

Maryland Recycles Empty Pesticide Containers

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Virts, D.V.M., announced the kickoff of the 1998 empty plastic pesticide container recycling program. A total of 30 collection days are scheduled June through September at nine sites located throughout the state.

"The response to this program by farmers, commercial agricultural pesticide applicators, and other pesticide users has been very encouraging the past five years. Large increases in participation have occurred since the container collection program was first offered in 1993 and I am anticipating additional participation in 1998. Because of requests to maintain the program in regional areas throughout the state, we have kept the nine collection sites used in 1997," said Virts.

"In addition, the container recycling program will help us meet the commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Toxics Reduction and Prevention Strategy. Rinsing and recycling empty pesticide containers reduce the potential for contamination of ground water and the Chesapeake Bay while saving valuable landfill space. Since 1993, over 140,000 empty plastic pesticide containers have been inspected, collected and processed. The Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC) will provide a chipper to grind the plastic containers into flakes, which are then transported to a contractor for recycling," said Virts.

Maryland's container recycling program is a combined effort of state, county, and federal agencies and private industry working together to protect the environment. With the cooperation of Mid-Shore Regional Recycling, Kent County Public Works, Wicomico Public Works, Frederick County Bureau of Solid Waste Management, Harford County Public Works, St. Mary's County Public Works, Southern States Oakland Cooperative, Martin's Elevator, Maryland Environmental Service, United States Department of Agriculture, ACRC, and Maryland farmers or pesticide applicators, the program has been effective in reducing the landfill disposal of plastic pesticide containers and in allowing the plastic to be reused.

"With continued cooperation among the participating groups, farmers and pesticide applicators, the program will continue to be successful and will protect the natural resources of the state from potential contamination by pesticides," said Virts.

For additional information, contact Mary Ellen Setting, chief of the Department's Pesticide Regulation Section, (410) 841-5710.

Waddells Build For The Future

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In 1980 they began construction of a free stall barn and over the years they added a new heifer barn, equipment shed, multi-purpose building, and more free stalls. They did most of the work themselves relying on Bob's 25 years of experience in construction.

Rob and Chris were married in 1983 and went into partnership with his parents, Bob and Lorna, in 1985. In 1991 Rob and Chris bought out Bob and Lorna, who are now retired.

Today Rob and Chris own 300 acres of tillable farm land and farm a total of 1,000 acres.

As they look to the future, Rob said, "We are not planning to expand beyond 400 unless one of our children wants to come into the operation."

But, he said, it's too soon to tell, as Josh is 14, Joey's 12, and Katie is only 10.

However, Chris said, "Josh loves farming and he says he's going to farm. He helps out a lot."

"Our goal is a better quality of

life," she said. "I want to be able to spend more time with my kids," Rob said. "Here I can see my kids grow up."

Running a farm the size of theirs requires hired help, and running a profitable business and providing jobs is one of Waddells' goals.

They employ five people full time and five part time. Rob said he sees this as one of the biggest changes he has experienced. "It's more managing people than it used to be."



Workers hurrying to get the new free stall barn finished so Rob and Chris Waddell can begin moving cows in mid-July.

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