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## **It's a wrap – all Fonterra farms join Agpac recycling programme**

Agpac's agricultural plastic wrap recycling system – New Zealand's largest product stewardship scheme for silage wrap waste – is now being used on all Fonterra farms throughout the country.

Fonterra first trialled the wrap recycling system two years ago, and last month established the system on its Orton Farm, near Clandeboye in South Canterbury. Orton is the last of Fonterra's 22 farms to enrol in the scheme.

Agpac has supplied crop packaging products to New Zealand's agricultural and horticultural sectors for more than 30 years, and it has recycled used baleage and silage wrap since 2005.

The company recognises that disposing of used baleage wrap has been a major problem on New Zealand farms since it was introduced as a crop protection material. Most farmers still choose to either burn or bury waste plastic, which damages the environment.

Agpac recycling manager Chris Hartshorne says Agpac has developed a practical and easy solution to the problem. Farmers can buy a recycling bin and liner system to store their used plastic wraps, which are then collected by Agpac. There are currently about 600 Agpac bins located on New Zealand farms.

"Our scheme is designed to recover large quantities of agricultural plastics off farms. One of our liners holds about 150 wraps," Chris Hartshorne says.

"In the first year we collected 11 tonnes of wrap. This year we collected over 200 tonnes. It sounds an impressive amount, but there is about 4000 tonnes of wrap used on New Zealand farms each year."

Fonterra national farms manager Brendan Attrill says Fonterra initially became involved with Agpac more than two years ago. Brendan Attrill is a great advocate for the recycling scheme.



“All company farms have the facilities now. We do between 3500 and 4000 bales a year we’re targeting to get 100 percent of the wraps recycled.”

Fonterra is funding the establishment and ongoing cost of belonging to the Agpac recycling scheme out of its own budget.

“Fonterra owns the farms and we have sharemilkers and managers in place. The response from them has been excellent – everyone is getting on board.”

Brendan Attrill says the Agpac system is practical and easy to use. The silage wrap recycling programme is part of Fonterra’s greater environmental and recycling efforts.

**CAPTION: Kevin Ellis is manager of Orton Farm, the last of Fonterra’s 22 farms to join Agpac’s waste plastic recycling scheme.**

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