



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL  
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JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL  
COMMISSIONER

Date: October 13, 2023  
To: Board Members  
From: John Pietroski  
Subject: Mark Hudson, Ag Container Recycling Council

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Staff reached out to Executive Director, Mark Hudson of the Ag Container Recycling Council, ACRC. The following is a summary of Mark Hudson's comments concerning current pesticide container recycling in Maine. Hudson stated that he had:

- evaluated various options for maximizing consolidated collection in Maine via two options:
  - storage location at Green4Maine (formerly known as Loring AFB), and
  - on site storage at the 3 primary retailers in northern Maine (CaroVail, Helena and Nutrien)
- been in regular contact with the above three retailers regarding the preference of approach here,
- distributed rinsing best practices and container acceptance criteria to the grower community through the Maine Potato Board and the above three retailers last spring, in anticipation of the growing/container collection season,
- provided educational materials to United Ag and Turf/John Deere in Presque Isle for their annual Sprayer Clinic held in June 2023., (BPC staff were able to participate in this and further share our message with growers),
- moved forward with an on-site storage approach at the retail level using shipping containers, and
- ARC provided 12 rolls of large plastic bags that were sent to the three retailers for temporary collection and storage of empty triple-rinsed jugs until the shipping containers are in place.

- ACRC will be in Maine the week of October 16, 2023, and has communicated its schedule with the following:
  - Nutrien – Mapleton
  - Helena – Presque Isle
  - CaroVail – Houlton
  - Cherryfield Farms
- ACRC provided the BPC with sample documents, including:
  - Inspection Checklists (30)
  - Rinsing Best Practices (30)
  - 8-page brochures (5)
  - CLEAN means CLEAN posters (3)

## Summary

In regard to on-site storage at the retail level using storage containers ACRC has contacted multiple vendors and received quotes which were presented CaroVail, Helena and Nutrien and to the ACRC board for review. Hudson has also been asked to give a presentation at the 2024 Agricultural Trade Show in January 2024.

Mark Hudson has offered to give an update on pesticide container recycling and answer Board questions at the December 1, 2023, Board of Pesticide Control Meeting.