

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

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April 13, 2022

Larry Martin
Warden
County of Oxford
lmartin@norwich.ca

Dear Warden Martin:

I want to thank you and your delegation for taking the time to meet with me during the 2022 ROMA Conference. I appreciated having the opportunity to hear from you directly and learn about your local priorities. Conversations like these are an integral part of our ongoing partnership, and truly make a difference.

Thank you for raising the important issue of on-farm plastics and recycling options. My ministry is currently exploring options for managing farm plastics. As part of this work my ministry has funded pilot programs that identified collection and recycling options for farmers.

Currently, we are investing in research focused on plastic alternatives, such as bioplastics. A bioplastics program being led by the University of Guelph is moving forward. They are looking to make bio-based plastic materials suitable for agricultural applications that can be composted for disposal.

I encourage you to connect with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks about the updated blue box program. I'd also like to share with you that Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) have launched a Northern Ontario Plastics Disposal Pilot project where agricultural plastic waste is being consolidated and sent to users for conversion into new products, like composite boards, or resource recovery (transferring plastics to energy). For more information on the pilot project, please contact:

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Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Stephanie Vanthof, Member Service Representative Zone 15 East
stephanie.vanthof@ofa.on.ca

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or visit the pilot project's information page on the NOFIA website at www.nofia-agri.com/plastics-disposal-pilot .

I would also like to inform you about work being done by Cleanfarms, which is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization that works to help address agricultural waste management and resources in various provinces. Cleanfarms administers several recycling and disposal programs across Canada. The programs facilitate the collection of various plastics from farms which are then sent to retailers or municipal collection sites for re-use, recycling or disposal. In Ontario, current collection programs include the Empty Container (23 L) Program and the Empty Bags & Large Tote Bags Program.. For more information on the Cleanfarms programs, please contact:

Carly Fraser, Special Projects Coordinator

fraserc@cleanfarms.ca

Tel: 416-736-8492

or

Kim Timmer, Director, Stakeholder Relations and Policy

timmerk@cleanfarms.ca

Tel: 416-646-1258

Again, thank you for meeting with me.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs