

Farm Plastics Recycling in Ireland a shared success story

Liam Moloney
CEO
IFFPG

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Presentation Outline

- Brief Background
- Obligated Products & Funding
- Service to Farmers & Results
- Challenges & Opportunities

Brief Background



A Growing Problem

- Massive increase in silage production in 1980s & 90s
- Corresponding increase in plastics waste
- Problem for farmer & environment
- Obvious that a solution was required



Source: DEFRA

The Solution

- Farm plastics producers and farming representatives (IFA) came together
- Irish Farm Film Producers' Group (IFFPG) established
- IFFPG is an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme
- Government introduced legislation to promote recycling

Farm Plastics Regulations



Producers can join an EPR scheme
(IFFPG)

IFFPG currently has 43 members

Arrange for recycling customers'
waste (self-compliance)

Currently no self-compliers

Corporate Governance

- Scheme is owned by members (producers) and the IFA
- 11 person board includes all key stakeholders:
 - Independent chairperson
 - 6 producer representatives
 - 2 farming representatives
 - 2 independent representatives
- Scheme is not for profit
- Complies with code of corporate governance for EPR schemes in Ireland

Obligated Products & Funding

Obligated Products



Funding Breakdown

Income	€ / tonne	€ million	%
Producer recycling levy	160	3.52	62
Farmer collection charges	61	2.2	38
Total	221	5.72	100

Service to Farmers & Results



Service to Farmers



225 Bring Centres
April- August
90% of total
collections
€70/t



3,000 Farmyard
Collections
All year
10% of total
collections
€120/t

Collections Results



Farm Plastics Packaging Wastes

- Collected through a sister company
- Fertiliser bags, feed bags & agricultural drums
- €10 per half tonne bag
- 1,100 tonnes collected 2022



Recycling

- All stretch film / silage sheeting covers are recycled
- 45% recycled in Ireland / 55% recycled in Europe
- Netting sent for recovery
- Biggest cost and challenge for the scheme



Reasons for IFFPG's Success

1. Agri-food sector in Ireland is important and demands the service
2. Private waste sector unable to provide a reliable & sustainable service
3. Only EPR scheme can provide a sustainable service
4. IFFPG has the support of the key stakeholders (producers & farmers)
5. IFFPG is the most convenient and cost-effective solution for Irish farmers
6. Recycling is simply a mainstream activity for Irish farmers

Challenges & Opportunities



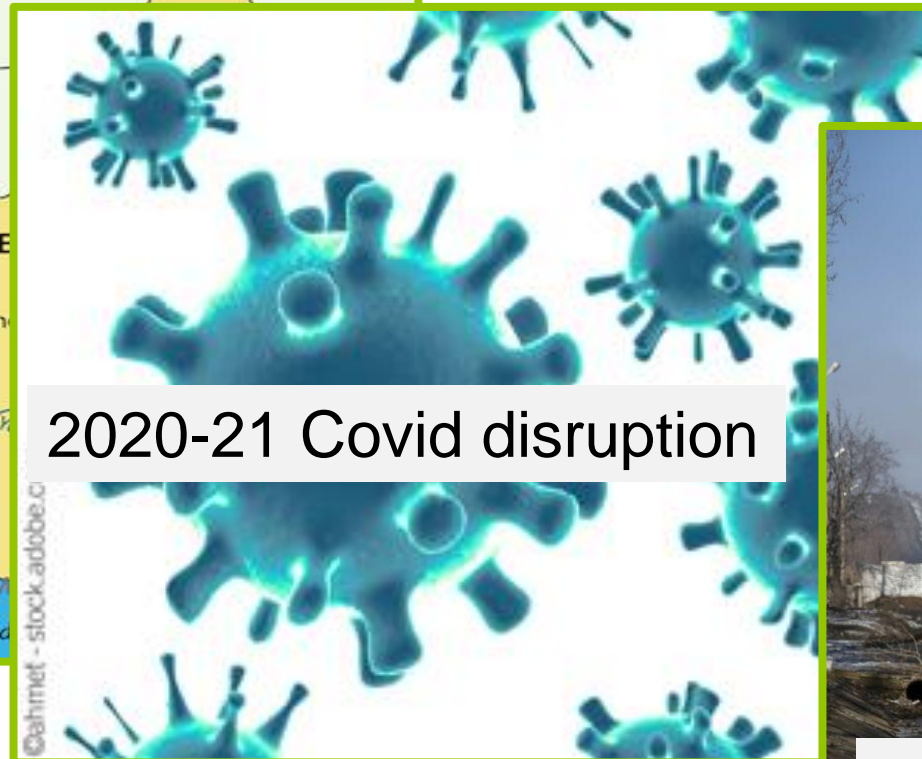
Edward Duffard

Market difficulties

2018 Market closed



2020-21 Covid disruption



2022 War in Ukraine



Contamination

- Progress at eliminating large pieces of contamination
- 50% contamination level (water, silage stones etc.)
- Need to reduce contamination
- Reduced costs and carbon footprint benefits



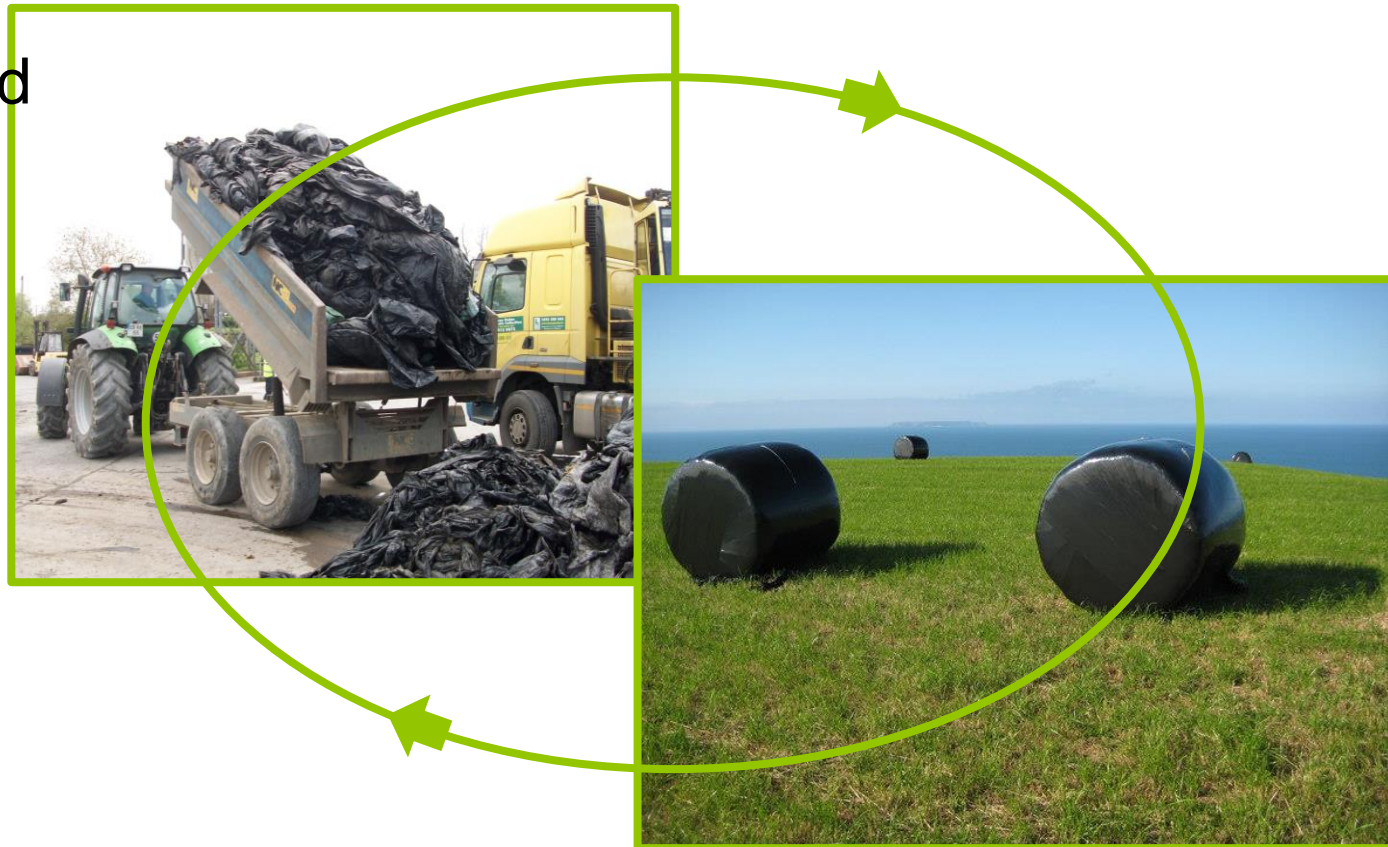
Netting – no recycling outlets

- Committed to growing collection
- Waste currently going to cement kilns
- Much prefer to recycle this waste
- Hoping for a recycling sector to develop (Recyouest & Healix)



Circular economy

- Working to bring about a closed loop situation
- Convert waste back into farm plastics products
- Benefits to environment and supply chain
- IFFPG acting as a facilitator



Shared responsibility the key

