

NEW WEBSITE HELPS FARMERS COMPLY WITH AGRICULTURAL WASTE REGULATIONS

A website has been launched to disseminate information from the Agricultural Waste Plastics Collection and Recovery Programme.

This Defra BREW funded project aims to research the economics and practicalities of collecting and recycling all farm plastic waste. This programme of work will feed into the development of a producer responsibility scheme for the collection and recovery of non-packaging farm plastics which is currently being developed by Government.

The launch of the website www.agwasteplastics.org.uk coincides with new UK-wide waste regulations that prevent the uncontrolled burial and burning of non-natural agricultural wastes.

The website provides a wealth of information for farmers and collectors of agricultural waste plastic. It also includes databases that allow farmers to search for collectors of waste plastic in their area, and for collectors to search for appropriate reprocessors of agricultural waste plastics. Visitors to the website can also register for news updates to keep informed of project developments.

Further information will be added to this new website over the autumn and winter, including details of trials, and ultimately Good Practice Guides for the collection and recycling of agricultural waste plastics.

Visit www.agwasteplastics.org.uk for more information.

ENDS

For further information contact:

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Notes to Editors**• About the Programme**

The Secretary of State for the Environment has awarded the Agricultural Waste Stakeholders Forum (AWSF) £1million of BREW* funding to develop a programme of work to look at how farm plastic waste can best be collected and recovered.

This programme of work will feed into the development of a producer responsibility scheme for the collection and recovery of non-packaging farm plastics which is currently being developed by Government.

The Programme proposes to examine current collection and reprocessing activities in the UK in order to establish where there are limited or no collectors currently operating and identify barriers impeding the growth of collection schemes. A small number of pilot projects will subsequently be run to trial expansion opportunities and efficiency improvements, that if successful, will help inform the development of a more comprehensive and sustainable collection coverage across the UK.

The Programme will be delivered between April 2006 and June 2007. Information collated and analysed will be reported through the project website www.agwasteplastics.co.uk, using databases, material specifications, cases studies and Good Practice Guides.

** Defra's BREW Programme recycles revenue generated through Landfill Tax to fund a range of free services and targeted support for businesses.*