	29,480	-
Cleardale Transfer Station	Clear Hills County	-	-	-	-
Foremost Transfer Station - South Forty Waste	County of Forty Mile No. 8	-	-	39,890	240
Mannville Waste Transfer Station	County of Minburn	33,060	12,970	83,330	7,960
Hilda Transfer Station	Cypress County	11,520	-	4,810	1,190
Flagstaff Waste Regional Landfill	Flagstaff County	-	-	73,510	5,965
Provost Regional Landfill	MD of Provost	33,060	-	6,650	1,069
County of Warner Ag Service Board Shop	County of Warner	-	-	19,100	1,565
Vulcan Waste Transfer Station	Vulcan County	-	-	59,940	-
Beaver Lake Landfill	Lac La Biche County	N/A	493	N/A	-
Two Hills Regional Landfill	County of Two Hills	-	-	46,015	-
Wainwright Regional Landfill	MD of Wainwright	62,405	-	8,225	-
Stettler County Operations Shop	County of Stettler	-	-	-	-
Horn Hill Transfer Station	Red Deer County	N/A	-	N/A	1,519
St. Michael Regional Landfill	Lamont County	-	-	1,630	720
Three Hills Transfer Station	Kneehill County	N/A	-	N/A	664
New Sarepta/Sunnybrook Waste Transfer Station	Leduc County	N/A	-	N/A	107
New Fish Creek Transfer Station	MD of Greenview	N/A	-	N/A	-
Bluffton Landfill	Ponoka County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Blueberry/Bonanza Transfer Site	Saddle Hills County	134,270	-	35,400	-
Rumsey/Michichi Transfer Station	Starland County	-	-	2,805	-
Central Transfer Station	Clearwater County	N/A	-	N/A	630
Mallaig Transfer Station	County of St. Paul	N/A	-	N/A	-
Roseridge Landfill	Sturgeon County	N/A	-	N/A	-
Big Lakes County Regional Landfill	Big Lakes County	-	-	-	-
Grain Bag Recycler	AB Recyclers	N/A	N/A	N/A	480
Farm (non-pilot site)	AB Farms	-	-	160,190	-
Hay Processing Plants (non-pilot sites)	Southern Alberta	N/A	-	N/A	201,885
Totals		525,904	37,943	1,848,007	320,161
Total Grain Bags		2,373,911		Total Twine	358,104
		Total Grain Bags and Twine		2,732,015	

5. Quarterly Financial Report

The income statement for 2019-Q2 through 2023-Q1 follows:

Alberta Ag-Plastic, Recycle It! Pilot Program - Cleanfarms Financial Report													
April 2022 - March 2023						Year 1, 2, & 3 & Program Total				Budget Estimates			
Revenue	Apr - Jun	July - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Total	Apr '19 - Mar '20	Apr '20 - Mar '21	Apr '21 - Mar '22	Program Total	Apr '19 - Mar '22	Apr '22 - Aug '23	Total of Budget Estimates	Program Total Budget Difference
<i>Funds Transferred to Cleanfarms from Alberta Beef Producers</i>													
<i>Studies</i>	-	-	-	-	-	45,590	-	-	45,590	78,000	-	78,000	32,410
<i>Communications</i>	15,125	8,359	24,990	19,024	67,499	23,496	10,200	8,161	109,356	36,500	100,000	136,500	27,144
<i>Net Collection Costs</i>	3,157	3,899	24,422	18,682	42,363	38,838	71,469	44,070	196,740	978,000	300,315	1,278,315	1,081,575
<i>Program Admin (Cleanfarms)</i>	17,322	17,322	17,322	17,322	69,289	65,000	50,000	50,000	234,289	165,000	92,700	257,700	23,411
Total Revenue from Alberta Beef Producers	\$ 35,604	\$ 21,783	\$ 66,735	\$ 55,028	\$179,151	\$ 172,924	\$ 131,670	\$ 102,231	\$ 585,975	\$ 1,257,500	\$ 493,015	\$ 1,750,515	\$ 1,164,540
<i>Recycling Revenue</i>													
<i>Revenue from Marketing Materials</i>	25,927	33,777	32,329	16,004	108,038	6,260	68,427	105,181	287,906	336,000	156,217	492,217	204,311
Total Program Revenue	\$ 61,532	\$ 55,560	\$ 99,064	\$ 71,032	\$287,188	\$ 179,184	\$ 200,097	\$ 207,412	\$ 873,881	\$ 1,593,500	\$ 649,232	\$ 2,242,732	\$ 1,368,851
Expenses													
<i>Studies</i>													
Ag Waste Characterization Study	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-
Stakeholder Groups Survey	-	-	-	-	-	28,090	-	-	28,090	58,000	-	58,000	29,910
Market Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	7,500	-	-	7,500	10,000	-	10,000	2,500
<i>Communications</i>													
Brand Development / 2022 Communication Plan	14,508	5,359	20,318	19,024	59,209	10,000	55	7,936	77,200	10,000	93,000	103,000	25,800
Printing Costs	242	3,000	4,673	-	7,915	3,496	10,145	255	21,811	14,500	7,000	21,500	311
Design Costs	375	-	-	-	375	10,000	-	-	10,375	12,000	-	12,000	1,625
<i>Collection Costs</i>													
Contractor Expenses	26,689	25,428	45,102	20,959	118,178	24,120	74,048	111,416	327,762	781,300	211,765	993,065	665,303
Collection Bags	180	437	-	10,836	11,453	17,884	23,776	278	53,391	96,000	22,000	118,000	64,609
Incentive Payments	2,215	4,014	11,649	2,891	20,770	3,093	42,072	37,556	103,491	100,700	66,550	167,250	63,759
<i>Total Collection Costs</i>	<i>29,085</i>	<i>29,878</i>	<i>56,751</i>	<i>34,686</i>	<i>150,401</i>	<i>45,098</i>	<i>139,897</i>	<i>149,251</i>	<i>484,646</i>	<i>978,000</i>	<i>300,315</i>	<i>1,278,315</i>	<i>793,669</i>
<i>Program Admin (Cleanfarms)</i>	17,322	17,322	17,322	17,322	69,289	65,000	50,000	50,000	234,289	165,000	92,700	257,700	23,411
Total Cleanfarms and Operational Expenses	\$ 61,532	\$ 55,560	\$ 99,064	\$ 71,032	\$287,188	\$ 179,184	\$ 200,097	\$ 207,442	\$ 873,911	\$ 1,257,500	\$ 493,015	\$ 1,750,515	\$ 876,604
<i>Committee</i>													
Secretariat - APRA ¹	-	881	1,275	3,168	5,324	17,638	4,722	11,177	38,861	75,000	35,417	110,417	65,488
Technical Oversight - RCA ²	-	-	-	-	-	3,054	687	2,327	6,068	-	-	-	-
<i>ABP Accounting/Grant administrator²</i>	-	-	-	1,200	1,200	900	1,200	1,200	4,500	22,500	10,625	33,125	28,625
Total Committee and Administrator Expenses	\$ -	\$ 881	\$ 1,275	\$ 4,368	\$ 6,524	\$ 21,592	\$ 6,609	\$ 14,704	\$ 49,428	\$ 97,500	\$ 46,042	\$ 143,542	\$ 94,113
Total Program Expenses	\$ 61,532	\$ 56,441	\$100,339	\$ 75,401	\$293,712	\$ 200,775	\$ 206,706	\$ 222,146	\$ 923,339	\$ 1,355,000	\$ 539,057	\$ 1,894,057	\$ 970,717

Notes:
1. As reported to Cleanfarms.

The following is a list of outstanding line items from 2023-Q1 which are not included in the above income statement; all pending invoices are within budget:

- Incentive payments (\$509 – waiting to receive invoices).
- Contractor expenses (estimated \$7,315 – waiting to receive invoices).

Several key factors contribute to the 'Program Total' underspend compared to the 'Total of Budget Estimates', including lower than anticipated twine collection rates, several direct-to-farm pickups requiring no incentive payment, and lower than estimated grain bag and twine collection costs because of realized program efficiencies. Additionally, there are five months of programming remaining in the listed budget.

6. Other Activities and Key Dates

Events & Collection Site Communications

- In-person events:
 - January 17-19 – Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen Agricultural Service Board Conference – tradeshow booth in Grande Prairie.
 - February 16 – MD of Willow Creek grain bag rolling demonstration.
 - February 22-24 – Alberta CARE Spring Seminar – tradeshow booth and presentation on ag-plastics and grain bag recycling.
 - February 28 - March 2 – Ag Expo Lethbridge – tradeshow booth.
 - March 15 – APRA Alberta Circular Plastics Day – presentation and tradeshow booth.
- Remote Events/Webinars
 - March 9 – MD of Lesser Slave River ASB presentation – grain bag and twine recycling.

Appendix A – Signage



Grain Bag Site Sign



Twine Site Sign

cleanfarms **Grain Bags and Twine** Prepare it Properly ALBERTA AG-PLASTIC RECYCLE IT!

<p>✓ Yes!</p> <p>Machine Rolled & Secured with Twine</p>  <p>Clean & Bagged Twine</p> 	<p>✗ No Thanks!</p> <p>Hand-Rolled Bags</p>  <p>Loose Drop-Offs</p>  <p>Net Wrap</p> 	<p>Silage Tarps or Other</p>  <p>Nylon Rope/Sisal Twine</p> 	<p>Hay or Other Material</p> 
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Alberta The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers. **cleanfarms.ca | 403-942-6012**

Combined Grain Bag and Twine Site Sign

Appendix B – Communication Assets

Grain Bag Recycling

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 weigh very little, which is inefficient for transportation to a recycling facility.

1 Remove Debris

Grain bags need to be free of as much foreign material (spoilage, dirt, rocks, etc.) as possible.

Using a proper grain bag roller will help achieve that objective.



2 Roll

Grain bags must be rolled tightly with a standalone mechanical grain bag roller* or old hay baler, and then secured tightly with twine.



3 Return

Bring grain bags that are rolled and tied securely to your local pilot collection site.

For your nearest collection site, visit AlbertaAgPlastics.ca



*Most grain bag extractors roll the bags too loosely. Collection sites cannot accept unrolled, extractor rolled, or hand-rolled grain bags. Any improperly rolled bags may be rejected, subject to a landfill tipping fee or to additional charges at drop off.



Cleanfarms.ca
403.942.6012 | 877.622.4460
info@cleanfarms.ca | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cleanfarms) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cleanfarms) | [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/cleanfarms) | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cleanfarms)



The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

Updated Grain Bag Preparation Brochure

Twine Recycling

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

Pick up, free, twine collection bags from collection sites and select County/MD offices.

1 Shake

Remove as much debris, snow, or ice as possible.

Run the twine through a gloved hand to help remove debris.



2 Bag

Place loose twine* in a collection bag & secure tightly closed with twine or a zip tie.



3 Return

Bring full bags of twine to your local collection site.

For your nearest collection site, visit AlbertaAgPlastics.ca



*Plastic twine only. Bags of twine mixed with netting, sisal twine, or other materials may be rejected, subject to a landfill tipping fee or to additional charges at dropoff.



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Updated Twine Preparation Brochure



Recycle Used Baler Twine

Preparing twine for recycling

Pick up, free, twine collection bags from pilot collection sites and select County/MD offices.

1. Shake to remove debris, snow or ice.
2. Place loose twine in a collection bag.
Plastic twine only. Bags of twine mixed with netting, sisal twine, or other materials will be rejected.
3. Return to an **Alberta Ag Plastic. Recycle It!** pilot collection site. Call ahead for unloading assistance.

Find recycling details and a collection site near you:

- For more about **Alberta Ag Plastic. Recycle It!** – go to **AlbertaAgPlastics.ca** or scan the QR code.
- To see what other ag materials Cleanfarms recycles, go to **Cleanfarms.ca**



SCAN ME

Cleanfarms.ca
info@cleanfarms.ca @cleanfarms

The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

Twine Retailer/Municipal Poster



Got used plastic baler twine?
Recycle it! | AlbertaAgPlastics.ca
 for details and collection sites



Twine 1920x1080 Retailer/Municipal TV Placement



Got used plastic baler twine?
Recycle it! | AlbertaAgPlastics.ca
 for details and collection sites



Twine Retailer/Municipal 728x90 Web Banner

**Got used plastic
 baler twine?**
Recycle it!



AlbertaAgPlastics.ca
 for details and collection sites



Twine 800x800 Retailer/Municipal Web Capsule

Appendix C – Ag-Roundup Posters

★ ★ ★ **WANTED** ★ ★ ★

by **STARLAND COUNTY** in partnership with **cleanfarms**

★ **Used Ag Plastics** ★

GRAIN BAGS
mechanically rolled
and secured with twine

BALER TWINE
in clear collection bags,
available for free from County

SILAGE PLASTIC
silo bags, tarps, bunker covers folded in
4x4 squares or loose, in tote/mini bulk bags

BALE WRAP
stretch wrap for silage and haylage bales
loose or in tote/mini bulk bags

Turn 'em in for recycling!

★ ★ ★ **June 13, 9am - 3pm** ★ ★ ★

Michichi Transfer Station

For more information contact: **403-772-3793**

Example agricultural plastic collection event poster.

Appendix D – Special Communication Activities

Need a better way to manage used grain bags and baler twine?



Recycle them!

Cleanfarms.ca
info@cleanfarms.ca | @cleanfarms

Cleanfarms operates the **Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!** pilot program to help Alberta farmers improve sustainability by recycling baler twine and grain bags.

Recycle Grain Bags
Roll – roll tightly with a mechanical grain bag roller or old hay baler, secure with twine. Contact local collection site or municipality to ask if a roller is available.
Return – contact [pilot collection site](#) prior to dropping off material for rolling/drop off information.

Recycle Baler Twine
Bag – get a free recycling bag from a participating collection site and fill with used plastic baler twine.
Return – close top of bag and bring back to the collection site.

- For more about **Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!** – go to [AlbertaAgPlastics.ca](#)
- To see what other ag materials Cleanfarms recycles, go to [Cleanfarms.ca](#)






The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

Advertisement for Alberta Wheat and Barley

1.877.622.4460
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
🔍

Alberta Ag-Plastic. *Recycle It!* Program details

Farmers in Alberta can recycle grain bags and twine under the Alberta Ag-Plastic. *Recycle It!* pilot program.

This page provides all the information you need to be able to participate in this pilot program.

- Alberta Ag-Plastic. *Recycle It!* program background
- Ag forward: Managing on-farm ag plastics newsletter
- Additional projects related to the pilot program:
 - Market Analysis – Review of existing plastics markets for grain bags and twine
 - Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study Update 2019
 - 2019 Alberta Farmer Survey ‘Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle it!’ Program
- Other Ag-related waste materials that Alberta farmers can recycle and manage safely






What to Recycle & Where

Where to Recycle

Use the filters below to find the best option for you

OR

OR

🔍

Open Map in a New Tab

Website updates and new collection site mapping.



Alberta Dressage Association



Intro

Welcome to the official Facebook page of the Alberta Dressage Association. We promote and support th

Page · Nonprofit organization

albertadressage.com

Not yet rated (0 Reviews)

Photos

[See all photos](#)



Alberta Dressage Association

1d ·

If you've got horses, you've got twine! Cleanfarms is a national not-for-profit agricultural industry stewardship organization that contributes to a healthier environment and a sustainable future for Canadian agriculture. Check out www.cleanfarms.ca for resources and to find local recycling sites. #twine #recycling #equestrian #environmentalstewardship

Got used plastic baler twine? Recycle it!



AlbertaAgPlastics.ca
for details and collection sites



January Facebook post by Alberta Dressage Association