

# Use of Clamps and the Ropa Maus at Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative

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# Why Clamps vs. Traditional Methods

- New technology
  - Ropa Maus machine
- Opportunity to screen more soil out of the beets in the field
  - Soil stays in the field where it belongs
  - Don't haul soil to piling sites and/or factory – less expense
  - Don't have to dispose of soil from piling sites or factory – less expense
- Opportunity to increase lifting capacity
  - Lifter doesn't have to wait for trucks
  - Potential to complete harvest in fewer days
    - Lift beets in the best conditions for storage = better storage



# Why Clamps vs. Traditional Methods

- Opportunity to alleviate receiving station limitations
  - Space limitations
  - Truck pressure
- Opportunity to put beets directly into the factory
  - Processable vs. storable beets



# Ropa Maus at SMBSC in 2010

- Considered 2010 an experimental year
- Used Ropa Maus only during full campaign
- We managed when the beets were clamped
  - Tried to stay about 3 days ahead of the Ropa Maus
- Tried a “Small Circle” concept
  - Designed to help an overloaded station
- Tried a “Long Haul” concept
  - Designed to help a group of long haul growers
- Created a small “Ropa” pile (about 8,000 tons)



# Preliminary Conclusions

- Participating growers unanimously said they would participate again
- Managing the timing of the clamp building worked well
- The “Small Circle” concept worked better than the “Long Haul” concept
- “Ropa” pile stored as well as any other pile based on temperature probes and gross observation



Thanks!

