



Date: January 27th, 2022

To: Alberta Municipal Container Collection Sites

Subject: Changes to Pesticide & Fertilizer Container Collection Program

Cleanfarms operates the collection program for <23L pesticide and fertilizer containers on behalf of Canada's leading developers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers of pest control products and fertilizers. Together, these companies support good stewardship in and away from the field.

Since the founding of the container management program (CMP) in 1989, Alberta municipalities have served as collection sites for pesticide & fertilizer containers. They have played an integral role in the success of this program. From our team to yours, thank you very much for your role in ensuring these containers were recycled responsibly.

Pesticide & fertilizer containers are collected at agricultural retail (ag-retail) locations in all Canadian provinces, except Alberta and Manitoba, where they are collected at municipal waste transfer stations and landfills. In August 2021, Alberta's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) passed a resolution (Resolution 2-21) to work with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and Cleanfarms to shift the responsibility of collecting <23L containers from Alberta municipalities to ag-retail locations in the province.

Following the ASB Resolution, Cleanfarms staff brought a recommendation to Cleanfarms' Board of Directors to standardize the <23L pesticide and fertilizer container collection program across Canada by transitioning the collection to ag-retailers in Alberta and Manitoba. This recommendation was based on careful consideration of the additional benefits of a return-to-retail model, such as higher collection rates of containers, higher rates of rinsing containers, lower incidences of old chemicals being dropped off along with the empty containers, and harmonized logistics and communications across the Prairie Provinces. In September 2021, Cleanfarms' Board of Directors approved the recommendation to fully transition small container collections from municipal locations to ag-retail locations by the end of 2024.

Cleanfarms will use a phased approach to ensure that municipalities, ag-retailers, and growers have adequate time to adjust to the transition and ensure that all participating locations receive good service from collections contractors. The key to success for the transition will be effective engagement with the impacted sites and strategically managing workflow through careful and deliberate site selection in each phase of the process.

What this means for municipal container collection site partners:

- Over the next three years (2022 through 2024), the collection of <23L containers will transition from a municipal collection model to an ag-retail collection model.
- In Spring 2022, ag-retail locations will have the opportunity to collect <23L containers (in addition to collections offered by municipal collection sites).



- There will be blended collection logistics for the duration of the transition period. Under this hybrid ag-retail and municipal model, Cleanfarms will pick up from both ag-retailers and municipalities.
- The closure dates of municipal collection sites between 2022 and 2024 are based on annual collection volumes:
 - Zero volume sites (0 lbs/ year) - Zero volume sites will close before Spring 2022.
 - Lowest volume sites (1 to 5,000 lbs/ year) – Lowest volume sites will close by December 31st, 2022.
 - Municipal sites in remote/low volume regions – All sites in the lowest volume regions will close by December 31st, 2022.
- Cleanfarms will be reaching out to all municipal sites for individual guidance through the transition.
- By December 31st, 2024, all <23L containers will be collected at ag-retail locations. Upon closure of the municipal site, Cleanfarms will work with municipal locations to ensure that all containers are removed within a reasonable timeframe.
- **Municipal collection sites that wish to cease collection of containers before the end of the transition period are encouraged to [contact Cleanfarms](#) directly to ensure that alternative recycling opportunities are available for their ratepayers.**
- Communications materials (such as outdoor signage, posters, and brochures) will be provided to sites as applicable.

Site-specific collection volumes and estimated closure timelines are available through Cleanfarms.

Moving Forward

Cleanfarms will be reaching out to every municipal collection site individually over the next few months to discuss the transition and answer any questions/comments that you may have.

In closing, thank you very much for your commitment to helping us deliver valuable stewardship programs to Canadian farmers.

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

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