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More than 250 local growers attend first-ever Michigan Sugar crop protection clinics

Clinics offer additional agronomy support for local farmers, complement Michigan Sugar's research

BAY CITY – **Michigan Sugar Company's** Agronomy Department recently hosted six clinics throughout the growing region, drawing more than 250 local growers to see firsthand demonstrations of best practices for applying crop protection products. At each of the clinics, sugarbeet agronomy experts presented the most current information on disease development and crop management, and showed growers application strategies to help improve their return on investment.

“In the past, we’ve published results on the effectiveness of products that we’ve tested in our research department, but showing the ‘best practices’ for spraying techniques has been missing in our research and education portfolio,” said **Jim Ruhlman**, Executive Vice President of **Michigan Sugar**. “With our experienced Research and Agronomy staff, Michigan Sugar is well versed at crop protection and we are excited to share our experiences in-person with our shareholders.”

Special emphasis is placed on management of *Cercospora* leafspot, which is an infectious leaf disease that has plagued sugarbeet producers over the past few years. Proper application techniques are critical to achieve the best results using products designed to protect against the disease. As a result, the clinics focused on concepts like droplet size, application pressure, timing and using the right nozzles to maximize coverage while preventing drift.

"Growers have been asking us what the best strategies are for maximizing their fungicide applications, and the clinics are designed to update them with the most current information available," said **Dr. Corey Guza**, Director of Agronomy for **Michigan Sugar**. "By meeting with growers, hosting demonstrations and answering their questions, we can educate them on disease development and show application strategies to help improve their return on their fungicide investment."

Michigan Sugar Company's Agronomy Department partners with local farmers to improve their sugarbeet production. They specialize in sugarbeet crop research and consulting. Growers can always contact **Dr. Guza** and the agronomy staff with questions by calling 989-686-0161.

The clinics were held in Auburn (June 12), Frankenmuth (June 13), Bad Axe (June 14), Sandusky (June 19), Ithaca (June 20) and Gagetown (June 22).

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Photo: Michigan Sugar Company Agronomy Department staff lead one of the six recent crop protection clinics on Tuesday, June 13 in Frankenmuth.