

Partner Profile: Alberta Sugar Beet Growers

Submitted by Ali Fedak

Alberta Sugar Beet Industry Overview

Did you know, the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers grew just over 100,000 tonnes of sugar over the past 5 years, enough to sweeten over 2.5 billion cans of pop or 20 billion cups of coffee?

Every year, hundreds of farmers in Southern Alberta plant sugar beets. The sugar beet is a biennial plant that grows best in rich, deep soil and temperate climate. Being a rotation crop, sugar beets are planted once every four years to minimize potential disease problems. Sugar beet production is well suited for the irrigated land in southern Alberta. Seeding begins in early spring and continues to the end of May, with a harvest cycle running from September to November. Currently, all sugar beets grown in Southern Alberta are under contract with a single processor, Lantic Inc., which operates the processing plant in Taber, Alberta. To ensure the sugar product you are enjoying is locally made, locate the black 22 timestamp on the front of any Roger's brand sugar packaging. There will be a sequence of numbers with 22 being our local plant, and the source of our motto #asbsugar22!

Sugar Beet Producers of Alberta

The Alberta Cooperative Sugar Beet Growers was established in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1925. The same year in which the Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd. factory was built in Raymond. Our first president was Arthur Dahl. The name was changed to the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Association in 1941 and to Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Marketing Board in 1984. The board serves the sugar beet growing areas of Southern Alberta, including Bow Island, Coaldale, Diamond City, Iron Springs, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, and Taber. ASBG has had close links with the Canadian Sugar Beet Producers' Association, the national association. Currently there are just over 200 farming families that grow sugar beets in Southern Alberta.

Mission Statement:

ASBG administers regulation while providing leadership to advance the Sugar Beet industry through agreements, relationships, research, and advocacy on behalf of sugar beet growers in Alberta.

Vision Statement:

An Alberta Sugar Beet industry that is progressive and sustainable for future generations.

For more information contact:

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