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Taber, AB – Sugar Beet Growers receive Silver level FSA Verification

Over the past two years the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers have been utilizing the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) to assess their growers on-farm performance for sustainability. A portion of growers answered a questionnaire that contained 112 questions from 17 various topic categories. These topics include soil management, crop protection, chemicals and fertilizer, labour conditions, health and safety, and many more. This analyzed their current on-farm practices to see how they were complying with recommended practices that promote sustainability.

Most recently at the end of October several farmers were randomly chosen for an independent audit. The purpose of the audit was to confirm that on-farm best management practices were being followed. Upon completion of this audit the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers have received Silver level verification according to the FSA for our sugar beet growers.

ASBG has set FSA Silver level as our baseline for sustainable sourcing. All of the 100% Canadian sugar products meet the requirements for this performance level. Our growers have not received this verification based on their sugar beets alone. There are many other factors that are all intertwined in the farming process. The Silver level verification means that our growers are using proper practices in the 17 different topic categories in their overall farming operations.

“Farm sustainability in all aspects is paramount for the future of the agriculture industry. Through this project, we have been able to verify the outstanding work farmers do by managing their resources appropriately to benefit the environment, people, and the economy and achieve a sustainable farming operation.” Says Melody Garner-Skiba, Executive Director of ASBG.

Sugar made from sugar beets makes up about 8-10% of the sugar market. If you are interested in supporting your local farmers and want to purchase 100% Canadian sugar look for the Roger’s sugar packages that have a stamp that starts with the number 22.

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