



ANNUAL REPORT



2017-2018



Here's Our Story. This is Us.



Measuring our progress and helping define the future of clean, green rural communities – by clearing waste from New Zealand's farms and orchards.



Vision

Agrecovery is recognised as a global leader in sustainable farm waste management



Purpose

To promote and enable sound inorganic waste management practices and product stewardship for the primary sector

Our members want to create a better New Zealand. We help them achieve this by providing safe and sustainable solutions to clear rural waste.

We strive to keep not only New Zealand clean, but to play our part for the future of the planet as well – by refusing to turn our waste into someone else's problem.

We play a vital role in avoiding the harmful practices of burning, burying or stockpiling of rural waste.

>> We turn waste into something useful

We do this by collecting agrichemical containers and drums that would otherwise take 400 years to degrade.

Farmers and growers can drop off empty triple-rinsed containers at any of our 80 fixed sites nationwide. We also come to farms and orchards to clear this plastic waste, where practical.

100% of the plastic we collect is reborn as underground utility coverings and building materials right here in New Zealand.

>> We safely dispose of agrichemicals

We clear obsolete or unwanted chemicals that need specialised sustainable disposal practices. Keeping them out of landfills and farms minimises the risks to people, animals and the environment.

>> How we do this

We do this because the manufacturers of these products pay a levy to fund their disposal. This is environmental stewardship or, more specifically, product stewardship. This sets the standard for others to follow.



AGRECOVERY
Rural Recycling Programme

**We turn
plastic
waste into
something
useful.**



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Freephone: 0800 AGRECOVERY (0800 247 326)

Landline: 04 499 6777 Email: info@agrecovery.org.nz

At a glance



Key highlights

Figures of what we've achieved over the year.



of plastic containers collected and processed by Astron, in Auckland, into products with a sustainable demand



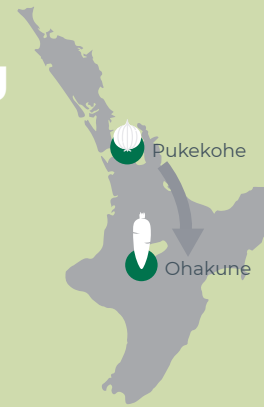
of rural waste collected at two pilot events in Geraldine and Matamata over two days



of unwanted or obsolete chemicals safely disposed of



Plastic recycling



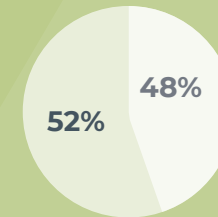
→ **259**
kilometres

of underground cable cover was made from the 308 tonnes of plastic collected by Agrecovery. Enough to cover the distance from Pukekohe to Ohakune.

11% ↑
Brand owners supporting our programmes



→ **NORTH ISLAND** collected **52%**



→ **SOUTH ISLAND** collected **48%**

901 ↑
farmers and growers joined the programme

A **7.6%** increase, making a total of **12,697** members.



Leadership Message



from the Chair

As New Zealand's peak rural recycling programme, we are proud of the results we achieve by working with our partners. These collective efforts allow sustained growth in the recovery of agrichemicals and their packaging. Our results show continued success in supporting farmers and growers to clear more waste than ever before.

The past year has been a monumental one – culminating from two years of strategic planning to secure growth in the programmes that the Agrecovery Foundation provides. Results for the year clearly show continued growth and significant progress across all facets of the business.

A pleasing improvement in brand and site satisfaction, compared to previous years, can be attributed to bringing programme management in-house. The new management approach sees all aspects of the programme implemented by a newly-formed Agrecovery team. The team is actively engaging with site holders and brand owners to build stronger relationships.

At the same time, we contracted a new collection contractor, with new equipment, to collect containers and drums throughout New Zealand.

In September 2017, our accreditation as a product stewardship scheme was extended for a further seven years by, the then, Associate Minister for the Environment, the Honourable Scott Simpson.

Further engagements with the government include meeting the incoming Associate Minister for the Environment, Eugenie Sage, in March 2018. The board and staff look forward to more meetings with central government in the coming year.



Adrienne Wilcock
Agrecovery Chair

The New Zealand Rural Waste Minimisation Project, in its final stages, contracted Agrecovery to implement two 'pop-up events' to collect agrichemical containers and drums, unwanted and expired agrichemicals, waste oil, silage wrap and fertiliser bags. Very favourable feedback was received about the May 2018 events, where 19 tonnes of waste was diverted from being burnt or buried.

On the governance front, an external consultant worked with the board to review its processes and ensure robust governance of the Foundation following the restructure. It is vital that the board is conversant of its roles and responsibilities in today's business environment. As a result, Audit and Risk, and Remuneration committees were appointed.

I would like to acknowledge the continued support and engagement by my fellow board members – a real team effort. Finally, I would also like to congratulate our General Manager, Simon Andrew, for his outstanding work in successfully transitioning the restructure with his capable staff which grew from a team of two to a busy office of five during the year. <<

from the GM



The China National sword policy, prohibiting imports of many types of plastic to the country, has put enormous pressure on recycling systems globally. New Zealand is no exception but, due to the resiliency and robustness of the Agrecovery programmes, this doesn't affect us. We continue to recycle 100 percent of the product we collect into approved end-uses right here in New Zealand.

The emerging challenges in dealing with inorganic waste highlight the need for greater commitment to product stewardship across all New Zealand industries. The agrichemical companies that fund Agrecovery demonstrate this commitment by supporting our leading product stewardship scheme.

Since Agrecovery's inception in 2007, over 2,000 tonnes of product packaging has been recycled and 100 tonnes of unwanted product disposed of safely. None of this would have been possible without the support of our brand owners.

No other scheme in the country encompasses more manufacturers. This is achieved by being a trusted, accredited, competitively-neutral and not-for-profit scheme that continues to increase recycling volumes and numbers of participating brands.

Our site holders must also be commended for their support collecting containers, on our behalf, from farmers and growers and ensuring they are triple rinsed. People at these sites do this voluntarily



Simon Andrew
General Manager

and demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Our stakeholders are vital in helping us improve our programmes. Being viewed as a trusted industry for-good initiative by farmers, growers and stakeholder organisations is of paramount importance. Our management and board continue to ensure that the voices of our stakeholders are heard; and that any improvements place our farmers and growers at the heart of our decision-making.

We don't take our responsibility to funders, farmers and growers lightly. As we grow and move forward, our priority remains on enhancing inorganic waste outcomes for New Zealand's primary industries. <<

2017-2018

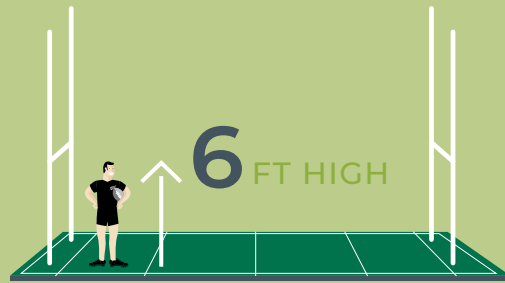


Year in Review

→ PLASTIC RECYCLING

WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER
308 TONNES
of plastic

Enough shredded plastic to fill a rugby field 6 feet high.



→ This equals **256,666 20 litre** containers!
Or **half a million 10 litre** containers!

→ **493** collections, with an average of **624kg** of plastic per visit.

→ **ON FARM VS FIXED SITE**
26% of the total volume collected came directly from farm collections.



→ **AGRECOVERY OPENED SIX NEW CONTAINER COLLECTION SITES** in Darfield, Cheviot, Ngatea, Morrinsville, Hastings and Opunake.



Increasing our coverage to **80** sites across rural New Zealand.

We have **12** sites under development.



→ TOTALS BY REGION

Canterbury collected the highest volume of plastic, bringing in **33%** of the total New Zealand volume.

→ **CHEMICAL PROGRAMME**
We collected **12.9 tonnes** of unwanted or obsolete chemicals.

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



Nineteen tonnes of rural waste cleared at pilot recycling events

To help farmers and growers clear more waste, we partnered with Plasback to deliver one-stop recycling events in Matamata and Geraldine in May.

The events explored options for clearing several types of waste at once. They were part of the New Zealand Rural Waste Minimisation Project – led by Environment Canterbury with support from the Ministry for the Environment – to trial new ways of supporting farmers and growers to recycle.

The Project contracted Agrecovery to collect agrichemical containers and drums, unwanted and expired agrichemicals, waste oil, fertiliser bags and silage wrap. Local authorities provided access to their transfer stations as the drop off point.

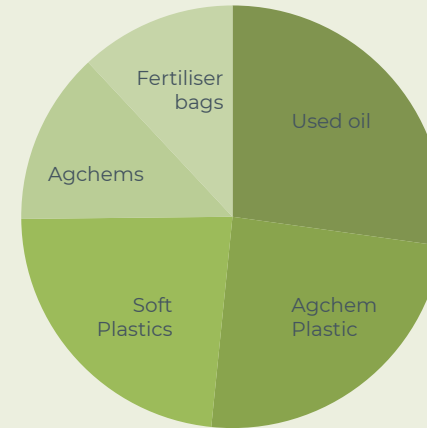
The events, which diverted 19 tonnes of waste from being dumped or burnt, elicited very favourable feedback. The participants, mainly farm owners from a variety of farm types, felt that dealing with all of their waste at once was an easy and convenient option.

Solving waste issues by providing a service to farmers that deals with waste all in one go was endorsed by all surveyed farmers who participated in the events. Integral to this is offering flexible and convenient options.

We now seek to extend the project by stepping up existing programmes and offering more services to farmers and growers. This underpins our purpose to 'promote and enable sound inorganic waste management practices in the primary industries'. <<

MATAMATA

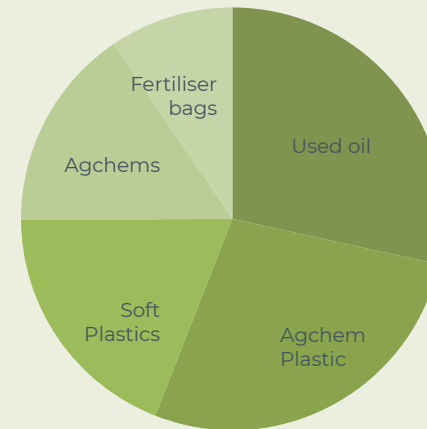
Volumes of waste collected (tonnes) ↓



Type of waste	Tonnes
Used Oil	2.342
Agchem Plastics	2.1
On-farm Soft Plastics	2
Agchems	1.136
Fertiliser bags	1.03
TOTAL	8.608

GERALDINE

Volumes of waste collected (tonnes) ↓



Type of waste	Tonnes
Used Oil	3
Agchem Plastics	2.9
On-farm Soft Plastics	2
Agchems	1.646
Fertiliser bags	1
TOTAL	10.546

“ Solutions need to be designed around farmers. ”



Our storyteller

David Mangin



David Mangin is the Bateman Dispatch Manager at Molloy Agriculture, in the Mid Canterbury region of New Zealand.

An Agrecovery partner since its inception, the agriculture spraying company believes that sustainability should be embedded into every farming operation. It offers a collection site for agrichemical, dairy hygiene and animal health containers. Integral to their service is environmental stewardship – not only in educating the farmers that use their site, but also in conducting their contracting service throughout the region.

Molloy Agriculture offers a ground application service for a wide range of arable, vegetable and pastoral crops including wheat, barley, ryegrass, clover and peas.

Their service means no waste is left on the farm. “When we spray for clients, we rinse the containers,” says Mangin. “If we supply the agrichemicals, we bring the containers back for recycling, so it’s a closed circuit solution.” It means growers won’t be left with a shed full of un-used chemicals at the end of the season. Even the rinse water isn’t wasted – it’s put back into the spray mix.

Molloy Agriculture is a strong supporter of Agrecovery, having run its container collection site for just over a decade – and last year collected more container plastic than any other site in New Zealand.

For the clients who bring containers back to their site, Mangin says, “we help them with advice on good practice for triple rinsing”. When someone first starts recycling – there is an education process on what a clean >>



“ Farmers don’t mind asking us questions, they see us as an exemplar of how to do things, ”



container needs to look like. “If we have to reject any, we educate them on how to clean them and bring them back. Once, they’ve done that, they’re good after that.”

The company actively promotes the importance of sustainability to its customers and provides much on-farm advice. “Farmers don’t mind asking us questions, they see us as an exemplar of how to do things,” says Mangin. That service spans from cleaning containers, to disposing of rubbish and minimising

spills. “We are part of a whole farming system, not the answer to everything, but part of it,” he says.

Their mantra is ‘providing a good service with good machinery and good operators to get the job done’. So far, this model is resonating with the community. Rural people tend to look out for each other and Methven and Mid Canterbury is no different, enthuses Mangin. “Plus it is easy to sleep and breathe farming here without even living on a farm,” he says. <<

Steve Mead

Astron Plastics



Agrecovery's container programme provides a sustainable way to dispose of used agrichemical containers, which are then recycled into fully compliant products right here in New Zealand.

Long-time recycling partner, Astron Plastics, converts all of Agrecovery's triple-rinsed containers into underground cable cover or building materials. The majority is made into cover for cables and pipes – mainly for electricity and gas. The rest is made into damp course – used to prevent damp rising in buildings.

To make these products, the collected plastic is washed and converted into a raw material that is used to manufacture the end product.

These solutions ensure that product stewardship is put into practice right till the end of a product's life.

Astron Plastics Manager Steve Mead says "there is ongoing demand for these finished products". He is enthusiastic about being associated with the Agrecovery programme because "it has really sound environmental credentials and benefits".

If we didn't have programmes like this, he says, farmers would still be >>



“ [the Agrecovery programme] has really sound environmental credentials and benefits. ”

burning and burying. Mead sees the mutual benefit of the ongoing partnership with Agrecovery and is eager to sustain it.

The plastic collected by Agrecovery is a small proportion of what Astron processes at its Auckland-based factory. It collects close to 300 tonnes of plastic a week from a range of industries. It's also involved in other

stewardship programmes involving silage wrap, paint packaging and car seats.

For farmers, who face an ever-increasing demand from consumers for sustainably grown produce, Agrecovery is able to provide an auditable trail of evidence of best agricultural practice to the end of a product's life. <<

Collection totals

since programme inception

Containers

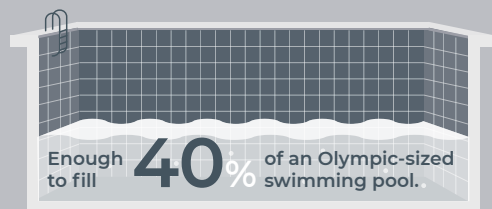
WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER **2000 TONNES** OF PLASTIC

THIS IS EQUAL TO **1.6 MILLION X 20 LITRES** CONTAINERS!



Old chemicals

WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER **100 TONNES** OF UNWANTED OR OBSOLETE CHEMICALS



Sites around New Zealand



Leading us forward

meet the board →



ADRIENNE WILCOCK
Chair, DairyNZ



MARK ROSS
Agcarm



ANDERS CROFOOT
Federated Farmers



MIKE SMITH
Horticulture New Zealand



AARON GORDON
Agrichemical distributors



DAVID MOLLOY
Rural Contractors New Zealand



ALEC MCNEIL
Local government

Making it happen

← meet the staff



SIMON ANDREW
General Manager



ISABELLA SHONAKAN
Operations Adviser



WEI ZENG
Accounts Administrator



RACHEL THOMAS
Programme Co-ordinator



DOMINIQUE BRAY
Communications Contractor

Thanks for making this happen



Connect with us

Freephone 0800 AGRECOVERY
(0800 247 326)
Landline 04 499 6777

www.agrecovery.co.nz
info@agrecovery.org.nz

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