



Submitted photo

Standing in front of the load of twine recently shipped to Minnesota, MVC sustainable agricultural specialist Amber Hines (third from left) joins Don Reid (CAO, Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission), David Whitfield (waste reduction specialist, Alberta Environment), Christina Seidel (executive director, Recycling Council of Alberta) and Jack Walton (MVRWMC operations supervisor).

First load of recycled twine makes history

JENNIFER ISAAC
MVG Staff

Mountain View Regional Waste Commission (MVRWC) recently made history for being the first Canadian organization to ship a load of reclaimed agricultural twine to a Minnesota-based company.

The 38,900 pound shipment – which represented five years' worth of collection – was loaded on Feb. 7 for delivery to Bridon Cordage, where it will be recycled into a product called Revolver Twine, consisting of mostly post-consumer baler twine.

"This demonstrates that we are leaders in the recycling of agricultural plastic," said Al Molnar, chair of the MVRWC.

The commission's twine collection program oper-

ates in conjunction with Mountain View County, which started an incentive program that pays residents to bring in their agricultural plastics.

"Each year of this program, Mountain View County has paid \$100 to the first 100 county residents who bring in 100 kilograms of clean agricultural plastic in a clear plastic bag," added Molnar. "This program has resulted in the recycling of approximately 20,000 kilograms of agricultural plastics per year."

The commission was paid \$5,100 for the shipment, which will go back into their operations account.

Recyclers have been seeking solutions for twine for many years, said Dave Whitfield, regional waste reduction specialist with

Alberta Environment and Water and a member of a working group on agricultural plastics, established by the Recycling Council of Alberta. MVRWC is a part of that group.

"The concerns have been about collection at the farm level, contamination from dirt and manure, moisture levels and cross-border shipping," Whitfield said. "Any material that will be used in the manufacturing of another product – as virtually all recycled materials are – must meet tight specifications."

Material not meeting specifications, he said, will be rejected at a substantial cost to the community shipping it.

The significance of the recent shipment by the commission is that it has proven the challenges can

be met and it opens the door for other communities to do the same."

Used twine can be a problematic material, he added.

"On the farm, it wraps around moving parts of equipment and can be ingested by livestock," Whitfield said. "At landfills, it wraps in equipment mechanisms and causes substantial down-time."

Burning twine is not a solution, because it's illegal and dangerous both to human health and the environment, he noted.

"Programs like the one operated by the MVRWC provide farm operators with a safe management option that allows recovery of a resource," he said.

The program also keeps plastic out of the waste stream and extends the life

of the landfill, Molnar noted.

Several municipalities throughout Alberta have been collecting twine and other agricultural plastics, said Whitfield. "None, to my knowledge, have collected the amount that Mountain View County has," he said. "Rocky View County has also been a pioneer in this area and has contributed to this project through development of successful techniques for on-farm collection. Interest is growing rapidly and I understand that a number of communities in northern Alberta have started collection programs."

Access to a recycler in North America helps add stability to the market for twine.

"The added advantage is that the twine is being used

in the manufacture of new twine, which local producers will be able to purchase," Whitfield said. "It is only through purchasing a recycled product that we make recycling sustainable."

He added that Bridon Cordage was "very happy" with the quality of the material. "They're looking forward to receiving more."

Mountain View County's incentive program will begin again on April 1.

"The plastic has to be dropped off at the Olds Transfer Station," said Molnar. "This has been an annual program for the past five years, but is dependent on the county running the program. However, MVRWMC will accept the plastic, regardless."

NEED A FARM BUILDING?

SQUARED TIMBER POST FRAME BUILDINGS



STANDARD MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

- 6x6 treated posts @ 8'0" O.C.
- double 2x10 beam
- 2x6 wall purlins - between posts
- Truss rafters at 48" O.C.
- 2x4 rafter web ties, roof purlins & gable strapping
- 2x12 headers
- 2x8 door jamb
- 20x14 - TD134 - R16 Sect door & chain hoist
- Insulated steel walk-in door c/w lockset
- High tensile steel colored siding
- Galvalume roof and ridge cap
- Colored steel trim mouldings
- Required fasteners and construction hardware
- Design wall height of 16'
- 2 - 48x36 Dual Glaze PVC Slider windows

Economical straight wall construction combining economical wood framing with the maintenance freedom and beauty of a steel exterior. Post frame buildings provide strong, cost efficient storage and shelter for machinery, grain, hay & livestock. Choose from a rainbow of colors for walls and gables. Roofing is pollution resistant, attractive galvalume finish. For extra strength and appearance we use 29 ga. high tensile Tuff-rib pattern Canadian steel.

40' x 64'

\$16,995

36'0 - 14' STUD WALL SHOP



Our feature packed 36' square by 14' high shop materials package includes:

- Foam Sill Gasket
- 2x6 PWF Btm. Plate
- 2x6 SPF #2 Top Plates
- 2x6 SPF #2 Studs @ 16" o.c.
- 2x10 & 2x12 SPF #2 Headers
- 2x8 OH Door Jamb
- 1x4 Wall Strapping 24" o.c.
- 4/12 Pitch 48" o.c. Truss Rafters
- Rafter Web Ties
- 2x4 Roof Purlins 24" o.c.
- 2 - 4'x3' Dual Glaze Glider Windows c/w Screens
- 29 ga. Hi-Tensile Galvanized Roof Cladding & Accessories
- 29 ga. Hi-Tensile Coloured Wall Cladding & Accessories
- Coloured Metal O.H. Door Jamb Cover
- Construction Hardware
- 20' x 12' TD134 (R16) Insul. O.H. Door
- c/w Chain Hoist
- Insul. Steel Walk-In Door & lock
- R30 Blow-in Ceiling insul.
- R20 Manville Formaldehyde-free Battwall Insulation
- 6 Mill CGSB Poly V.B.
- 7/16" OSB Interior Wall Sht.
- 29 ga. Coloured Steel Ceiling Finish

Materials Package Price includes: Insulation, Ceiling and Int. Wall Finish & Overhead Door **\$13,995**

ALL SEASON PORTABLE SHELTERS

PREBUILT



Protect your livestock with one of our ALL SEASON Portable Shelters

With galvanized steel roof to protect from above and pressure treated 4x6 skids from below, treated plywood sheathed wall ALL SEASON component framed shelters provide rugged, long service protection in pasture and pen.

ALL SEASON Small Shelter . . . \$590
(8'x16' - 4' high rear wall, 5' high at front)

ALL SEASON Large Shelter . . . \$790
(8'x16' - 7' high rear wall, 8' high at front)



PENHOLD Building Supplies

403-886-4440 or 403-350-5611

Open Weekdays 8:00 - 5:30 Saturdays 8:00 - 5:00