



Resolution #15 – Grey SCIA – Recycling of plastic used on the farm

WHEREAS the use of plastics is a standard method of preserving forages; and,

WHEREAS farmers have demonstrated a willingness to recycle plastics to reduce the environmental effects of their disposal and it is important to continue this momentum; and,

WHEREAS everyone benefits from recycling, as it is a better alternative than their disposal in local landfill sites or by burning.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OSCIA request that the Government of Ontario and the Federal Government offer their resources, encouragement and financial support to keep plastic recycling, as a viable option to producers throughout the province, by helping recyclers to improve their end product, and develop a consistent market for their product.

Moved by Don Oliver, seconded by Rob Kirkconnell (Grey county).

Carried

SENT TO Chris Ballard, Minister of MOECC; Colleen Fitzgerald-Hubbel, Director of Environmental Management Branch, OMAFRA; Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and Association of Municipalities of Ontario

COPIED TO Greg Meredith, Deputy Minister, OMAFRA; and Clean Farms Ontario.

RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2018 to Environment and Climate Change Minister Chris Ballard regarding municipal resolutions relating to neonicotinoid pesticides, and the recycling of plastics.

On behalf of the ministry, I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter, and to confirm that a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please have your office contact me at jeff.arp@ontario.ca or at 416-212-6694.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Jeff Arp
Supervisor
Corporate Correspondence Unit
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

RESPONSE FROM GREG MEREDITH, DEPUTY MINISTER, OMAFRA

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter and sharing resolutions that were passed at your association's recent annual conference.

I have forwarded these resolutions to the appropriate assistant deputy ministers for their information. I look forward to continued collaboration with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association on issues of importance to the agriculture sector.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours truly,



Greg Meredith
Deputy Minister

c: Phil Malcolmson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Randy Jackiw, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Deb Sikora, Assistant Deputy Minister, Food Safety and Environment Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs



Good Things Grow in Ontario
À bonne terre, bons produits

RESPONSE FROM CLEANFARMS

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for sharing the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's (OSCIA's) recent resolution.

The points raised in this resolution are echoed across Ontario and the country. Agricultural plastics are important tools on Canadian farms. However, convenient, cost-effective recycling options are not readily available. As you know, farmers, farm groups and municipalities are sometimes frustrated with the lack of progress on this file.

Given the popularity of Cleanfarms' programs for empty containers, bags and obsolete product, we are often asked why a similar solution is not in place (or in development) for items like bale or silage wrap.

These types of plastics pose several challenges like end-of-life contamination and assuring sufficient volumes to enable entrepreneurship and recycling markets. A key obstacle is the lack of a coordinated approach that brings together the wide variety of stakeholders who each play an important role in developing and implementing a long-term solution that meets the needs of farmers.

Our programs demonstrate that farmers, and the industries supporting them, value stewardship programs. Our results, as outlined in our Annual Report (enclosed), and regulatory initiatives like Ontario's Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy, present an opportunity. This is one of the reasons Cleanfarms is in the process of submitting a multi-phase proposal that maps out these opportunities to Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Kim Timmer, manager, stakeholder relations, will ensure that OSCIA is engaged throughout this project.

As a starting point, Cleanfarms offers a one-hour 'ag plastics recycling 101' workshop (also available by webinar) that walks participants through the complexities of recycling, answers frequently asked questions and outlines progress in other jurisdictions and ways communities can get involved. This may be of value to your staff or country/district associations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Barry Friesen, P.Eng General Manager

cc: Brad Orr, Chair, Cleanfarms Inc.
Katherine Fox Deborah Brooker Kim Timmer

**RESPONSE FROM SHERIF HEGAZY, MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
CONSERVATION, AND PARKS**

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August 16, 2018

ENV1283MC-2018-749

Mr. Andrew Graham
Executive Director, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
1 Stone Road West, 1st Floor
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of April 10th, 2018 to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, regarding neonics and recycling of plastics used on the farm. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

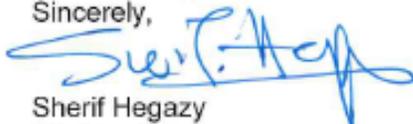
I appreciate the insights and suggestions you have shared on Ontario's neonicotinoid insecticide regulations. We look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders on this issue, and I want to ensure you that your perspective will be considered in future deliberations.

Regarding the recycling of plastic used on the farm, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs offers informational resources to help farm businesses properly dispose of their plastic waste, including an online factsheet entitled "Recycling Farm Plastic Films" that is an excellent resource:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/95-019.htm> .

Farm businesses are encouraged to recycle material such as bale wrap, silage bags and bunker silo covers, and there are several recovery centres across Ontario that will accept it.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherif Hegazy".

Sherif Hegazy
(A) Director

cc: Ernie Hardeman, Minister, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs