

Press Release

500 Central Minnesota farms to begin recycling their Ag wrap April 3-7 through Revolution Plastics

St. Paul, March 27, 2017: The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) is excited to announce that 500 brand new dumpsters slated to collect agricultural plastics such as silage bags on farms, at no cost, will be dispersed by Revolution Plastics to pre-selected central Minnesota farmers during the week of April 3 through 7. This eagerly awaited new recycling program is aimed at collecting bale wrap, silage bags, and other specific plastic coverings. Revolution Plastics provides on-farm collection by providing dumpsters and pick-up service at no cost to selected farms and dairies for the recycling of specified agricultural film plastics. Qualifying farms (usually of 100 cows or more) will receive an 8-yard dumpster to collect their ag plastic which will be picked up on a scheduled basis.

Revolution Plastics, in cooperation with a core group of counties and RAM, is hosting two by-appointment-only events for distributing the 500 dumpsters in West-Central Minnesota. These events will be held April 3rd through April 6th at the Pope County Fairgrounds in Glenwood and on April 7th at the West Otter Tail County Fairgrounds in Fergus Falls. This distribution event is only for farms and dairies that have already signed up for and have been notified by Revolution Plastics that they qualify for a dumpster. Farmers who have not signed up through Revolution Plastics will not be able to receive a dumpster through these two events, but are encouraged to sign up now for consideration at future dumpster distribution events.

Plastic accepted in this recycling program includes only Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE, #4), which includes most Ag and silage wrap. However, bunker covers with scrim (an enhanced mesh), seed sacks, twine, and net wrap are not allowed. All plastic placed in the dumpster needs to be free of trash, wood, rocks, tires, and other foreign material. All qualified plastic should be disposed of in the dumpsters as soon as possible to prevent excessive dirt from building up on the plastic. Seasonal boat wrap covering is also permitted, but the cord or rope that seals the boat must be removed.

Revolution Plastics, a plastics recycling and manufacturing company working in the agricultural sector across the country, introduced this type of collection last year in Wisconsin where they have collected over 1 million pounds of plastic per month. This past December, Revolution Plastics expanded into Minnesota and distributed 134 dumpsters to Winona County farms. Since December, Winona

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County farmers have generated, collected, and recycled over 100 tons of ag wrap. The newest collection hub based out of Sauk Centre, will serve several West-Central Minnesota counties. The recycled ag plastic is turned into garbage bags.

RAM and nine Central Minnesota partner counties (Benton, Douglas, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Otter Tail, Pope, Sherburne, Sibley, and Stearns) are working with the assistance of a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Economic Assistance grant to help research, develop, and expand agricultural and boat wrap plastic recycling throughout the state of Minnesota. “This group of county solid waste and recycling administrators/coordinators and RAM have been collaborating for three years to help develop this much needed program” says RAM Executive Director, Brita Sailer. “We are fortunate that Revolution Plastics has chosen to expand to our area, and most importantly, as a result, we will be keeping this material out of the waste stream and providing farmers with the new opportunity to recycle this material.”

Please call Revolution Plastics at 844-490-7873 or visit their website www.revolutionplastics.com to sign up for the program.

For other project information contact Brita Sailer at 651-641-4560 brita@recycleminnesota.org