



April 30, 2020

For Immediate Release

Launch of the Northern Ontario Plastics Disposal Pilot

The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance and the Northern Caucus of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture are collaborating on a three-year pilot (2020-2022) to improve the end-of-life management of used agricultural plastic. This pilot aims to divert over 500 tons of plastic from current waste management streams and instead recycle or recover into usable products, including fuel, electricity and composite board. This pilot will also provide data on conversion efficiencies & costs as well as best management practices.

To participate in the pilot, farmers can purchase a compactor for use on-farm. Used agricultural plastic will be collected and aggregated into ~900-pound bales, which will then be stored on-farm until an annual or semi-annual collection event. The bales will then be shipped to an end-user, who will recover or recycle the plastic. The farmer is responsible for making a good bale, with support and resources provided through the pilot, and once that bale has been dropped off, all additional costs and logistics are covered.

Agriculture in Northern Ontario is a strong, viable sector. Farm cash receipts have increased from \$182 million in 2006 to \$206 million in 2017. These farm cash receipts support 12,220 jobs and contribute \$587 million in GDP to the provincial economy.

For more information on the pilot, please visit <https://www.nofia-agri.com/plastics-disposal-pilot> or contact:

Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance

Emily Potter, *Executive Director*

emily.nofia@gmail.com

705-650-2820

Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Stephanie Vanthof, *Member Service Representative Zone 15 East (Northeastern Ontario)*

stephanie.vanthof@ofa.on.ca

705-622-6049

The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) is a FedNor funded nonprofit organization focussed on developing strategies and partnerships to ensure the advancement of agricultural research and innovation in northern Ontario.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing 38,000 farm family members across the province. The Northern Caucus is a collaboration of the ten Federations of Agriculture across Northern Ontario.