



# Forage and Cover Crop Memo

## Background

Due to sugar beets being a regulated product in Alberta under Alberta Regulation 275/1997, Sugar Beet Marketing Plan Regulation, there are requirements to produce sugar beets that our organization must administer to ensure that diseases common in the U.S and other areas of the world do not take hold here. However, we also understand that sugar beets are sold in many forage mixes at a small 4-5% of the overall forage crop and that there are benefits to this forage crop.

As such, our Board authorizes a personal exemption of 40 acres within our regulations (Sugar Beet Production and Marketing Regulation, Alberta Regulation 287/1997) with some parameters. An individual may grow up to 40 acres of sugar beets for feed/fodder if they are not selling them and are using them to feed their own cattle/livestock and they are grown on land they control (either rented or owned). The seed also needs to be approved seed. We do require if this is the case, that the producer fill out a one page form that identifies the legal land use, the forage mix being used and provide contact information so that we may monitor for disease.

## Calculating Acreage Requirements

### **Option 1: Sugar Beets in a Forage Mix**

In the case of sugar beets as a forage mix, we would ask you to conduct the following calculation and here is an example.

$$(\# \text{ of Acres you are seeding}) \times (\% \text{ of seed in mix that is sugar beets}) = \text{Total acres of sugar beets.}$$

If this total is <40 acres, you qualify under the personal exemption. If it is above that you do not.

#### **Example 1.**

Grower is seeding 160 acres and the seed content for sugar beets is 4% in the mix.

$$(160 \text{ acres}) \times (4\%) = 6.4 \text{ acres.}$$

This is under the 40 acres so you can go ahead and seed. The only requirement is that you fill out the one-page form that is attached.

### **Option 2: Sugar Beets Seeded as a Cover Crop or Not in a Forage Mix**

Sugar beets are being grown as part of a cover crop or will be utilized as part of a silage mix for the producer's livestock.

- Map field with GPS
- The acreage must be <40 acres.

If the area is under 40 acres, you can go ahead and produce the crop, but you must complete the one-page form.

**If you have any questions, please refer to Alberta Regulation 287/1997- Sugar Beet Production and Marketing Regulation as well as contact our office at (403) 223-1110 or by email at [office@asbg.ca](mailto:office@asbg.ca)**