Yam harvesting a way of life for Arvie family

The harvest season in Acadia is still ongoing and the setting for this photo essay by Leo Bashinsky is an eight-acre field of Beauregard sweet potatoes being hand picked in Go-To, a small community near Grand Prairie.

A stinging, brisk breeze cut across the dusty field the day these harvesters were out.

Aranel Arvie, one of the harvesters, said he preferred it to hot weather.

"The hot weather is the worst, but it gets pretty bad when it's cold and the wind starts blowing."

Aranel Arvie, above, dumps a crate of sweet potatoes into a large bin on a truck parked on the side of the field.

Workers in background are preparing to take empty crates out to the workers in the field who are hand picking the crop.

Oralean Arvie stretches for another sweet potato as her daughter, Lisa Fontenot drops her hand full into a crate in the background.

Mrs. Arvie says she began picking sweet potatoes when she was six-years-old and has picked potatoes more than 40 years.

Above, with all of the crates filled, a harvester heads for a break while awaiting a tractor and and wagon. Then, it's back to work loading the wagon with the crates.