

# WHY

## Do we need this program?

For a number of years, Lacombe County Council explored options for recycling agricultural plastics.

While this program isn't operated on a cost recovery basis, it does eliminate expenditures associated with tipping fees when agriculture plastics are landfilled. The partnership with other counties provides an economy of scale for manpower and equipment while providing local producers with a recycling option that promotes sustainable agricultural practices.

Not only does it demonstrate strong collaboration between neighbouring municipalities, it will also take large volumes of plastic out of the conventional waste stream and allow them to be re-purposed into usable products. This is a positive for our environment and our economy.

### INFO

*"We are pleased to have a made-in-Alberta solution that doesn't involve the product being sent overseas and, subsequently, lost track of. Through this arrangement with Cleanfarms, our counties have an assurance that the plastic is not only recycled, but will also have a practical use after."*

*Paula Law  
Lacombe County Reeve*



### Lacombe County Agricultural Services

Lacombe County Administration Building  
40403 Range Road 274

#### Mailing Address:

RR3  
Lacombe AB  
T4L 2N3

#### Directions:

Highway 12 & Spruceville Road  
(4km west of the QEII / Highway 12  
overpass)

**Phone:** 403-782-8959

**Email:** [info@lacombecounty.com](mailto:info@lacombecounty.com)

#### PROGRAM CONTACTS:

**Lacombe County Community Services,  
403-782-8959**

**Red Deer County Agriculture Office,  
403-342-8654**

**Ponoka County Agricultural Services,  
403-783-3333**

[www.LacombeCounty.com](http://www.LacombeCounty.com)

# Agricultural Plastics & Twine Recycling



A proud partnership between Lacombe County,  
Red Deer County and Ponoka County

# ABOUT

## The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

Lacombe County, Red Deer County, and Ponoka County joined forces on grain bag recycling in 2018. In 2019, Lacombe County was selected as a participant in a provincially funded agricultural plastics pilot project. The pilot project is managed through the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group which has contracted Cleanfarms to design and deliver the pilot project

The grain bags will be rolled and collected directly at the farm sites for eventual delivery to a plastic recycling center in Alberta.

**\*\*Please note: Grain bags are only collected between October and April\*\***



The service is offered free of charge to agricultural producers operating within Lacombe County, Ponoka County, and Red Deer County.

### Requirements:

1. Agricultural producers who request grain bag recycling services must have a person on site who is capable of assisting with the rolling and collection operation.
2. Grain bags **MUST BE FREE** of grain, mud, dirt, debris, and vermin.
3. To ensure grain bags are eligible for recycling, collection services should be scheduled within one week of grain extraction.

## Twine Recycling

### AT LACOMBE COUNTY



### Details:

Producers can pick up Cleanfarms Twine Recycling Bags at the Lacombe County office and Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Sites during regular business hours. Twine will only be accepted if it is placed in the Cleanfarms Twine Recycling Bag, and then brought to the collection site.

### Requirements:

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** – Place loose twine in a Cleanfarms Twine Recycling Bag and tie bags to close. Please do not knot the twine. Cleanfarms Twine Recycling bags are available free of charge at Lacombe County office or Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Sites.
3. **Return** – Return to a Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Site during regular business hours.

## Information from Alberta Plastics Recycling

Agricultural plastics, in the form of baler twine, grain bags, bale wrap, silage plastic and feed bags of various sizes and materials are a problematic waste for agricultural producers and agricultural businesses and pose an environmental threat.

A 2013 study by Cleanfarms and Alberta Agriculture show that:

- Between 3,300 and 6,400 tonnes of agricultural film waste, including grain bags and silage plastics, were produced each year in Alberta.
- Four out of five farms lists burning as their top disposal option.

Research shows that harmful compounds are released from burning plastic at low temperatures such as open burning, and emissions such as dioxins and furans accumulate in soil and bio-accumulate in fat as they move up the food chain.

- 82% of agricultural plastics users say they are concerned about how they deal with agricultural plastics.
- 87% say it is important to them to be able to recycle agricultural plastics (with just under half (44%) saying it is very important).
- 74% of surveyed producers said it is difficult for them to recycle agricultural plastics, with half (48%) saying it is very difficult.

~ From Alberta Plastics Recycling Association

**If you have questions about the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program or Twine Recycling Program, please call 403.782.8959.**