



P/PCLeM/MAR/01.

13 September 2018

Connétable M. K. Jackson
Chairman
Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St. Helier
JERSEY JE1 1DD

Dear Connétable Jackson

Re: Plastic Use in Agriculture

1. Potato Polythene

Jersey growers cover approximately 50% of the Jersey Royal Potato crop with polythene covers to promote earliness through (1) an increase in soil temperature and (2) soil conditioning; some frost protection.

Most growers re-use about half of the polythene for a second year on potatoes or in the same year, on other crops. However, any small pieces and corners of fields are only used once.

In recent years it has been easy to find companies in the U.K. and Europe to recycle all the polythene but this year it is proving more difficult.

It may be that the move to reduce plastic use generally is having an unintended consequence.

2. Silage / Hay Wraps

These are made from very thin polythene and are used only once. They are disposed of at La Collette.

3. Polythene Tunnel Covers

These have a lifespan of 5 – 10 years depending on the location of the tunnel. These are also disposed of at La Collette.

4. Plastic Packaging for Produce

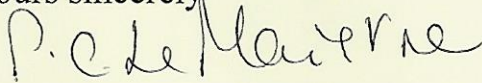
The use of plastic for packaging produce is driven by the customers, usually U.K. supermarket retailers but the industry is hopeful that either the use of plastics will decrease or a shift to materials such as corn starch will take place.

5. Chemical Containers

These are nearly all plastic. They are taken for disposal at Bellozanne as this is a legal requirement.

I hope that the above information is useful.

Yours sincerely



PETER C. LE MAISTRE
PRESIDENT

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