

AG Plastics recycling

Many of you are looking forward to harvesting 3rd and 4th cuttings along with corn silage. Those of you with bunk silos, drive over piles and Ag baggers also have purchased your oxygen limiting barrier covers and bags for you storage facilities. The recycling and disposal of these plastics are also on your mind.

Until a good alternative for recycling the material becomes realistic, responsible disposal is the best option. The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) has been accepting agricultural plastic at its regional tri-county landfill as waste for a long time. (DANC serves Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.) The tri-county area consumes and therefore produces more agricultural plastic than any other region in the NE. With recycling markets being down it is difficult to market any of it. It is all largely based on the \$\$\$\$ of crude oil.

Recycling and disposal of this waste is handled differently in each county. DANC has been working to locate recycling opportunities for agricultural plastic for its tri-county service area. A potential market in Arkansas has been identified, but the material must be baled in order to be transported efficiently and DANC is currently working to determine the best method of baling and the equipment required.

It's still important to practice good environmental stewardship when recycling or disposing of your farm waste. Each county's practices and requirements differ, so be sure to check with your county transfer station.

Bale wrap and bunk cover - Can typically be properly disposed of by taking to a county or local transfer station.

Bulky Plastics- If they contained chemicals, they have to be triple-rinsed and can then be recycled if your local or county transfer station accepts them. In Jefferson County they can be taken to the Jefferson County transfer station for recycling.

Tires- Tires are becoming a larger problem almost by the day. Jefferson County will accept them for recycling but there is a fee. Any producer who is looking to dispose of large quantities should contact their county transfer station prior to showing up with a truck load. Large tires are typically charged a higher rate for disposal/recycling because they are more difficult to process.

For more information on recycling or disposal of ag plastics in Jefferson, Lewis or St. Lawrence counties, contact:

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