



STAFF REPORT

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2025-07-10

From: Carolynn Pegura, Environmental Services Coordinator

Subject: Launch of the Fraser Valley Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

Reviewed by: Lance Lilley, Manager of Environmental Services
David Urban, Deputy Director of Regional Services
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INTENT

This report is intended to update the Fraser Valley Regional District Board of information pertaining to the launch of the Fraser Valley Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification or to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

Dairy farmers use agricultural plastics such as bale and silage wrap, bags, films, and twine to store animal feed safely. Without a provincially regulated extended producer recycling program in place, these plastics often end up at the landfill.

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Board approved a five-year pilot program for recycling agricultural plastics in the FVRD. In collaboration with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MoAF) and Cleanfarms, this program was launched this year and will support farmers in the FVRD in recycling bale wrap and silage plastics, which **will increase the region's diversion rate and reduce the volume** of waste sent to landfills.

The program expands on the work of farmers in Agassiz who have been recycling agricultural plastics in partnership with Cleanfarms for more than a decade. Additional farms throughout the region will be added each year to eventually reach up to 62 participating farms by the fourth year.

DISCUSSION

The Fraser Valley Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program was launched on May 30, 2025, through a joint press release with Cleanfarms, MoAF, and the FVRD (attached). The FVRD and MoAF will be equally funding the pilot program, while Cleanfarms will undertake the majority of program operations and logistics.

On June 17, 2025, Cleanfarms hosted a Demonstration Day in Agassiz for interested farmers to observe how agricultural plastics are collected, baled, and stored, and to ask questions about the program. After materials are collected and compacted on-site, they are then transported to various locations for recycling into fence posts, composite lumber, or new agricultural film. The Demonstration Day included prospective participants from Chilliwack and Rosedale, as well as representatives from the FVRD, Cleanfarms, and MoAF. The event was held at an Agassiz farm already working with Cleanfarms to recycling agricultural plastic (see photos below).

The first year of the program will focus on continuing the program already established in Agassiz and to promote the program to interested dairy farmers in Rosedale and Chilliwack to join in the second year. Additional farms **in the remaining FVRD's electoral** areas and municipalities will be added in subsequent years.



Cleanfarms representative, Carly Fraser, demonstrates how an agricultural plastics baler functions.



Silage wrap being prepared for transport.



Bales of agricultural plastic are collected for transport to a recycling processor in Alberta.

COST

The Fraser Valley Regional District is providing \$249,600 towards the 5-year pilot program, with funding coming from the regional solid waste budget (402).

CONCLUSION

Throughout the Fraser Valley Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program, the FVRD, in collaboration with MoAF and Cleanfarms, plan to onboard interested farmers, test logistics, develop relationships with key players, and support the case for a province-wide recycling program for agricultural plastics. One of the goals for this pilot program is to pave the way for an extended producer responsibility program that will include all agricultural plastics in the province.