

# RECYCLING DAIRY PLASTICS

Silage Bags, Bunker Covers, Bale Wrap, Containers, & Other

## *Best Management Practices*

- **AVOID MUD & MANURE** as much as possible.  
*E.g., Don't run tractor over plastic. Unload silage bags on a concrete pad, asphalt, or on high, dry ground. If bag bottom is muddy, cut at ground level, & separate clean plastic on top from dirtier bottom.*
- **SHAKE OFF dirt & debris**  
Brush or shake off stones, clumps of soil, plant matter.
- **CUT FILM into pieces** one person can handle: <30 lb
- **ROLL or FOLD DRY FILM into bundles** the size of a BEACH BALL. If tying is needed, use strips of the same plastic. Stuff bags into a bag of the same type.
- **SEPARATE different products & types**  
Do not mix different types of plastic (different products) in the same bale. Separate cleaner film from dirtier. No PVC is accepted.
- **CONTAINERS: triple rinse to clean**
- **LABEL BALES & PALLETS:** write the type of material, date and contact name/phone/location.
- **STORE UNDER COVER:** clean, dry & out of sun, *e.g., in a barn, trailer or under a tarp.*

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### *Recycling Ag Plastics Project*

Life Cycle Stewardship of Agricultural Plastics

Developing infrastructure and markets for waste film and rigid plastics from dairy, livestock & horticulture. A collaboration of Cornell University with agriculture producers and agricultural, environmental, economic development and solid waste/recycling agencies, organizations and businesses. Major funding from the New York Farm Viability Institute, NYS DEC, and the US EPA Region 2 Pollution Prevention Program.

<http://environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/AgPlastics>