## SBARE Stakeholder Input 2019

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## Please describe your Agriculture and/or Extension needs and potential solution. \*

Hello, I am Joe Hastings the General Agronomist at American Crystal Sugar Company. I am writing to support the NDAWN system and any current and future increase in investment of this valuable weather information tool. Our company, staff, and shareholders use this information constantly. In using NDAWN's network, it is a very good way to get a detailed snapshot of our growing region which is 180 miles long by 120 miles wide in the Red River Valley. The tables and maps are a wonderful tool to do this. As for myself and others we access the information it provides multiple times a day. This is in looking at the current and historical weather observations as well as how those observations are applied to sugarbeet crop specific applications/models to help in making production input and timing decisions regarding Sugarbeet Root Maggot, Cercospora leaf spot control, or looking at Sugarbeet GDD's to manage crop stage development and timing of agronomic practices. Since sugarbeets are a perishable root crop, accurate temperature and precipitation information is invaluable when making harvest decisions based on the current environmental conditions which NDAWN provides us. I have heard that a request for permanent funding of an additional programmer is being made. I think this would be a great investment allowing the programming within NDAWN to be upto-date, viable and valuable preserving current and historical weather observations along with the applications that information feeds as well as producing future new applications of value. Thank you for reading my statement regarding American Crystal Sugar Company's support of the importance in the continuing of investments into NDAWN.

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