KTN Seminar.
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- Recycling waste farm plastics.
- What are the annual waste arisings?
- How much waste farm plastics does the UK currently recycle — where does it go?
- Can we increase recycling rates?

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What constitutes waste farm plastics?

- Used silagewrap and pit Cover.
- Used greenhouse films and Polytunnel Films.
- Crop cover.
- Rigid plastic containers and fertiliser sacks.
How much waste farm plastics is available for recycling?
- Average annual UK POM 64,000 tonnes

How much of this recovered for recycling?
- 13,000 tonnes (this includes illegal exports).

**THUS**
- 51,000 tonnes is either landfilled, illegally buried or burned. (England, Wales and NI only)
- **All UK agricultural and horticultural businesses have a legal ‘duty of care’ to correctly dispose of these materials.**
Why are waste farm plastics different to other waste plastic films?

- Contamination levels — non-plastic materials e.g. soil, agricultural wastes.
- Crop Cover — 90%
- Greenhouse and Polytunnel films — 20%
- Silage Films — 50%
Do UK waste farm plastics recycling facilities currently exist?

- Yes — current reprocessing capacity circa 35,000 TPA.
- However, at current collection rates this capacity is likely to be dramatically reduced in the next 18 months.
- Collection schemes for waste farm plastics cover all areas of the UK except the north of Scotland.
- Most UK retailers operate accreditation schemes which include recycling of waste plastics.
Summary

- Waste farm plastics are a valuable resource.
- When recycled the recovered material is used to manufacture refuse sacks, agricultural and construction films, wood substitutes for furniture and fencing.
- This fits Government agenda for developing the circular economy.

What can UK businesses do?

- Collect waste farm plastics, especially polytunnel and greenhouse films.
- Try to keep these materials as clean as practical.
- Contact a local collector, ask for written confirmation the collected material will be recycled in the UK.