



AGENDA ITEM

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

October 24, 2019

BACKGROUND

The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group was formed in December 2016. The working group formed to advance the discussion and action on agricultural plastics recycling. Membership includes: The Recycling Council of Alberta, Alberta Plastics Recycling Association, Cleanfarms, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

Lacombe County entered into a partnership with Ponoka County and Red Deer County in 2018 to provide regional agriculture producers an option to dispose of plastic grain bags.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in January of 2019 announced a three-year \$750,000 pilot project to address agricultural plastic waste and encourage the collection and study of plastic grain bags and twine for recycling.

The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group was tasked with delivering the three-year pilot program. The APRG announced in June of 2019 that Cleanfarms was contracted to develop and operate the three-year pilot program, at that time Cleanfarms requested municipalities interested in participating in the program to submit a letter of interest.

Lacombe County expressed a letter of interest and was notified on September 6, 2019 that it was selected to participate in the pilot project.

ANALYSIS

Lacombe County has been in discussions with the Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission (LRWSC) to utilize the Prentiss landfill and transfer site for the collection, storage and loading of recyclable agriculture plastics. The LRWSC has been a willing partner in developing the Prentiss site to accommodate agricultural plastic waste storage and loading for transportation.

Lacombe County and the Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission have agreed to draft and sign a service agreement for the collection, storage and loading of recyclable agriculture plastics.

Cleanfarms has requested that Lacombe County enter into a Services Agreement for the collection, storage and loading of recyclable agriculture plastics. (Refer to Attached Services Agreement)

Lacombe County Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

- Lacombe County will continue to operate the on farm plastic grain bag pick up program in Lacombe, Ponoka and Red Deer Counties. This ensures the quality of the recycled material and allows for consistent rolled grain bags which is important for the storage and transportation of plastic grain bags.
- The rolled grain bags will be delivered to the Prentiss site for storage. Once the required number grain bags for a load has been reached. (18 MT, approximately 120 grain bags) Cleanfarms agrees to arrange transportation of rolled grain bags to their processor.
- LRWSC has agreed to provide the storage and loading of rolled bags onto Cleanfarms transportation units.
- LRWSC has agreed to provide collection, storage facilities and loading logistics for a twine recycling program.
- Cleanfarms will be providing Lacombe County with specialty plastic bags designed for a twine recycling program. These bags will be available for pick up at the Prentiss Site and the Lacombe County Office.
- Agriculture producers will be encouraged to place clean twine in the designated plastic bags for recycling. These bags can then be dropped off at the Prentis site for storage and transportation to the Cleanfarms recycling processor.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Agriculture Plastics Recycling Program has been budgeted in the 2020 Agriculture Services Operating Budget.

Revenue

120 bags = 18 MT @ \$55/MT = \$990
Loading services = 18 MT @ \$15/MT = \$270

Total \$1260

Expenses

LRWSC Service Agreement = 25 hours @ \$100/hour \$2500

Revenue – Expenses (\$1240)

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 2 of the Agricultural Service Board act states the duties of an agricultural service board are:

- (d) to promote, enhance and protect viable, sustainable agriculture with a view to improving economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- (e) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Service Delivery: "To provide citizens with appropriate and financially responsible levels of service".

Goals: "Establish Regional Partnerships to deliver services in an efficient and effective manner".

Strategic Action Item: "Research waste disposal and recycling options, including recycling of agricultural plastics".

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to Policy AD(40), Roles and Responsibilities – Lacombe County will inform, consult, and engage the public about decisions that affect them. This was completed through discussions with local agriculture producers and identified as an issue during the development of the Lacombe County Agricultural Guide.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution:

That the County Manager be authorized to enter into a Services Agreement with CLEANFARMS INC. ending April 1, 2022; and further, the County Manager be authorized to draft and sign a Service Agreement with the Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission, for the collection, storage, and loading of recyclable agriculture plastics ending April 1, 2022.

PREPARED BY: Dion Burlock, Manager Agriculture and Environmental Services



REVIEWED BY: Keith Boras, Director of Community Services



REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

