

Despite Drought, Sugar Beets Produce Record Numbers

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(Scottsbluff)-As harvest season comes to an end this fall, sugar beet numbers are on the rise. Western Nebraska, as well as Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana have all seen a jump in production this year even though summer conditions were at times unfavorable.

According to the Western Sugar Cooperative sugar production has averaged 29 tons per acre, a record number in production. Reasonings behind such a strong crop of sugar beets this year are traced to seed improvements and less chemical use. Currently Nebraska has harvested 91 percent of its sugar beet crops, while it is expected that somewhere near 300 Nebraskan growers will harvest near 50,000 acres of sugar beets by end of harvest this fall.