

## AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

# NEWSLETTER

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association  
through a grant from the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.*

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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

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### **Container recycling a simple, easy, important way to protect Michigan's environment**

As our industry's focus on protecting the air, land and Great Lakes continues, farmers and agronomy advisors statewide are encouraged to participate in the Michigan Pesticide Container Recycling Program, which provides cost-free recycling opportunities for pesticide users to properly and safely dispose of containers.

The program is a unique, public-private partnership that provides a destination for used pesticide containers other than landfills. Since 1993, more than 1.5 million pounds of rinsed plastic pesticides containers have been turned into hazardous waste drums, speed bumps, construction site mats, sound barriers and "new" pesticide containers. The containers are received and recycled by a private vendor, Container Services Network (CSN), working in partnership with MDARD.

The program accepts all pesticide containers up to 56 gallon (plastic) drums under the regular program. There are three easy steps you must complete before recycling containers:

1. Remove any metal or other loose pieces on larger containers as well as any caps and loose labeling from any container, in general.
2. Triple-rinse or pressure rinse empty containers immediately after use. The rinse-water can be used in an appropriate diluted tank mix.
3. Store rinsed containers in a dry area away from wells and water supplies until a pick-up can be arranged, or take to a recycling location as soon as possible.

It is important to follow these steps to ensure the containers will be accepted for recycling. MDARD or CSN will distribute plastic bags to interested businesses for collection of five gallon and smaller containers to facilitate storage and keep containers clean until pickup. These bags typically handle approximately 50 - 2 ½ gallon empty, cleaned jugs.

There are two ways that a participating business/collection site can request a pickup of stored, clean containers. First you can contact the current vendor, Container Services Network (CSN) directly at 866-225-6629; second, you can contact MDARD at 517-284-5612, or visit the program's website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/pesticidecontainerrecycling>.

Working together, we can ensure pesticide containers are properly disposed of, and continue our effort to protect our environment.

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