

North Carolina Container Recycling Successes and Challenges



North Carolina's Pesticide Container Recycling Prog.

- In 1990, Pitt County became the 1st county to implement an organized container recycling program
- Since 1993, NC ranks 8th in the US by recycling over 3.3 million pounds of pesticide containers
- In 1995, the first NC Dept of Agriculture Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund grants were awarded to 42 counties.

Yearly activities

- ◆ On-site audits by pesticide inspectors
- ◆ Annual reports from counties
- ◆ Financial audit of recycling programs
- ◆ USAg Recycling Inc. services sites
- ◆ PETF Grant budget approved by NC Pesticide Board
- ◆ PETF Grant proposals are requested from counties and offered to them

Successful recycling programs

- Support from local leaders
- Grants from the NC Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund
- Sites in high use areas
- Training and outreach
- Staff that inspects containers for acceptability
- Service by recycling contractor

Support from local leaders

- Cooperative Extension
- Farmers
- Commercial applicators
- Solid waste
- Pesticide dealerships
- Farm Bureau
- County commissioners
- University & Dept of Ag research farms
- State Dept of Transportation

Grants from NC PETF

- Storage containers, shelters, etc.
- Signage
- PPE
- Pressure rinse nozzles
- Outreach materials

Sites in high use areas

- Convenient to large farming areas
- Potential for a lot of recycling



Training and outreach

- Schedule training before a new collection site opens
- Conduct training annually
- Use ACRC materials
 - Videos: (1) "Pesticide residue removal for plastic containers" & (2) "Inspecting used pesticide containers for recycling"
 - Brochure: "Recycling works!"

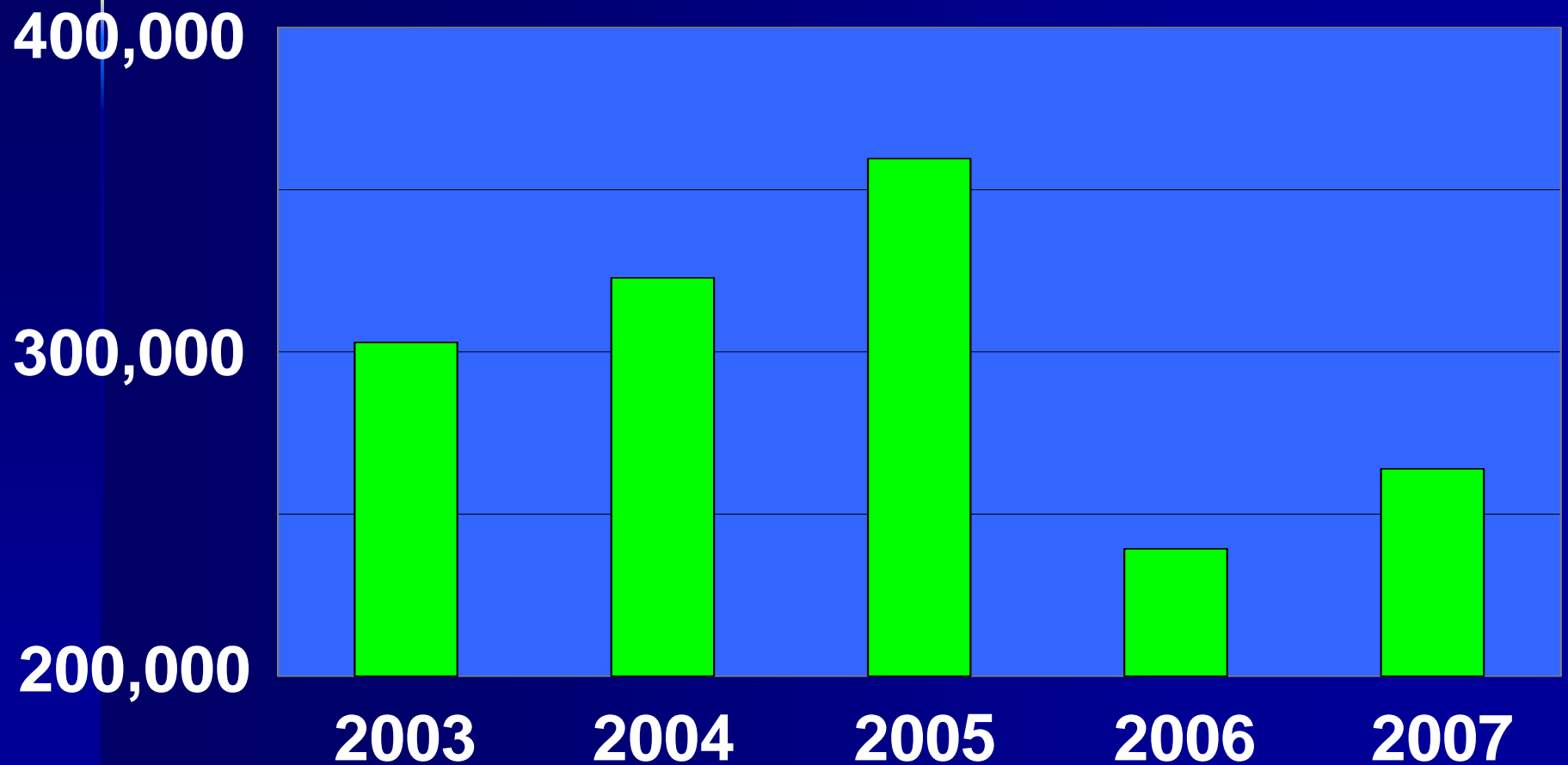
Container inspection

- User properly rinses containers when the contents are all used
- Collection site employee inspects containers to determine if they are acceptable for the ACRC recycling program
- Biggest problems: containers not properly rinsed and trash and non-pesticide containers mixed with acceptable plastic
- Other problems: label booklets and caps left on containers

Recycling contractor service

- ❑ Dependable and timely
- ❑ Pre-notification of collection date
- ❑ Notify the collection site of any service delays
- ❑ Keep State coordinator aware of problems and delays
- ❑ State coordinator informs contractor of complaints and other issues

Pounds of Plastic Pesticide Containers Recycled in NC by Year by USAg Recycling, Inc.



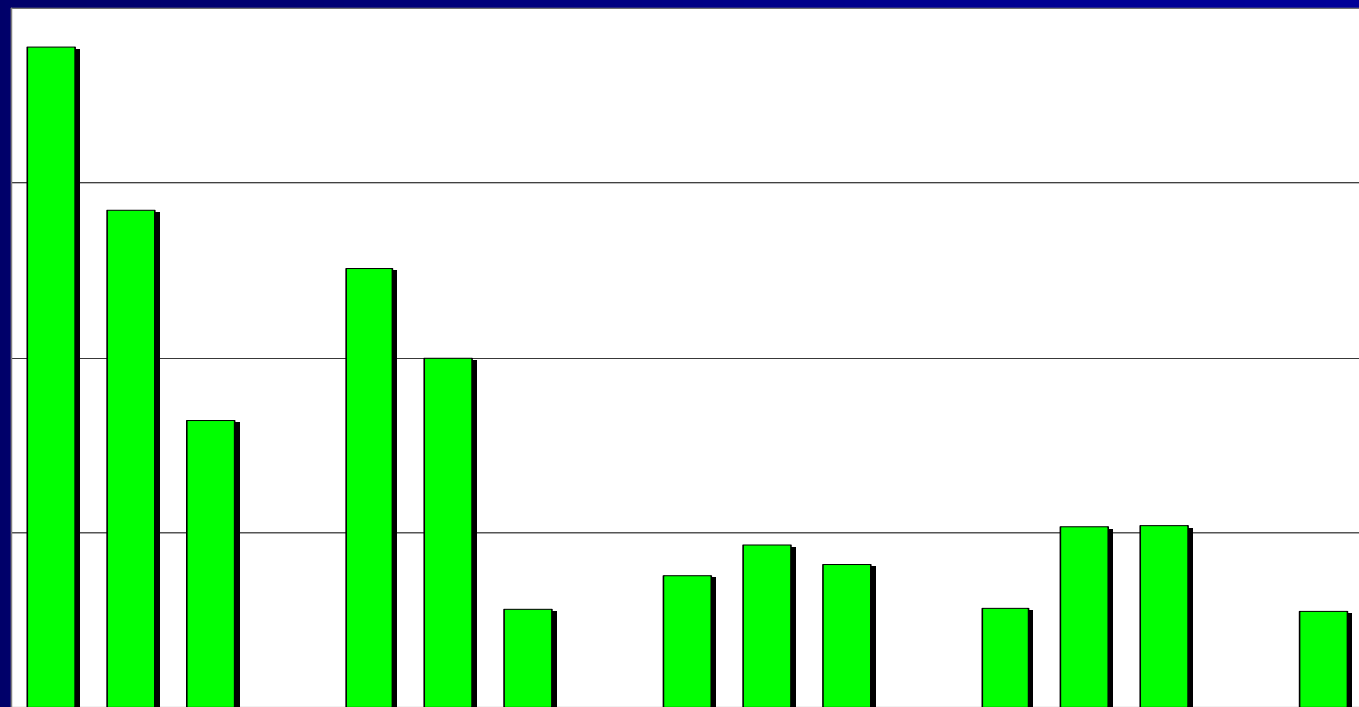
PETF Grant Dollars for Pesticide Container Recycling

200,000

150,000

100,000

50,000



1995-2007

PETF grant proposal guidelines

- ✱ Written container recycling proposals are requested from counties by June and must contain the following:
 - ✱ Existing program for disposing or recycling empty plastic pesticide containers
 - ✱ Proposed new or expanded program
 - ✱ Itemized budget list
 - ✱ Letters of support

PETF proposal review

- Team reviews each proposal to determine if a grant should be offered.
- Maximum grant is \$12,500.
- If proposed items can be purchased with less money, the team will reduce the amount of the grant.

PETF budget proposal for 2008

- \$51,875 - county government sponsored plastic pesticide container recycling programs
- \$5,000 - promotional materials
- \$3,125 - John Smith Awards for outstanding pesticide container recycling programs
- Total request - \$60,000

Lenoir County – 1st Place John L. Smith Pesticide Container Recycling Award



- Mark Keene CES
- 6 collection sites at solid waste convenience centers
- Open 6 days/week
- Over 7,600 pounds recycled during 1st year of operation

Martin County – 2nd Place John L. Smith Pesticide Container Recycling Award



- Lareo Reddick CES
- Collection site at landfill
- Open 1st & 3rd Wednesday Apr-Oct by appt
- ~15,000 pounds recycled during 6th year of operation



New challenge in 2009

- North Carolina Solid Waste statute that prohibits the disposal in landfills of any rigid plastic container from 8 oz to 5 gal in size (does not include motor oil containers) [GS 130A-309.10 (f)(11)]
- Containers not properly prepared for recycling and commingled with all types of plastic that may be used for non-industrial products could create problems

Questions & Comments