ASSBT
75 Years Moving the Sugarbeet Industry Forward

Dr. Allan Cattanach
Humble Beginnings
Great Success
Optimistic Future
Banquet, January 6, 1942, Lafayette Ballroom, Hotel Utah
A Look Back
Number of Factories

Year | Number of Factories
--- | ---
1938 | 80
1948 | 72
1958 | 65
1968 | 59
1978 | 49
1988 | 36
1998 | 22
2012 | 22
### Number of Farmers and Acreage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>FARMS</th>
<th>ACREAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>56,395</td>
<td>985,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>1,327,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>1,201,000</td>
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Least Acres – 1943 – 617,000  
Most Acres – 1969 – 1,670,000
Yield Trend 1938 - 2012, American Crystal Sugar Company

Year | Yield (Tons)
--- | ---
1938 | 8.8
1948 | 9.7
1958 | 12.4
1968 | 12
1978 | 16
1988 | 15.6
1998 | 20.1
2008 | 24.6
2012 | 27.1
Milestone Achievements
In 75 years
Late 1930’s - 1940’s
Mechanization – Especially of Beet Harvest
Sugar Company – BSDF – Universities - Growers
1950’s Monogerm Seed

- Viacheslav and Helen Savitsky
- 1947 employed by BSDF, then USDA
- Five plants in a 4 acre Oregon field, MI hyb 18
- SCL101 monogerm release to seed companies
1960’s

- First commercial monogerm seed available
- “Wonderful” new herbicides
- TCA – Dalapon - Carbyne - Eptam – Roneet
1970’s

Storage Innovations:

• BSDF Sponsored Symposium on “Postharvest Losses of Sucrose In Sugarbeet” February 1973:
  • USDA – Wyse, Bugbee, Cole, et al
  • Sugar Company – Oldenmeyer, Watkins, Rounds, Fogg, Akeson, et al
  • 1976 Russian tour – Bugbee, Wyse, Bichsel, Fox
1980’s

• 1983 Holly gene for Rhizomania resistance discovered by Alvin Erichsen – Bob llewellen
• Weed scientists accepted challenge to pursue no labor beets - space planting
• New agronomic practices
1990’s
Microrate Herbicide Program – Dexter
Seed Technology Improvements
Processing – Priming - Coatings
2000 GMO Beets

Before

After

Varietal Disease Resistance Improvement
Future Challenges for The Sugarbeet Industry

2013 - 2025
Weed Resistance

Volunteer RR Canola

Kochia
Research Funding and Support
“Budget Austerity - Who Will Pay”

• Limited resources
• Fewer scientists
• Expand Cooperative programs
• Unbiased data
• **Visionary research, don’t reinvent the wheel**
People

- Labor shortages in Rural America
- Highly trained graduates for Ag
- Factory staffing – skilled workforce
- Harvest labor
- Farm labor

How will we hire and retain the best?
Technology Adoption

• Upgrading technology challenges
• Smart phone applications
• Grower communication – can’t fall behind
• Real time pest alerts
• Farm equipment technology
  – Sync the trucks example
Government Regulation

- Air quality
- Water quality
- GMO trait registration
- Labor/healthcare/other
- Food police – impact on sucrose use
Fungicide Resistance

- Strobilurin chemistry in MI
- Triazole chemistry in ND & MN
- More to come? how soon?
Cost Management To Remain Profitable

• In factory
• On farm
Meeting the Challenges of the Next 25 Years

“Whatever You Are Be A Good One.”
Abraham Lincoln

We Will Be Successful
Assistance Provided

Dr. Larry Campbell
Poster & Paper on ASSBT History

“Experienced “ Society Members

Mr. Thomas Schwartz
Enjoy The

- Papers
- Symposia
- Renew old acquaintances
- Develop new relationships

THANK YOU EVERYONE