



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) Expands Agricultural Plastics Recycling Project with New Compactors and Partnerships

[Northern Ontario, 16 April 2025] – The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) and the northern caucus is the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Agricultural Plastics Disposal Program, building upon successful phase two funding received through the Ontario Agri-food Research Initiative (OAFRI) as part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP).

Since the funding announcement, NOFIA and OFA have expanded the program. Currently we have 41 partners. With the addition of 10 compactors confirmed in the last 6 months, the program's expansion will enhance the efficiency of plastic collection in Northern Ontario. To date, in this phase of the program, a total of **59** compacted bales have been recycled, reducing improper disposal of plastics by approximately **27 metric tons**. NOFIA aims to continue expanding this program, providing these compactors **free of charge** to farmers and producers, thanks to the received OAFRI funding. Any interested parties are encouraged to contact NOFIA or visit www.farmnorth.com to learn how to participate in the program.

With an aim to broaden accessibility, the program is actively seeking partnerships within Northern Ontario municipalities to establish central aggregation sites. These sites will cater to smaller-scale agricultural, horticultural, and aquaculture operations that may lack the resources of equipment for on-site compaction. NOFIA encourages municipalities to reach out regarding potential collaborations or visit www.farmnorth.com for more information.

A significant milestone for the project is the newly established partnership with an advanced recycling facility, WEST, located on Manitoulin Island. This collaboration created a closed-loop system, ensuring that collected agricultural plastics are processed and repurposed within the region. This partnership has also enabled the program to expand its scope to include the recycling of horticulture and aquaculture plastics, further diversifying its environmental impact.

"The expansion of our plastics project, with the addition of more compactors and municipal partnerships, emphasizes our dedication to creating a sustainable agricultural sector in Northern Ontario," said Yves Gauthier, President, NOFIA Board of Directors. "The collaboration with the Manitoulin Island recycling facility is a testament to the potential for local solutions."

NOFIA remains committed to fostering innovation and sustainability in Northern Ontario. The expansion of the agricultural plastics disposal program marks a positive step forward in creating a greener, more resilient agricultural sector.

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