



June 28, 2013

2013-231

Chad MacPherson, General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
PO Box 4752  
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email outlining the resolutions that were passed at the recent annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA). I am pleased to provide a response to the resolution regarding a recycling program for agricultural plastics.

As you are aware from your involvement with the Saskatchewan Agricultural Stewardship Council (SASC) Advisory Committee, the agricultural plastics industry and the Ministry of Environment have been looking for a permanent solution to the disposal challenges that agricultural plastics present. Since 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture has provided \$370,000 in funding to support a pilot program to collect and recycle grain bags and twine. This program was implemented as a temporary solution until a permanent program could be established.

To help gather stakeholder feedback, evaluate options for a program and provide input to a potential regulatory approach, the Ministry of Environment provided funding to CleanFARMS Inc. to support the work of SASC. Since January of 2013, CleanFARMS has been conducting research and coordinating consultation sessions to provide input to the development of a potential recycling program. Agricultural organizations, such as the SSGA, have played an integral part of this work through the SASC advisory committee. It is crucial that feedback is received from those that will participate in the program and I applaud your organization for your involvement.

I will be meeting with representatives from CleanFARMS and SASC on July 3, 2013 at which time they will present their findings from the most recent series of consultation of which SSGA was a participant. In addition I will receive their proposed outline for a collection and recycling program for agricultural plastics. Operational details such as how the waste agricultural plastics will be captured, potential costs to all the different sectors involved in the recycling process, including the agricultural community, and how the program will be funded will be disclosed.

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This same information will be presented at the July 4<sup>th</sup> CleanFARMS/SASC meeting of stakeholders in Saskatoon to which SSGA has been invited to attend as part of SASC's Advisory Committee. Once this information has been contemplated government will consider the next steps for the development of this stewardship program for agricultural plastics.

Saskatchewan has a number of examples of successful stewardship programs that benefit the agricultural community and protect the environment including the collection of pesticide containers, used oil, used diesel and oil fuel filters, and scrap tires. The success of the current pilot programs for grain bags and twine demonstrates farmers' willingness to participate in a recycling program. The Ministry of Environment believes that a stewardship approach to this waste management issue is the most effective and efficient solution to provide farmers and ranchers with the responsible disposal options they are looking for.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a response to this resolution and I trust that the information that I have provided will be shared with your members. I would encourage your members to visit the SASC webpage ([www.cleanfarms.ca/SASC](http://www.cleanfarms.ca/SASC)) to learn more about the proposed agricultural plastics program and the environmental benefits it offers Saskatchewan residents.

Sincerely,



Ken Cheveldayoff

cc: Tom Schwartz, Executive Director, Livestock Branch, Ministry of Agriculture