

US sugar beet planted area seen up 0.6% from 2019

The USDA, in its March 31 Prospective Plantings report, said farmers indicated they intend to plant 1,138,500 acres of sugar beets in 2020, up 6,500 acres, or 0.6%, from 1,132,000 acres in 2019 and the most since 1,163,400 acres in 2016. The largest increase was expected in Michigan at 150,000 acres, up 4,000 acres, or 2.7%, from 2019. Top-producing Minnesota was forecast at 427,000 acres, up 3,000 acres, or 0.7%, from last year, with North Dakota at 214,000 acres, up 2,000 acres, or 0.9%. Increases also were forecast for Montana and Colorado. Plantings in Idaho were forecast at 168,000 acres, down 3,000 acres, or 1.8%, from 2019. Decreases also were forecast for Wyoming, California and Oregon. Planted area was unchanged for Nebraska and Washington. Trade sources indicated sugar beet planting was underway in Michigan in late March.

