FROM: Lee Johnson
    Mountain States Beet Growers Marketing Assn.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver, Colorado, Feb. 1, 1972. Sugarbeet grower organization leaders from five states serving The Great Western Sugar Co. met in Billings, Mont. today to negotiate their 1972 contract.

Sixty leaders representing growers in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Kansas and Nebraska concluded the meeting with two important points unresolved. A prime area of concern was the inability of Great Western Sugar Company to produce without cost to the growers a letter of credit from their lead bank guaranteeing payment of 1972's beet crop. Growers were adamant on that issue. Great Western Sugar Company's president George Wilbur advised grower leaders that a letter of credit was neither practical nor necessary but agreed to furnish it if producers would stand the cost of the credit investigation.

A second matter also remained unresolved. Great Western Sugar Co. was unable to provide growers with freight plans equitable to all producers of sugarbeets in GW's production area.

Growers will meet with their representatives in the next two-week period to discuss grower-processor differences.

Harlan Seaworth, president of Mountain States Beet Growers Association representing Colorado and Kansas concluded the meeting by saying, "Speaking for myself, I cannot, under the present set of circumstances, see any real future for producers of sugarbeets."

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