



Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative

P. O. Box 500, 83550 County Road 21, Renville, Minnesota 56284

November 28, 2016

Dear SMBSC Shareholder,

SMBSC conducted four Official Variety Trials within the Cooperative growing area in 2016. These trials were located near Renville, Hector, Lake Lillian, and Murdock. All four of the sites were harvested, and the data from all four locations were combined and used in the variety approval process for the 2017 crop. In addition to the yield data from these sites, varieties were also evaluated for *Cercospora* Leafspot, *Aphanomyces* Root Rot, and *Rhizoctonia* Root Rot at various disease nurseries. The 2016 data was combined with the 2015 and 2014 Official Trial data and is summarized in the enclosed packet.

There are seven varieties that make Full Approval Status for 2017. Five varieties achieve Test Market Status for 2017. Test market status allows a variety to be planted on up to 10% of the Cooperative's acreage. Test market status is designed to give shareholders a look at new varieties that have potential to make Full Approval or Specialty Approval Status in 2018. Three varieties were approved as *Rhizoctonia* Specialty Varieties. Three varieties were approved as *Cercospora* Specialty Varieties. These three varieties have the best tolerance to *Cercospora* of any varieties on the approved list. Two varieties were approved as *Aphanomyces* Specialty Varieties for 2017. Both of the *Aphanomyces* Specialty Varieties are also Fully Approved Varieties for 2017.

In addition to this letter, the following documents found on the SMBSC website will provide information regarding the varieties approved for planting at SMBSC in 2017. The variety approval information is found under the Agronomic Sustainability tab of www.smbc.com.

1. List of approved varieties for the 2017 crop.
2. Table 1. Comparison of 2017 approved varieties based on three years data (2014-2016).
3. Table 2. Comparison of 2016 approved varieties based on two years data (2015-2016).
4. Table 3. Comparison of 2016 approved varieties based on one year's data (2016).
5. Data from the *Cercospora* Leaf Spot, *Rhizoctonia* Root Rot, and *Aphanomyces* Root Rot Nurseries from 2014-2016.
6. Results of 2016 SMBSC Agricultural Staff Variety Strip Trials.

Your agriculturist is an excellent source of information regarding variety placement in your 2017 fields. Be sure to use this resource when placing your 2017 sugar beet seed order. Seed ordering information and pricing will be available in early December.

Sincerely,

Mark Bloomquist
Research Director

Cody Groen
Production Agronomist

SMBSC APPROVED VARIETIES 2017

FULLY APPROVED UNLIMITED SALES VARIETIES

Beta 92RR30 (Aphanomyces)
Beta 92RR60
Beta 9475 (CLS)
Crystal M375
Crystal M380 (Aphanomyces)
Crystal RR270
Maribo MA109 (Rhizoctonia)

TEST MARKET VARIETIES - (Sales shall not exceed 10% of total sales per variety)

Beta 9545
Beta 9565
Crystal M579
Hilleshog 9739
SV RR958

APHANOMYCES SPECIALTY APPROVED VARIETIES

Beta 92RR30 (fully approved)
Crystal M380 (fully approved)

RHIZOCTONIA SPECIALTY APPROVED VARIETES

Crystal RR018
Hilleshog 9093RR
Maribo MA109RR (Fully Approved)

CERCOSPORA LEAFSPOT SPECIALTY APPROVED VARIETIES

Beta 9505
Beta 9475 (Fully Approved)
Crystal M509

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED VARIETES NOT MAKING APPROVAL LAST YEAR OF SALES

Beta 90RR54