

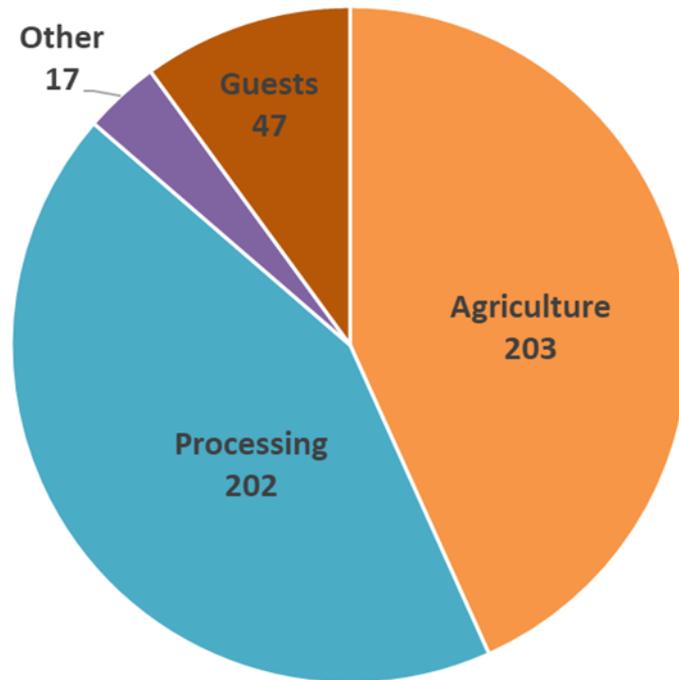
ASSBT NEWSLETTER

Biannual Newsletter of the ASSBT: Vol. 4, Issue 2, September 2025

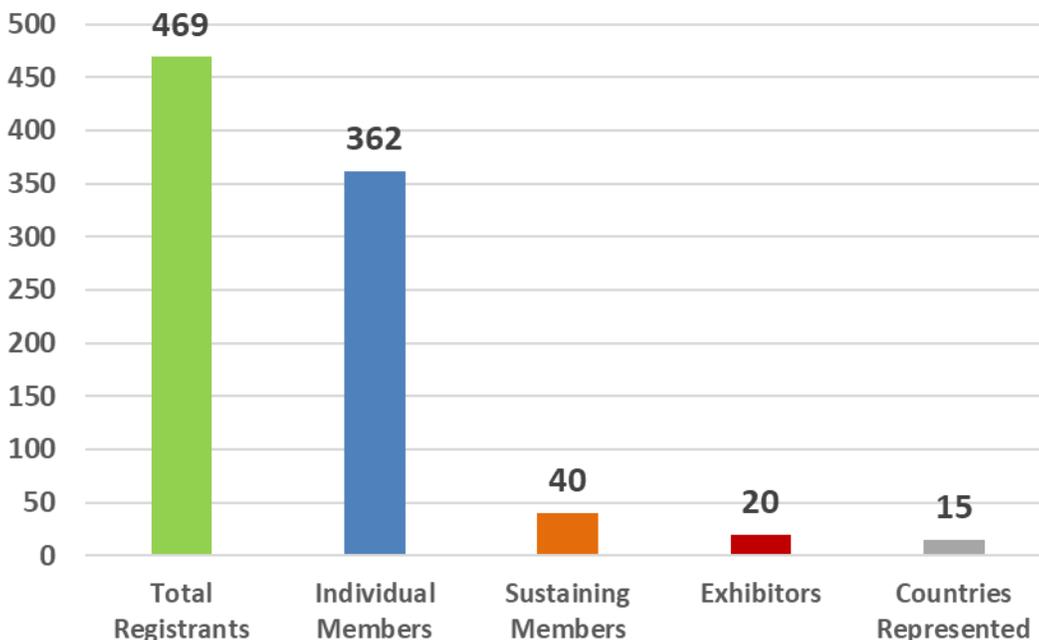
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43rd ASSBT Biennial Meeting Summary



43rd ASSBT Biennial Meeting Attendee Breakdown



Attendees =
469

JSBR

NEW JSBR LANDING PAGE



We are excited to announce the creation of a landing page for the Journal of Sugar Beet Research (JSBR) and a re-design of the JSBR's current and past volumes. The landing page showcases resources for Authors, the editorial board, an its mission, vision, and core values. The search function and ability to view abstracts and articles on the "Volumes" page should make finding JSBR articles a breeze. Check it out [here!](#)~



INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A MANUSCRIPT TO THE JSBR?

The *Journal of Sugar Beet Research* (JSBR) welcomes original research articles, research and review articles, and articles of historical interest to the beet sugar industry. The JSBR is accepting the following categories:

Peer-reviewed papers (manuscripts). Manuscripts are more than four pages in length and will be subject to a full peer review process.

Peer-reviewed short reports. Short reports are 1-2 pages in length and will be subject to a full peer review process. Examples include reports of new diseases; first report of pathogens, weeds, insects, or other features of interest; surveys of pesticide efficacy or resistance and/or host resistance.

Technical reports (reviewed at editorial level). Technical reports are 2-4 pages in length, with an exemption for up to six pages for reports containing a lot of graphs and pictures. "Infomercial" type reports (commercial companies marketing products through reports) will be not accepted. *Below are examples of technical reports:*

[2023 Management of New Cercospora Leaf Spot Tolerant Varieties](#)

[2023 Variety Tolerance to Late Root Rot Complex in the Imperial Valley of California](#)

Re-published abstracts. We welcome submission of relevant abstracts published from other journals. The abstracts will be re-published in the JSBR to provide information on sugar beet related research published elsewhere. Click [here](#) to see a list of the current publishers that have authorized to share abstracts and/or a link to the original manuscript. Authors are encouraged to ask publishers/journals not on the list for permission to re-publish abstracts.

The journal is particularly interested in all aspects of sugar beet and beet sugar production which further the knowledge of the industry, improve production and stimulate discussions that lead to new ideas and solutions for existing and emerging problems. The Editors of the JSBR invite papers in the United States and worldwide, including but not limited to the following topics:

- Agronomy
- Breeding & Genetics
- Disease, Insect, and Pest Management
- Economy
- Environment
- Harvest & Storage
- New Technologies
- Physiology
- Processing
- Safety
- Sustainability
- Water Conservation and Drought
- Weed Management



To learn more about submitting an article to the JSBR, please see the JSBR instructions to authors by clicking [here](#).

JSBR Submissions

Authors may submit manuscripts for consideration in Microsoft Word format via email to the following persons:

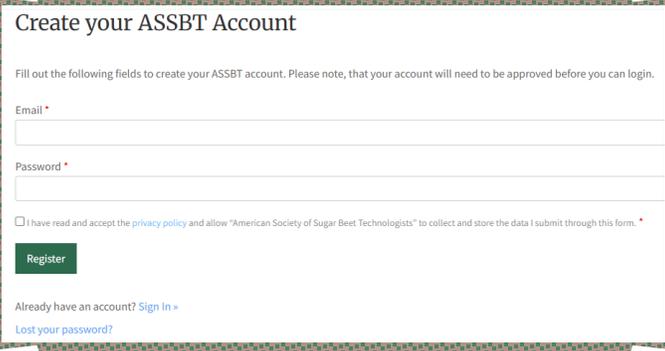
Linda Hanson, Co-Chairperson & Editor:
hansonl5@msu.edu

Vanitha Ramachandran, Co-Chairperson & Editor:
vanitharani.ramachandran@usda.gov

Copy Sarah Newton, ASSBT Administrative Assistant:
frontdesk@bsdf-assbt.org

WEBSITE

EXCITING NEW “MEMBERS-ONLY” WEBSITE SECTION NOW LIVE!



Create your ASSBT Account

Fill out the following fields to create your ASSBT account. Please note, that your account will need to be approved before you can login.

Email *

Password *

I have read and accept the [privacy policy](#) and allow "American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists" to collect and store the data I submit through this form. *

[Register](#)

Already have an account? [Sign In](#) »

[Lost your password?](#)

We're thrilled to introduce a brand-new, **Members-Only** section on the ASSBT website including:

- PDFs of most oral presentations and posters from the 43rd ASSBT Biennial Conference in Long Beach, CA
- Current and archived ASSBT Newsletters

HOW TO ACCESS

1. Click the button below to register and create your login.
2. If you've previously created a login to submit an abstract, you'll need to register again with a **new username and password**.
3. Your status will remain *pending* until approved by ASSBT staff.

CREATE YOUR MEMBERS-ONLY LOGIN:



We're excited to share this new benefit with you and look forward to expanding the resources available. Thank you for being a valued ASSBT member!

2025 BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING NEWS

43rd ASSBT Biennial Meeting

Award Recipients

MERITORIOUS SERVICE



Nick Klein

Nick grew up in northern Michigan and earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Product Design Engineering from Ferris State University. His professional career started in the automotive industry where he gained global experience with assignments in Japan and Mexico. He then joined the sugar industry in 2009.

Over the past 16 years Nick has held positions as Process Engineer, Factory Superintendent and Factory Manager (Bay City Factory). Then in 2020, he took on the role of Director of Engineering overseeing factory improvements and was the chief engineer leading Michigan Sugar's single largest capital investment in company history with its new state-of-the-art \$109 million Molasses Desugarization plant.

In 2022, Nick accepted the role as Vice President of Operations.

Nick has an immense level of pride for our industry and the people he has had the opportunity to work alongside of. Nick also serves on Beet Sugar Development Foundation's board of directors and executive committee, has instructed for the past seven years the Technical Sucrose Recovery course at the MIBST process school and is our past President for the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists.

Nick and his wife Megan have three children: Cayla, Kate, and Beckett. His family enjoys downhill skiing together and attending their children's sporting events, including diving, softball and hockey.

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Award Recipients

MERITORIOUS SERVICE



VIVIANA RIVERA-VARAS

Viviana Rivera is a native of Santiago, Chile. She received her Bachelor's degree in Agronomy from the University of Chile in Santiago. She began her professional career in the seed industry while attending University of Chile, initially during summers and later as field agronomist, working with sunflower, corn, safflower, and canola winter nurse-

ries. After moving to Fargo in 1994, she worked part-time at Mycogen seed company in Breckenridge, MN in sunflower breeding. She worked with the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Seed Department as a lab technician for wheat variety identification and certification, and also as part-time lab assistant in the potato and sugar beet disease program in the Plant Pathology Department. She received her Master's degree in Plant Pathology and has continued as a research assistant and lab manager for the potato and sugar beet pathology research program with Dr. Gary Secor. Her work with sugar beet has focused primarily on fungicide resistance in *Cercospora beticola*, developing the protocols that are adapted worldwide, and maintaining the largest culture collection of *Cercospora beticola* in the world. In addition, she identified a new *Fusarium* pathogen of sugar beet, identified a new bacterium of sugar beet, determined conditions for germination of *Cercospora* spores, and helped develop new additions to the *Cercospora* leaf spot prediction model. She has presented research work at international meetings and served as an advisor and trainer of numerous graduate students. In 2019, Viviana was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the sugar beet industry of Minnesota and North Dakota.

2025 BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING NEWS

43rd ASSBT Biennial Meeting

Awards Recipients

HONORARY MEMBER

Karen Fugate

Karen served as a Research Molecular Biologist at the USDA-ARS Sugarbeet Research Unit in Fargo, ND from 1998 to January 2025, investigating the physiological factors that influence sucrose yield of the crop. Over the past 26 years, she conducted basic research into the metabolic factors that influence sucrose accumulation during production, and perhaps, more notably, the internal and external factors that cause sugarbeet roots to lose sucrose and processing quality during storage. Originally from Ohio, Karen received a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from

Capital University, a Master's degree in Biological Chemistry from the University of Minnesota, and a PhD in Horticulture & Crop Science from The Ohio State University. Before joining the USDA, she conducted molecular and physiological research during two post-doctoral appointments and worked as a Pharmaceutical Research Chemist with the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Karen's publications include 75 peer-reviewed manuscripts, four book chapters, and over 30 extension reports and proceedings. She has been a member of ASSBT since 1998 and a fixture at the annual MIBST Beet Sugar Agricultural School as an instructor of sugarbeet physiology. Karen is both honored by this award and appreciative of the opportunity to work with the many fine people in the sugar beet industry and research community.



2025 BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING NEWS

43rd Biennial ASSBT Meeting

Awards Recipients

HONORARY MEMBER

John Weiland



John grew up in Rochester, MN and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1984 with a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry, a discipline he applied to his early molecular biology training at the University of Utah working in mouse molecular genetics. After completing a PhD at Oregon State University on plant viral genetics in 1992, John joined the USDA Cereal Crops Unit and later the North Dakota State University Plant Pathology department in Fargo, ND, where he studied factors causing crop disease by viruses and fungi. The combined viral and fungal emphasis was prescient when John joined the USDA Sugarbeet and Potato Research Unit in Fargo in 1996, a time with significant disease pressure in Minnesota and North Dakota from *Cercospora*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Aphanomyces*, and the virus newcomer to the region, Rhizomania, was present.

Accomplishments from John's laboratory include the production of molecular diagnostic tools, tagging of disease resistance genes, the discovery and cloning of emerging viruses in the U.S., and evaluating non-GMO methods for virus control in sugarbeet in both the crown and root of the crop.

John's greatest joy during these years was discussing a disease in a beet field and trying to solve the problems of the season. Additionally, John is proud of his involvement in educating students who today are employed at local Red River Valley establishments such as the Mayo Clinic, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and private and public research centers globally.

2025 BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING NEWS

43rd Biennial ASSBT Meeting

Awards Recipients

HONORARY MEMBER

Mark Anfinrud



Mark was born in Grafton, ND while his father was a pastor in St. Thomas, ND. In 1965, the family moved to Aneta, ND where Mark grew up. During high school and college, he worked on a local farm, sparking a lifelong passion for agriculture. Mark earned a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and an Master's degree in Sunflower Seed Technology from NDSU, launching a career that began at Interstate (a subsidiary of VanderHave) in 1986, where he began as Quality Control Manager and completed training as Registered Seed Technologist. Mark planted the first Dutch pre-selection sugarbeet research trials in the U.S. in 1989 under the di-

rection of Chris Middelburg. As the research program grew with the addition of germplasm from Holly Hybrids, SES in Belgium, and Seedex, the testing identified valuable adapted genetics for North America. In 2005, SES (Belgian) and VanderHave officially joined to create SESVanderHave (SV), a subsidiary of Florimond Desprez. Mark became the Product Manager and worked closely with U.S. and Canadian sugar beet growers. Mark represented SV on the Board of Directors for West Coast Beet Seed (WCBS) and served as President for two terms. He also supported the SV seed production teams in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington with stecklings produced in Oregon and Arizona. Mark finished his nearly four decade career as U.S. Quality Control Manager, where he completed his legacy of progress and success on December 31, 2024. Mark married Lois, a farmer's daughter from Rock Lake, ND, who supported and encouraged Mark's faith and passion for planting seeds of success in every corner of his life. Together they have three children and now five grandchildren.

2025 BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING NEWS

43rd Biennial ASSBT Meeting Awards Recipients

HONORARY MEMBER



Peter Regitnig

Peter Regitnig spent his early years in southern Ontario before moving to western Canada as a teenager. After working on a farm during his high school years, he enrolled in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba where he received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

He started his career in the sugar industry in September 1984 as a research agronomist for the Manitoba Sugar Company in Winnipeg. After

closure of the Winnipeg sugar factory in 1997, Peter moved further west to Taber, Alberta to continue in his research agronomist position as part of the company now known as Lantic Inc. His research activities have included official variety trials, fertility trials, pesticide trials, general agronomy work and pile storage investigations.

Peter's first ASSBT meeting was in New Orleans in 1989, and he has been a member since. He has served the society as secretary-treasurer, Canada regional director, general program chairperson, agricultural program co-chairperson and as a session leader at various meetings. He has also been part of several committees and has presented numerous papers at biennial meetings.

Peter married Sheryl in 1984, the year he started at Manitoba Sugar, so both marriage and career have spanned 40 great years.

2025 BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING NEWS

43rd Biennial ASSBT Meeting

Awards Recipients

SAVITSKY AWARD

Gary Secor



Gary Secor is a Professor of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo, ND. He is a native of Bozeman, MT and has a Bachelor's degree in Zoology and Master's degree in Botany from Montana State University, and a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of California at Davis. In 1971 he began his career in Montana as a technician director of the first potato virus testing lab in the U.S. Gary has worked during his 47-year career with Agricultural Experiment Station at NDSU. His potato work concentrates on disease discovery, diagnosis, management, variety development and grower education. In 2000, he was asked to develop a research program with sugar beets and the sugar beet industry of ND and MN. He gladly accepted this new adventure that has become one of the best decisions he made. His work has concentrated on *Cercospora* leaf spot management, documenting and monitoring fungicide resistance, and *Fusarium* wilt. Dr. Secor has advised many graduate students and enjoys working with the domestic and international sugar beet industry. He has received a number of awards from the potato and sugar beet industries for his work. In addition to his work, he enjoys lake time puttering, family and international travel.



ASSBT SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Click on a member company to learn more!

Alberta Sugar Beet Growers	Taber, AB, Canada
Amalgamated Sugar Company	Boise, ID
American Crystal Sugar Company	Moorhead, MN
Anton-Paar USA, Inc.	Ashland, VA
Bayer Crop Science Research	Research Triangle Park, NC
Betaseed	Bloomington, MN
EAPC Industrial Services	Grand Fork, ND
EnerDry A/S	Virun, Denmark
ESCON GmbH	Berlin, Germany
Foss Analytical	Hilleroed, Denmark
Germaines Seed Technology	Gilroy, CA
Glaß & Wolff Metalltechnik GmbH & Co. KG	Zeven, Germany
Graver Technologies	Glasgow, DE
Hemav	Barcelona, Spain
Hydrite Chemical Company	Brookfield, WI
KWS Seeds, LLC	Tangent, OR
Lantic, Inc	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Lenzing	Lenzing, Austria
Michigan Sugar Company	Bay City, MI
Micronics Engineered Filtration Group, Inc.	Chattanooga, TN
Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative	Wahpeton, ND
Mitsui Chemicals Agro Group	Tokyo, Japan
Nalco Water an Ecolab Company	Naperville, IL
Neltec Denmark A/S	Bevtoft, Denmark
NEW Honiron	Morgan City, LA
Putsch & Company, Inc.	Asherville, NC
Refratechnik	München, Germany
Rudolph Research Analytical	Hackettstown, NJ
SAB Engineering	Fargo, ND
Sefar, Inc	Thal, Switzerland
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative	Renville, MN
Struktol GmbH	Hamburg, Germany
Sugars International, LLC.	Englewood, CO
Superior Service Company	Martinville, LA
Syngenta	Basel, Switzerland
United Beet Seeds	Tienen, Belgium
USP Technologies	Glen Allen, WA
VEi Global Engineering Consultants	Fargo, ND
Western Sugar Cooperative	Denver, CO
Wyoming Sugar Company	Worland, WY

Grow With Us

To become a member Contact: Heidi Giles, Executive Assistant @ (303) 832-4460 & heidi@bsdf-assbt.org

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WE ARE ASSBT

The objectives of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologist (ASSBT) are to foster all phases of sugar beet and beet sugar research, to promote the dissemination of resultant scientific knowledge, to strive to maintain high standards of ethics, and to cooperate with other organizations having objectives beneficial to the beet sugar industry.

“SNEAK PEAK:” - SPRING 2026 ASSBT NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Get ready for highlights from the ASSBT Biennial Meeting, including Poster Winners, 40-Year Veterans List, and the Robert Hatch Innovation in Technology Award.



BEET DEETS

CONTACT US--Office: 303-832-4460

Anna Murphy-Executive Vice President
anna@bsdf-assbt.org

Heidi Giles-Executive Assistant
heidi@bsdf-assbt.org

Sarah Newton-Office Assistant

frontdesk@bsdf-assbt.org