

RECYCLING DAIRY PLASTICS

Silage Bags, Bunker Covers, Bale Wrap, Containers, etc.

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 and bales on a concrete pad, asphalt, or on high, dry ground.
- **BEFORE REMOVING SILAGE:**
CUT FILM into pieces of size & weight one person can handle. If silage bag bottom is muddy, cut at ground level; separate clean plastic on top and sides from dirtier plastic on bottom.
- **SHAKE or BRUSH OFF** forage, soil, stones
- **ROLL or FOLD DRY FILM into bundles** about the size of a large pillow (2'x3'). Stuff bags into a bag of the same type.
- **SEPARATE different products & types**
Do not mix different products in one bale (*e.g., separate bale wrap from silage bags and bunker covers; twine or bale net from bale wrap, etc.*). Separate cleaner film from dirtier. No PVC accepted.
- **CHEMICAL CONTAINERS:** Triple rinse to clean.
See Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) website: <<http://www.acrecycle.org/>>
- **STORE UNDER COVER:** Clean, dry as possible.
E.g., Store in a barn, trailer, hay wagon or outside under a tarp.
- **BALING:** Make full bales (1000–1200 lb). Label with permanent marker: type of material, date, contact name/phone/location.

RECYCLING AG PLASTICS PROJECT

Life Cycle Stewardship of Agricultural Plastics

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

Developing infrastructure and markets for waste film and rigid plastics from dairy, livestock & horticulture. A collaboration of Cornell University with agriculture producers and agriculture, environment, economic development and solid waste/recycling agencies, organizations and businesses. Funding from the NY Farm Viability Institute, NYS DEC Environmental Protection Fund, US EPA Region 2 Pollution Prevention, USDA Rural Utilities Services, USDA Hatch/Smith-Lever.

