



5<sup>th</sup> December 2024



## IN BRIEF

Have you taken part in the BBRO Growers survey? We would love to hear what you think about the service you receive from us. If you can spare a few minutes, please take part

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NM9W558>

- Harvesting progressing well, but please be careful when building clamps to avoid overheating and load rejection
- Weather has been predominantly mild, but growers urged to be ready for any sudden or prolonged cold spells/frost
- A few areas are still struggling to get on wet land, if the beet themselves are underwater then the crop will deteriorate quicker. Remember to lift as soon as ground allows
- Now is the time to be planning your early herbicide use. Think about the issues faced in each field in 2024 and watch our helpful video of the [BBRO Herbicide trials](#), delivered by Pam Chambers, British Sugar
- BeetCast December: Farming – one of life's universities<https://rss.com/podcasts/bbrobeetcast/1777047/>



## ADVISORY

### Harvesting: attention to detail

Whilst temperatures remain relatively warm it is important to try and keep the time beet is clamped prior to delivery to a minimum to preserve sugar levels and reduce rot roots. Minimising root breakage when harvesting is key to avoiding accelerated sugar losses. The average sugar beet clamp loss rates are usually at 0.1% of total sugar volume/day but in poorly harvested and handled crops sugar loss can be 3-4 times greater. Losses will be even greater where temperatures are above 10°C. Some clamps have been pushed excessively high over recent weeks, leading to severe root rotting, figure 1 (right).



Make sure there is someone regularly checking on the condition of beet at the clamp.

Follow these guidelines to minimise sugar losses:

- When planning a Maus clamp, calculate the estimated tonnage and length, to avoid overspill into unsuitable areas
- Choose a firm, well-drained site which will be suitable for loading and unloading
- Clamps should be built in an open area to aid ventilation and cooling
- Never push beet up the face of the clamp. This will damage beet, compact the clamp and restrict air movement, allowing heat to build-up and increase rate of sugar loss.

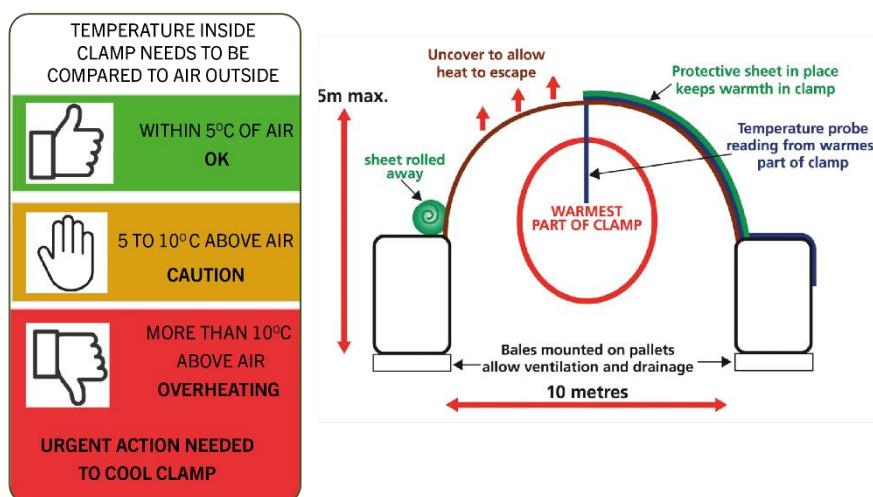
See our handy [Harvester assessment guide](#) for our 3-step guide to assessing harvesting losses to help maximise yields and returns.

Figure 2 (right): Watch out for damaged beet in your clamp as these will deteriorate quickly in clamp



Figure 3: Avoid leaving large clamps (more than 2m in height) with lots of soil and tops for more than a few days in warm conditions.

## Cross section of a traditional clamp



## Water-logged crops

Sugar beet, like many crops has an ability to withstand water logging for a short period of time. The amount of time that the crop is underwater is key as this will affect the extent of anaerobic conditions the roots are exposed to. After this time there is an increased risk of 'hypoxia' in plants leading to cell death. There is no precise critical period that roots remain unaffected as temperature, soil sediment levels and soil structure (soil aeration) will have an influence, but the crop should be able to tolerate 5-7 days underwater.

Do not clamp waterlogged crops for any longer than necessary.



## EVENTS

### Diary dates: Click on images to book a place

### Details deliver

**British Beet Research Organisation** **BBRO** **BeetTech25**

Impact	% of crop affected
Insects	35
Variety	20
Soil type	25
Disease	40
Nutrient deficiencies	35
Weather	30

**Session 1: The checklist**  
Four short practical sessions on the 'must knows' for 2025 season:  
Aphid control - herbicide use - foliar disease management - cover crop destruction

**Session 2: Data driven decisions**  
An overview of trials work and results and how to use the data to shape on-farm decisions:  
optimising fertiliser use - initiating aphid impact - revisiting rhizomania - cereals monitoring - varieties and resistance

Tuesday 4th February - Norfolk Showground  
Tuesday 11th February - Newark Showground  
8:30 arrival for 9am start, 12:45 finish

**BOOK: [www.bbro.co.uk/events](http://www.bbro.co.uk/events)**

Special afternoon session to follow BeetTech events:

### DRILL OPERATOR TRAINING

for better establishment and improved crop performance

A successful sugar beet harvest begins with the preparation of the seed bed and ensuring optimum performance of both drill and operator.

This course is open to all sugar beet drill operators, providing the basic principles of drill set-up for all models.

**Sessions to include:**

- » Practical soil management
- » Cultivation techniques for the perfect seed bed
- » Pelleting and seeds
- » Drill maintenance for optimum performance

Book online at: [www.bbro.co.uk/events](http://www.bbro.co.uk/events)

Tuesday 4th February 2024 - Norfolk Showground  
Tuesday 11th February 2024 - Newark Showground

Arrival 13:00, commence 13:30-16:30  
Lunch will be provided  
Presentations and practical support from:



## CONTACTS

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## BASIS POINTS

Two BASIS points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated for the period between 01/06/2024 – 31/05/2025 - CP/138145/2425/g. To claim these points please email [cpd@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:cpd@basis-reg.co.uk)

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 - NO500860f and NO503154f from 1st September 2024 – 31st May 2025. To claim these points please email [nroso@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:nroso@basis-reg.co.uk).