Sugar Beet Processing Plants

A great asset to the agricultural economy of the Red River Valley counties of Minnesota and North Dakota is the American Crystal Sugar company with its three large processing plants on the Minnesota side of the Red River. The acreage of beets processed by the three plants in 1958 from the border counties of the two states amounted to 93,379 acres. In the Valley distribution of the sugar beet acreage in 1958, 35,573 acres were allotted to the Moorhead district and 59,806 acres were allotted to the East Grand Forks and Crookston plants. The Crookston and Moorhead plants processed some 400,000 tons of beets at each plant. The smaller plant at East Grand Forks processed 275,000 tons.

The Crookston plant, for example, processed as much as 4500 tons of beets in a record day, with an average of 3900 tons per day for the operating season. This plant produced more than 1,000,000 pounds of sugar in a record day and a total of 1,121,879 one hundred pound bags for the season. The by-products from the sugar processing plants, dry and molasses beet pulp and molasses are of great value to livestock feeders of the area and to the livestock feed industry. The Crookston plant, for example, in 1958 produced 458,649 bags of beet pulp (100 lbs.) each and 19,156 tons of molasses (84 brix).

"Lest we forget" our original horse power. Courtesy Mrs. Herman Miller.