World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers

NEWS FROM WABCG

JULY-AUGUST 2026

BACK FROM HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN!

The World Association of Sugar Beet and Sugarcane Growers, which brings together 37 sugar beet and sugar cane growers' associations from 34 countries, met in Helsingborg, Sweden, on 17th June at the kind invitation of Betodlarna, and concluded its work with the following final statement.

WABCG member associations unanimously expressed their **concern about the current market situation** across the world. Global sugar prices, which have been declining since January 2024, have reached an alarming level, and their impact on domestic markets is now affecting producers in all sugar-producing countries. This situation is particularly challenging as **production costs continue to rise**, with no sign of reversal. Energy costs have reached levels that are increasingly difficult to bear, while fertilizer prices remain high and supplies are not always guaranteed. Member associations warn of the **short-term consequences for farm profitability**, as well as the **medium-term risks to overall productivity**, as lower fertilizer use may negatively affect yields.

Against this backdrop, growers' associations exchanged views and shared experiences on three main topics.

First, they discussed the **public policies needed around the world to preserve the economic sustainability of production systems** in the face of extreme volatility in sugar markets. Only ambitious public policies that foster **strong cohesion between growers and processors** can create the conditions for the development of **contractual mechanisms capable of mitigating market volatility**. Such policies should also encourage **innovation in agricultural practices aimed at improving the economic, social, and environmental performance of farms**.

Second, they exchanged views on the importance of **ensuring access to key production inputs, particularly water resources and energy**. In this regard, they highlighted the strategic role of **sugar cane and sugar beet as sources of low-carbon energy aiming towards decarbonization of the sector**. They called for

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) is the international organisation which groups together the national and regional associations of sugar beet and sugar cane growers at international level. WABCG has 37 member associations and unites over 5 million sugar beet and sugar cane growers from the five continents. WABCG is present in over 30 countries, producing 60% of world sugar production.

the further development of the bioethanol sector, as well as enhanced valorization of co-products such as beet pulp and bagasse. Such diversification not only reduces **dependence on fossil fuels and contributes to broader environmental objectives**, but also helps limit exposure to volatile commodity markets, to be shared fairly throughout the value chain.

Third, they underline that **young farmers should be supported by targeted public policy as they are vital for the future of sugarcane and sugar beet productions**. Young farmers bring energy, long-term commitment to the industry and innovation. Regarding innovation, **artificial intelligence tools, to be developed to assist farmers to make decisions, could be seen as an opportunity for the entire industry**.

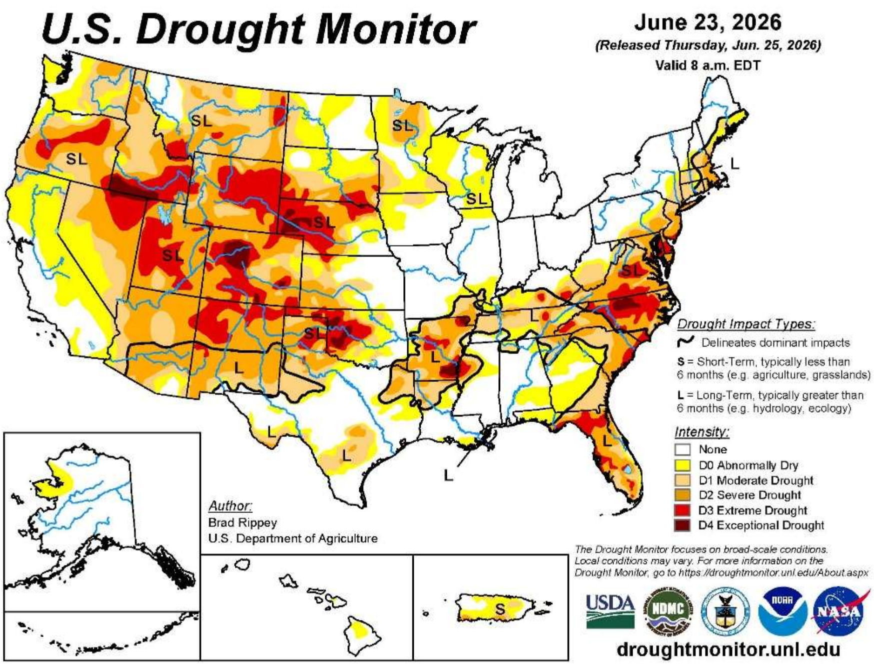
***Axel Lundberg**, President Betodlarna & **Owen Menkens**, President WABCG*

News from USA

(Red River Valley Sugar beet Growers Association)

USDA in the June WASDE Beet sugar production for 2026/27 is projected at 4.939 million short tons, raw value (STRV), an increase of 217,100 over last month. Area harvested at 1.038 million acres is unchanged from last month, but national yield is increased to 31.94 tons/acre (*NB: 1 acre = 0.4 ha*), up from 30.21 tons last month, on the basis of more area planted before mid-May than projected last month. Based on processors' estimates, sugar from desugared molasses is projected at 400,000 STRV, an increase of 25,000 STRV and beet shrink is increased to 8.12 percent Florida cane sugar production is increased 36,800 STRV to 1.979 million on processors' reassessment of the effect of the February freeze on sugarcane yield and on good growing conditions this spring. Louisiana cane sugar production is unchanged. Imports at 3.260 million STRV are unchanged from last month. Deliveries for human consumption increased 125,500 STRV to 12.385 million in line with an increase made to deliveries in 2025/26. For 2025/26, deliveries were increased based on stronger domestic deliveries and direct consumption imports during the first 7 months of the fiscal year than originally forecasted. Ending stocks are residually projected at 1.660 million STRV for an ending stocks-to-use ratio of 13.26 percent.

Drought conditions are improving in many regions, but significant drought persists in some sugar-producing regions. Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon, and Florida are facing drought conditions across 100% of the state, while Idaho is facing drought conditions across 90% of the state. There are reports of some farmers in the western U.S. that do not have enough water to irrigate their crop and decided to not plant some of their acres. This is especially concerning as a farmer owned cooperative, because those cooperatives will then have less volume to go through their factories, in



turn likely resulting in a reduced payment to the grower/owners.

Turning to the Red River Valley – some growers started planting sugarbeets as early as April 23 this year, with the bulk of plantings occurring between April 30 and May 9. Our cooperative, American Crystal Sugar, planted around 400,000 acres. At

the end of planting we faced a significant wind event that severely damaged over 35,000 acres that required replanting. Stand counts have vary widely, but in general are very favorable. Moisture has been excessive by the Canadian border, and relatively dry south of Fargo. Growers have begun their first *Cercospora* application. We did get a new fungicide approved for use in Sugarbeets this year called Verpixo by Corteva. Some growers will spray 6 or maybe 7 times this year trying to control *Cercospora*. As always, Sugarbeet root maggot flies were a challenge in high pressure areas, however we have been able to control them since being able to use chlorpyrifos again. Growers are optimistic about the crop potential, however there is significant concern over prices domestically. The flood of unnecessary, out of quota sugar has wreaked havoc on domestic prices. A recent study from North Dakota State University found that over the past two years, excessive over-quota sugar imports have resulted in losses of more than $3 billion for the domestic industry. The American Sugarbeet Growers Association estimates U.S. sugarbeet farmers alone lost $500 per acre on average in 2025 due to low prices, high costs, and weather and disease issues. There are concerns that some of the beet cooperatives may not be able to stay in business if prices do not improve soon.

Harrison Weber, Executive Director, RRVSGA
Dr. Rob Johansson, Director of Economics and Policy Analysis, American Sugar Alliance
USA

Citations :

https://www.arpc-ndsu.com/post/the-cost-of-a-frozen-tariff-over-quota-imports-and-theu-s-sugar-market;

https://www.brownfieldagnews.com/news/sugarbeet-growers-planting-at-a-loss-after-500-million-in-the-red-in-2025/

News from Romania

In Romania the surface maintains itself in 2026 or even less from year to year as the beet price decreases because of the sugar impact at Factories level together with cost of production going up and farmers have the option of lower cost producing cereals if the fertilizer and diesel price increases more.

With the many FTA EU is signing we might fear that this will come at a cost of the EU producers that will bring dumping price sugar more and more to the EU market, with Romania being a deficit country the price of beet due to intra-community sugar imports still affects currently the price sale of sugar of the two Factories, with a worry for the 2027 crop year. Already there was a shock to the system with Agrana in Romania coming with the contract agreement a few weeks before seeding, first week in March all the contracts were signed, until then we did not know if the factory will have a 2026 campaign or farmers would have sown.

The winter of 2025 came with close to average rainfall with the exception of December month. Towards the end of March when farmers began the sowing period was a little more difficult due to the lack of precipitation, so in some areas the emergence was a little more uneven, but later due to the rains in May-June, the beet crops recovered and today they look good.

In May, the problems in the NE area were with the heavy precipitation and strong winds that affected the beet (image attached). It created washouts in the fields.

Later, after mid-June, the Center and East of the country as the whole of Europe Romania also faced abnormally high temperatures for that period, 36-40 degrees, but the water reserve accumulated in the soil allowed the beet to withstand these temperatures well.

Today, the beet has an average of about 200-300 g with a rich foliage. The crop densities are between 85,000-95,000 pl/ha. Due to the alternation of high temperatures with rain, the first treatments against Cercospora were made. Farmers have also started to monitor beet crops more and more in order to prevent the appearance of *Cercospora*, which is known to wreak havoc in Romania in some favorable years. That is why the first preventive treatments have already been applied in some areas. The attentiona in the field with the high temperatures and previous years incidence of the farmers monitor their beet fields to not develop macrophomi the root rot.

Framers as of now hope for another good harvest, over the 5 year yield average or at least like in 2025 but we need to see after the July and August rainfall and if the heat domes due to El Nino will affect futher the sugarbeet. Related to the 2027 contracts, there is no quote from the Factories, they all wait for the campaign to start in mid September to see the results that will be decisive for another season.

Florentina Iacob, President, FCSZR, Romania

WABCG meetings

WABCG/ISO Consultation
30 November 2026
London, United Kingdom
(with a field visit on 29th November for WABCG members)

WABCG Council
31 May to 3 June 2027
Mauritius