

Final Project Report
Oceana Pesticide Jug Recycling Program
Grantee: Oceana Conservation District
Project #430278-15

Project Goals and Objectives

The Goal of the Oceana Pesticide Jug Recycling Program was to provide a free recycling opportunity for farmers in our county to responsibly dispose of their pesticide containers.

To determine the best way to go about this, we held a stakeholder brainstorming meeting on this topic, with representatives from each of the following; three agrichemical companies in our area, Oceana Conservation District (OCD) employees and directors, Oceana County Farm Bureau (OCFB) president and local farmers. One of the local agri-businesses already hosted a collection day in October, though many people (and other agrichemical companies) were not aware that participation was open to everyone. Still, local farmers were requesting an expansion of the program to include a summer collection date, since fruit and asparagus growers use the largest quantities of pesticides early in the season and storing the jugs is difficult for many. Currently, the only other acceptable way to get rid of containers is through a licensed landfill. Through this grant, we also focused on education and outreach, to ensure that everyone was aware of the program and we aimed to expand the existing program, to fill the demand from stakeholders.

The following objectives were developed to attain our goal of providing a way for farmers to recycle all their pesticide jugs throughout the spray season rather than putting them in dumpsters for landfill disposal or worse burning them.

1. Establish rental agreement for semi-trailer for storage of clean jugs until pickup day
2. Enter into lease with landowner for the use of the property for the collection site
3. Tentatively schedule semi-trailer pick-up day with CSN for plastic jug pick-up
4. Schedule days and times in July as collection days for pesticide jugs
5. Develop and distribute educational / promotional materials for Pesticide Jug Recycling Program (these will also serve as volunteer recruitment avenues)
6. Obtain permission from ACRC to use ACRC posters displaying requirements for properly cleaned pesticide jugs
7. Develop brochures about the program with jug requirements, collection dates, and appointment information for distribution at local agri-businesses
8. Develop and distribute press releases about program to local newspapers
9. Publish article about program in Conservation District Summer Newsletter
10. Hold informational public meeting to explain program and clean jug requirements to potential program participants
11. Obtain DEQ approval for all printed program materials
12. Appointments for Pesticide jug drop-offs
13. When farmers drop-off pesticide containers, they will be in bags and all containers checked to ensure that they meet the requirements of the recycling company
14. Schedule pick up day of containers and trailer from CSN

Successes and Obstacles

The overall goal of being able to offer farmers more opportunities to recycle pesticide jugs was achieved with many additional farmers taking advantage of being able to dispose of jugs earlier in the season. The following chart shows the numbers of jugs, bags, pounds and number of farmers that brought in jugs.

Oceana Ag Pesticide Jug Recycling					
Date	Number of Farmers	Total Jugs	Total Bags	Total Pounds	Annual Totals (pounds)
2014*					4500
Jul-15	17	3205	55	2120	5320
Oct-15	unknown	4266	70	3200	
Jul-16	21	5742	99	2600	4100**
Oct-16	unknown	2704	52	1500	
Program Grand Totals		15,219	276	9420	
<p>*2014 used for comparison prior to grant project; not included in totals **The second year's jugs were picked up by a garbage truck and the weight estimates appear much lower than the estimates made the first year when the jugs were transferred in a semi-trailer. It's best to look at the number of jugs and bags that were collected rather than the weights because these were actual numbers not estimates.</p>					

All tasks were completed as planned with very few problems. The only problem we encountered was getting help during drop off times from the agri-businesses or from volunteers so conservation district staff manned the collections each time with 2 employees. Minor adjustments to the original plans were made as we determined that one drop off day was not desirable to the farmers because of their busy schedules. The vendor was able to provide us with a trailer for a full month allowing us to offer drop off times once a week for a month. Feedback from farmers was that July was too late to collect early jugs due to cherry harvest so we offered drop off times to be from mid-June to mid-July the second year.

Outreach was accomplished as planned by a variety of means including the following: A banner was produced with the first year's collection information (attached) and brochures and posters were produced each year (attached). The brochures and posters were placed in the 3 county agri-businesses, MSUE, Farm Bureau and the OCD. Information was distributed in OCFB and OCD newsletters, the OCD Annual Report and the local newspaper. Frequent e-mails were sent to farmers reminding them of collection dates and times. The program was also talked about during a number of grower meetings during the 2 year grant period.

Environmental Benefits

The environmental benefits of this project are that more than 15,000-2.5 gallon pesticide jugs were recycled rather than going to a landfill or burned. Plastic does not break down in the environment making this particularly important to recycle. Burning plastic produces toxins in the air and also is illegal, but some farmers may resort to this method of disposal if recycling is not a convenient option for them. The OCD became partners with all 3 agri-businesses in Oceana County and showed them how important it is for them to provide this service to their growers.

Program Partners

Helena Chemical Company, Shelby- Collected jugs at the end of each season, agri-business stakeholder
North Central Co-op, Hart- Provided a secure site for the storage trailer and collection site, agri-business stakeholder

Wilbur-Ellis, Hart- Provided matching funds to secure the trailer used for collecting jugs, agri-business stakeholder

Oceana County Farm Bureau- outreach & stakeholder, provided a volunteer at two collections

MSUE- hosted many of the grower meetings where this program was highlighted

Oceana Herald Journal- Printed articles at no charge throughout the program

Mason-Lake Conservation District- Hosted grower meeting where this program was highlighted and provided information to the growers about the opportunity to bring jugs to Hart for recycling

Project Sustainability

The most successful outcome of doing this project was that the agri-businesses, at their customers urging, are now determined to all continue to offer this program themselves. The businesses will be working together to offer recycling to anyone in Oceana County regardless of where they purchase their pesticides. North Central Co-op is looking to purchase a semi-trailer to store at their fueling site and will be accepting triple rinsed, clean and dry jugs in bags that they will take and store in the trailer. Once the trailer is full, we will contact the new vendor to come pick up all the jugs. Helena will be continuing their collection at the end of the season as they have done in the past. Wilbur-Ellis plans to work with NCC as they are both in Hart in order to offer their customers a way to recycle jugs as well. The OCD will continue to help with outreach for this recycling program and will be continuing to encourage more farmers to participate in the program.

Banner

AG PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING



Collections during July
Call Oceana CD for Details
(231) 861-5600



Are your containers acceptable?

✓ Acceptable



Container, thread, and lip are clean



Inside is clean and dry



Handle and neck stained but clean

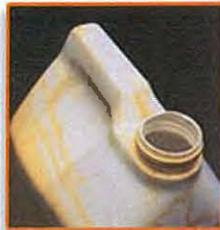


Inside stained but rinsed clean

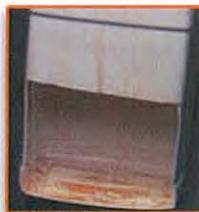
✗ Not Acceptable



Dried formulation on container



Dried formulation on thread



Bottom is caked with dried residue



Liquid residue in container

This Program is sponsored by the following organizations:



Oceana Conservation District
1064 Industrial Park Dr.
Shelby, MI 49455

Phone: (231) 861-5600

Fax: (855) 813-7696

www.OceanaConservation.org

Agricultural Pesticide Container Recycling

July and October 2015 — Oceana County



It's FREE and easy!

About the program

Oceana county is home to many different agricultural operations and Commercial Pesticide Applicators, which generates an abundance of plastic jugs that need to be disposed of in landfills. To address this problem, and better protect our natural resources, we are hoping to encourage recycling of pesticide jugs in Oceana County and the surrounding area.

Helena Chemical company has held an October collection in recent years. This year, the Oceana Conservation District, Wilbur-Ellis and North Central Co-op are working together to expand the recycling program, with the addition of July collection dates. Helena will continue to hold their fall collection as well.

How it works

With help from the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) and the Michigan DEQ, we are able to rent a semi-trailer for storage of clean, bagged pesticide containers. Once our trailer is full, Container Services network will pick up the containers for recycling into new products such as drain tile, highway sign posts and pallets for ag use.

Container cleaning checklist

- ⇒ Ag pesticide containers must be high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic #2 or #7
- ⇒ Containers only accepted from Commercial Applicators and Growers (Sorry, we cannot accept home & garden consumer products)
- ⇒ Up to 55 gallon containers accepted
- ⇒ Containers **MUST** be triple-rinsed; stains ok, caked-on residue is not
- ⇒ Containers must be dry
- ⇒ Caps must be removed
- ⇒ Booklets must be removed
- ⇒ Containers must be bagged; obtain bags from Oceana CD, Helena, Wilbur-Ellis or North Central

We will be inspecting jugs and will have to turn them away if they do not meet these requirements. Booklets, caps and unacceptable jugs can be disposed of as normal solid waste.

Collection dates and times

July Collections will be held at North Central Co-op fueling facility in Hart.
Address: 111 Enterprize Dr. | Hart, MI

July 108am—10am

July 14.....12 noon—2pm

July 23.....11am—1pm

July 312pm—4pm

If you cannot make one of these times, please call the Conservation District and we will try to fit you in.

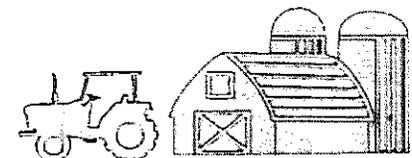
Please do not leave jugs on site!

Fall Collections will be held at Helena
Address: 37 W. Third St. | Shelby, MI

September 14 - October 2

Drop off containers anytime during business hours

Contact Helena with questions:
(231) 861-2526



Are your containers acceptable?

✓ Acceptable



Container, thread, and lip are clean



Inside is clean and dry



Handle and neck stained but clean

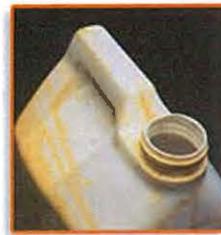


Inside stained but rinsed clean

✗ Not Acceptable



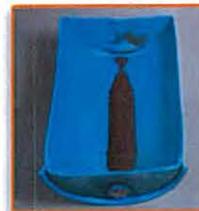
Dried formulation on container



Dried formulation on thread



Bottom is caked with dried residue



Liquid residue in container

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 1064 Industrial Park Dr.
 Shelby, MI 49455
 Phone: (231) 861-5600
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Agricultural Pesticide Container Recycling

June-July and September 2016 — Oceana



It's FREE and easy!

Oceana CD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About the program

Oceana County is home to a variety of agricultural operations and Commercial Pesticide Applicators, that generate an abundance of plastic jugs needing to be disposed of in landfills. To address this problem, and better protect our natural resources, we are hoping to encourage recycling of pesticide jugs in Oceana County and the surrounding area.

Helena Chemical Co. holds a fall collection every year. For the second year, the Oceana CD, Wilbur-Ellis and North Central Co-op are working together to expand the county's recycling opportunities, with the addition of early summer collection dates.

How it works

With help from the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) and the Michigan DEQ Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program, we are able to rent a semi-trailer for storage of clean, bagged pesticide containers. Container Services Network picks up containers for recycling into new ag products such as drain tile, highway sign posts and pallets.

Container cleaning checklist

- ⇒ Ag pesticide containers must be high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic #2 or #7
- ⇒ Containers only accepted from Commercial Applicators and Growers (Sorry, we cannot accept home & garden consumer products)
- ⇒ Up to 55 gallon containers accepted
- ⇒ Containers MUST be triple-rinsed; stains ok, caked-on residue is not
- ⇒ Containers must be dry
- ⇒ Caps must be removed
- ⇒ Booklets must be removed
- ⇒ Containers must be bagged; obtain bags from Oceana CD, Mason-Lake CD, Helena, Wilbur-Ellis or North Central Co-op

We will be inspecting the jugs. Jugs that do not meet these requirements will be turned away. Booklets, caps and unacceptable jugs can be disposed of as normal solid waste.

Collection dates and times

June/July Collections will be held at North Central Co-op fueling facility in Hart at 111 Enterprize Dr. every **Thursday morning starting on June 16 through July 7**. Collection time will be from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

If you cannot make one of these times, please call the Conservation District and we will try to find a time that works for you.

Do not leave jugs on site!

Fall Collections will be held at Helena located at 37 W. Third St in Shelby. Drop off containers anytime during business hours from **mid to late September**.

Contact Helena for specific dates later this summer: (231) 861-2526



Ag Pesticide Container Recycling

 **Acceptable**



Container, thread, and lip are clean



Inside is clean and dry



Handle and neck stained but clean

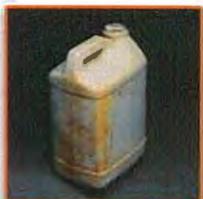


Inside stained but rinsed clean

Empty containers **MUST** be:

- Ag-based product containers
- HDPE plastic #2 or 7
- Triple-rinsed and clean
- Dry
- Caps removed (rinse and put in regular garbage)
- Booklets removed
- Bagged (get bags from Conservation District, Helena, North-Central or Wilbur Ellis)
- 55 gallons or smaller

 **Not Acceptable**



Dried formulation on container



Dried formulation on thread



Bottom is caked with dried residue



Liquid residue in container

Collection Dates & Times:

- July 10, 8am – 10am
- July 14, 12 noon – 2pm
- July 23, 11am – 1pm
- July 31, 2pm – 4pm

Drop-off clean jugs to North Central Co-op's Bulk Fuel Site (111 Enterprize Dr. in Hart). Please don't leave jugs on site!

September 14 – October 2

Drop off jugs to Helena during business hours (37 W Thirds St. Shelby).

Please call the Oceana Conservation District at (231) 861-5600 with questions or to schedule an appointment.

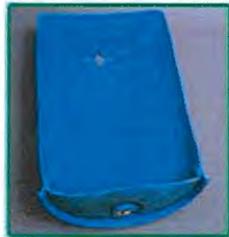


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Container, thread, and lip are clean



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- Caps removed (rinse and put in regular garbage)
- Booklets removed
- Bagged (get bags from Conservation District, Helena, North-Central or Wilbur Ellis)
- 55 gallons or smaller

Collection Dates

Every Thursday morning from June 14 – July 7 (8-10 a.m.)

Drop-off clean, dry jugs to North Central Co-op's Bulk Fuel Site (111 Enterprize Dr., Hart). Please do not leave jugs on site!

Late September

Drop off jugs to Helena during business hours only. (37 W Third St., Shelby)

Please call the Oceana Conservation District at (231) 861-5600 with questions or to schedule an appointment.

