

RESOLUTION 2-21
PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Since 1989, Alberta's municipalities have been involved with the collection of empty pesticide containers and have done so with only one time funding from Alberta Environment & Parks to establish permanent collection sites within their municipalities, which many of these sites are in need of repair;

WHEREAS: Municipal governments in cooperation with transfer station and landfill operators manage the day to day maintenance and supervision of the sites and cover the costs associated with the transfer of containers from temporary depots to permanent sites without any funding from Alberta Environment and Parks;

WHEREAS: The highest rinse rate compliance on pesticide containers are in the provinces that are currently running the program through the Agricultural Retail Industry as a result of their zero tolerance policy and container rejection if they do not meet the requirements due to their constant supervision;

WHEREAS: Collection programs are poised to become increasingly expensive and labor intensive with the addition of bale & silage wrap, Ag-film, twine and grain bag collection programs;

WHEREAS: Alberta and Manitoba are the only provinces in Canada that utilize municipalities to deliver the pesticide collection program within their province while the remaining provinces place this responsibility and cost on agricultural retail facilities who market and sell pesticide products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Parks develop, with CleanFARMS, an empty pesticide container program that places the responsibility of collecting pesticide containers in Alberta with the Agricultural Retail/Dealer and removes the responsibility from the municipalities.

SPONSORED BY: Vulcan County
MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:
CARRIED:
DEFEATED:
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment & Parks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program is an industry led voluntary extended producer responsibility program delivered by CleanFARMS. The program operates to collect, clean and recycle empty commercial class pesticide containers (less than 23 litres) from farmers and other pesticide users. Upon collection, the containers are shredded, cleaned and recycled into various value added plastic products.

CleanFARMS is a non-profit industry stewardship organization that funds this program through a levy collected from its pesticide manufacturer members on each container sold into the marketplace.

There are approximately 1200 collection sites throughout Canada (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island) that utilize Agricultural Retail Facilities while two provinces (Alberta and Manitoba) rely upon municipal collection facilities.

Most Alberta municipalities have been involved with the Pesticide container collection program since its inception and established permanent collection facilities with one-time funding from Alberta Environment. Municipalities have not received any funding to maintain or operate these collection facilities since 1989, while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces have handled this responsibility.

Vulcan County operates one main collection site and 4 satellite sites to increase access for pesticide container disposal. Due to the size of Vulcan County if we closed our 4 satellite sites we risk the increase of pesticide containers not being returned to our main collection facility in Vulcan. Our main site and our 4 temporary sites are over 30 years old and in need of repair, over the years we have put considerable time and money to ensure that they are operated properly at the expense of the municipality while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces handle this responsibility.

According to CleanFARMS, Alberta has an empty pesticide container rinse rate of 90% as opposed to Saskatchewan's 95%. Ontario and East have the best rinse rate at 99+%. The higher rinse rate in Ontario and the East is attributed to a zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers. The containers are rejected if they do not meet the requirements. A retail-based collection system would be able to provide consistent supervision and would increase the rinse-rate of empty herbicide containers.

Alberta should move towards a dealer collection program, it would provide CleanFARMS the opportunity to develop a system similar to the one that exists in Ontario and East. They would be able to implement a program with zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers.