



American Crystal Sugar Company

AgNotes



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2018 Crop Summary

This year in the Red River Valley (RRV) of the North, we were subjected to a slightly different spring compared to recent years. Overall, the first half of April was the coldest on record, therefore delaying our planting start date. However, once the cold vacated the RRV, above average temperatures flourished. These warm temperatures combined with an impressive on-farm planting capacity aided in a crop planted in a short timeframe landing right at our 5 and 10 year average planting date of May 5th. Seedbed conditions were overall good with damp conditions in East Grand Forks and Hillsboro Districts with dry soil moisture conditions realized

in southern Moorhead and northern Drayton Districts creating initial erratic crop emergence and varying plant populations in the drier soils. Throughout the growing season, soil conditions were overall drier in the RRV, resulting in low root disease presence. Sugarbeet root maggot pressure was accelerated from the spring heat in the north, expanding their presence further throughout our growing region. Weed control was overall good, however with increasingly new areas confirming glyphosate resistant weed presence primarily Waterhemp, and Common ragweed. We were subjected to a third high pressure Cercospora Leafspot growing season in a row, with continued fungicide resistance concerns again this coming year. Resistance management efforts in the field continue utilizing tank mixes, rotation of chemistries, and increased water volumes in an effort to stave off this damaging leaf disease. Overall, Cercospora Leafspot management was deemed good.

Pre-Harvest was initiated on August 14th with stockpile harvest commencing on October 1st. Stockpile harvest conditions exposed our region to the coldest first half of October dating back to the late 1800's according to historic weather data, with lows recorded in the single digits combined with areas receiving over 12 inches of snow. Several harvest starts and stops were encountered throughout snow and frost events and harvest was called on November 9th due to freezing soil conditions.

September weather was not as conducive for anticipated yield accumulation and little if any growth was realized in October, so overall crop yield fell slightly short of yield estimates, however with better quality compared to last year's crop. At the completion of harvest, the crop yielded 28.9 tons per acre (3rd highest in Company history) with 18.16% sugar and a 1.04 % SLM (Sugar Loss to Molasses), which equates to an RSA (Recoverable Sugar per Acre) of 9,884 lbs., second highest only to last year's record RSA. Stand counts came in at 192 per 100 feet of row, short of last year's record of 206. The 2018 crop in total came in at just over 11.1 million tons received with appreciated cold storage temperatures realized to date.



- Fertility
- Variety Selection
- Stand Establishment
- Weed Control
- Disease & Insect Control
- Harvest

Your Way TO GROW

Challenges and Opportunities for 2019

- Reduced available stored soil water in almost all the RRV a challenge
- Two to 2.5 inches of water per foot of soil is required to recharge typical loam, silt loam and clay textured RRV soils
- Preparing ideal seedbeds with uniform moisture for optimum germination and emergence will be a challenge if dry conditions persist
- With limited fall applied fertilizer, spring applications and timing will be essential
- Need to be proactive with resistant weed management
- If it remains dry, root maggots and root aphids may add increased pressure to the crop
- Continued intense Cercospora Leafspot management is a necessity to keep inoculum levels low



CONTACT YOUR AGRICULTURIST

Contact your American Crystal Agriculturist for the most up-to-date information on issues affecting sugarbeet crops in your area.



For prompt answers to your questions and comments, call and leave a message and Tom Astrup or one of his staff will respond as soon as possible.

**Shareholders:
1-800-633-8941**

2018 Crop Summary

Contract Station	Net Tons Harvested	Yield	Sugar %	SLM %	Rec Sugar/Ton	Rec Sugar/Acre
HILLSBORO	825,228	33.2	17.81	1.03	336	11,155
WAUKON	138,662	30.1	17.38	0.91	329	9,903
ADA WEST	194,680	34.2	17.24	0.98	325	11,115
ADA NORTH	162,892	32.2	17.61	0.96	333	10,723
MIDWAY	258,077	30.0	17.50	1.08	328	9,840
REYNOLDS	545,629	32.2	17.47	0.99	330	10,626
HILLSBORO DISTRICT	2,105,752	32.4	17.66	1.00	333	10,789
MOORHEAD	386,155	29.3	17.66	1.10	331	9,698
HITTERDAL	198,011	32.1	17.41	0.92	330	10,593
LYNCHBURG	156,432	27.4	17.61	1.24	327	8,960
KINDRED	73,630	23.2	16.50	1.27	305	7,076
AMENIA	130,428	31.7	17.65	1.08	331	10,493
PERLEY	262,280	34.6	17.01	1.04	319	11,037
FELTON	300,452	31.1	17.19	1.06	323	10,045
SABIN	156,870	28.6	16.67	1.11	311	8,895
GLYNDON	138,646	27.3	17.02	1.13	318	8,681
MOORHEAD DISTRICT	1,879,510	29.9	17.25	1.09	323	9,658
CROOKSTON	1,076,722	29.5	17.92	1.01	338	9,971
NIELSVILLE	138,873	33.5	17.49	0.99	330	11,055
ELDRED	201,781	31.7	17.60	1.00	332	10,524
SCANDIA	217,483	30.5	17.75	1.00	335	10,218
WARREN	176,107	28.8	18.36	1.01	347	9,994
O'MEARA	243,105	27.2	18.17	1.04	343	9,330
CROOKSTON DISTRICT	1,456,998	30.3	17.87	1.01	337	10,211
EGF	1,222,280	30.9	18.15	0.99	343	10,599
ARDOCH	246,866	31.6	19.02	1.01	360	11,376
VOSS	125,433	27.6	19.19	1.02	363	10,019
OSLO	190,368	29.2	19.24	1.05	364	10,629
ARGYLE	223,782	26.1	19.08	1.05	361	9,422
ALVARADO	271,858	28.0	18.76	1.01	355	9,940
EGF DISTRICT	2,919,558	29.2	18.47	1.01	349	10,191
DRAYTON	905,291	24.6	19.24	1.10	363	8,930
MCCARTHUR	133,797	23.3	18.81	1.04	355	8,272
BATHGATE	303,115	27.4	18.76	1.02	355	9,727
HAMILTON	240,475	26.8	18.95	1.07	358	9,594
GRAFTON	215,125	26.5	19.22	1.06	363	9,620
HUMBOLDT	212,967	20.6	19.01	1.16	357	7,354
STEPHEN	211,801	25.6	19.26	1.05	364	9,318
ST.THOMAS	563,442	28.4	18.66	1.00	353	10,025
KENNEDY	173,360	21.2	19.07	1.16	358	7,590
DRAYTON DISTRICT	2,759,682	25.3	19.00	1.07	359	9,083
RRV TOTALS	11,121,500	28.9	18.16	1.04	342	9,884