

Storage

Average losses in clamp are circa 0.1% of total sugar volume per day but **BBRO storage trials** have shown that **best practice** techniques can result in just **0.039% of total sugar volume loss per day**.

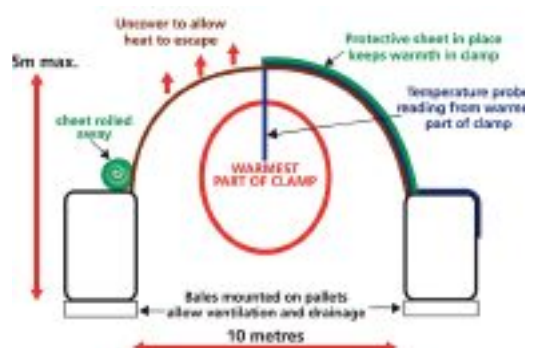
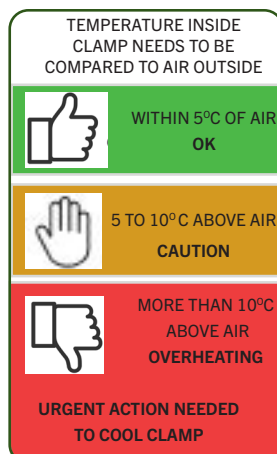
If storage is managed poorly, the result can be very serious and lead to load rejections and beet becoming unsaleable with a total loss of value.

On-farm hygiene is crucial. Make sure clamp areas are clean before storage commences. Check spoil heaps and any beet piles left on farm for leaf growth and destroy (or deliver).

All clamps

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

Cross section of a traditional clamp



Early season clamp



Early in the season beet should be in a clamp for no more than a few days, and certainly less than two weeks. These clamps should not be covered or have retaining walls.

Short-term clamps are designed to give maximum surface area and therefore cooling to reduce sugar loss through respiration.

Clamps should be made up of individual loads and be no more than 2m high.

Pushing up clamps with buckets/blades should be avoided as this will increase damage and respiration.

Trailers should stop at the edge of the Beet clamp as a level surface is not required, this will reduce further beet damage.

Late season clamp



Late season long-term clamps should be no more than 2.5m high with a level surface so there are no frost pockets.

Clamps should be built using straw retaining walls. Bales should be placed on pallets with the open end facing outward to aid ventilation.

Only use clamp sheets if the ground temperature is forecast to be below -3°C .

Clamp sheets are made of polyfelt which not only offer protection but also allow the beet to breathe.

A-shaped clamp - for self-propelled cleaner-loaders



Where a self-propelled cleaner-loader is used, clamps should be built in an 'A' shape of the correct width to allow the machine to operate effectively. Planning for a Maus clamp should be done pre-drilling to ensure sufficient headland is drilled for the harvester to access.

Clamps are normally built on the headland but consideration needs to be given for machinery to access the clamp easily.

A-shaped clamps are best built with a harvester rather than a trailer to avoid rutting in the clamp base.