



June 2, 2006

## **RECYCLE PESTICIDE CONTAINERS**

This year in Nebraska there are 42 inspection/collection sites involved in the plastic pesticide container recycling program. The recycling program is for plastic from triple rinsed and clean 1.0 and 2.5 gallon pesticide and spray adjuvant containers. I highly encourage local applicators to triple rinse pesticide containers and recycle them. Many of the sites in Nebraska also recycle 15, 30, and 55 gallon plastic pesticide drums. The sites are online for your reference at [pested.unl.edu/recyclesites.htm](http://pested.unl.edu/recyclesites.htm)

The majority of these pesticide container recycling sites are at ag chem dealerships. This year, Saline County Farmers Elevator -Wilber branch is accepting recycled pesticide containers now through August. The key is containers must be triple rinsed and the labels removed. Because containers are stored outside until they are hauled to the chipper site, keep the caps on if you still have them. It is great to see a location in Saline County involved in recycling in this manner rather than burning or land filling the containers.

This year is the 15th year for the Nebraska Pesticide Container Recycling Program. Beginning in 1992, Extension colleagues in Nebraska, with many cooperating businesses, trade associations, and other organizations, have recycled more than 1,437,840 pounds. That's almost 720 tons of plastic that have been removed from Nebraska's landscape. The project is in direct cooperation with Tri-Rinse, Inc. of St. Louis. Their involvement is funded directly by national contributions by chemical company registrants to support the collection and reuse of the plastic.

The recycled plastic has been used in new pesticide containers, shipping pallets, construction site mats, commercial truck/manure spreader deck boards, field drain tiles, speed bumps, parking stops, treated lumber, substitutes for low-exposure outdoor applications, hazardous waste drums, scaffold nailing strips, and commercial truck sub-floor support members.

Other sites near Saline County include Farmers Cooperative in Fairbury (May to August), Southeast Nebraska Cooperative in Filley (May to August), Hasenkamp Agricultural Company in Beatrice (May to August), Countryside Cooperative in Firth (May to August), and Lancaster County Extension (by appointment - phone (402) 441-7180).

I cannot stress enough how important it is for these sites to receive and collect rinsed containers with labels off. As long as farm containers continue to be recycled in good condition, this allows the Cooperative branches to continue the service to our agricultural community. This recycling program is successful because of a cooperative spirit of local businesses, many University people and local organizations. The Pesticide Container Recycling Program was developed by members of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the University of Nebraska. For more information on recycling pesticide containers in Wilber talk to Brian, Farmers Cooperative, phone (402) 239-2789.



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