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Seasonal employees across the Red River Valley help our Growers with Harvest

Moorhead, MN – Harvest at American Crystal is a busy but exciting time. As many as 1300 employees across the Red River Valley come together to help our growers lift their sugarbeets out of the ground and transport them to factories and piling sites. A feat that is often accomplished in a very short period of time. This year’s harvest including a record-setting day with over 50,000 truckloads hitting our piling station in 24 hours. This well-orchestrated event is not possible without our seasonal workforce, many who return year after year to help. Junior Garza, a second-generation beet worker from south Texas, is no stranger to harvest in the valley.

Garza has been as staple on the Ardoch and Oslo crews in the northwest corner of Minnesota for thirty sugarbeet harvests. He has been an equipment operator, site foreman and is currently a harvest assistant. It all began on a farm in the Minto area when Garza was encouraged to check out harvest opportunities with American Crystal. His father worked for sugarbeet farmers over 35 years and he was very familiar with growers and agriculture in the area. “The work can be challenging, wet and cold,” Garza said. “The people are what keeps me coming back every year”, he added.

Over the years, Garza has recruited his wife Dina and his three sons to work the American Crystal harvest seasons. Minnesota summers are Garza’s favorite, and he’s made his home in Ardoch. But, when the snow flies, the Garza’s do too. Winter work is in Rio Grande City, TX where he works for an HVAC company.

Garza says he is not planning to miss a harvest season anytime soon. He and his family enjoy meeting and interacting with all the different types of people that come from all over to work harvest. “I like to see that everyone is treated well when they come in to help.”

Just the kind of guy we want on our team.



Junior Garza

About American Crystal Sugar Company:

American Crystal Sugar Company is an agricultural cooperative owned by 2,650 shareholder-entities in the Red River Valley involved in the growing and processing of sugarbeets. American Crystal is the largest beet sugar producer in the United States. American Crystal operates sugar factories at East Grand Forks, Crookston and Moorhead, Minnesota, and Drayton and Hillsboro, North Dakota. Its corporate headquarters and technical services center are located in Moorhead.