

# NEWS BITS

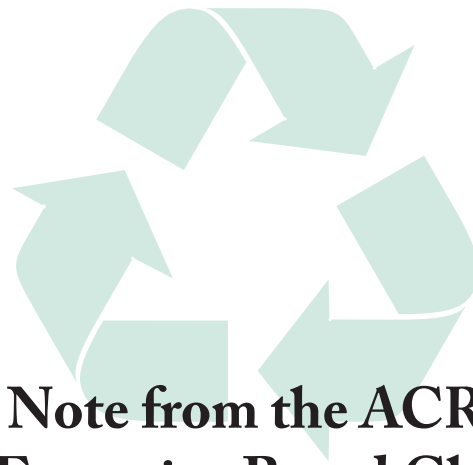
*from the Ag Container Recycling Council*

## ACRC Members

AgraQuest, Inc.  
 Albaugh, Inc.  
 Amvac Chemical Corporation  
 Arysta LifeScience of North America, LLC  
 BASF Corporation  
 Bayer CropScience  
 Bayer HealthCare, LLC, Animal Health Division  
 Becker Underwood, Inc.  
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 Certis USA, LLC  
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 Wilbur-Ellis Company  
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*Affiliate Member Companies*

Cimarron Label  
 Cousins Currie - Division of Silgan Plastics Canada  
 Lee Container  
 Mauser Corporation  
 Pretium Packaging  
 Reliance Products



## Note from the ACRC Executive Board Chair

**A**s we progress further into 2010, the emphasis on container collection increases substantially. Many of you will recall that in 2008 ACRC achieved an incredible milestone by collecting over 100 millions pounds of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) since beginning its operations. This was a tremendous achievement for ACRC members and the industry.

This year, the ACRC has been challenged with another “significant event” as we address the collection and recycling of mini-bulks. Based on industry concerns resulting from EPA’s impending new Container & Containment Regulation in 2011, the ACRC, in conjunction with the Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI), are developing a pilot program to be launched in the July/August timeframe. ACRC’s intent is that information gleaned from this pilot will be used to develop a longer term strategy relative to mini-bulk collections and recycling. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the ACRC staff, J.D Fish and the Mini-Bulk Task Force for all of their efforts, dedication and contributions toward making this initiative possible.

The ACRC and its members are extremely proud of our 18-year history of responsible container stewardship. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those organizations and contractors that have been a major part of our highly successful programs. Thank you all!

Here’s to the next 100 MM pounds!

Douglas C. James  
 Chair, ACRC





*ACRC meeting with Agribusiness Association of Iowa to kick off the mini-bulk recycling program*

## ACRC Partners with AAI on Mini-Bulk (IBC) Recycling Program

The ACRC is partnering with the Agri-Business Association of Iowa (AAI) in the implementation of statewide mini-bulk recycling. For the ACRC, this program is a “pilot” which has the objective of producing data and information that will be used to determine ACRC’s role in mini-bulk recycling in 2011 and beyond.

Up to 6,000 mini-bulks will be accepted for recycling in the program. AAI and 2009 Farm Broadcaster of the Year, Ken Root, will be responsible for program promotion and publicity. The ACRC will oversee collection and recycling operations which will be performed by the ACRC Contractor, Container Services Network, LLC. ACRC plans to use this opportunity to develop training documents and videos that will illustrate methods and processes that are needed for cleaning, collection, transport and recycling of these larger capacity containers.

In anticipation of the need for guidance in complying with the Container and Containment Rule, a brochure – “*Safely Cleaning Refillable Pesticide Containers for Recycling*” has been developed through the cooperation of representatives of ACRC, CropLife America Stewardship Committee and EPA. The brochure and a “*Mini-Bulk Inspection Training Video*” are available from ACRC ([jjarvis@acrecycle.org](mailto:jjarvis@acrecycle.org)). The experience and information gathered will be used as ACRC considers future expansion of the recycling program. Conducting the pilot will also provide the experience needed for gaining approval of end uses for the various plastic types (other than HDPE) which are sometimes used to manufacture Minibulks. For more information, contact Ron Perkins at 877-952-2272 or email [rperkins@acrecycle.org](mailto:rperkins@acrecycle.org).

## ACRC Technical Committee Evaluates More Recycling Friendly Labels/Adhesives

An ongoing objective of the ACRC Technical Committee is to optimize the value of the plastic recovered in the ACRC pesticide container recycling program. To that end, the Technical Committee implemented a label/adhesive evaluation project in 2009 to identify and evaluate labels and adhesives that would be more compatible with recycling of the HDPE containers. Current agricultural labels use paper or polyester base labels on HDPE plastic containers. These labels utilize a pre-applied hot melt adhesive as the primary adhesion source. During the grinding process, the hot melt adhesive attracts dirt and produces a less clean flake that reduces the value of plastic to the end users. Any remaining paper/polyester on the flake is removed during the washing process and produces a waste material that must be disposed of.

Over an eighteen-month period, the Technical Committee oversaw the development and testing of several label/adhesive combinations. Functionality testing revealed that an HDPE label applied with UV acrylic adhesive performed equal to the standard hot melt booklet style label in all testing areas. To test the impact on the recycling process this label/adhesive combination was applied to 800 x 2.5 gallon containers. These containers were then ground to a 3/8” flake and processed through the USAg wash line in Waller, Texas. Testing revealed a cleaner flake with no reported post washing waste as compared to current grinding/washing results. (600 lbs of washed plastic was recovered from the original 600 lbs of containers that were processed.)

An industry-wide use of a more compatible label and adhesive with HDPE recycling would also address manufacturer concerns about maintaining compliance with EPA labeling requirements. In combination this new label/adhesive material has the potential to decrease waste and increase the yield of recyclable HDPE by 7 to 12 percent.

Stakeholders recognize that for this more recycling friendly label/adhesive material combination to be widely used, it must be cost competitive with conventional alternatives. Initial research reveals that the cost of implementing this change would impact current label costs of fewer than 2 percent.



# California Pesticide Container Recycling Law Compliance

California Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) section 12841.4(a) requires persons who are the first to sell an agricultural-use or structural-use pesticide product in rigid, non-refillable, HDPE containers of 55 gallons or less for use within California to establish, or demonstrate participation in, a recycling program. The recycling program must be in compliance with ANSI/ASABE Standard S596, Recycling Plastic Containers from Pesticides and Pesticide-Related Products, published in February 2006 (the “Standard”).



*Container collection sponsored by Sutter County Agricultural Department (CA)*

Although the statute required California Department of Pesticide Regulation (“CDPR”) to adopt regulations to carry out the statute, it has been impossible for CDPR to require the recycling program to be audited by ANSI accredited third-party inspectors. Processes which create ANSI accredited inspectors are not available or expected, CDPR alternatively issued guidance stating that first sellers must provide the CDPR a document certifying that it participates in a recycling program that meets the direction intended by the statute for recycling programs and practices which offer consistent and professional recycling of pesticide containers.

The pesticide container recycling program that the ACRC funds and administers in the State of California through a services agreement with Interstate Ag Plastics (IAG) fulfills all of the requirements of ANSI/ASABE Standard S596, Recycling Plastic Containers from Pesticides and Pesticide-Related Products, published in February 2006. Every member of ACRC has been able to provide certification required by the California Department of Pesticide’s Regulation.

In addition to demonstrating good product stewardship, ACRC membership provides the benefit of cost effective compliance with the California pesticide container recycling law. If your organization is required to comply with the new California law and would like to obtain more details concerning the ACRC program in California or other benefits of ACRC membership, we invite you to call us toll free at 877-952-2272.

## Pesticide Container Recycling Video Produced in Washington State

A new video promoting proper rinsing methods and recycling of pesticide containers has been released by a consortium from the State of Washington. This new information and training tool was produced and distributed through cooperation between the Far West Agri-business Association (FWAA), Washington State Department of Agriculture (WADA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Sponsors of the production include Northwest Ag Plastics, Washington State University (WSU) and the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). In addition to the valuable training lessons, the video shows the environmental and resource conservation value of pesticide container recycling and the resulting end products. The video is a valuable tool for promoting container recycling and educating stakeholders concerning each step in the recycling process from triple or pressure rinsing to end use.



*Northwest Ag Plastics services collection site in Washington State*

The video, which has English and Spanish editions, was produced with two versions which address the specific needs of users in the State of Washington plus a more nationally directed edition which references ACRC and The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) as resources for more information. All versions are available in a QuickTime or Windows Media Version (WMV) for easier loading to Internet sites. Washington State versions can be obtained by contacting Jim Fitzgerald with FWAA at jim@fwaa.org or Holly Cushman with Ecology hcus@ecy.wa.gov. The nationally focused versions are available at no cost from the ACRC by contacting Joyce Jarvis at jjjarvis@acrecycle.org.



## News Bits

*Published by the  
Ag Container Recycling Council  
(ACRC).*

*The ACRC is a non-profit  
organization that promotes,  
facilitates and manages the  
collection and recycling of  
properly rinsed HDPE crop  
protection product containers.*

**Got an interesting  
recycling story to tell?**

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website: [www.acrecycle.org](http://www.acrecycle.org)

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## New York Pesticide Container Recycling Infrastructure Expands

Pesticide container recycling infrastructure in New York State has increased in 2010 to 30 locations due in large part to the efforts of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC), the New York State Agri-business Association (NYSABA) and the ACRC contractor, USAg Recycling (USAg). Compared with collection from the two original collection locations in Sprakers (up-state) and Riverhead (Long Island) existing in 2007, there has been a four-fold increase; from 11,000 pounds (2007) to 45,000 pounds in 2009. Increased demand has resulted in on-site grinding being scheduled by USAg for both June and October in 2010. The close proximity of several Vermont ag retailers to New York has also resulted in the ability to increase and expand service into Vermont as well. Efforts are currently underway to add a few ag retailers in western Massachusetts to the USAg grinding route. For more information contact Jeannette Marvin at NYSABA: [jmarvin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jmarvin@rochester.rr.com) or Sam Gibson (USAg); [samg@usagrecycling.com](mailto:samg@usagrecycling.com).



*Sam Gibson, President, USAg Recycling observes  
properly cleaned containers at New York State collection site.*



## ACRC RECYCLING PROGRAM

