



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Darryl Salter
612-872-6200

Midwest Agri-Commodities Receives Product Certifications

CORTE MADERA, CA. – February 28, 2003 – Midwest Agri-Commodities announced today that 11 of their 12 sugar beet plants have received GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) certification covering beet pulp pellet production. The certification, performed by an outside auditor, covers all aspects of the pulp production process, from the introduction of the beets into the factory through processing, storage and finished product loading.

Darryl Salter, Vice President, North American Operations for Midwest Agri-Commodities states “This certification is an important step for our customers, the Midwest Agri-Commodities marketing organization and our product source factories. It reconfirms our commitment to provide superior products to our domestic and export buyers. By obtaining this outside verification, we are able to show our customers our unrelenting dedication to providing them with safe, superior quality livestock feed products.”

“The beet end of a sugar factory historically has not received the kind of attention that the sugar end does, but this ongoing process means that there is more awareness of the value of the co-products and the need to supply excellent quality. The GMP inspection process uses Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points principles to review standard operating procedures, training and maintenance records and ensures that the working environment involved in pellet production is clean, safe and offers the least possible chance for outside contamination,” Salter added.

The final plant at Sidney, Montana will be inspected in the fall of 2003 which will result in all Midwest Agri-Commodities pulp pellet factories as being certified.

Midwest Agri-Commodities globally markets over 1.3 million tons of beet pulp, beet molasses and desugared beet molasses annually for American Crystal Sugar Company, Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, Michigan Sugar Company and Sidney Sugars Incorporated. Additional information about the Midwest Agri-Commodities can be obtained at www.mwagri.com.

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