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Michigan Sugar Company to begin 2018-19 sugarbeet slicing campaign *Bay City and Caro plants to begin receiving beets Aug. 20; Croswell and Sebewaing on Aug. 27*

BAY CITY – **Michigan Sugar Company** begins its 2018-19 sugarbeet slicing campaign on Monday, Aug. 20, with beets being received and sliced at the company’s factories in Bay City and Caro.

The company’s factories in Croswell and Sebewaing are to begin receiving and slicing beets on Monday, Aug. 27.

“As we turn the calendar page to August, we see tremendous overall growth in our beet crop,” said **James Ruhlman**, Executive Vice President for Michigan Sugar Company. “Our estimated yield, dependent on adequate rainfall in late August and early September, is now 29.5 tons per acre on 157,000 acres planted. That equates to more than 4.6 million tons delivered.”

Ruhlman said pre-harvest samples taken on Aug. 9 showed the 2018 crop grew on average 4.5 tons per acre during the previous two weeks.

“Plant health continues to be strong, root structure is robust and stands are spectacular,” he said.

Once all of the factories are up and running, Michigan Sugar Company anticipates slicing an average 21,500 tons of sugarbeets per day. The company expects this year’s slicing campaign to last 201 days, ending in mid-March.

For comparison, last year’s campaign started on Aug. 21, 2017, and concluded Feb. 28, 2018. The company’s nearly 1,000 grower-owners harvested 150,662 acres resulting in 3.85 million tons of sugarbeets for processing. Sugar content was 18.3 percent.

Area of Focus and Factory Upgrades

This year, Michigan Sugar Company is placing added focus on reducing losses associated with the piling and storage of sugarbeets, including the use of equipment aimed at reducing sugarbeet spillage, added ventilation systems at the piling grounds in Ruth, upgrades to a ventilated storage facility in Sebewaing and a change in procedure in Bay City.

“In Bay City, we are making a conscious effort to handle beets fewer times by dumping directly into the hoppers at the factory and reducing loads dumped on the slab,” said Ruhlman.

Michigan Sugar Company begins this season following robust activities at its factories since last year's campaign ended. The company invested about \$17.1 million of new capital at its four factories, including \$12.2 million dedicated to upgrading the Croswell factory as part of an effort to increase sugarbeet slicing capacity by 50 percent – from 4,000 tons per day to 6,000 tons per day. The work in Croswell included installation of new juice storage tanks, beet slicers and juice filtration equipment. It marked the third year of upgrades as part of a five-year plan.

Now Hiring

As Michigan Sugar Company gets ready for another season of sugarbeet processing, it has begun hiring hundreds of seasonal and campaign employees. To learn more about available jobs and to apply, go to www.michigansugar.com and click on the “Careers” link.

Applications also are available at the security stations located outside the following locations:

- Bay City factory, 2600 S. Euclid Ave.
- Caro factory, 819 Peninsular St.
- Croswell factory, 159 S. Howard St.
- Sebewaing factory, 763 N. Beck St.
- Carrollton warehouse, 341 Sugar St.

And, applications also are available at the company's piling stations in Albee, Blumfield, Deckerville, Ruth, Sandusky, Verona and Wheeler, which is near Breckenridge.

On the Road Again

Finally, Michigan Sugar Company reminds motorists that the start of sugarbeet processing means sugarbeet trucks will once again be on the road hauling our sweet crop from farm fields to factories and piling stations throughout the area.

Founded in 1906, Michigan Sugar Company has its corporate office in Bay City and growers in about 20 Michigan counties, as well as Ontario, Canada. The cooperative produces approximately 1.2 billion pounds of sugar each year that it sells under the Pioneer and Big Chief brands.

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