GW to stimulate beet acreage boost

Great Western Sugar Co. of Denver announced an "all-out action" program to encourage the company's sugar beet growers to plant more acreage this year.

The program includes personal visits this week to growers in all sugar beet factory communities by Robert R. Owen, president of the sugar company, and William M. White, chairman and president of Great Western United Corp., GW Sugar's parent firm.

Owen said the coming crop year may be the "best year by far for beets" because of strong price trends in the sugar market.

"We see a real possibility," he said, "that total cash returns for the 1971 crop could exceed $18.50 per ton of beets of long-term average sugar content."

The figure cited by Owen includes payments made to growers under the federal Sugar Act.

Owen said the program to encourage planting includes:

- Free sugar beet seed to growers who plant at least 10 percent more acreage in addition to their original contracts. Growers who plant 10 percent more acreage this year than last will be given free seed for the acreage planted.

- Elimination of interest charges on accounts for crop materials purchased from the company.

- Company sponsorship of sugar beet farm equipment pools to reduce the operating costs of growers willing to form joint ventures to finance machinery.

- Company-provided financial advisers to assist growers in planning for their crops.

- The establishment of agricultural internships on farms to help new growers get started in sugar beet agriculture and farm management.

- Assisting prospective growers in locating farms to own or operate with technical and managerial assistance.

Owen said White has given the full commitment of the parent organization to an effort to support the beet grower and the firm's sugar business.

"We see a resurgence in the sugar business for both grower and company, with the present strong market as well as with the current breakthroughs in sugar beet crop technology."
By GEORGE LANE
Denver Post Staff Writer

An 11-county pilot project to improve living conditions of migrant farm workers was announced here Tuesday by federal officials, representatives of the migrant labor force and private industry.

The project is being conducted by the Colorado Migrant Development Corp., a nonprofit organization formed to develop adequate housing and a health-care delivery system for migrants.

The pilot project, the result of a year's work by the six-member Mountain Plains Federal Regional Council, Great Western Sugar Co., the Colorado Migrant Council and agricultural interests, will operate in 11 northeastern Colorado counties.

The counties involved in the project are Adams, Boulder, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

Samuel R. Martinez, regional director for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), said at a press conference in his office, "In recent years attention has been focused on the needs of migrant workers but little has been done to mobilize the resources of private industry and federal government in a joint attack on the basic problems that face those in the migrant stream."

SIMILAR VENTURES

He said the approach to migrant problems isn't a traditional one but one which "we anticipate will become successful and serve as a model for the formation of similar ventures throughout the country."

Great Western has allocated $50,000 "to help launch the project."

Abelardo Delgado, director of the Colorado Migrant Council, said he expects "about $150,000 in federal money" to be combined with the GW allocation and used as seed money to attract other funds.

Delgado identified himself as being the spokesman "representing the view of the migrants while they are away in Texas."

He said the major problem confronting the migrant workers is that of housing and the first efforts of the corporation will be directed toward remediating this.

"This winter they will probably start drafting something that will start in 1972," he said.

ALleviate PROBLEMS

According to the migrant council director, other groups are concerning themselves with attempts to alleviate housing problems for the migrant season which starts in a few weeks.

"We will be involved in this," he said, "but I'm more concerned with permanent results."

An estimated 12,000 migrant workers come to the state each year. Delgado said the efforts of the development corporation probably will reach 4,500 to 5,000 of these persons.

Blake McFeely, vice president and director of legal affairs for Great Western, said the development corporation now has "a rough outline of a year's schedule.

"There are many ideas as to how to solve the problems of housing," he said.

He said formal plans and approaches will be drawn up after a corporation staff and director are employed.

The composition of the Colorado Migrant Development Corp. board of director will be nine representatives from the migrant population, and three representatives each from the beet growers and beet processors in the counties involved.

Robert Klausing, OEO deputy director regional director and federal migrant task force chairman, said the effort is concerned with sugar beet workers because of the cooperation of Great Western and the fact that sugar beet crop is the largest in the state.

He said OEO has been designated the lead agency in dealing with migrant problems and all federal funds from other agencies will be channeled through its offices.

Klausing said the pilot project eventually can be responsible for the construction of 300 to 500 migrant homes.
Nonprofit group to aid migrant workers is set up

BY ROBERT THRELKELD
Rocky Mountain News Federal Reporter

The formation of the Colorado Migrant Development Corp., a non-profit group to develop adequate housing and health services for migrant farm workers, was announced Tuesday in Denver.

According to Samuel R. Martinez, regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, funds for the corporation will be provided by federal agencies and private industry.

He said the Great Western Sugar Co. has allocated $50,000 to help launch the project and the federal government has promised an additional $150,000 in seed money.

"To our knowledge this marks the first time that industry, farm groups, government and migrant workers have joined in a common cause to improve living and working conditions for migrant farm workers," Martinez said.

According to Martinez and Abelardo Delgado, director of the Colorado Migrant Council, the corporation will operate in 11 counties in northeastern Colorado.

The corporation will be guided by a 15-member board of directors comprised of nine migrant representatives, three representatives of the beet processors and three representatives of the growers.

An executive director and housing specialist are expected to be appointed shortly.

Martinez said the corporation was chartered following a year of study by local, state and federal agencies working with farmers, farm organizations, industry, the Colorado Migrant Council, and other migrant advocate groups.

"We anticipate that this pilot program will prove successful and that it will become a pattern for similar projects in the nation," Martinez said.

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Group organized to help migrants

(Continued from Page 5)

Delgado cautioned, however, that the corporation was not yet equipped to handle the immediate problems of the migrants in Colorado.

"It isn't going to solve problems overnight," he said, "but we (the migrants) are desperate enough to try any new and innovative approach that comes our way."

As outlined in a Tuesday morning press conference, the $50,000 from Great Western will be used primarily for private seeding of federal housing loans.

Delgado said the corporation hopes to eventually attract other money from private industry in addition to Great Western.

Blake McFeely, vice president and director of legal affairs for Great Western, said there had been "no pressure" put on Great Western to join the project, but rather the company had been invited by the federal government to participate.

While specific programs have yet to be developed by the corporation, Delgado said the group plans to look toward "new modes of community housing for migrants rather than labor camps."

In the area of health care, Martinez and Delgado said the corporation hopes to improve existing care and provide additional methods of health care delivery.

"Too often available health care is not reaching migrant labor, either because of lack of information on the part of the migrants as to available facilities and on the part of health care agencies as to the location and needs of migrant workers," Delgado said.

The 11 counties in which the corporation will operate are: Adams, Boulder, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

Delgado said the migrant population in those counties generally ranges from between 4,500 and 5,000.

Martinez said that federal money for the corporation will come from the Montana-Plains Federal Regional Council comprising the departments of Health, Education and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation, and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture also were involved in the planning stages of the new project, he said.
Move Is Made On Migrant Problems

Great Western United Sugar Co., under fire last year for the living conditions of its migrant workers, has taken an initial step to correct migrant problems in the state.

GWU, the Office of Economic Opportunity and other federal agencies will join to fund approximately $200,000 to the newly formed Colorado Migrant Development Corp.

The group was formed to develop housing, coordinate health services and develop a pilot program in eleven Northeastern Colorado counties. The Colorado Migrant Council, under the direction of Abelardo Delgado, will participate in the program.

At last year's Great Western stockholders meeting, the company came under fire for what were called "intolerable" living conditions of seasonal workers in the sugar beet fields.

A migrant program, funded by Great Western United Foundation, has been in effect for the past few months. This program is an effort to break the migrant stream by encouraging workers to remain in the state and work year round.

The new, non-profit corporation will be separate from the foundation program and will broaden GWU's participation in correcting migrant conditions.

The initial program of the corporation will be conducted in eleven Northeastern Colorado counties, and will attempt to reach 4,500-5,000 people. It is estimated that 12,000 migrant workers enter the state each year.

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The thrust of the program will concern workers at the Great Western Sugar Co. Great Western is contributing $50,000 to the pilot program and federal funding is expected to total $150,000.

The Board of Directors of the corporation will include ten migrant representatives, three farm growers and three Great Western Sugar employees.

Federal agencies are going to work in a supervisory capacity, or, as Delgado said, "Anytime they give us money they take a look at what we're doing."

Counties where the corporation will work include Adams, Boulder, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

According to Delgado, the corporation hopes to use the $200,000 as "seed money" and attract additional private capital to finance programs.

Housing will be the principal concern of the corporation. Delgado said that immediate solutions for this season may not be possible, however, he is interested in permanent measures.
Migrant Unit Gets OEO Grant

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has awarded a $1,057,504 grant to the Colorado Migrant Council in Denver to continue education, daycare, self-help housing, emergency food and medical programs, Sens. Gordon Allott and Peter Dominick, both R-Colo., were informed.

The grant includes $86,900 in reprogrammed funds. This program began in December 1966 and serves the following 21 Colorado counties: Adams, Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Conejos, Costilla, Delta, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Mesa, Morgan, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, Sedgwick, Weld and Yuma.

Purpose of the grant is to provide:

- Emergency food programs
- Licensed day-care centers in 32 communities which serve approximately 740 children.
- Adult education, testing, placement and counseling for 40 full-time students and 290 evening and part-time students in communities throughout Colorado, plus 40 tuition-support students at the University of Colorado.
- A self-help housing program which has 13 four-bedroom houses under construction and plans a minimum of 10 more.

Abelardo Delgado is executive program director.