



**CleanFARMS™ Inc. Launch Webinar
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

OPERATIONS

Q1 - Are container caps supposed to go into residential recycling, landfill or shouldn't they come back through the empty pesticide container program in a different stream?

Currently, containers caps are to be placed in the regular waste stream. We will be engaging in some research and development over the next few years to see whether we can collect and effectively recycle these caps separately.

Q2 - Will there be any rejecting of material without caps and booklets removed?

This depends on the province. In some provinces, empty containers with caps and booklets attached are rejected at the collection site. We do understand that in some provinces, the practice of removing caps and booklets is not as common. We encourage both caps and booklets to be removed before returning the containers. We hope that with more promotion and education, farmers will help to ensure that their containers are returned with the caps and booklets removed.

Q3 - What is the difference between recycling pesticide containers to recycling plastics in general (such as used flower pots)?

Pesticide containers are highly engineered containers that must withstand many types of conditions such as the impacts of freezing temperatures and they must keep from leaking during shipping and handling. To meet these qualifications, the plastic must be all of the same type of material and meet rigid requirements for content and strength. Other plastics, such as flower pots, are usually made from different materials and often do not require the same rigid standards. To make new plastic products out of used plastics, whether they are flower pots or pesticide containers, separation of the different types of plastics is required.

Q4 - Are you able to handle the empty totes of generic pesticides?

Yes. We already manage many of the empty totes in the marketplace and are fully prepared to manage all of them.



Q5 - Can obsolete stocks be returned to container collection sites?

Obsolete stocks are handled as a hazardous waste and require specific permitting/approvals from the province in order to operate. Strict health and safety must be adhered to during operation and storage. Most container collection sites do not have these approvals and cannot accept these materials.

Q6 - Who manages the collection sites – CleanFARMS™ or the municipality/retailer?

In provinces where container sites are located at municipal landfills, it is the municipality (including Manitoba and Alberta) who owns and manages the site. In provinces where the container sites are located at agricultural retailers, it is the retailer who owns and manages the site.

Q7 - What if the container caps are not rinsed properly? Is this going to be an environmental issue at collection sites?

Container caps do not require rinsing because of their size. Most containers usually have a foil liner stuck to plastic preventing contact of the liquid with the cap. As such, we do not anticipate problems at collection sites due to un-rinsed caps.

We ask that the containers themselves be triple rinsed so that the container can be more easily recycled and so that leakage of the containers does not occur during storage on the farm, transport to the farm, or storage at the collection site. By ensuring containers are properly rinsed, farmers are also ensuring that they utilize all of the product and nothing goes to waste.

Q8 – For recycling of large multi-layer bulk bags, we have been told, in the past, that they are not returnable. Can they be recycled and will the CleanFARMS™ program accommodate them?

At this time, we do not recycle these bags. The most appropriate location for these bags is in approved landfills or incinerators. Over the next few years, we will be looking at all the different agricultural waste products for potential collection and recycling.

Q9 - Any chance of setting up permanent obsolete collection sites through partnerships? Maybe build on some of the infrastructure in place with domestic products and programs?

Commercial pesticides are not normally appropriate to be collected with residential collection systems due to where, how and when they are used. That said we are always interested in potential synergies with other collection programs and would consider these, if they fit our particular needs.

Q10 - How are users to safely dispose of waste from rinsing empty containers?

Farmers and other users are educated to triple rinse or pressure rinse empty containers at the time of emptying the containers into their spray tanks. The rinsate should be placed in the spray tank, so that it is safely used with the rest of the pesticides.

Q11 - Biobeds are a technology being investigated for the safe disposal of chemical spray waste. Is this an approach that the program will be considering to promote for adoption?

Biobeds are a potential option and have been used successfully, predominantly in Europe, but are not used to a great extent in Canada. It is our understanding that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is studying this approach to determine if it is applicable for use in Canada. Regardless using all of the spray waste at the time of application is the best way to avoid costly disposal

Q12 - At what point do you consider a pesticide 'obsolete' (i.e. no longer legally registered, or so old you can't read the label)

Obsolete pesticides are products that have been de-registered, are out-dated, damaged, or otherwise unwanted. We conducted a survey of farmers and asked this question in a slightly different way – 'Why do you have obsolete pesticides?' Their answers included:

- Product too old or damaged
- Product replaced by another product
- Changed crops grown
- Inherited product

COMMUNICATIONS

Q13 - Are flyers available for distribution to users?

Currently, we have a variety of communication tools for your use. Visit www.cleanfarms to see our latest tools. We are currently printing new publications, which will be distributed in February. If you do not get any by that time, please contact info@cleanfarms.ca .

Q14 - Can we have a link to your web site on our web site?

We would love to have links on other web sites. Please send all requests to info@cleanfarms.ca .

Q15 - With respect to supporting materials, do you plan to have signs that growers can put up at their farm gates indicating that they are participating in the CleanFARMS™ program?

This is a great suggestion. We will consider this opportunity for the future.

REGULATORY

Q16 – We understand that PMRA has been asked to make it mandatory for all pesticide registrants to have a container management program such as that offered by CleanFARMS™. Is there any update to this request?

At this time, there is no requirement by PMRA for this to be in place. However, we have been in discussions with the PMRA and hope that this will be a requirement of product registration in the very near future.

OTHER MATERIALS

Q17 - What will be included under other agricultural wastes?

There are many other agricultural wastes. Some of the key 'other' agricultural wastes that may require stewardship programs include hay bale wrap, silage wrap, grain bags, greenhouse film, bale and other twine, pharmaceutical waste and sharps.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact info@cleanfarms.ca.