Sugar firm sale agreement nears

DENVER — "We're having a time putting it together."

Jerry Daniel, attorney representing the Great Western Sugar Beet Growers' cooperative, said a purchase agreement between the growers and Great Western United for sale of its Great Western Sugar Co. is still being hammered out.

Last month, George Wilbur, president of GWSCO, said the agreement was expected to be signed between Sept. 15 and 30.

Daniel told the Star-Tribune Monday that there were "just so many schedules to be worked out" that the lawyers working on the agreement have not been able to complete it.

"We're going to meet again tomorrow," he said. "We're working for this week but it might be next week before we make it."

The $90 million price tag includes the sugar processing plant at Lovell and a quarry at Guernsey.

Sugar Beet Harvest Near In Wyoming

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (UPI)—An estimated $33 million worth of sugar beets from fields in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Texas will pour into the Holly Sugar Corp. Wednesday as the annual harvest begins.

John R. Bunker, president of Holly Sugar Corp., said his firm has hired about 1,000 factory workers for a payroll of $2.2 million this year. The company operates factories in Delta, Colo., Torrington and Worland, Wyo., Sidney, Mont., and Hereford, Tex.

Glen W. Yeager, the sugar company's vice-president for Agriculture, said the crop is expected to be better than last year's in the Delta, Torrington and Hereford areas, and at least as good as last year's in Sidney and Worland. He noted, however, that the crop still could be hurt by bad weather conditions.

The harvest this year was expected to include 91,400 acres.

Delta's Holly Sugar Factory To Start Operations Wednesday

DELTA — The Holly Sugar factory here will begin 1972-73 operations Wednesday.

Clyde C. Schmer, plant manager, said the sugar-making "campaign" will mean more than $3 million for Colorado West farmers who raise sugar beets.

To handle the sugar beets, there will be 40 agricultural department employees and 125 workers in the factory here, Schmer said. Their paychecks will total $300,000.

Bob Williamson, agricultural manager for Colorado West, said a good year is indicated by teenage and sugar content in tests conducted to date. "The tests indicate the crop is better than last year and should be one of the best in years," Williamson said.

But the company executive cautioned that adverse weather conditions could cause mature beets to deteriorate in quality.

The best previous crop averaged 20.8 tons to the acre in 1969. Williamson said field tests this year show the crop may average 20 tons to the acre with normal sugar content.

Acreage under contract to Holly for growing beets this year in the Delta-Montrose and Grand Valley areas totaled 8,500.