

How To Get Paid For Used Poly Twine

Terry Van Kampen is helping farmers who use synthetic twine make money while taking care of a pesky problem. Instead of burning, burying or hauling it to a landfill, customers send it to him to reprocess.

"Synthetic twine can be reprocessed and used in other products," says Van Kampen, I-90 Reprocessing. "We pelletize more than 100,000 lbs. of used twine per week. A lot of it goes into car parts, like the inside of bumpers and such."

Van Kampen and a co-worker got started reprocessing twine for a former employer who made twine. They proposed using reprocessed twine in the twine-making process.

"We were making twine that was about 30 percent recycled poly from used twine," recalls Van Kampen.

When the company was sold, Van Kampen purchased the equipment and set up his own company. Today he has 12 employees and a 30,000-sq. ft. facility.

For synthetic twine to be reprocessed, it has to be kept separate from sisal twine, netting,



Terry Van Kampen buys used poly twine by the truckload and reprocesses it. He currently pays about 8¢/lb.

and other materials, including ag plastic. What makes it valuable for reprocessing is that synthetic twine is a single type of polypropylene.

"There are as many as 1,000 different types of polypropylene being used," says Van Kampen. "We go after just one kind - synthetic twine. Plastic netting is a polyethylene. We can't use it."

Once the twine arrives, it is chopped up, washed, dried and pelletized. If contaminated, it has to be picked over. If there is too much non-synthetic twine, it is sent to the landfill.

To retain its value, Van Kampen suggests saving the twine as it is removed from the bale. It should be set aside in a container or at least stored off the ground.

I-90 is currently paying about 8¢ per lb. or more, depending on the distance hauled. Most of the twine Van Kampen receives is gathered within 500 miles of his plant.

"Most people bring it in by the semi load, 40,000 lbs. at a crack," says Van Kampen. "We want more. We often run out of pellets because we can't get enough twine."

He notes that there are a hundred million pounds of twine used every year, and only 5 to 10 percent of it is collected and reprocessed. "There is a great opportunity for people to make money and help reduce waste," says Van Kampen. "We are looking for people to collect twine in their area and



Recycled twine is chopped up, washed, and pelletized for use in other products.

bring it to us. We are always looking for a steady source of used twine. Our goal is to do 5 to 6 million lbs. per year."

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Amazing Open-Pollinated Sweet Corn

"We've been growing this sweet corn for a few years now and it produces great-tasting corn, is resistant to disease, and has good cool soil emergence," says George Weller, Stanstead, Quebec, adding that best of all the corn is open-pollinated so you can save your own seed for planting the next year and get the same quality corn.

The short season bi-color corn matures in 78 to 84 days with 2 to 3 large ears per stalk, each with 14 to 16 rows of kernels with excellent fill to the tips, says Weller.

"I'm 6 ft., 2 in. tall and the corn grows to a couple feet over my head," says Weller, who first got packets of the corn a few years ago from Cornell University. "I've been growing and improving the variety for 3 years now and thought I would make some of the seed available so others could try it."

Send \$18 U.S. (\$24 Canadian) for about 200 seeds, including S&H. You can use Paypal to order at Weller's website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Weller, 4945 Stage Road, Stanstead, Quebec Canada (ph 819 876-2528; gweller@ctq2.org; www.ctq2.org).



"My open-pollinated sweet corn tastes great and is disease-resistant," says grower George Weller.