

Recycling Agricultural Plastics Program (RAPP) Program Work Team (PWT) A Move to Recycle Ag Plastics



Tuesday, August 18, 2015 11:30-2:30pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, 232 Plaza Road, Kingston, NY

Context: The NY Recycling Agricultural Plastics Program ([RAPP](#)), regional solid waste agencies and Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations (CCE) are assessing the potential to recycle agricultural plastics and expand boat wrap collection in Southeastern NY. Some of the recycling markets are located nearby yet there are several challenges: agricultural plastics are not a large percentage of the local waste stream, and recycling collection points and markets require significant volume.

The meeting started with introductions and participants relating their interest in agricultural plastics recycling. There were 14 participants representing NY DEC, USEPA Regions 2, county solid waste agencies (Dutchess and Rockland Counties), Cornell and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and interested farm operators. Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Ulster Counties were represented at the meeting. Farms represented Dutchess, Rockland and Ulster Counties. Recycling coordinators in Sullivan and Westchester Counties also expressed interest.

There was an initial review of RAPP's history and the context of the meeting. Little has been done for recycling of ag plastics in the lower Hudson Valley region yet the interest is high and a leading market is located in Brooklyn.

Materials of interest in the group discussion were: bale wrap, horticultural materials such as mulch film, drip tape, row cover, pots and trays, and green/hoop house covers. Silage bags, bunker cover, wood pellet bags, wood shavings bags, potting media bags are also potential agricultural materials. There was disappointment (Migliorelli Farm and Davenport Farms) that horticultural mulch film, drip tape and row covers have limited recycling potential at this time.

It was discussed that a large volume of boat wrap is used in the region. RAPP has a market and there is the possibility of adding some agricultural films to this material as they are all LDPE. Rockland and Westchester Counties reported collecting boat wrap. **Westchester County is willing to consider adding greenhouse/hoop house films to their boat wrap collection.**

A survey of agricultural plastic use and interest in recycling was developed particularly for Ulster County. Staff changes at CCE and Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency has delayed the survey. A new recycling coordinator is expected on staff at UCRRA ~ September 1.

Rachel Moody reported that Taylor Montgomery Recycling, per James Taylor Jr. (845-457-4021), is capable and potentially willing to accept various agricultural plastics. They have a

reduced tipping fee. Nate Leonard will follow up as he is most familiar with the materials.

Interstate Waste Services is another potential for receiving materials. Several horse farms have reported that they are taking shavings and feed bags. Rachel to follow up with the Chester, Newburg, Goshen locations?

There was general support from this group to try to make something happen and be creative in getting it done. Two farms offered that they have potential ability to assist (Migliorelli trucks to NYC and Full Moon Farm has the ability to receive baled material and load trucks). Solid waste agencies may have limited ability to bale film plastics outside of their single stream collection. RAPP has an available baler. Solid waste representatives discussed the potential to collect across county lines with specific transfer stations being mentioned in Southern Ulster and Northern Rockland County. A few farms would transport material across the Hudson River but having collection points on both sides was viewed as necessary.

Lindsay Carille and Kerri Scales suggested that recycling of agricultural plastics needs to be discussed at the September or October meeting of the Hudson Valley solid waste managers. They will assist in getting RAPP on the agenda.

Notes submitted by:

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