

Silage plastic recycling trial

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply to participate in the trial?

To apply to participate in the trial, you will need to fill out our **Expression of Interest form** and answer a few simple questions about your farm.

When will the trial be held?

It is anticipated that the trial will be held from April 2022 through to January 2023 to coincide with periods of silage usage for farmers.

How many farmers will be chosen to participate in the trial?

Between 80–100 farmers from Western Victoria will be selected to participate.

How will the trial participants be chosen?

Dairy Australia will select farms that offer a cross section of different sizes, locations and farm practices in order to collect enough data to inform the development of the national recycling scheme.

How should I store the silage plastic in preparation for recycling?

Trial participants will be provided with bins and bin liners to store your silage plastic in prior to drop-off/collection free of charge.

Are there different size bins available to store my silage plastic?

Trial participants will be able to choose between small or large bins. The small bins are 240 litre wheelie bins that hold approximately 25 bale wraps and weigh roughly 25kg when full of plastic. The large bins are a customised bin which holds approximately 1,300 litres or 120–150 bale wraps and when full weigh roughly 200kg.

What size bin will I need?

The size of bin your farm will require will depend mainly on the amount of silage plastic waste your farm produces. It should also be noted that the small bins are capable of being lifted by a single person while the large bins will require a mechanical lift.

How will the silage plastic be collected for recycling?

You can choose either to drop off your silage plastic at one of the trial's designated recycling drop-off points for free (Killarney, Peterborough, Simpson, Naroghid and Alvie waste transfer stations), or pay a small fee to have it collected from your farm.

How close will drop-off locations be to my farm?

Only farms that are located within 50km or less of our drop-off locations will be chosen for the trial. The drop-off locations for the trial are the waste transfer sites at Killarney, Peterborough, Simpson, Naroghid, and Alvie. Opening times and addresses for the drop-off locations are provided below.

How much does it cost to participate in the trial?

Storage bins for you to keep your silage plastic waste in as well as bin liners will be provided free of charge to all trial participants. There will be no charge for you to drop off your plastic silage waste at our recycling locations. The only potential cost is if you elect to have your silage plastic picked up from your farm but even then the cost will be subsidised by the Commonwealth via grant funds (see further details on pick-up costs below).

How much will pick up of silage plastic from my farm cost if I choose not to drop it off myself?

A small fee of approximately \$25 per large liner full of silage plastic (1.3 cubic metres and holding up to approx. 200kg of plastic) or \$25 for three small liners full of silage plastic (0.7 cubic metres and holding up to approx. 90kg of plastic) will be charged to farmers for this service.

Will I need to clean my silage plastic for collection/drop-off?

The success of a Product Stewardship scheme for silage plastic will require collaboration across the plastic supply chain. For farmers, this means ensuring that the plastic collected is as "clean" as possible.

Trial participants will therefore be required to separate your net wrap from bale wrap and shake them off to remove any large solids (e.g. rocks, metal, etc...) in order for them to be accepted for recycling. A small amount of dirt, mud or silage in the plastic is fine, but rocks and large solids will damage the recycling machinery – increasing the cost of recycling and of the scheme. Heavily contaminated plastic waste will not be accepted for the trial.

How do I book a collection?

To book a collection, farmers should send an email to RecyclingTrial@dairyaustralia.com.au and provide your mobile number, farm address, and the amount of plastic ready for collection (i.e. the number of liners full of plastic or the approximate size of pit silage bundle). You should also note in the email any special instructions that would help our collection truck drivers with the pick-up. Attaching photos of the plastic in location would be really helpful for our drivers.

Please note that plastic collection runs will take place once we are able to fill a truck in your area, which means it may take a couple of weeks between when you request a pick-up and when the truck actually arrives to make the collection.

Who should apply to participate in the trial?

All farmers in western Victoria that use silage, generate silage plastic waste and would like to see that material recycled rather than sent to landfill or improperly disposed should apply.

Will I be automatically selected to participate if I apply?

Depending on the level of farmer interest and project budget, we may not be able to select all farmers that apply.

What else will be required of me if I am chosen for the trial?

Farmers participating in the trial will also be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience during the trial via user surveys, regional workshops, and one-to-one meetings with the program's Recycling Trial Coordinator.

Who is funding the trial?

This recycling trial is being fully funded by the Commonwealth Government's National Product Stewardship Investment Fund and administered by Dairy Australia.

Why are only farms from Western Victoria participating in the trial?

Western Victoria was chosen for the trial due to its high rates of silage use, variety of farm types and sizes, spread of farm locations, supportive local councils, supportive regional team, and relative proximity to current recycling outlets. Pending the success of the trial, the program will be extended to other regions of Australia.

What is the overall purpose of the trial?

The purpose of the trial is to work with local farmers, councils, waste management companies and recyclers to test the following:

- Processes for easy and effective on-farm silage plastic handling and storage.
- Processes for convenient and cost-effective collection (drop-off/pick up) of on-farm silage plastic.
- Requirements for aggregation, compaction, and transport of silage plastic to recycling sites.
- Quality requirements for effective silage plastic recycling into various products.
- Educational and communication resources required to ensure effective farmer participation in the scheme.
- Effectiveness of a variety of plastic collection methods.
- Requirements for a successful national roll out of the program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit dairyaustralia.com.au or email RecyclingTrial@dairyaustralia.com.au

Drop-off locations and opening times for silage plastic recycling trial

Facility	Location	Opening times
Corangamite Regional Landfill	605 County Boundary Road, West Naroghid	Monday to Friday: 7am – 4pm Saturday: 10am – 4pm Sunday: 10am – 3pm
Simpson Transfer Station	150 Princetown Road (2km south of Simpson)	Tuesday and Thursday: 1pm – 3.30pm Sunday: 10am – 1pm
Peterborough Transfer Station	18 Macgillivray Road, Peterborough	Sunday: 10am – 2pm Wednesday: 10am – 2pm
Killarney Waste Facility	Badhams Lane, Killarney	All days: 10am – 4pm
Alvie Transfer Station	977 Corangamite Lake Road, Alvie	All days: 10am – 2pm

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