

# RECYCLING DAIRY PLASTICS

Silage Bags, Bunker Covers, Bale Wrap, Containers, & Other

## **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

to keep plastic clean enough to recycle

- **AVOID MUD & MANURE** as much as possible.  
*E.g., Don't run tractor over plastic. Locate silage bags on a concrete pad, asphalt, or on high, dry ground.*
- **BEFORE REMOVING SILAGE:**  
**CUT FILM into pieces** of size & weight that one person can handle. If silage bag bottom is muddy, cut at ground level, & separate clean plastic on top & sides from dirtier plastic on bottom.
- **SHAKE OFF soil & debris**  
Brush or shake off forage, clumps of soil, stones.
- **ROLL or FOLD DRY FILM into bundles** the size of a large pillow (about 2'x3'). If necessary, tie bundles with strips of the same plastic. Stuff bags into a bag of the same type.
- **SEPARATE different products & types** for baling. Do not mix different products in one bale (*e.g., separate silage bags/bunker covers from bale wrap; twine/bale net from bale wrap*). Separate cleaner film from dirtier. No PVC accepted.
- **CHEMICAL CONTAINERS:** Triple rinse to clean.
- **STORE UNDER COVER:** Clean, dry & out of sun.  
As soon as possible, put in a barn, trailer or under a tarp.
- **LABEL BALES:** Use permanent marker.  
Write: type of material, date, contact name/phone/location.

### **RECYCLING AG PLASTICS PROJECT**

Life Cycle Stewardship of Agricultural Plastics

Developing infrastructure and markets for waste film and rigid plastics from dairy, livestock & horticulture. A collaboration of Cornell University with agriculture producers and agricultural, environmental, economic development and solid waste/recycling agencies, organizations and businesses. Major funding from the NY Farm Viability Institute, NYS DEC, US EPA Region 2 Pollution Prevention.

<http://environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/AgPlastics>