



**Illinois Fertilizer &
Chemical Association**
Supply • Service • Stewardship

IFCA Illinois Mini-Bulk Recycling Project 2005 – 2010

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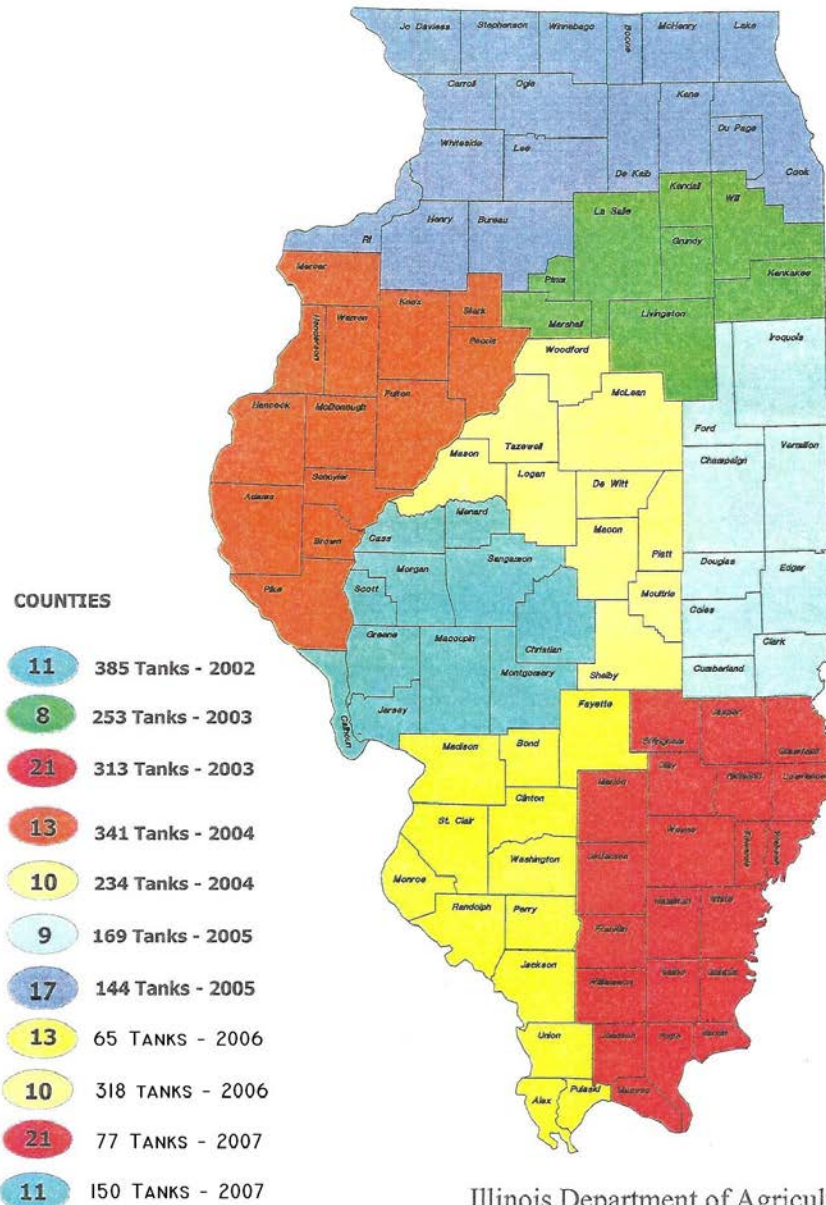


Program Parameters

- First IFCA Mini-Bulk Effort was - 2002
- Yearly program began in 2005 due to requests by members for assistance with old tanks accumulating
- Divided the State of IL into 8 Regions
- Conducted 1-2 collections per region each year; required tanks to be cut up

Past Mini Bulk Collections

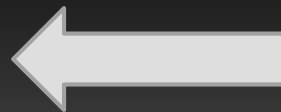
MINI-BULK CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM



Completing the Loop

2009 IFCA Mini-bulk recycling initiative

Our Major Partner: FarmChem



IFCA Results 2002 - 2010

- Retailers had to pre-register the tanks and list registrant
- Collected 3149 Tanks
- Worked with Tri-Rinse on Transport & Billing
- Took a Year off in 2008. **And what happened?.....**



A photograph showing two large, rectangular metal tanks, likely for industrial liquids or gases, situated in a dense, green forest. The tanks are made of corrugated metal and have a grid-like structure on their sides. They are positioned on a forest floor covered with green vegetation and fallen branches. The background is filled with tall trees and thick foliage, creating a natural setting for the industrial equipment.

State Park near Ottawa, IL, 2008; Bad Image
for Industry no Matter Who the Culprit Was!

**Note – IFCA went and got these tanks out of
the park and recycled them**

2009 Project a Larger Effort: Why?

- IFCA Members Continued to Request Recycling Options
- Program Needed To Help Remove Obsolete Mini-Bulks (Portable Refillable Containers) by 2011

2009 Project a Larger Effort: Why?

- IFCA Member GROWMARK Offered Route Trucks to assist in collections
- IFCA Board of Directors Deemed this a **Significant Membership Need** and Dedicated Staff and Financial Backing to Make it Happen

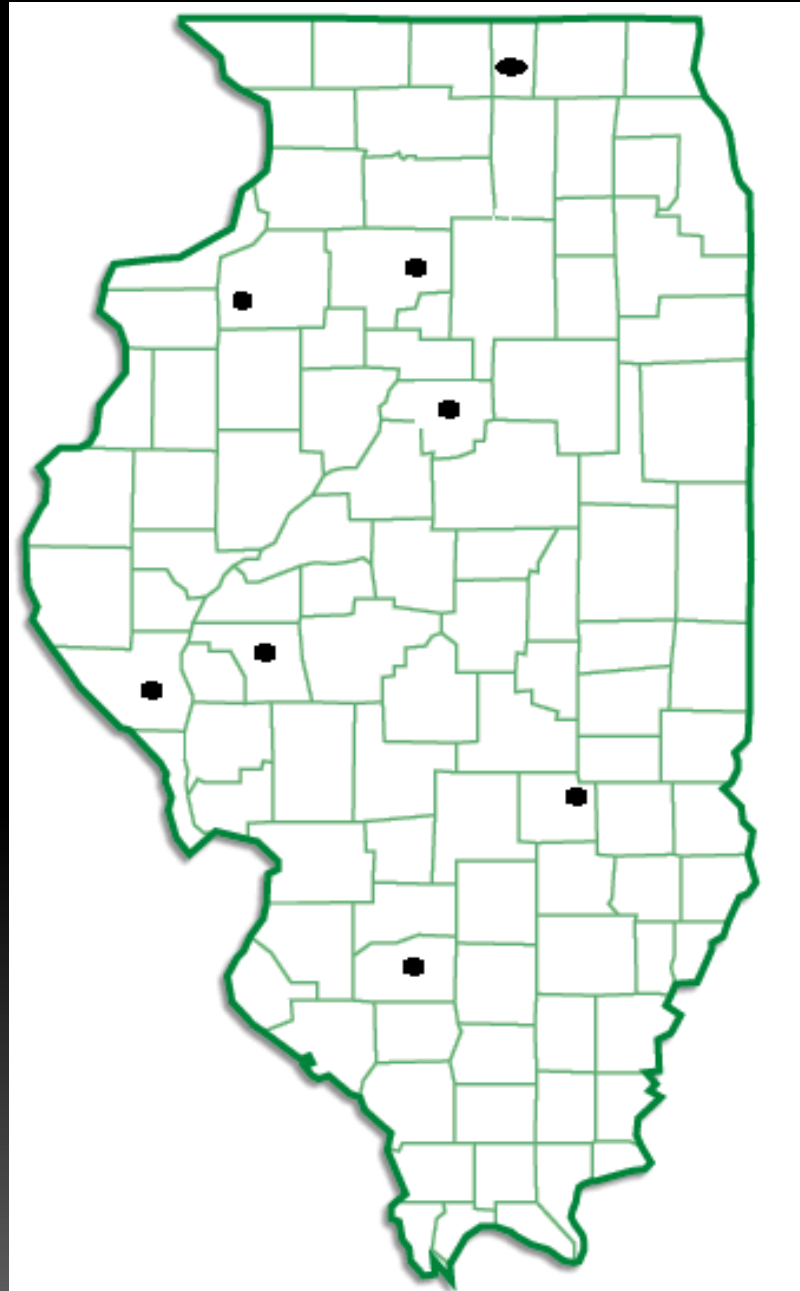
Program Management

- IFCA Surveyed Members to Determine Volume of Tanks and Volunteers for Collection Sites
- Asked Registrants asking them to consider sponsoring tanks from their company
- Requested inspection assistance from IL Dept. of Agriculture

Program Management

- Program details mailed to all IFCA retail locations in July with tank registration form and cleaning instructions
- In consultation with FarmChem, estimated cost of \$45 per tank for transport, washing, chipping, transport to Texas

Example - Collection Sites



Locations and Tanks Collected

- Effingham Equity, Montrose, IL—410 Tanks
- AgriPride FS, Nashville, IL—130 Tanks
- Conserv FS, Caledonia, IL—199 Tanks
- FS Distribution, Alpha, IL—245 Tanks
- Ag View FS, Princeton, IL—126 Tanks
- Two Rivers FS, Pittsfield, IL—359 Tanks
- Lincoln Land FS, Jacksonville, IL—423 Tanks
- Evergreen FS, Minonk, IL—376 Tanks

Program Participants

- 10 Companies Volunteered To Host Collection Sites
- IFCA Followed Up - Decided on 8 Collection Sites
- IFCA worked with FS Distribution in Alpha, IL to schedule pickups at member facilities throughout Illinois to bring tanks to a collection site

Program Participants

- Approximately 65 IFCA Ag Retail Members Participated in Recycling Program
- This consists of only 10% of IFCA Members who participated in the recycling program

Pictures of Program



Jacksonville, IL

Toluca, Illinois



Tanks Were Unloaded, Inspected and shipped to FarmChem



Dept of Ag Participated



The Inspection Line

IDA Inspectors



Retailers ID'd Tanks



Unclean tanks were rejected



At a Few Sites We Had Lots of Help



At Most Sites We Didn't!



2009 Results

- The IFCA program in collected and inspected just under **3,149** obsolete mini-bulks (portable refillable containers)
- **31 were rejected** (just 1%)



Steps to completing the loop @ FarmChem in Floyd, Iowa



Step 1- Tanks are stripped of metal,
and prepped into 18” or less squares

Step 2 – Pieces are fed into a commercial
plastic granulator and brought down to a
3/8” grind.



Step 3 – granules are air conveyed into bulk
Bags and prepared for transportation



Steps to Complete the Loop



Step 4- Granules are brought down to 3/16” grind and run through a wash line in preparation for end use marketing

Step 5 – Washed grind is air conveyed back into bulk bags for transportation to ACRC approved end use customer



Step 6 – Plastic is blended at field tile manufacturer and made ready for its next role in agriculture

Program Summary

- Organized by the IFCA
- Collected 3149 tanks at locations across IL
- 200 tanks were “orphans”
- Processed at FarmChem's Floyd, Iowa facility.
- IFCA financed the project upfront at a cost of **\$100,800** but received reimbursement (80%) from retailers and registrants



IFCA suspended the minibulk collection program in 2012 following the USEPA PRC Rules and prevalence of recyclers entering the marketplace.

Thank you

Illinois Department of Agriculture Pesticide Container Recycling Program

2004 – 2015

