

October 22, 2025 DTN District Harvest Update:

Forecast temperatures are expected to be below freezing tonight and tomorrow night. The forecast for both nights is for temperatures to be around 29 degrees. Typically, actual temperatures dip below the forecasted temperatures as the sun is coming up, and these forecasted temperatures are cold enough to freeze beets. The Frost Policy will be strictly enforced. In past harvests, we have had excellent frost policy compliance; we expect that again this year. We do have warm ground temperatures now. If you keep the canopy on until just before lifting, we should be able to harvest through these temperatures.

Here are some notes to remember for the upcoming frost event.

- The ag staff will begin chopping beets when the air temperatures are in the low 30s. Any frozen loads will be rejected and are expected to be dumped in the field.....not delivered to another piling station or top-dressed with freshly topped beets.
- Shareholders should plan for cold temperatures ahead of time. You must be close to the defoliators by sundown. This way, you are less likely to get caught with topped beets in case of a breakdown. Going into a frost situation, being topped ahead 20,40, or 60 acres is completely unacceptable.
- If you are defoliating 12 rows of sugarbeets during a frost event, you should be harvesting 12 rows of sugarbeets. If you have a 6 or 8-row harvester and are defoliating 12 rows during freezing conditions, your beets will freeze! The tops insulate the frost from getting into the crown of the sugarbeet, and we can easily see the frost when we chop the loads coming into the piling site if you are in this situation. If you are in this situation, it might be best to just stop harvesting for a few hours during the coldest part of the night/morning and start back up when air temperatures are above freezing.
- During freezing conditions, it is best to harvest in a dense canopy; a poor sugarbeet canopy will show frost even though you are close to your topper.
- If you are going to stop harvesting for the night, it is imperative that you harvest 100% of the defoliated beets before a frost event and shut down for the night. Topped beets left out overnight will freeze to the ground even during mild freezing temperatures. If you have frozen beets in the field for some reason, they need to stay in the field until the frost is gone.
- Just because the sun is coming up doesn't mean you can let the toppers get ahead; it usually is below freezing until at least 10 am this time of year.
- Beets rarely freeze on the way into the piling site from the field, and if they do, it is easy for us to differentiate between crown frost in the field and possible frost from a long drive into the piling site. Either way, if we see frost in the crown, we won't accept the load.
- When we say, "Stay close to the harvester with the defoliator," that means you should be able to throw a stone from the defoliator to the harvester and hit it, not in passing, but one in front of the other. Staying close does NOT mean a round ahead! Please see the picture on the next page that illustrates what we mean by staying close to the defoliator.

Please call with any questions or concerns.

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Picture courtesy of James Diamond, Humboldt, MN