Fifth and final payment for the 1973 sugarbeet crop was announced today in Fremont by the Northern Ohio Sugar Company.

The payment will average $5.48 per ton and will bring total average returns for 1973 beets up to $34.13 per ton, a record high. It will be mailed Friday, Oct. 25, to more than 700 growers who produced beets last year near Fremont, Findlay, and Blissfield, Mich.

The final settlement for 1973 beets was announced by Robert N. Sanborn, area agricultural director for Northern Ohio Sugar. He noted that total payments were $19.02 per ton more than a year ago because growers share heavily in the increasing net proceeds from the sale of sugar and by-products under their participating contract with the company. But in that same period, Sanborn pointed out, beet growers have absorbed inflationary increases in production costs.

Sanborn said 1973 beet crop returns will total $10.3 million, including Sugar Act compliance payments financed by a federal tax on the sugar industry. The final payment to be made Friday will total $1.6 million.

Meantime, the harvest of 1974 sugarbeets moved into full swing on the farms. Sanborn reported the new beet crop so far appears to be one of the best in recent years with excellent yields of sugar per acre in most localities. He added that the crop made a remarkable recovery from summer-long drought conditions to achieve extraordinary quality.

The initial payment for 1974 beets will be made Dec. 15.

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