



# ANNUAL REPORT



2020-2021



# At a glance



## Recycling removed from farms

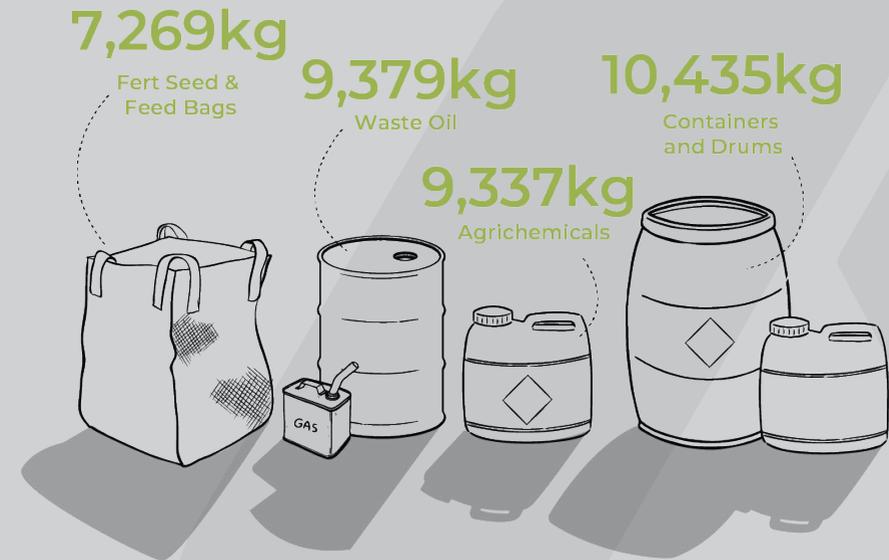


## Collection totals (kg)



## ONE-STOP SHOP RECYCLING EVENTS

WE COLLECTED AND RECYCLED OR SUSTAINABLY DISPOSED OF:



A safe, sustainable and convenient option for disposing of farm waste is the ethos behind the Agrecovery one-stop shop events, where rural communities can recycle and sustainably dispose of a variety of end-of-life rural products and packaging.

The recycling events successfully recycled or sustainably disposed of agrichemical containers, unwanted agrichemicals, used motor oil, seed and feed bags.



### CHEMICAL PROGRAMME

We collected **29.803 tonnes** of unwanted or obsolete chemicals.

Qualified chemical contractors collect and dispose of chemicals in accordance with New Zealand regulations.

# Leadership Message



## from the Chair

The Agrecovery Foundation, now in its fifteenth year, continues to experience annual growth. A massive 532 tonnes of HDPE plastic containers and drums were either collected on-farm or dropped off at our 100 container sites located throughout the length and breadth of the country.

The support from our levy-paying brand owners and businesses providing drop-off points for recycling is invaluable. The leap of faith by the founding agrichemical companies that initiated the formation of the Agrecovery Foundation in 2006 has been integral to its success and sustained growth today. This foresight has pre-empted government and consumer approaches to sustainable practices in farming.

Compliance requirements expected of the primary sector are increasing as customers demand assurances that products are produced ethically and sustainably. Agrecovery plays a critical role in this process by enabling farmers and growers to recycle clean containers and drums. This plastic is used to make useful new products right here in New Zealand. Unwanted residual and obsolete agrichemicals are collected and ethically disposed of as well.

Agrecovery provides proof of these ethical and sustainable practices so that farmers and growers can provide evidence of sustainability to their customers. A move away from the traditional methods of burning and burying inorganic waste on farms has resulted.

Farmers and growers are increasingly aware of the different types of plastic packaging used on farms and are asking for solutions for them. As good stewards of the land, they are driven to divert recyclable waste away from landfills.

Regulated stewardship for agrichemicals and their packaging, along with four other problematic waste streams, will soon require producers to belong to accredited product stewardship schemes.

Our programmes already meet the government's requirements by offering ethical disposal of



**Adrienne Wilcock**  
Agrecovery Chair

residual products and recycling clean packaging into other products at no cost to the farmer or grower.

These political developments only reinforce the Foundation's strategy to invest in developing new schemes for soft plastics in collaboration with producers and improving the current network to ensure efficiency and effectiveness for stakeholders from Kaitaia to Bluff.

New Zealand is in the infancy of transitioning into a circular economy away from the linear model. It takes time to build the infrastructure required to process different waste streams domestically and move away from sending them offshore, as has occurred in the past. Declaring problematic waste streams as priority products signals long term certainty to potential investors, giving them the confidence to build suitable processing plants with the government's support.

Product stewardship is not just about a recycling collection. It is about providing an enduring ethical solution for waste streams in their entirety, including minimising their carbon footprint.

Agrecovery is recognised as the reputable, not for profit organisation that delivers the most sustainable product stewardship solutions for the rural sector.



## from the CE

Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, which continues to cause havoc around the globe, the amount of plastic we collected for recycling has grown.

We successfully navigated restrictions and partial closures in our network due to Covid lockdowns, thanks to our solid relationships with our sites and collectors - resulting in minimal impact on our customers.

It is heartening to see the persistence and commitment of farmers and growers in doing the right thing and remaining stoic in their efforts to recycle - many even holding onto their containers until our networks could reopen.

In addition to our usual operations, we have made significant progress in developing product stewardship schemes for the sector and expanding our rural recycling remit to enter the household arena.

With the Government prioritising farm plastics as one of the first areas requiring a product stewardship scheme, we have designed and developed a farm plastics report. This report highlights the challenges any successful scheme will face in collecting and repurposing farm plastics. One critical area for success is a strong customer focus that makes participation easy.

We are progressing two additional product stewardship schemes: one focusing on animal health products and the other targeting household pest and weed products. These are relatively small projects posing challenges in delivery due to the diverse array of packaging types and the variety of plastics used in these products.

This work will continue to develop over the coming year as we seek to establish the most effective and efficient schemes to meet environmental best practice.



**Tony Wilson**  
Chief Executive

On a final note, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the Agrecovery team, the frontline merchants, and our contractors for their dedication and hard work in making Agrecovery the best product stewardship scheme for the rural sector and beyond. We couldn't have achieved what we have so far without their drive.

**"It is heartening to see the persistence and commitment from farmers and growers in doing the right thing and remaining stoic in their efforts to recycle."**



# 2020-21



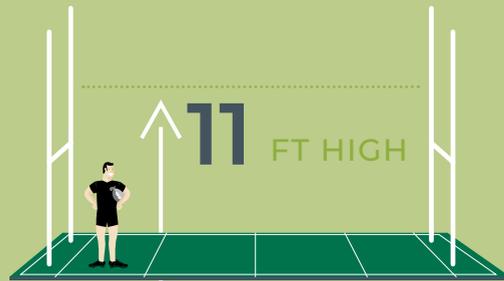
## Year in Review

### → PLASTIC RECYCLING

WE COLLECTED

**531,856** KG  
of plastic

Enough solid plastic to fill a rugby field 11 feet high.



### → PLASTIC COLLECTED FROM FARMS

Containers collected from farms

**84,501** KG

Total of  
**153**  
collections



→ **64,527** KG  
drums collected

Total of  
**258**  
collections



### SITES - HIGHEST VOLUMES

### PLASTIC COLLECTED (KG)

★ Blenheim - Resource Recovery Park	41,509
★ Methven - Molloy Agricultural Spraying	32,480
★ Ashburton - Ruralco	12,670
★ Te Puke - Panax Solutions	10,800
★ Hastings - Horticulture	10,080
★ Rolleston - Pines Resource Recovery Park	9,860
★ Hastings - Whakatu Farmlands	9,140
★ Gore - Advance Agriculture Ltd	8,475
★ Richmond Transfer Station	7,947
★ Motueka - Mariri Resource Recovery Park	7,358

### → SOFT BAG RECYCLING

**128,000** KG

of Polypropylene bags

Three shipments of 2 x 40' containers went to Vietnam for recycling into pellets for reuse.

We continue to work with local processors to arrange domestic recycling options.



# Leading us forward

## meet the board →



**ADRIENNE WILCOCK**  
Chair, DairyNZ



**MARK ROSS**  
Agcarm



**ANDERS CROFOOT**  
Federated Farmers



**MIKE SMITH**  
Horticulture New Zealand



**RICHARD OLDS**  
Agrichemical distributors



**DAVID MOLLOY**  
Rural Contractors New Zealand



**ALEC MCNEIL**  
Local government

# Collection totals →

since programme inception

## Containers

WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER

**3,370**  
TONNES  
OF PLASTIC

THIS IS EQUAL TO

**42,799** TONNES CO<sub>2</sub>  
**1,782,292** TREES



EACH TONNE OF RECYCLED PLASTIC EQUALS 1.27 TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT.

USING THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ENCON'S CO<sub>2</sub> OFFSET FORMULA, THIS AMOUNTS TO THE CARBON BOUND BY 1,783,292 TREES.

## Old chemicals

WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER

**166.8**  
TONNES

OF UNWANTED OR OBSOLETE CHEMICALS