



Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter KiwiCanMuster. This newsletter is to tell you what is happening, what we are doing, why we are doing it and where we are up to.

Project Outline

Project 4183 - Sustainable Management of Waste Agrichemicals and Waste On-Farm Plastic

The project is funded largely by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and has been developed to provide a nationally consistent framework for the management of agricultural wastes. Specifically it will provide environmentally sustainable solutions for:

- the disposal of waste on-farm plastics, e.g. agrichemical containers and silage wrap (the projects focus); and
- the disposal of unwanted agrichemicals

The project was set up by a broadbase of organisations involved in the primary sector. They sought to provide these solutions as increasingly, farmers and growers are faced with legislative and market pressure to better handle the disposal of unwanted agrichemicals and farm plastics (eg used agrichemical containers and silage wrap). Many local authorities do not permit incineration, some do not permit landfill and there are few recycling options available for farmers and growers. They are therefore faced with either stockpiling their waste or unsustainable methods of disposal are practiced.

These issues are serious concerns for primary producers, marketers and regional authorities.

The New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET) and related groups applied to MfE's Sustainable Management Fund (SMF) for funding to address these issues.

Funding has been obtained for a three-year project. The first year is largely set aside for research, the second to test 'best bet' options and the third to take these 'best bets' out to the country.



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Project Funders

The project team would like to thank the following funders for their generous contribution of cash and time to make this project a success.

- Ministry for the Environment – Sustainable Management Fund
- Environment Bay of Plenty
- Horizons Manawatu
- Tasman District Council
- Wellington Regional Council
- Environment Waikato
- Environment Canterbury
- Taranaki Regional Council
- Environment Southland
- Gisborne District Council
- Whakatane District Council
- South Taranaki District Council
- Kaikoura District Council
- Hurunui District Council
- Waimakariri District Council
- Selwyn District Council
- Christchurch City Council
- Banks Peninsula District Council
- Ashburton District Council
- Timaru District Council
- Waimate District Council
- Mackenzie District Council
- All Brite Industries
- Key Industries
- Rural & Associated Contractors Federation
- Du Pont
- Primary industry stakeholders (testing & delivery of solutions)

Working Group Members

The following organisations give of their time and contribute toward the cost of their staff attending working group meetings

- Peter Ensor, NZAET
- Dr Jack Richardson, Agcarm Inc
- Robert Brodnax, Environment Waikato
- Darren Patterson, Environment Canterbury
- Peter Kendall, Dow AgroSciences
- Dr Mike Butcher, Pipfruit NZ
- Randy Muderewich, Federated Farmers
- Dana Paterson, Ministry for the Environment
- Bruce Emerson, RONZ
- Bruce Emerson, All Brite Industries
- Carolyn Cox, Plastics NZ
- Steve Mead, Vertex Pacific
- John Maber, NZAET

Sustainable Management of Waste On-Farm Plastics

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are being sought from organisations interested in partnering on this project. We are interested in obtaining ideas on how your organisation may be involved in the reduction, reuse or recycling of waste on-farm plastics. Specifically, we want expressions of interest from organisations or individuals that are:

- Interested in participating in a pilot to collect this waste,
- Interested in the pilot programmes for reprocessing of this waste.
- Interested in working on the longer term opportunities with this waste.

Please forward a brief expression of interest, including a statement of capability, by 7 April 2003, to

Sandy Scarrow

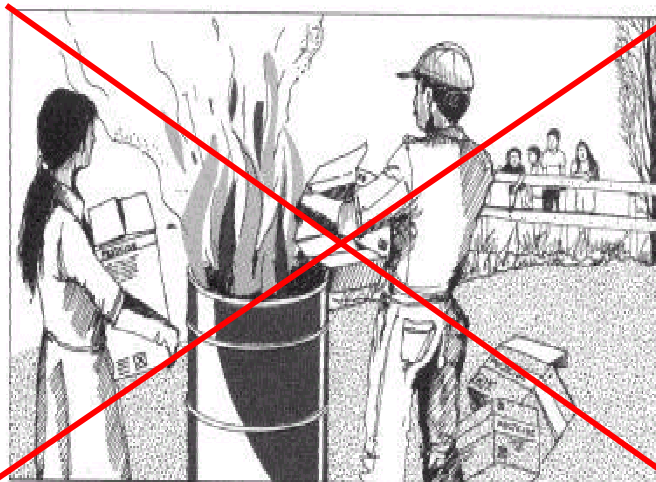
Project Manager

Agriculture New Zealand

PO Box 792

Tauranga

sandys@clear.net.nz



Our Contracted Objectives

To ensure that we are accountable for the funding we receive, the following measurable objectives have been negotiated with the MfE. We will report to you over the project lifetime on how we are doing with respect to these objectives.

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| <p>1. The generation of a communication strategy to ensure that all stakeholders are not only aware of the solutions developed but are involved in their development.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A communications strategy is developed and implemented for the duration of the project. ▪ Regular articles are printed in the media and in industry journals/newsletters on the outputs of the project. ▪ Education material generated through the project will also include information on the disposal of other farm waste. |
| <p>2. A number of reports will be generated during the project.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports will be prepared on the existing schemes operating around the world and their relevance to the New Zealand situation, the recommended schemes for adoption in New Zealand and on the Life Cycle Analysis of on-farm plastics. |
| <p>3. The development and use of nationally consistent method for the disposal of any agrichemical that can no longer be used in New Zealand primary production.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A scheme for the collection and safe disposal of agrichemicals no longer able to be used in New Zealand is accessible to and used by New Zealand primary producers by 30 June 2005. |
| <p>4. A scheme to allow for the facilitation of transfer of unwanted agrichemicals, where they can be used by other primary producers, from one primary producer to another to ensure that the agrichemical is used for its intended use rather than disposed of in concentrated form.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A scheme to facilitate the transfer of unwanted agrichemical to other users is accessible to and used by New Zealand primary producers by 30 June 2005. |
| <p>5. The development and widespread use of methods for the safe containment of waste dilute agrichemicals.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategies to reduce (e.g. Best Management Practices) the risk of accidental spillage of dilute agrichemical are developed, tested and available for use by primary producers by 30 June 2005. |

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| <p>6. The development and use of nationally consistent solutions for the environmentally sustainable disposal of any on-farm plastics used in New Zealand primary production.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 80% (800 tonnes) of agrichemical containers and 80% (5,600 tonnes) of silage wrap is diverted from the waste stream to an approved use by 30 June 2005. ▪ The number of kiwifruit growers burning their agrichemical containers drops from the 44% identified in the 2000 study to none by 30 June 2005. |
| <p>7. The integration of these disposal options into existing industry standards (eg NZS8409:1999 Code of Practice for the Management of Agrichemicals, "GROWSAFE"), Best Management Practices, Quality Assurance programmes and regional and district plans.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The strategies developed on the disposal of unwanted agrichemical, on-farm plastics and other on-farm waste are incorporated into the QA/EMS programmes, Codes of Practice (e.g. GROWSAFE) of the major food and fibre producers of New Zealand by 30 June 2005. |
| <p>8. The solutions developed will be practical and sustainable in the long term.</p> | <p>Measurable Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial operators will take up the business and administrative models developed through the project by 30 June 2005. |

Less measurable outcomes include:

- A reduced volume of on-farm plastic being burnt and disposed of on farm and in community landfills.
- Assured environmental integrity with respect to unwanted agrichemicals and on-farm plastic disposal in New Zealand to ensure continued access to some markets and / or continued price premiums in the market.
- The recycling of on-farm plastic to become a raw material for the plastics industry in New Zealand therefore reducing the need to import plastic resin or plastics.
- The development of solutions that will facilitate technologies that can be applied to other plastic waste streams (e.g. plastics from the domestic or industrial sector).
- The development of a nationally consistent package of waste minimisation education material for farmers and growers that is consistent with the National Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy. This set of consistent messages will reduce duplication of costs between local authorities and will aid the development of quality assurance systems for industry that are nationally consistent.
- The identification of alternatives to waste burning that will support implementation of the MfE's national environmental standard for dioxin.



Project Management

Sandy Scarrow

The New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET) has appointed Sandy Scarrow to manage the project.

Sandy has worked in the Bay of Plenty since joining MAF in 1987. In that time she has been working largely with the kiwifruit industry. Sandy's work has involved on-orchard consultancy, training in horticulture, developing quality and environmental systems. Sandy has worked with the Kiwifruit industry looking at the disposal of unwanted agrichemicals and agrichemical containers. Another contract within the kiwifruit industry was to develop an Environmental Management System for orchardists. She has also worked with MAF Policy on many industry issues.



It is thought that the sound industry knowledge that Sandy brings to the project will help fulfil the purpose of the study of developing practical options for farmers and growers than some of the current waste disposal practices, which are unsustainable.

Our Logo

The logo for the project has been designed by Greg Parker, a recent graduate of a graphic design programme in Auckland.

Greg was given the brief to design a logo that would fit the following specifications:

- links to the NZAET GrowSafe programme with appropriate use of colour
- conveys the recycling message
- create a design that was unique to New Zealand Agriculture
- links with the success of the Australian DrumMuster programme
- is able to have multi uses ie as a identifier on a product label and as a letter head for the project communications.
- is cost effective to print and distribute electronically.

Further Information

More information can be gained on the project through the NZAET website www.growsafe.co.nz or by emailing Sandy directly on sandys@clear.net.nz

Life After the Project

There is a clear need for this project to have a life after the end of these three years of funding. At this stage, it is thought that this will become a function of the NZEAT if a better option is not found.

