Preparing Bunker Covers and Silage Bags for Recycling

“It’s become routine to prepare plastic for recycling and there’s no plastic blowing around the fields anymore.”

1. Cutting
Cut a 3-10’ width of bunker cover off of feed, staying safely back from the edge of the feed face. Drop on clean floor of the bunker.

2. Folding
Cross-cut in pieces not exceeding 25-30’ in length. Smaller pieces are easier to handle. Shake off loose feed; leave to “wind dry” if conditions are favorable. Fold lengthwise before folding into pieces that fit on a pallet.

3. Storing
Store on pallets or in crates with weights (to compress) on top. Or use any storage that keeps plastic clean and dry.

Silage Bags
1. Cut 3-10’ pieces off the above ground portion of the bag.
2. Prepare plastic immediately. If it hits the ground, it gets dirty.
3. Fold into pieces that fit on a pallet.
4. Store on pallets or in crates with weights (to compress) on top.

Additional Notes:
- Grit and gravel are the enemy; stains and smears from feed or soil are fine.
- Discard any significantly dirty plastic (or dry and brush dirt and feed off).
- Store the plastic under cover to keep it dry and clean, especially during the winter.
- If bundles of plastic are tied with twine, the twine needs to be removed prior to baling.
- Bunker covers with reinforcement should be baled by itself as there are limited markets.
- Bunker covers with separate oxygen limiting barriers may be baled together.