Hiland Dairy Springfield, MO Facility:
A Sustainability Case Study on Compacting Plastic Recyclables

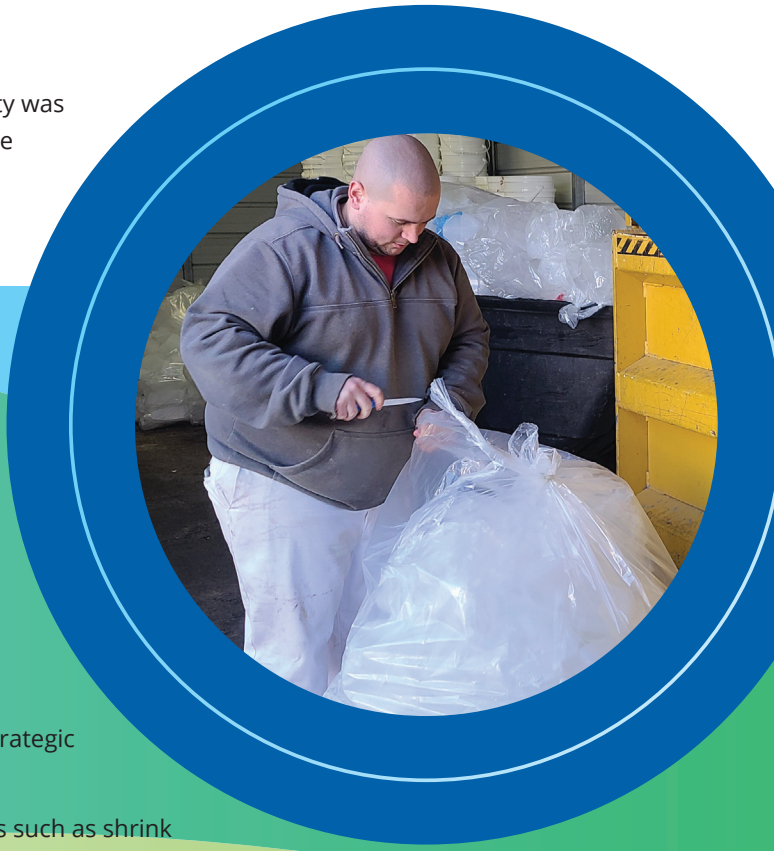
Overview

Hiland Dairy's Springfield facility has implemented a sustainability initiative by installing a plastic baler designed specifically for compacting recyclable plastic waste. The Springfield operation bottles an average of 450,000 gallons and 300,000 half-gallons of milk weekly, producing a considerable amount of plastic waste, including packaging materials and discarded plastic bottles. These bottles may be rejected due to impurities, malformations during molding, or improper filling on the production line. Previously, the unusable bottles were bagged and transported to a recycling facility multiple times weekly.

By using the new plastic baler to compress and bundle the plastic waste, Hiland Dairy reduces the space the plastic waste occupies at the facility, optimizing its waste management processes.

Initiative

The installation of the plastic baler at Hiland Dairy's Springfield facility was driven by a commitment to reducing the space occupied by the waste at the plant and creating a new revenue stream by capturing more recyclable material. The baler can compact approximately 2,000 pounds of plastic per week, converting the unusable packaging into profitable recyclable material and reducing the number of trips to the recycler each week.



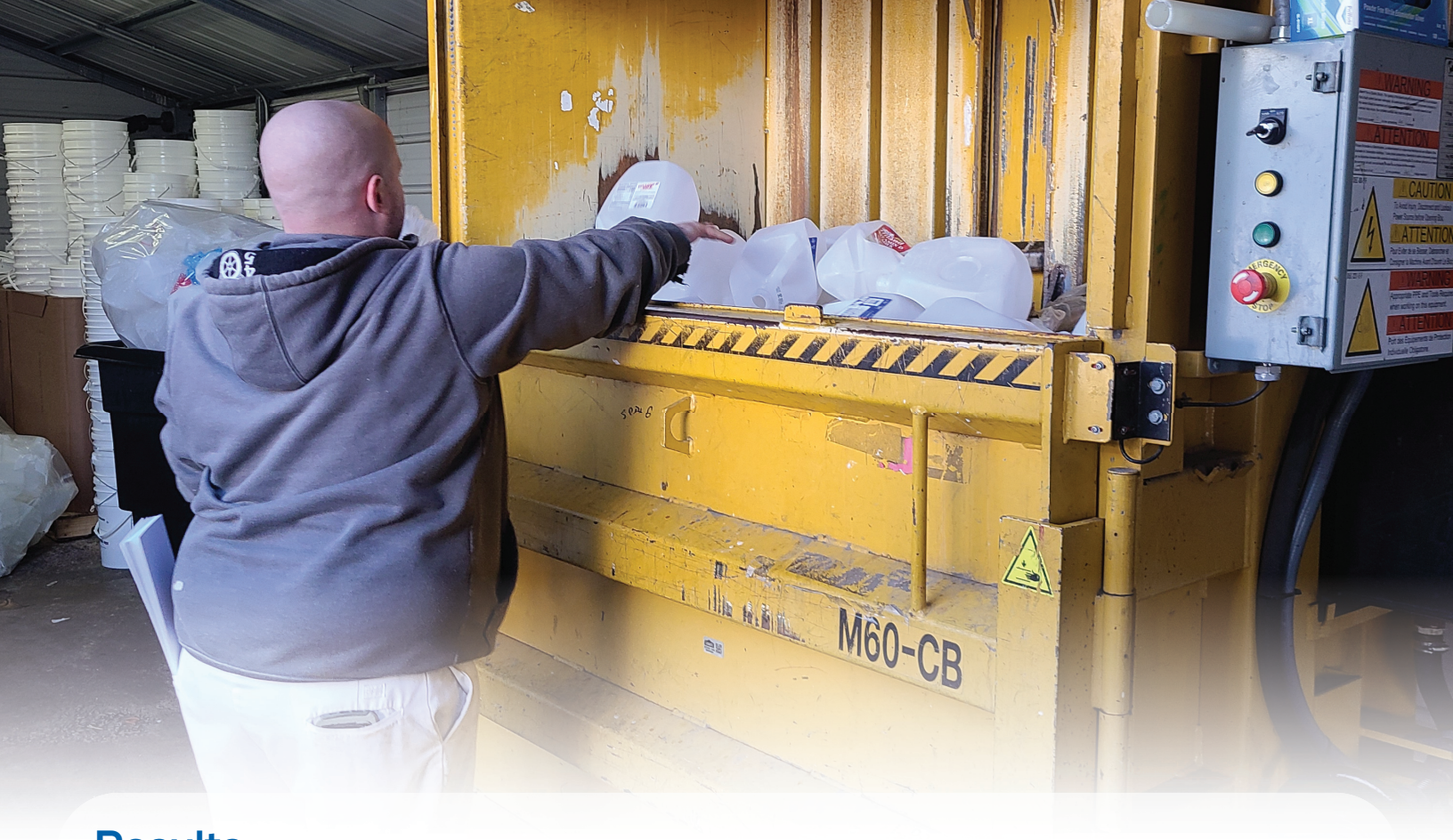
Before the baler's introduction, plastic jugs and other waste were collected in large volumes, taking up precious plant space and requiring regular driving trips to recycle. The new process ensures that all plastic waste is compressed and directed to recycling, eliminating unnecessary trips and reducing the space necessary to store it until the trip.

Implementation

As a leader in the dairy industry, Hiland Dairy is dedicated to incorporating sustainable practices. Installing a plastic baler was a strategic investment that aligns with the company's sustainability objectives.

The baler efficiently compresses plastic milk jugs and other materials such as shrink wrap and plastic bags, reducing waste volume space in the plant and facilitating fewer trips to the recycler. This operational enhancement represents a step toward achieving both environmental and economic goals.

Hiland DAIRY FOODS FARMER OWNED



Results

- **Environmental Impact:** The baler reduces weekly trips to the recycler, lowering the fuel cost associated with waste disposal. With approximately 2,000 pounds of plastic compacted each week, the facility has decreased the precious space needed to store the plastic waste until the trips can be made to the recycler
- **Economic Benefit:** Recycling the plastic waste contributes to the bottom line.
  - Generates $300 in monthly revenue from recyclable bales
  - Saves $500 per month by eliminating one weekly haul
  - Saves an additional $100 per month by also including plastic bags and shrink-wrap recyclables in the process
- **Operational Efficiency:** This initiative has improved waste management at the Springfield facility, streamlined operations, and set a precedent for future sustainability efforts throughout the company.

The introduction of a plastic baler for compacting recyclable plastic waste at Hiland Dairy's Springfield facility represents a significant step forward in sustainable business practices. *By collecting more recyclables in the plant, reducing emissions associated with waste transportation, and generating revenue from recyclable materials, Hiland Dairy showcases the practicality and benefits of sustainability initiatives.*

To learn more about Hiland's sustainability efforts, visit ***hilanddairy.com/sustainability***.