

# RAPP

## RECYCLING AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS PROJECT

### What Farmers\* Need to Know & Do to Recycle Agricultural Plastics

Lots of plastic is used to grow, store and process agricultural crops. Very little has been recycled. **Why?** Because plastic coming off farms has typically been hard to handle and most plastics recycling markets haven't wanted it.

The Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP) is working to change this picture:

- By coming up with ways and showing others how to keep the plastic clean enough to recycle.
- By providing BigFoot BF300 mobile balers to compact used plastic into dense, stackable bales that are efficient to store and transport.
- By collaborating with local partner agencies, organizations and businesses to create recycling systems that benefit farmers, the environment and the economy.
- By working with plastics manufacturers to explore ways to process difficult-to-recycle agricultural plastics into new "made in the USA" plastic products.



#### IF YOU ARE A FARMER THINKING ABOUT RECYCLING YOUR PLASTIC:

- **Talk with RAPP staff** (or one of RAPP's local partners) to develop a plan for preparing and storing your used plastic. Details will differ depending on the type of plastic you use, your location, and particular situation. RAPP can arrange for recycling most types of plastics used in agriculture, saving farmers the cost of landfill tipping fees.
- **Follow RAPP's Best Management Guidelines (BMPs)** to keep plastic in shape to recycle:
  - Keep plastic as clean and dry as possible.
  - Shake out pebbles and clumps of soil.
  - Roll or fold used film plastic into pillow-sized bundles.
  - Store used plastic off the ground, out of mud, gravel and grit.
  - Separate different types of used plastic by color and type.
- **Stay in touch with your RAPP contact.** Keep them informed how much used plastic you have accumulated. Talk about collection logistics (how/where plastic is compacted and stored in your area). If a BigFoot baler will be used, your RAPP contact will schedule it. Farm labor is needed to load the baler. All helpers must first be trained and must sign a Liability Release.

\* Anyone who uses film or rigid plastics for agricultural production or processing—including landscapers, livestock/dairy farmers, producers of maple syrup, fruits, vegetables, feed crops, flowers, ornamentals, etc.