



International Sugar Organization

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Various sugar related articles

The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the articles below all of which are relevant to the sugar sector.

FoodNavigator.com

Euromonitor: How are consumers thinking about sugar reduction and sweeteners?



Sugar reduction has become a macro health trend among consumers who believe the dietary shift leads to general wellness and health, according to Euromonitor research.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2021/08/23/euromonitor-how-are-consumers-thinking-about-sugar-reduction-and-sweeteners>

'The sector is behind over a quarter of total emissions': Global investor group steps up pressure on industry over climate goals



The Climate Action 100+ coalition says food & beverage companies are 'not on track' for an 85% cut in emissions by 2050.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2021/08/24/the-sector-is-behind-over-a-quarter-of-total-emissions-global-investor-group-steps-up-pressure-on-industry-over-climate-goals>

'Shipping rates are poised to remain elevated for the foreseeable future,' says Mintec



The cost of containerized freight has reached an all-time high, says a new report from Mintec, which says its global shipping composite index (based on 11 east-west trade routes) reached a monthly average of \$8,796 per 40-foot container in June, up +24% month-on-month, and up a “staggering” +309% year-on-year.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2021/08/24/shipping-rates-are-poised-to-remain-elevated-for-the-foreseeable-future-says-mintec>

USDA predicts higher food prices on top of existing hikes – calling into question consumer reactions



Food prices across categories are predicted to rise low- to mid-single digits this year and again next year – adding on to already higher prices in 2020 fueled in part by the pandemic and raising questions about how consumers will react in the long term, according to the US Department of Agriculture and an industry analyst.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2021/08/26/usda-predicts-higher-food-prices-on-top-of-existing-hikes-calling-into-question-consumer-reactions>

PepsiCo invests in 'largest and most sustainable' plant in Europe



Snacks-to-drinks giant PepsiCo is investing in what it says will be its 'largest and most sustainable' food manufacturing plant in Europe.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2021/08/26/pepsico-invests-in-largest-and-most-sustainable-plant-in-europe>

How ag investment can bring water and climate goals within reach: 'Our traditional ways of working have not kept pace with the changes the world is undergoing'



For the Global South to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, help stabilise global warming and protect water resources, agricultural innovation is needed. Investing US\$15.2bn a year more will bring a number of 'critical goals' within reach, according to new research.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2021/08/30/how-ag-investment-can-bring-water-and-climate-goals-within-reach-our-traditional-ways-of-working-have-not-kept-pace-with-the-changes-the-world-is-undergoing>

Sugaronline E-Briefing

US: Michigan Sugar to invest US\$65 million in desugarization facility

Michigan Sugar Company on Wednesday announced plans to invest more than US\$65 million to construct a desugarization facility at its factory located at 2600 S. Euclid Ave. in Bay County's Monitor Township (commonly known as the company's Bay City factory), **reports Sugaronline.**

The facility will allow Michigan Sugar Company to produce up to an additional 80 million pounds of pure, all-natural sugar annually from molasses that is a byproduct of the process through which sugar is extracted from sugarbeets. Currently, Michigan Sugar Company has the capacity to extract additional sugar from 60% of its molasses. The new facility will allow the company to extract additional sugar from 100% of its molasses.

The project is expected to begin in fall 2021 and is scheduled to take 18 to 24 months to complete. Once operational, the company expects to process as much as 650 tons of molasses daily, up from the current amount of 325 tons per day.

"This enormous undertaking, investment, and commitment by our grower-owners will have a multi-generational impact for our cooperative," said Mark S. Flegenheimer, President and CEO of the company, which was founded in 1906 and became a grower-owned cooperative in 2002. "This is a historic day for our owners, our employees, our customers and our community."

Flegenheimer explained the enormous economic impact the new facility will have.

"Simply put, we can sell sugar at a higher price than we sell molasses," he said. "Our nearly 900 grower-owners will see added annual revenue of US\$10 million to US\$15 million, in perpetuity."

Michigan Sugar Company's grower-owners are spread out across about 20 Michigan counties, as well as Ontario, Canada. The 13-member Co-op Board of Directors approved the desugarization project earlier this year.

"This facility will replace our current desugarization equipment that was installed in the 1990s," said Adam Herford, a grower-owner from Elkton who serves as Chairman of the Board. This is one of the most substantial investments made in the history of our company and brings Michigan Sugar Company up to par with other sugar producers across the United States."

Before desugarization equipment was installed at the Bay City factory in the 1990s, Michigan Sugar Company sold all its molasses as a byproduct.

Herford said that at the heart of this investment is a story about sustainability.

"We are going to produce up to 80 million more pounds of sugar annually without planting another acre of sugarbeets," he said, adding Michigan Sugar Company's grower-owners annually plant and harvest about 160,000 acres of sugarbeets. "That means 80 million more pounds without any additional passes over our farm fields with our equipment, without any further spraying of our crops to ward off disease and pests, and without burning any additional fuel on our farms to expand operations.

"This truly is a win-win for all involved."

As part of the US\$65+ million investment, Michigan Sugar Company plans to add US\$4 million in juice softening equipment at its factory in Caro and its factory in Sebewaing, said Jason Lowry, Michigan Sugar Company's Vice President of Operations. Lowry explained that when factories desugar molasses, they need the molasses to be soft.

"We have juice softening equipment already in Bay City and we installed juice softening equipment at our factory in Croswell as part of a US\$70 million capital upgrade of that facility over the past six years," Lowry said. "Now, we'll add that equipment in Caro and Sebewaing, which means those factories, and those communities, also will benefit from our investment."

Pedro L. Figueroa, Michigan Sugar Company's Vice President of Sales and Marketing, said the investment in the desugarization project completely aligns with a goal to drive sales of Michigan Sugar's Pioneer Sugar brand, as well as private label, value-added packaged sales with the company's key partners.

"Our project also ensures a significant volume in our "farm-to-table" and Certified Vegan sugar supply through agricultural and food production sustainability improvements, in addition to creating important scale-up efficiencies that will consistently increase domestic sugar production in Michigan for many, many years to come," said Figueroa.
