



# Ag Container Recycling Council

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## News Bits

- **The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA)** held its 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Albuquerque, NM. The ACRC was a Gold Sponsor, an exhibitor, and made two presentations in the technical sessions. ACRC Executive Director Ron Perkins reviewed *State Regulations re; Open Burning of Pesticide Containers* and in a second presentation provided results from ACRC's *Pesticide Packaging Recycling Rate Study*. Perkins reported that the overall recycling rate (including IBCs) for plastic packaging used for liquid formulated pesticide was 45 percent in 2013. Moreover, due to pesticide sales in bulk tankers that is custom applied, only one-third of all pesticide is sold in plastic packaging that is disposed. Other presenters provided stakeholder insights and perspective on Auxin production systems and emerging opportunities, and new EPA Worker Protection standards. All presentations from the conference will be available on the TPSA web site ([www.tpsalliance.org](http://www.tpsalliance.org)) in the near future.



**ACRC Board Member, Kimberly Gilbert (Dow), and Ron Perkins, ACRC, at the ACRC display at 2016 TPSA annual conference.**

- **The ACRC Executive Board** enjoyed a tour of the Interstate Ag Plastics (IAG) HDPE wash line in Button Willow, CA in conjunction with their October meeting in Bakersfield. The tour gave board members a firsthand look at contractor investment in new technology to improve the value of recovered pesticide container plastic. IAG also demonstrated mobile IBC washing equipment capable of cleaning IBC's at the user's site. So that they are reusable. Many thanks to Brad Bittleston, IAG owner and President!



**Interstate Ag Plastics HDPE plastic wash line, Buttonwillow, CA.**

- Through application of its proprietary Risk Assessment Model (RAM), the **ACRC Technical Committee** approved "rebar chairs" as an acceptable end use for washed pesticide container plastic. Rebar chair provide a plastic support system ideal for concrete applications requiring a 4 in. to 5 in. slab, including floors, sidewalks, driveways and many others. Unique fastening systems ensure accurate positioning of rebar to code, during concrete placement.

- ACRC is part of **CropLife International's (CLI) Global Container Management Project Team (CMPT)**, a global advisory group, which brings together the industry's 40+ international container management programs. The CMPT recently developed a number of guidance documents outlining best practices for various criteria ranging from rinsing standards to crisis communications. ACRC current standards largely meet or exceed the CMPT best practices.
- Barry Friesen, General Manager of **CleanFARMS**, Canada's pesticide container recycling program attended the ACRC Executive Board meeting in Albuquerque and updated the ACRC Board on CleanFARMS initiatives including seed and pesticide bag collection, and obsolete pesticide collection.

### Upcoming Meetings

- The ACRC will be participating in the **Federation of NY Solid Waste Association Spring Conference *Strive for Sustainability*** in Bolton Landing, NY May15-18, 2016. The Federation's structure and extensive networking capability are the envy of state and many national solid waste and recycling organizations. Ron Perkins, ACRC Executive Director, will make a presentation describing the crop protection industry's exemplary approach to establishment of a cost effective and sustainable stewardship program. It will provide the audience with a product stewardship planning process that manufacturers/users of other ag plastics can use to implement a cost effective, user friendly and environmental preferable way to recycle, rather than dispose of agricultural plastic products.
- The ACRC will be participating in the **Agricultural Plastics Recycling Conference & Trade Show (APRC 2016)** to be held at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa & Marina in San Diego August 17-19, 2016. APRC is a networking forum bringing Farmers, Nurseries, Agricultural Plastic Manufacturers, Recyclers and Government Officials together to discuss the solutions to the landfilling and open burning of waste agricultural plastics. Persons with responsibilities or interests in recycling ag plastics should benefit from attendance. For more information go to: [agplasticconference.com](http://agplasticconference.com)
- **The ACRC Executive Board** will meet at Monsanto Company on October 12-13, 2016 in St. Louis, MO. The meeting will include standing committee meetings and the Annual Meeting of Members.
- Mark your calendars for the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) Conference** in San Diego, February 7-10, 2017! The ACRC will hold its annual ACRC contractor's meeting and Executive Board meeting at the same venue on February 6-7.

