

January 6, 2026

EGF Agriculture Operations Update:

We have officially crossed the halfway point in the sugarbeet campaign and are sitting at about 51% complete. The factories began slicing beets on August 14, 2025, and we are anticipating being finished up with slice later in May, maybe towards the end of May in the North Dakota factories. The end of slice dates are always difficult to forecast since Mother Nature is hard to predict; I will say we are hoping for colder weather and a cool spring to have good storage results. As you all know, we piled a huge, wonderful crop, but along with a good storage plan, we need a little luck from Mother Nature to ensure good results towards the end of campaign.

In a nutshell, beet storage has been very good so far this year. Deep freeze fans and the beet freezing process started very early again this year, very similar to last year. We started the freezing process on November 28, 2025, the early start will surely help put more sugar in the bins. As many of you know, we also use ventilation fans to cool the beets after harvest to reduce sugar losses in storage. Favorable fall weather allowed for a lot of cooling time, which is another positive. Of course, freezing the beets early is only part of the storage process; the real challenge is keeping them frozen until we process them and determining what type of storage tactic, we need to implement to successfully store the beets for the timeframe they will be sliced. Several factors play into these decisions like slice rates, beet quality, trucking, and the cost-benefit on storage strategies.

We are still working through the finer details of the pile covering plan, but it looks like we will be covering right around 40 beet piles in the RRV. This plan is aggressive and includes insulating and installing chillers in all 12 RRV beet sheds and covering (tarping and/or tarping and insulating) another 28 outside deep freeze piles.

The beet quality for the first half of the campaign has been good. We did have to do a fair amount of beet blending to manage the high dirt tare load in the factories. Several areas of the RRV experienced rain events during harvest resulting in areas of the beet piles with higher dirt tare. In almost all cases, we were able to reload a blend of beets keeping slice rates at a high level. Most of the pile splitting is complete, in EGF, the last pile to be split was in Stephen on Saturday, January 3rd. While this date is a couple weeks later than I would like to see, considering the size of the crop and the height of most of our piles, we did well and beet storage results have been as good as we could hope for. Poor road conditions in recent weeks didn't help, but all things considered, I'm pleased with the outcome.

Most years as we reload the wing portion of the beet piles, we struggle a bit more. Beet quality isn't always the greatest, cold weather hinders trucking, the blend of frozen and non-frozen beets is difficult for the factories to deal with, and frankly it has been a long campaign and people get tired and are sick of winter. Early indications on the beet quality of the wing beets are good, so I am optimistic. We anticipate finishing up pile wings and getting into frozen beets in the third week of February. The third week of February is maybe on the late side of our comfort level but with good weather we can still expect favorable results. As part of our Ag capital plan going forward, we are planning to increase our ventilated tons which will in turn get us into ventilated beets sooner in the campaign, resulting in fewer wing beets to slice in future years.

Even though the deep freeze piles are mostly frozen, we are all hoping for some typical very cold January weather to put the finishing touches on the frozen piles prior to covering them. A week of -15°F temperatures is just what we need!

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

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