

# AGRICULTURAL BEET

July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative  
Renville, MN  
www.smbosc.com | 320.329.8305

Foresight is 2020

## Cercospora Leafspot (CLS) Control Program 2020: Rounding 2<sup>nd</sup> base!

Major league baseball is back for a short stint in 2020. If you are an avid fan like me, you know that when a player successfully reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> base, he is generally considered to be in “scoring position”. The same can be said for the end of July as it relates to our **70-day Cercospora-Free Challenge** that I referenced in a previous AgBeet. As of July 27<sup>th</sup>, we’ve officially surpassed the halfway point to our goal of a clean field at the end of August and are rounding second base. What is significant about 2<sup>nd</sup> base in both baseball and our CLS season is that from this position we now possess a vision of the entire infield and can clearly see both where we’ve been and even more importantly, where we want to be.



Now that we've rounded 2<sup>nd</sup> base, let me congratulate you on a fantastic job of incorporating new equipment and technique ideas identified through the Special CLS Shareholder Database of 2019 and SMBOSC-CLS research. Especially those who took initiative to make an early CLS fungicide application in mid to late June in the interest of delaying first spot and early inoculum build-up. I feel strongly that the absence of significant CLS infections thus far in 2020 ***IS NOT*** due to a “non-event” as I have heard from some shareholders and consultants. *Anyone who has been around sugarbeet production for any amount of time should have enough respect for the history of CLS at SMBOSC to be skeptical of these type of “traps” that try to entice us to consider extending intervals or letting up on the gas pedal too soon and allowing for inoculum buildup in our fields to a point where we release control of our own destiny!*



Last year I attempted to interject a little humor when I referenced a TV show from the 70s and 80s that featured a couple of actors posing as farmers crooning about the absence of a familiar acquaintance of theirs. I was trying to assess the relatively low levels of CLS we were experiencing. In 2020, we are also enjoying relatively low levels of CLS. BUT..., with a crop that possesses considerably more potential than 2019 **AND** in no small part due to the extraordinary efforts that you have made to control the disease thus far. If you are considering the notion of buying-in to this philosophy that CLS in 2020 is a “non-event” or that we are somehow experiencing a miraculous “natural” delayed onset, I want to remind you that we still have a long way to go. Your control measures thus far have ***“earned”*** you all of the rights, privileges, and late season options that come with it. ***Don't let go of the steering wheel too soon and forfeit what you've earned.***