

1968

DENVER, Colo., Mar. 14 -- Sugarbeet growers in six western states will receive \$5,263,000 from The Great Western Sugar Company March 22 as second payment on the 1967 crop.

Robert R. Owen, president, said this disbursement will bring 1967 sugarbeet grower total cash returns to date to \$57,620,000, including Sugar Act payments.

In the Colorado-Kansas district, the payment next week will average \$1.39 a ton, making to-date total returns \$15.58 a ton. This cumulative partial payment will be \$.40 greater than the total of all returns for the 1966 crop, Owen noted, with expectation of a substantial final payment next October. He also said that \$15.58 is more than district growers received in total for any crop in the 1963-65 period.

Owen stated that "next week's payment confirms the Company's confidence in the strength of the sugar market." He said that "if current market trends continue through September" a final payment will bring total 1967-crop cash returns to Colorado-Kansas growers of about \$16.50 a ton, the highest in history.

Contracting for the 1968 crop is nearing completion, Owen said, with an overall 15% increase from 1967 indicated for the Company in the six-state area of Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Kansas and Texas. He said the Colorado-Kansas district upturn is expected to be "in excess of 20%." These increases, the GW spokesman noted, compare with a reported national increase of about 15% in this year's sugarbeet plantings.

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