

CleanFARMS™ Looking at New Ways to Divert Agricultural Waste from Landfills

January 20, 2011 – CleanFARMS™ has received \$25,000 from the Governments of Canada and Manitoba to examine how best to collect and responsibly manage agricultural waste generated on farms.

CleanFARMS'™ research will identify the types and quantities of waste paper, plastic and other materials generated by Manitoba farmers. The industry stewardship organization will then look at potential options for sustainably managing these materials, with the ultimate goal being to establish a system to manage the collection and recycling activities of these products.

“Producers take pride in their work and the Government of Canada is proud to invest in an initiative that will help farmers sustainably manage their on-farm waste to the benefit of all Manitobans,” said Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) awarded \$15,000 to CleanFARMS™ for this project, funded through the Agriculture Sustainability Initiative of Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Manitoba Conservation also contributed \$10,000.

“We know from the success of our empty pesticide container recycling program and obsolete pesticide collection initiatives that farmers want to be environmentally responsible,” says Barry Friesen, general manager of CleanFARMS™. “What we’re trying to do is ensure the necessary programs are in place to allow for the proper management of all agricultural waste.”

“Manitoba producers are known for being good stewards of the land,” says MAFRI Minister Stan Struthers, “and proper elimination of recyclable and non-recyclable waste materials helps farmers preserve and protect the land that provides their living.”

“This is a great example of industry and government coming together to develop a solution that will have positive implications for all Manitobans and the environment,” said Manitoba Conservation Minister Bill Blaikie.

As it stands now, farmers sometimes burn or send materials that are readily recyclable to landfills that are quickly reaching capacity because there are no alternative options.

CleanFARMS™ is committed to protecting the environment by recycling agricultural waste products and safely disposing of products that are not recyclable. It already operates successful empty pesticide container recycling programs and obsolete pesticide collection initiatives and is now looking at ways to manage other agricultural waste products.

It's expected that CleanFARMS™ will complete its research by mid 2011.

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