tion keeping up with the new inventions and new techniques in the manufacturing process. The four sugar processing plants in Minnesota are units of the American Crystal Sugar Company with headquarters at Denver, Colorado. The first processing plant in the state was built at Chaska, Minnesota in 1906. This factory and a sister factory at Mason City, Iowa processed the first beets grown in the Red River Valley under contract with the company in the early twenties before the East Grand Forks plant opened in 1926. The capacity of the Chaska plant was 1700 tons of beets per day, the larger plant at East Grand Forks had a capacity of 2400 tons, the Moorhead plant opened in 1948 having a capacity of 3400 tons as does the Crookston plant which opened in 1954.

The first reported acreage of sugar beets in Polk County appeared in the United States Census of 1910 when three acres were reported. The first research in sugar beet culture in the area was started by the writer at the Northwest Experiment Station in 1913. The first work consisted of a test of two varieties of seed imported from Germany (that country at that time and for many years later was the chief source of sugar beet seed for American growers). The yields of beets the first year were 13.3 and 12 tons per acre with a sugar content of 14 per cent. With no near-by outlet for sugar beets until the early twenties, sugar beets had to compete with the higher yielding mangels for livestock feed. Many of the dairymen of German and Holland descent were growing mangels and beets for succulent feed, a practice that ended with the labor shortages during World War I. The