Predictions of record high returns for sugarbeets were confirmed today with second payment for the 1973 crop set at the largest amount in Northern Ohio history. It will average $3.50 per ton.

The payment will be mailed April 19 to 700 growers who produce beets for the Northern Ohio Sugar Company near Fremont and Findlay and in southeastern Michigan.

The second payment will bring total average returns for the 1973 beet crop to $22.15 per ton, up $8.21 per ton, or 59 percent higher than cumulative returns for the 1972 crop through April of last year. The figures include Sugar Act compliance payments financed by a federal tax on the sugar industry.

The dramatic advance was announced in Fremont by Robert N. Sanborn, area agricultural director for Northern Ohio Sugar. He pointed out that the second payment of $3.50 per ton average will be well over double the $1.53 per ton average paid last April for 1972 beets. In addition, he said, the second payment next month will make average cumulative returns for 1973 beets $7.04 per ton higher than the total of all payments for 1972 beets.

Sanborn noted that individual payments will vary according to the sugar content of the grower's beets.

"This second payment not only confirms our predictions of the strength of the market for sugar and beet by-products, but also demonstrates how the grower shares in the net proceeds from sugar sales on a rising market. The grower's unique participating contract with the company provides higher returns for his crop as prices rise during the marketing year ending Sept. 30."
Add One Sugarbeet payments

And because of the upward trend of the sugar market, Sanborn said that growers could receive four beet crop payments this year, instead of the usual three. He said the other payments will depend on the level of prices through Sept. 30.

The first payment on the 1973 crop was made by Northern Ohio last December. It averaged $16.50 per ton, plus Sugar Act payment of $2.15 per ton. Final settlement for 1973 beets will be made in October with the amount depending on sugar and by-product prices through Sept. 30.

With the second payment next month of $1 million, grower returns for the 1973 crop to date will total nearly $6.75 million.

Growers in the Northern Ohio Sugar territory were urged by Sanborn to take every advantage of their participating contract by planting full beet acreage and raising a quality crop with high sugar content. He said the acreage contracted so far equals that harvested last fall, but he expects still more to meet the processing capacities of the factories at Fremont and Findlay.

Sanborn also commended the growers for the extensive field work they completed last fall. And he added "With a little dry weather, the fields will be in excellent shape for final preparation and planting."

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