

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Your Local Farm Shop Can Help You Become Plastic Free

The **Farm Retail Association (FRA)** is encouraging **the public to shop at Farm Shops and Farmers' Markets** to help them reduce their waste.

**Rob Copley** -- owner of **Farmer Copleys** in Pontefract and **Chair of the FRA** said: "A huge number of these farm-to-fork businesses have traditionally had less plastic produce packaging than supermarkets, and many have made an increased effort over the last 12 months. Customers can just choose the produce they want and use paper bags rather than plastic. By reusing produce boxes and egg boxes as well as moving to paper bags, one of our members Minskip Farm Shop in North Yorkshire estimate they have reduced their own waste by 45% since 2017."

Customers are encouraged to bring their own containers to many farm shops, and some have dried goods dispensers for customers to use. FRA member **Milly Stokes** at **Farndon Fields Farm Shop** in Leicestershire says, "We reuse all our produce boxes for customers to carry their shopping home. We also buy bulk dried goods and display them loose in glass jars, our customers can re-fill their own containers. All our deli counter items are wrapped in brown or greaseproof paper. We have had an overwhelming positive response from customers for our recent changes to 100% eliminating single use plastic."

**Rob Copley** agrees: "It is up to retailers to lead the way in reducing waste in store, which makes it easier for customers to reduce their own waste at home. As farmers and retailers, we are all about getting our produce from the field to our customers as quickly as possible and reducing waste along the way is part of our mission."

For more information visit [www.farmretailassociation.co.uk](http://www.farmretailassociation.co.uk)

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**Notes to Editor:**

- The Farm Retail Association (formerly FARMA) is a not-for-profit association of the best real farm shops and real farmers' markets from across the UK. The FRA champions the people and businesses who grow and sell Great British produce.
- The UK recycling rate for Waste from Households (WfH; including IBA metal) was 45.7% in 2017, increasing from 45.2% in 2016. There is an EU target for the UK to recycle at least 50% of household waste by 2020.
- The recycling rate for WfH increased in all UK countries in 2017. The recycling rate for England was 45.2%, compared with 46.3% in Northern Ireland, 43.5% in Scotland and 57.6% in Wales. Northern Ireland saw a 3.0 percentage point increase in the recycling rate in 2017 compared to 2016 which has been attributed to the introduction of mandatory food waste collection from April 2017.
- UK biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) sent to landfill has fallen from approximately 7.8 million tonnes in 2016 (22% of the baseline 1995 value) to around 7.4 million tonnes in 2017 (21% of the baseline 1995 value). The UK is therefore still on track to meet the EU target to restrict BMW landfilled to 35% of the 1995 baseline by 2020.
- Provisional figures for 2017 indicate, 70.2% of UK packaging waste was either recycled or recovered compared to 71.4% in 2016. This exceeds the EU target to recycle or recover at least 60% of packaging waste.

**END**

