



Field to Future: Alberta Ag Plastics Recycling Webinar



WHEN: December 10 @12:00pm – 1:30pm

From pilot updates to cutting-edge recycling research, this webinar connects you with the people driving agricultural plastics circularity in Alberta.



Welcome – Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the traditional lands and territories of Indigenous peoples in Alberta, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, who have lived on and cared for these lands for generations. This recognition extends to Treaty 6, 7, and 8 territories, and the Northwest Métis Homeland. The land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation and gratitude, recognizing the ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples to the province.

Competition Statement

The *Competition Act* (Canada) (the “Act”) seeks to protect consumers and employees from anti-competitive behaviour amongst businesses that have the potential to harm Canadians. In particular, the Act prevents businesses from conspiring to take measures that inflate the cost of goods and services in the Canadian marketplace or that might make it more difficult for other businesses to compete. The Act also prevents businesses from taking measures that have the potential to suppress employee wages or limit their mobility.

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While the APRA does not offer goods and services to the marketplace generally or have any competitors in the traditional sense, we must nonetheless ensure that our members' participation in APRA activities (including committees) does not lead to a breach of the Act. The Act also imposes certain limits with respect to the commercial activity of companies that, by virtue of their membership in the APRA, may enjoy collective market power. It is important that APRA members do not engage, under the auspices of APRA, in coordinated behaviours or practices that restrict competition or target competitors who are not members of the APRA. The consequences of violating the Act can be very serious and may constitute a prosecutable offence that may lead to fines, imprisonment, significant reputational damage and/or civil damages can flow from breaches of the Act.

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Agenda

- Overview of APRA
- Alberta Pilot Update – Assar Grinde, Cow/Calf Producer; Jennifer Koole, RCA; Tammy Schwass, APRA
- National Cleanfarms Programs & Ag Plastics Stewardship – Davin Johnson, Cleanfarms
- Recycling Industry Updates –Benson Thoudsanikone, Curtis Ltd.; Darryl Wolski, Merlin Plastics
- Industry-leading Recycled Content Product Development – Don McKenzie, McKenzie IBC
- Bottle-to-Bottle Research for Small Containers – Shane Hedderson, Cleanfarms
- Q&A

Reminders

- We will take questions in the Q&A function and utilize the chat for any shorter queries and answer as many as we can at the end of the presentations or take them offline if needed
- We will try to name the acronyms we use- if you have a question on one pop it in the chat.

APRA facilitates partnerships and programs to advance circularity across the plastics value chain

- **Vision:** APRA envisions a future where Alberta is at the forefront of an innovative and sustainable plastics circular economy.
- **Mission:** APRA advances the circular economy for participants in the plastics value chain in Alberta by fostering collaboration that drives economic growth and environmental stewardship.







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We invite you to join APRA

- <https://albertaplasticsrecycling.com/membership/>
- Upcoming event: Alberta Circular Plastics Day – March 11 at the University of Calgary





Ag Plastic Recycling in Alberta

Ag plastics webinar
December 2025



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.

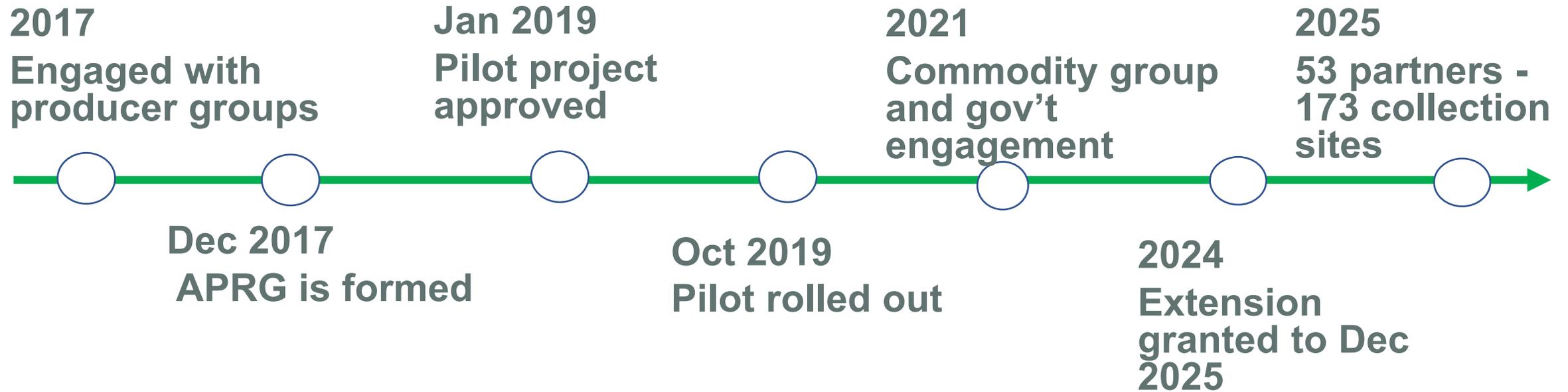
Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG)

Representatives from:

- Academia
- Government of Alberta
- Municipalities
- Producer groups
 - Crop sector, dairy, livestock
- Recyclers and non-profits
- Retailers/manufacturers
- Waste Commissions



Ag Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) Background



‘Alberta Ag-Plastic. *Recycle it!*’ Program Overview

The pilot project to recycle grain bags and twine is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG).

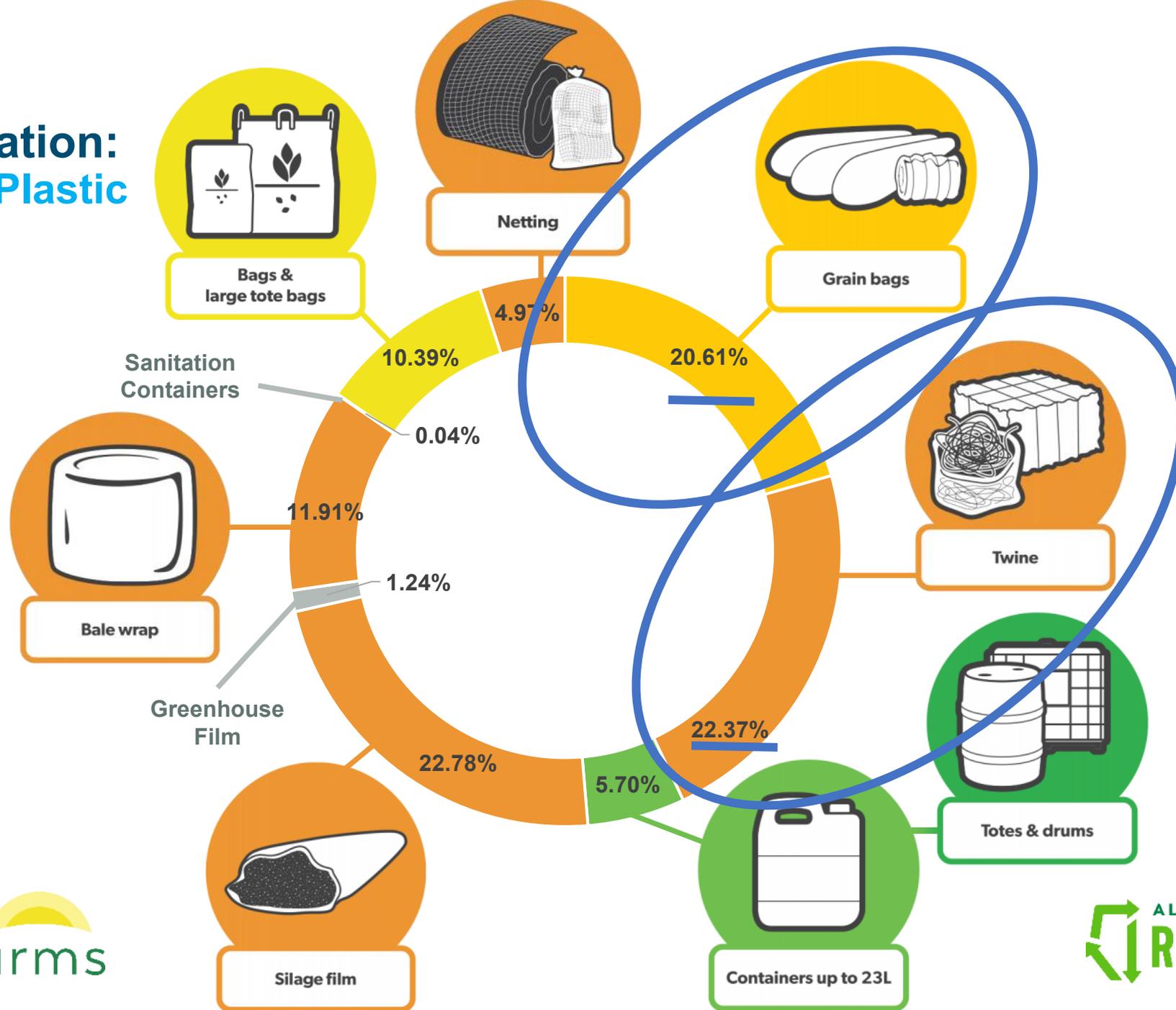
Funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

Cleanfarms is the program operator.



2019 Waste Characterization: Agricultural Plastic in Alberta

(by weight)



Collection Partners:

(as of Sept. 30, 2025)

53 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
Mountain View County (twine only)	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 (twine only)	7	2021
Kneehill County (twine only)	1	2022
Starland County	2	2022
Red Deer County	3	2022
Clearwater County (twine only)	4	2022
Ponoka County	5	2022
Leduc County (twine only)	6	2022
Sturgeon County (twine only)	7	2022
County of St. Paul (twine only)	8	2022
Big Lakes County	9	2022
MD of Greenview (twine only)	10	2022
Saddle Hills County	11	2022
Brazeau County (twine only)	12	2022
MD of Willow Creek	1	2023
MD of Lesser Slave River (twine only)	2	2023
Birch Hills County	1	2024
Lac Ste. Anne County (twine only)	2	2024
Crowsnest/Pincher Creek Regional Landfill	3	2024
Woodlands County	1	2025
M.D. #52 Waste Management Authority – Provost Landfill	2	2025

21 joined in 2019



6 more in 2020



7 more in 2021



12 more in 2022



7 more 2023-2025

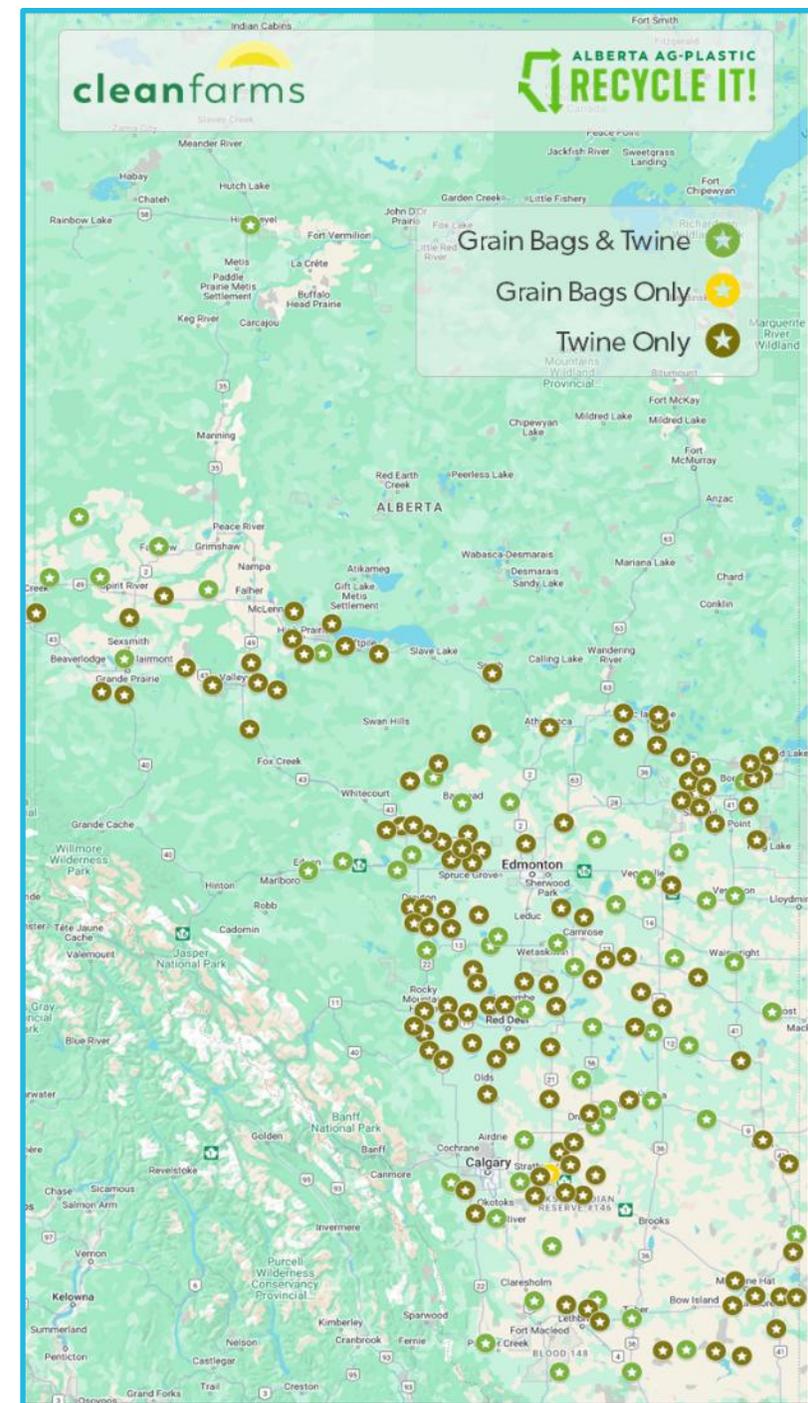


Grain Bag & Twine Collection Locations

(As of September 30, 2025)

53 Collection Partners

- **173 Collection sites**
 - Grain bags only 2
 - Twine only 119
 - Grain bags & twine 52
- Includes 1 retail partner with two locations, not mapped (St. Paul & Wainwright)



Collection Partner Compensation / Logistics

Compensation & Savings:

- \$55/tonne material incentive = ~\$11/grain bag*
- 1m³ landfill space saved in AB = ~\$100 **or** ~\$100/grain bag*
(*the average mechanically rolled grain bag weighs around 200kg and is about 1m³ in size)
- In a permanent program an additional \$25/tonne could be available for a grain bag roller for partner sites, like in SK

Grain bags that are rolled are much easier to manage and transport



AB Collection Totals (2019-10-01 – 2025-09-30)



Grain bags

4,156,403 kg



~ 20,780
300' x 10' bags
(~200kg/bag)

7.03 sections of land
(18.20 sq km)
of plastic laid flat

OR



260 loaded semi trailers

AB Collection Totals (2019-10-01 – 2025-09-30)



Twine

675,910 kg

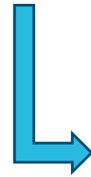


~ 28,160 collection bags
(~24kg/bag)



~ 1,500 mill spec bales
=
36-39 full semi-trailers

56% - Hay Processors
44% - Municipal Sites



~ 1.85 M
big square hay bales
wrapped in twine





The Great Twine Round-Up

Bag it. Bring it. Win it!

Enter Now



- **Launched:** Oct 24, 2024, Plastics Day of Waste Reduction Week.
- **Contest Period:** Nov 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025.
- **Prizes:** \$12,000 total cash prizes, with four prizes of \$3,000 each.
- **Results:** 159 bags of twine (~3,975 kg @ 25kg/bag) (up to early bird draw) 22 entrants
- 660 bags of twine (~16,500 kg @ 25kg/bag) (full contest period) 33 entrants

GreatTwineRoundUp.ca | GreatTwineRoundUp.com





Grain Bags and Twine – What becomes what



An Alberta recycling facility where...



Grain bags are shredded and screened before washing...



Then melted in an extruder to create plastic pellets...



That are ready for manufacturing into new ag-film products.

Photos courtesy of PolyAg Recycling



[cleanfarms.ca/
what-becomes-what](https://cleanfarms.ca/what-becomes-what)

Twine



Twine

End Products

Car parts, flowerpots, composite decking, and dimensional lumber.

Recyclers

USA, Canada



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Alberta



- EPR for ag plastics would place responsibility on manufacturers (and/or first sellers) of designated materials to ensure recycling outcomes are achieved for the grain bags and twine that they manufacture. This approach allows material first sellers to provide the most efficient recycling solutions for their materials.
- Saskatchewan has had EPR for grain bags since 2016
- Manitoba has had EPR for grain bags and twine since April 2021

Next Steps

- ✓ Continue advocating for ag-plastic inclusion in EPR
- ✓ APRG has asked for a pilot extension from December 2025 to December 2027, including an expansion to include bale wrap and silage plastic.
- ✓ We anticipate the extension and expansion will go ahead - we will share details as soon as we are able.
- ✓ Continue outreach & education, including about the costs of current disposal methods





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[Alberta Programs – Cleanfarms](#) (hyperlink to map of collection sites)



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Closing remarks

Thank you!



Please provide feedback
in our survey



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newsletter
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