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Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 8:19 AM
To: ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu
Subject: SBARE Comments from Sugarbeet Research & Education Board of Minnesota and North Dakota

Ladies and Gentleman:

My name is Scott Krogstad. I am a sugar grower and I represent the Hillsboro Factory District of American Crystal Sugar Company on the Sugarbeet Research and Education Board of Minnesota and North Dakota.

I would like to demonstrate the needs for the sugar industry and its continued demand for research funds from SBARE.

We have a "Needs" meeting every November and in that meeting this year we identified many of the same areas that need continued research to stay ahead of the pests that evolve and affect our profitability.

Weed control stewardship is vitally important as the weed resistance to different chemistry continues to be a problem in many of our growing regions. We need to continue to come up with new or alternative chemistry options on our own as sugar beet is a low acreage crop, making the investment by manufacturers a low priority.

Disease control stewardship is just as important as weed control in much of our territory as we have seen over the last several years in our southern growing regions.

Cercospora leaf spot has been and continues to be the most devastating disease. With previous investments from SBARE we have funded research on Cercospora. We need to continue to find new and innovative ways of controlling this disease.

Rhizoctonia root and crown rot has caused millions of dollars of losses over the years. However, with assistance from SBARE, we have steadily improved our knowledge of how to better control this problem in our fields.

Aphanomyces root rot is a third disease that in the past has caused growers to quit growing beets on their farm. With better seed varieties, seed treatments and application of spent lime, we have returned to growing beets again in many of those areas. Investment in research has made that happen.

Insect control in some growing areas is the most important pest problem. The sugar beet root maggot can turn a beautiful looking beet field into an abandoned field in a matter of weeks. We continue to tweak our recommendations to stay in front of this pest.

Another area we have always made some investment but have realized it may be just as important as pests in the field is the losses we incur in storage and the factories. Sugar beets are still a living organism when we place them in piles in October. Specifically, how can we reduce the respiration rate of sugar beets in the piles, prior to being processed. If we can affect the respiration rate by just a small percentage, it can have a huge impact on profitability of our factories.

In conclusion, SBARE has been a very important partner in sugar beet research and education. Continued assistance from SBARE would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Scott Krogstad