

Crookston Ag Operations Grower Update

February 20th, 2026

We are just over 65% complete processing your 2025 crop. Overall, the crop has stored well with favorable weather since harvest completion. We finished splitting all non-ventilated piles on December 24th in Crookston. The large crop we piled pushed our target splitting date behind a couple weeks of where we would normally like it. The colder early half of December helped us get through splitting successfully with minimal problems. The remaining non ventilated wings stored well through January. We started having some quality challenges in early February in our remaining non ventilated wings, and the past 10 days or so of warmer weather hasn't helped us finish very strongly. Last weekend we finished reloading the Scandia piling site with very minimal storage issues. EGF finished reloading the Omeara site this past Tuesday, we had around 8000t of discards there. We are currently reloading the remaining yard non ventilated wings along with the non-ventilated wings at the Warren receiving station. This past week we have had fairly substantial quality issues in our remaining non ventilated wings we are hauling to the Crk factory. Yesterday we finished separating what we could process in our yard and will likely have around 20,000t of discards to haul out. We started blending in a small amount of deep freeze in our yard this past Wednesday to help the factory, by Sunday or Monday we will be just down to our deep freeze beets left in the yard and will have that to blend off with remaining non ventilated in Warren. We have a ways to go in Warren, but we are discarding and will likely have around 8-10,000t discards there also by the time we get it completed in about 10 days from now or so. The deep freeze blend is helping the factory process, and I am very optimistic about our deep freeze pile we have remaining. We likely will be processing beets well into the end of May this spring, so we will need a little help from mother nature in April and May to finish successfully.

Our deep freeze portion of our crop right now is in excellent condition. We had good precool conditions during and after harvest to precool them to the mid-upper 30's by mid-November. We accumulated around 500hrs of precool hours this past fall. We had an early cold spell again in late November that allowed us to start the deep freeze process at a favorable time again this year, similar to last year. We started our deep freeze process on November 28th and finished freezing all piles in Crk on January 26th. Our tarping vendor had good run covering piles this year. They started tarping in the DTN district on January 21st and wrapped up the whole RRV on February 14th. In Crk, all our piles were tarped during the extreme cold from January 28th-31st. We tarped 41 piles in the RRV this year and all 12 of our sheds will be refrigerated. Specifically, in Crk, we have 3 untarped deep freeze piles including Warren, pile 50 and KT 25 (12). These piles were shut off on the earlier side as

they will be processed by mid-March. We have 1 tarp only pile on KT 15 (11) and 3 tarped and insulated piles on pile 90, 20 and KT35 (13). Our chiller units for our sheds should be arriving soon and will likely have them ready to run by mid-March.

I will be providing another update at the YWTG meeting on March 3rd in Crookston.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out. 701-430-0732

Thanks

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