



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, August 17, 2016  
Contact: Ray VanDriessche, Michigan Sugar Company, 989-686-0161

## Michigan Sugar Company sponsors more than 90 sugarbeet research projects in 2016

*Michigan Sugar research teams partner with growers,  
experts across Thumb and Saginaw Valley*

BAY CITY – **Michigan Sugar Company's** research and agronomy staff, working together with sugarbeet growers, will complete 94 research projects this growing season, helping the cooperative's members continue to sustainably increase sugarbeet production.

“The grower-owners who produce sugarbeets for our cooperative are focused on using the best, latest farming practices, and our Michigan Sugar research team takes pride in giving them new tools every year,” said **Jim Stewart**, director of research for **Michigan Sugar**. “We couldn't get this work done without the partnership of sugarbeet growers across the region and academic experts, and we appreciate their help with more than 90 research projects this year.”



Sugarbeet variety trials are carried out annually on test plots volunteered by growers in Michigan's sugarbeet production area. **Michigan Sugar** employs a team of researchers who lead field agronomists and technicians to complete sugarbeet variety trials, as well as studies to determine the best pest control methods, fertilizer placement technology, harvest timing and beyond.

In 2016, **Michigan Sugar** is working together with 14 regional growers to conduct variety tests and other research.

The Michigan Sugar research and agronomy team also partners with outside experts from **Michigan State University Extension**, the **University of Guelph** and the **USDA-Agricultural Research Service** to produce findings [that are published each year](#) by the Michigan Sugarbeet Research and Advisory Council.

“We're extremely proud of the researchers on our team, and their partners, who spend countless hours in the field every season devoted to precise, timely, accurate research that benefits farmers,” said **Stewart**. “We appreciate the strong partnerships we maintain with leading academic researchers and other private sector partners – all working together to create a stronger sugarbeet industry and productive Michigan agriculture sector.”

###

*Photo attached: Higher-resolution version available on request.*