



ANNUAL REPORT



2018-2019



It's been a record-breaking year for rural recycling

The 2018-19 year has seen the biggest growth in our programme yet.



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

We are a not for profit industry stewardship organisation committed to environmental responsibility through the proper management of inorganic on-farm waste.

We contribute to a healthier environment and a sustainable future by recycling farm plastics and ensuring the safe disposal of obsolete or unwanted agrichemicals.

A commitment from farmers, growers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors and councils ensures the success of our nationwide programmes.

>> What is product stewardship

Product stewardship is demonstrated by manufacturers taking responsibility for their products throughout the entire product lifecycle. This involves sustainably managing product packaging at the end of use as well as unwanted or obsolete products.

Companies that participate in Agrecovery demonstrate their commitment to product stewardship and sustainable environmental outcomes.



We turn waste into something useful



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At a glance



Key highlights

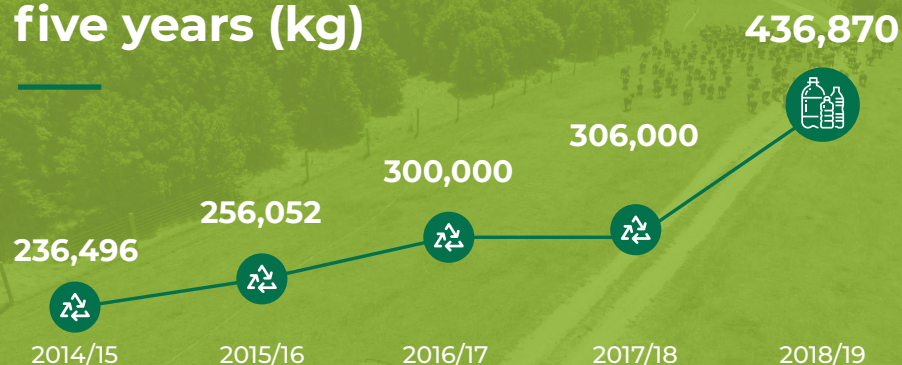


of plastic containers collected and made into useful new products right here in New Zealand.



of unwanted or obsolete chemicals safely disposed of

Collection volumes over five years (kg)



Agrecovery opened fourteen new container collection sites

- Tauranga Farmlands
- Ashburton Transfer Station
- Westport Farmlands
- Ashburton Wholesale Seeds
- Edgecumbe Farm Source
- Pukekohe Farm Source
- Longburn Farm Source
- Dannevirke Farm Source
- Featherston Farm Source
- Cromwell Horticulture
- Waiau Transfer Station
- Seddon Transfer Station
- Farmlands Tapanui
- Alexandra Transfer Station

Increasing our coverage to **94** sites across rural New Zealand.



Plastic recycling

→ We collected enough plastic to make

367.5
kilometres

of underground cable cover. This would cover the distance from **Blenheim to Geraldine.**

Leadership Message



from the Chair

We are seeing real growth in our recycling programme, reflected in the record volumes of plastic we collected in the last year. The 437 tonnes of container and drum plastic collected represents a 43 percent increase from the previous year and means that we are recycling more than half of all containers sold. It is wonderful to see farmers and growers making the most of our programme. We appreciate the time and effort taken to triple-rinse and bring containers in for recycling with us. This busy year has also involved increased efforts from our sites, drivers and staff.

This huge growth in recycling coincides with not just a national focus on waste, but a worldwide focus on the ethical and sustainable processing of many types of plastic waste.

With an average of 10 tonnes of waste produced per farm per year, there is a real and urgent need to offer more recycling solutions to farmers and growers for the environmental sustainability of our country. Our goal is to investigate broadening the types of plastics that can be recycled through our programmes as well as developing more facilities for repurposing it. As a not-for-profit organisation, we are ideally suited to lead the charge on this and, ultimately, provide solutions for our farmers and growers in their role as kaitiakitanga – being good stewards of the land.

Rural waste minimisation has become a focus for the New Zealand Government, as it is for us. The government's proposal to regulate product stewardship brings with it both opportunities and challenges.

There is an opportunity to realise our desire to expand our recycling operations to better support New Zealand's primary sector.

The most obvious challenge for expanding options for rural recycling is a lack of processing infrastructure in New Zealand. It needs to replicate the type of processing we do with the agrichemical containers we collect and process at Astron Plastics in Auckland. The plant converts the plastic into underground cable covers and building materials like damp course. This model is local, efficient and



Adrienne Wilcoch
Agrecovery Chair

effective. Because the whole recycling process is done in New Zealand, it reduces emissions, supports the local economy and ensures that the logistics of operations function efficiently. It is not so straightforward for other types of plastic, such as the woven polypropylene bags used for feed, seed as well as fertiliser. There are options for recycling these, as well as the other softer plastics of silage and bale wrap – but we need more local facilities to process the materials.

Ensuring the management of the programme receives support to thoroughly research new programmes is vital for proceeding with our goal of broadening our programmes and ultimately making sure that we can enable a circular economy for rural waste. As we seek to grow, we must consider how to best support a move away from the 'make, take, waste' model, to one where we can sustainably reuse waste packaging for our rural sector. There is no longer an option to send this offshore – and where this option exists, it is not the best solution for the environment or New Zealand. So first, we need to ensure the facilities exist locally for repurposing waste, and then tie this in with an operational model that is sustainable, ethical, minimises carbon emissions and provides a valuable product to be reused in a circular model.

"Our model is local, efficient and effective." <<

from the GM



The build-up of plastic in the environment is the number one concern of New Zealanders according to a Colmar Brunton 'better futures' report.

In thirteen years, Agrecovery has recovered 3,000 tonnes of plastic from New Zealand's rural communities. Our container recycling programme diverts plastic packaging from the harmful disposal practices of burning, burying or dumping. We have also safely disposed of over 110 tonnes of unwanted agrichemicals through our chemical recovery programme.

As the product stewardship scheme for the agrichemical industry, our progress is escalating rapidly. This past year has seen the greatest ever volumes of packaging collected and recycled in New Zealand. For the year ending 30 June 2019, we collected over 437 tonnes of plastic. This is a 43 percent increase in volumes collected in the previous year and means that we are now collecting and repurposing over 50 percent of all containers sold.

We have achieved this staggering result by raising awareness of the benefits of recycling, opening more sites for dropping off containers, holding more collection events and leveraging public awareness about harmful disposal methods to encourage participation in recycling.

The Rural Waste Minimisation Project allows us to make farm plastic recycling more accessible to rural communities, with help from the Ministry for the Environment and other stakeholders.

This project has three key objectives. The first is continuing to host one-stop shop recycling events where farmers and growers can deal with a broader range of rural waste, over and above just agrichemical products. The second is seeking a commitment for product stewardship from more manufacturers of farm plastics and, lastly, to facilitate investment in recycling infrastructure for farm plastics in New Zealand – allowing us to repurpose more waste plastics into useful new products.

This project seeks to make a material impact on



Simon Andrew
General Manager

the ability of farmers and growers to deal with waste and facilitate a circular economy approach, while solving a real environmental problem.

We have an exciting programme of work planned for the coming year. We are opening an additional 12 sites nationally, holding innovative pop-up collection events, and developing product stewardship schemes for woven polypropylene bags used for seed, feed and fertiliser. On top of this, we are running chemical recovery operations in several regions.

We are also intimately involved with the government's proposed policy to declare certain items as priority products under the Waste Minimisation Act, with the proposed framework based on the Agrecovery model.

Lastly, I want to thank the people that make the Agrecovery scheme the success it is. This includes our farmers and growers who take the time to rinse and drop in containers and drums, our site staff across the country who inspect containers and encourage participation, and the industry as a whole, who show real urgency in solving plastic waste and end of life packaging issues.



2018-2019

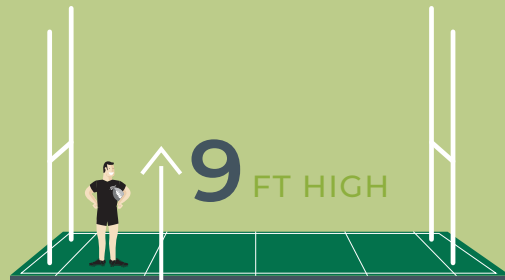


Year in Review

→ PLASTIC RECYCLING

WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER
437 TONNES
of plastic

Enough solid plastic to fill
a rugby field 9 feet high.



→ PLASTIC COLLECTED FROM FARMS

Containers collected from farms

73,862.5 KG

Total of
145
collections



→ **62,976** KG
drums collected

Total of
239
collections



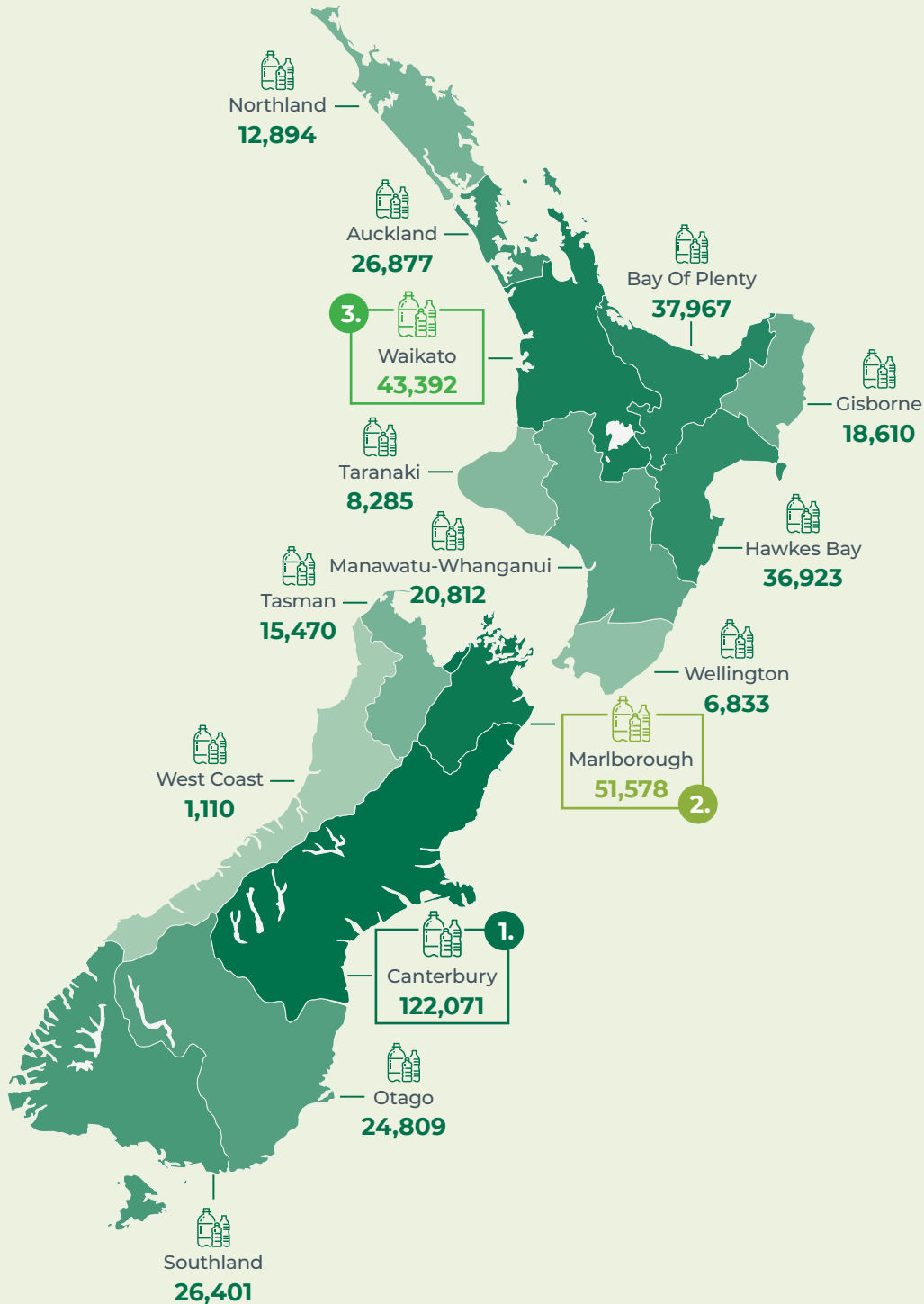
TOP 10 SITES	PLASTIC COLLECTED (KG)
★ Blenheim - Resource Recovery Park	40,700
★ Methven - Molloy Agricultural Spraying	21,075
★ Gisborne - Harvest Transport Yard	17,360
★ Ashburton - Ruralco	12,557
★ Pukekohe - Farmlands	9,256
★ Hastings - Whakatu Farmlands	8,868
★ Te Puke - Panax Solutions	7,347
★ Richmond Transfer Station	6,855
★ Motueka - Mariri Resource Recovery Park	6,787
★ Hastings - Fruitfed Supplies	6,304

→ CHEMICAL PROGRAMME

We collected **10.526 tonnes** of unwanted or obsolete chemicals.

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





Regional summary

Regions	Containers collected from sites	Containers collected from farms	Drum collections from farms	Total plastic collected (kg)
North Island				
Northland	10,630	704	1,560	12,894
Auckland	13,942	11,320	1,615	26,877
Waikato	15,660	14,796	12,936	43,392
Bay Of Plenty	21,367	3,136	13,464	37,967
Gisborne	17,360	0	1,250	18,610
Hawkes Bay	26,128	6,982	3,813	36,923
Taranaki	3,515	230	4,540	8,285
Manawatu-Whanganui	16,375	1,842	2,595	20,812
Wellington	6,833	0	0	6,833
South Island				
Marlborough	46,618	730	4,230	51,578
Tasman	14,042	0	1,428	15,470
West Coast	1,030	0	80	1,110
Canterbury	84,624	26,697	10,750	122,071
Otago	20,194	2,898	1,717	24,809
Southland	18,875	4,528	2,998	26,401

What a waste Trish Rankin



“ We buy products with the Agrecovery logo. This is an assurance that the containers can be recycled. ”

Photos from Dairy Exporter magazine

Dairy Woman of the Year, primary school teacher and passionate environmentalist Trish Rankin from Taranaki wants all farmers to get educated on the six Rs of waste decision-making: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse/Repair, Recycle, Rehome and Rot (compost).

Rankin took part in the Kellogg Leadership Programme last year. With her research project focussing on minimising waste on farms, she looked at how a circular economy model could be developed for a New Zealand dairy farm. Essentially, this involves regenerating natural systems, designing out waste and pollution, and reusing products and materials.

Rankin’s reflection on how she could be doing better with her farm waste was the main driver for the project.

Trish and her husband Glen are in their second season as herd-owning sharemilkers on a 154 hectare Parininihi ki Waitotara farm in South Taranaki milking 440 cows. With no recycling or rubbish collection for the property, 12m³ of waste went from skip bin to landfill each year.

Through researching her project Rankin discovered that “we have the ability to return and recycle many items used on farm, like containers, silage wrap and plastics”. However, less than half of the 100 farmers she surveyed used it as a way of dealing with waste. “Almost 40 percent of the farmers still burn or bury and this might affect our social license to farm”.

She recorded the waste her farm produced over 40 days during February and March 2019 - a ‘quiet’ time on the farming calendar, with the



main activity being milking. The waste audit highlighted that “a lot of what we buy is in single use” - very ‘linear’ where we take it, use it and throw it away.

The circular model of non-biological waste is “about more than recycling”. It’s about minimising the amount of waste we create. Farmers want to do better - off the back of both public sentiment and to be good kaitiakitanga (guardians of the land).

“On our farm, we buy products with the

Agrecovery logo. This is an assurance that the containers can be recycled.

“If we buy better, sell better, and make better decisions, we can minimise waste and reduce emissions at the same time”. Often it’s just about making small changes, like finding out what can be recycled and where.

Rankin now uses scrap metal dealers, recycles silage wrap and returns triple-rinsed containers to her local Agrecovery depot.





Photo from Dairy Exporter magazine

Her 200 litre drums are repurposed on farm and she recycles as much household waste as possible. Purchasing decisions can also make a difference. For example, instead of buying zinc bullets (animal health supplement for young stock) at the local vet (where they are wrapped in cardboard, plastic and polystyrene), they can be bought from a manufacturer who packages them just in cardboard. There are opportunities for buying in bulk too. “The rubber-based milking liners we use comes packaged in packs of 4, but we need 200 at a time”. Buying 200 milk liners in one box instead of 50 packs of 4 makes a lot more sense.

Manufacturers have their part to play to ensure that their products are packaged to minimise waste, “but we all have to work on it together,” she

says. Her other ideas include leasing equipment so it can be reused by the manufacturer.

Her passion for the environment and leaving the land a better place for her four boys and future generations has led to her involvement in a multitude of environmental roles including as New Zealand’s Climate Change Ambassador, part of the Dairy Action for Climate Change.

“We are ensuring we use feed, nitrogen, fertiliser, water and energy efficiently. Reports show that farmers are improving water quality, nitrogen leaching and animal welfare year on year.” Rankin urges them to keep up the good work and asks that manufacturers, retailers and the rest of New Zealand support farmers in their move to a circular economy for waste.

Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua.

Simon Cook



Simon Cook, a third generation kiwifruit grower from the kiwifruit capital of the world and owner of a spray contracting business, summarises how environmental stewardship envelops his business ethos with the Maori proverb, Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua - translated to ‘As man disappears from sight, the land

remains’. “I’m on a property that’s been here for three generations and I’m hoping to pass it on to my kids. I don’t want to leave something behind that they’re going to have to clean up in the future. Part of that is dealing with chemicals and minimising their impact,” says Cook.



Cook and his family grow green and gold kiwifruit varieties in Te Puke and have recently branched out to growing avocados. He also owns and manages Ranfurly Orchard Services – a Te Puke business awards supreme winner. Cook started the business with his father Bob sixteen years ago because he saw the need to adapt to changes in orchard ownership - an increase in managed or leased operations – coinciding with the availability of a new generation of sophisticated crop sprayers suitable for large scale crop spraying.

The Nuffield scholar says that environmental stewardship and minimising waste has “improved drastically” for growers and is still

improving as people’s awareness increases.

“In the last couple of generations we’ve become a lot more aware of how we handle chemicals and, particularly, how we dispose of containers,” Cook says. Before programmes like Agrecovery, waste was “just thrown away.” There is still a legacy of waste. “All sorts of things were tossed away together – even with washing machines. But we’re taking a much more environmentally-friendly approach now,” he says.

“Now we use programmes like Agrecovery and containers are taken away, which is fantastic.”



“ As spray contractors, they make our lives easier. We go through hundreds and hundreds of containers, so having a safe and easy way of disposing of them is beneficial to us. ”

“We liked the concept of Agrecovery right from the start. As soon as companies started using it, we actively sought to use agrichemicals from manufacturers which had the Agrecovery label on them.”

Cook says that recycling programmes are very important. Not just from an environmental point of view, but also for ease of use. “As spray contractors, they make our lives easier. We go through hundreds and hundreds of containers, so having a safe and easy way of disposing of them is beneficial to us,” he enthuses.

All the agrichemicals used by the spray contracting business are recovered through the Agrecovery programme. The clients never see or handle the chemical or the containers. It’s all done for them.

Environmental sustainability extends to the post harvest facility the family orchard uses for packing kiwifruit. They are leaders in sustainability and all the packaging can be recycled.

To those growers who still burn and bury, or rely on landfill, he says that there is a better, easier, safer and more environmentally-friendly way of doing it.

Winton Dalley Mayor Hurunui District Council



Hurunui Council Mayor, Winton Dalley is a fantastic champion of agricultural recycling programmes and has been encouraging his community to support them for many years.

The council and Dalley's environmental priorities extend beyond agrichemical containers and drums, and chemical recovery. They include soft plastics, twine, netting and pipes, and that's just in the agricultural arena.

"Stewardship systems are the only way of dealing with waste," Dalley says. "We need to be turning the clock back to

reusing and recycling." He says that buying new products made from containers means "you don't need to pull more oil out of the ground to make them".

"Stewardship programmes mean that the cost of responsible recovery is factored in with the purchase of the product."

Responsibly dealing with waste has played a big part in his legacy over the past three decades. Dalley and Waste Minimisation Team Leader, Sally Cracknell, were instrumental in setting up a network of Agrecovery collection



sites in the district. Dalley tries hard to encourage his community to support Agrecovery recycling. "I try hard, we don't do enough."

"I'm trying to show a bit of leadership by teaming up with farmers to demonstrate how to use responsible recovery programmes.

"There's always a borderline between overcooking it and undercooking it – too much and people become blasé."

The council promotes recycling and recovery options via mail-out with their rates notices, at events, with the media, and by chatting with school children about composting and recycling. "It becomes a lifestyle. It's got to be normal."

As well as mayor, Dalley is a semi-retired sheep and beef farmer – after farming for many decades. He spent his earlier years as an automotive engineer. "I'm an engineer by trade and a farmer by passion – I was a reluctant mayor".

Even in the days when his neighbours were burning and burying, "it didn't fit with me and my conscience". He uses the recycling programmes himself and says that most local farmers are now recycling containers and agricultural plastics. "We just need to get it to 100 percent. It comes back to promoting and convincing people."

"We have choices in life and we have to be challenged to make them."

Even though he is stepping down as mayor, he's happy to go on promoting the programmes. There are still "people who don't quite get recycling". It's a progressive process, "it's not a revolution, it's an evolution".

"The stars are lining up in terms of regulation and Farm Environment Plans to do this stuff properly. Increasing annual tonnages prove to me that the message is getting out there."

Collection totals

since programme inception

Containers

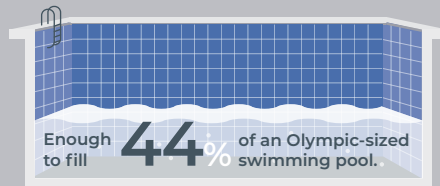
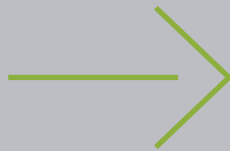
WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER
2,437
TONNES
OF PLASTIC

THIS IS ENOUGH TO FILL
3,000
20 FOOT SHIPPING
CONTAINERS



Old chemicals

WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER
110
TONNES
OF UNWANTED OR OBSOLETE CHEMICALS



Sites around New Zealand



Leading us forward

meet the board →

Making it happen

← meet the staff



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

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SIMON ANDREW
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Accounts Administrator

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Communications Contractor

Thanks for making this happen



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