

DTN Ag Operations Update
January 16, 2026

The company has processed just over 6.6 million tons to date, with approximately 5.6 million tons remaining. Of the remaining beets left to process, about 1.7 million tons are NDF beets in wings, and roughly 3.9 million tons are in ventilated (DF) piles. Based on current haul and slice rate expectations, we will complete the NDF wings mid to late February. The ventilated piles and sheds will keep the North Dakota factories slicing into the first week of June, while the Minnesota factories are projected to finish in the last week of May.

Beet storage conditions have been good so far this year. Our biggest challenge has been maintaining a consistent mix of early-harvest “clean” beets and late-harvest “muddy” beets during splitting to keep the factories processing at a high rate. Now that splitting is complete, achieving a good mix has become much easier. The beets have shrunk slightly, allowing mud to flake off in the flume rather than entering the factory process. With all five factories finished splitting, we also have more access points available for reloading at each site. Beet quality in the wings is usually lower than in the splits, and we are seeing that again this year. No discards have been necessary to date.

DTN trucks are currently reloading Bathgate and Kennedy. Bathgate should be completed by the middle of next week, at which point the Bathgate loader will move to Humboldt. The Kennedy reload is expected to finish late next week, and that loader will then move to McArthur. Once Humboldt and McArthur are complete, we will begin reloading the remaining NDF beets in Hamilton.

The remaining NDF beets in Grafton and St. Thomas will be hauled to HLB, which is currently reloading in Ardoch and plans to return to St. Thomas this weekend. The remaining NDF beets in Stephen will be hauled to EGF. They are currently reloading in Argyle and plan to return to Stephen once Argyle’s NDF is complete in about 10 days.

We turned on our DF fans on Friday, November 28, which is one day later than last year. So far, we have logged roughly 680 fan hours in the district. Under normal conditions, it takes 450–600 hours to freeze an outside pile and 600–800 hours to freeze a building. All the DTN DF piles temperatures are in single digits with a couple of slightly warmer shoulders. The early-process piles—Grafton 20, Hamilton 10, Stephen 20, and DTN Yard 40— are cold enough and have been shut off for the year.

Grafton 10, St Thomas 30, 40, McArthur 20, DTN 15, 50, 90, and all 3 sheds are later process piles, and they all turned on this morning when the temperatures dropped below 8 degrees. With below-zero temperatures expected this weekend and into next week, we will continue running these later-processed piles to finish freezing them down and get them as cold as possible before we begin covering piles next week.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. If you have any questions, feel free to call anytime.

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