

Noel & Betsy Smith

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Stellar effort Matamata & Geraldine

I am. I have been disappointed that throughout the Wairarapa debate Pait Cronin has gone on about and used an outdated and flawed research paper to suggest farmers are poor at recycling waste.

This document, received 15/6/18 demonstrates what is happening in this region. Perhaps 18/06/2018 the WDC should try to encourage the same in this District. Regards Noel Smith.



Inaugural events clear 14 tonnes of waste

Farmers safely disposed of more than 14 tonnes of waste at the inaugural one-stop recycling events in Matamata on May 25 and Geraldine on May 31.

At the events, more than 100 farmers brought in the following:

- more than four and a half tonnes of agrichemical containers and drums;
- nearly three tonnes of agrichemicals;
- almost five and a half tonnes of used motor oil and their containers; and
- two tonnes of fertiliser bags.

“This is a stellar effort and shows farmers' commitment to the safe recovery and recycling of waste,” says Agrecovery General Manager Simon Andrew.



Participants had to brave some pretty wild weather in the Waikato, in contrast to Geraldine - where it was calm and sunny.

The vast majority of farmers had taken the time to carefully triple-rinse containers and prepare other items for disposal. They were very supportive and asked for more help in the recovery of inorganic waste - and that's what we intend to deliver.

Simon and the Agrecovery team enjoyed listening to farmers' ideas on how to manage waste.

The next steps involve bringing more events like these to farmers and growers around the country.



Agrecovery partnered with Plasback to deliver the events - part of the [New Zealand Rural Waste Minimisation project](#) led by Environment Canterbury, with support from the Ministry for the Environment.

Fraser Scott of True North Consulting and project manager of the Project, said both events ran "very efficiently and smoothly" and that feedback from attendees was "overwhelmingly positive".

Every attendee felt that the idea of a 'one-stop-shop' for rural waste - the driving concept for the Project and the events - was the right approach.

Farmers reported that dealing with all of their waste at once was an easy and convenient option. Most felt that rural waste events should be regular – one or two a year – and a number said they looked forward to encouraging their neighbours to participate in the future.

Scott said the events were a validation of three years of hard work for the project - in determining the best way of encouraging farmers to pursue alternatives to burning, burying and bulk storage of farm waste.

"We look forward to seeing how Agrecovery builds on this success and, hopefully, deploys this model throughout New Zealand," he says. This would make a huge difference to our environment, and "provide farmers and growers with a world-class service".

South Canterbury field day

A field day to help farmers recycle was held at Orari Estate on April 18. Around 40 people attended to learn about farm waste disposal.

Participants were given an overview of the regulatory environment around waste management and how to participate in rural recycling.

Among those who took part with Agrecovery were Plasback, Timaru District Council and Environment Canterbury.



Get ready for winter

As the days get shorter and cooler as Winter sets in, it's a great time to get into sheds and prepare agchem containers for drop-off and be ready for next season.

Tasman: Book chemicals in

Storing old or unwanted agrichemicals on-farm presents an unnecessary risk to staff, family, livestock, pets and the environment.

Chemicals are being collected from the Tasman region during June/July.

Bookings must be made by **22 June**.



As collections only take place every one to two years, make sure you book your chemicals in.

Products from participating brands are free. For non-funded products, user-pays fees will be quoted prior to any collection activity.

Six new sites join Agrecovery

Supporting the push to clear more farm waste and support sustainable farming, five new container collection sites have opened in Hastings, Opunake, Ngatea, Morrinsville, and Cheviot - with another opening in Tauranga this month. This makes a total of 80 sites.

Farmers and growers can recycle empty triple-rinsed containers, up to 60 litres in size from participating brand owners, for free at one of these sites.

Regional manager of Horticulture Hastings, James Cropper, says they joined the programme to offer an all-round service to clients. "Whether that means visiting clients or advising them on which product to buy - when it gets empty, they can bring it back to us."

"It's an important service for our growers. "Some go through a hell of a lot of containers and bring a truck and trailer load of them back for recycling," he says.

Store manager for Morrinsville Farmsource, Malcolm Aish, says "it's good being part of Agrecovery and being progressive in this part of farming waste," adding that "burning or burying is just wrong."

Most people are engaged with recycling, he says, and realise that plastic pilling up is becoming a huge issue.

"Using the plastic and turning it into products that are very useful is sustainable going forward. We must adopt this approach for future generations," Aish says.

Farmlands Business Manager Mike Roach of Opunake says that joining Agrecovery is "good for farmers and the environment."

[Full list of collection sites.](#)



Ngatea - NZ Farm Source

59 Orchard West Road

Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm



Morrinsville - NZ Farm Source

178 Thames Street

Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm



Opunake - Farmlands

2 Aytoun Street

Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm



Hastings - Horticulture

18 Station Road

Regional manager of Horticulture Hastings, James Cropper, says his customers are "all on board already" with the importance of recycling. "If anything, they want more recycling options."



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