

# MANAGING PLASTICS RESPONSIBLY

Responsible plastic management has its own set of 4Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. First, seek non-plastic options where available, then reduce plastic use, then reuse plastics on farm or return them using a take-back program, and finally recycle. If no other options are available, dispose of plastics at a landfill. This type of management reduces the emissions from new plastics being produced as well as the emissions associated with poor on-farm plastic management.

## Implementation Tips

- Choose compostable products or biodegradable materials in lieu of plastics.
- Choose products containing less plastic packaging.
- Divert waste by reusing or repurposing plastics.
- Return plastics through take-back programs.
- Recycle plastics.
- Where no other options are available, dispose of plastic waste at a landfill.

## Resources

- **Website:** Cleanfarms ([dfc-plc.info/MPR1](https://dfc-plc.info/MPR1))
- **Website:** Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group ([dfc-plc.info/MPR2](https://dfc-plc.info/MPR2))
- **Webpage:** Recycling Farm Plastic Films, OMAFRA ([dfc-plc.info/MPR3](https://dfc-plc.info/MPR3))

*“I started recycling bale wrap, bunker silo plastic and shavings bags in the spring of 2021. We purchased a plastic compactor that is basic, relatively inexpensive and easy to use. Before you start recycling plastic, determine what the final destination is for the bales, as this will determine what plastic you can put in the bale. Recycling facilities want a specific density of plastic and may not accept multiple sources of plastic. My best advice is to keep the compactor under a roof, if possible, or build a hinged plywood cover to prevent snow and rain from getting at the compactor. Used plastic should be put into the compactor immediately. Once it’s full, it takes about 20 minutes with two people to tie-off and eject the bale. Place the bale on a skid for easy transport.”*

— Kevin, a dairy farmer in Ontario

## Benefits



Reduced GHG emissions



**Estimated return on investment**

Low



**On-farm emission mitigation potential +**

