GW's PLATFORM

In recent speeches before groups of beet growers and other community leaders, GW President Robert R. Owen described some of the Company's goals.

The Great Western platform, the executive said, "is based largely on three R's—review, research and returns." Following are excerpts from Mr. Owen's remarks which we thought might be of particular interest to our readers.

"While Great Western is proud of our past, we are not satisfied to rest on laurels. We are reviewing results achieved over 63 years of corporate existence to ascertain which accomplishments to build on, which techniques we can improve, which practices we should discard and which new avenues of operations are open to us.

"We have greatly stepped up our research budget and research staff as part of this program. We are dedicated to try, to the fullest extent possible, to improve financial returns for the beet growers who contract with us, for our employees and for our stockholders.

"We are proud of what our seed breeders have accomplished, but, more importantly, we are confident they will continue to improve the seed varieties. Better seed means many things—more sugar content, more tons of beets to the acre and more resistance to disease. Better seed also means higher juice purity, better keeping quality of beets in the piles and higher extraction of sugar. All of these mean more money for growers and the Company."

Highlights

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COVER PHOTO—A staunch advocate of strengthening the agri-business development of Kansas, Gov. Robert Docking, right, recently re-elected, takes a firm hold on a sugar beet root as Bill White, board chairman of Great Western United, grasps the leaves. They were at the dedication of the Frank A. Kemp factory near Goodland on Sept. 23. These two prominent westerners are members of pioneer Kansas and Colorado families. Gov. Docking's dad was also a governor of Kansas and Mr. White's late father was a director and a member of GW's executive committee for many years. Bill's grandfather, Mahlon D. Thatcher, also had been a long-time director as well as treasurer, and Bill's great-grandfather was one of the founders of the sugar company.

THROUGH THE LEAVES
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Labor Needs Are Changing

By FRED G. HOLMES, Vice President,
Agricultural Administration

The major labor problems of today may soon be a thing of the past. Herbicides were used effectively in all of our areas last year and more acreage than ever before will be treated in 1969. Electronic thinners are past the experimental stage and for the first time will be in commercial use this spring. It now appears that several hundred will be sold in our areas. Their use should make a sizable reduction in the number of workers needed for thinning and thereby enable the available workers to thin the balance of the acreage in a much more timely manner.

Even though electronic thinner and herbicides use will reduce the number of workers needed in the future, we will again this spring continue our efforts to obtain an adequate number of workers for growers. Present recruiting prospects indicate that we might expect about as many total workers in our areas as last year for sugarbeet work.

Colorado's Health Department recently established a new set of regulations governing labor housing, and other Rocky Mountain states may establish similar regulations in the future. The Colorado regulations are not as stringent as they appear to be. If a grower has a reasonably well constructed labor house, cleaned for occupancy; provides potable drinking water; and does not allow the house to become overcrowded, most of the requirements will be met. Electric lights and water under pressure are preferable but are not required in existing dwellings.

We all know that good housing does much to attract the better workers. A little time and money spent in improving the appearance of a labor house will certainly pay dividends. (Note examples of good labor housing below and on Pages 16-17.)

More and more of the field worker families are remaining in their southland home areas until the school year has been finished. As a result, many families do not arrive in the beet areas for work until the latter part of May. We commend these families for their desire to obtain better educations for their children. But, their lateness in arrival in our areas has, in some instances, worked a hardship on our growers.

Growers with electronic thinners no longer need to wait for late labor. Other growers, by utilizing weed chemicals and mechanical tools available, can keep their crop under control until workers are available. The normal number of early labor arrivals, plus the local workers, should now be able to perform the early operations needed. By the time the late arrivals appear, a sufficient number of workers should be on hand to perform the balance of the thinning and whatever weeding of the crop is needed.

Mr. and Mrs. George Vega, Lubbock, Tex., farm workers liked this 5-room house they were furnished by James Krum, beet grower at Ballantine, Mont. Running water, television, electric stove and refrigerator were features of the furnished house. Below, they are loading their car and truck before leaving to work farms in Wisconsin and return to Montana in April.
Electric Thinner Demonstrations

Thousands of sugarbeet growers turned out last summer to watch electric thinners in operation. Enthusiasm and hope for elimination of hand labor were key words describing their reactions.

Great Western held four demonstrations on its own, in addition to others in its growing areas. These programs were at Greeley, Colo., Sept. 9; Holyoke, Colo., Sept. 11; Scottsbluff, Neb., Sept. 13; and Goodland, Kans., Sept. 16. The Company also cooperated in demonstrations at Billings, Mont., and Lovell, Wyo.

From comments made by growers, it appears a big step has been taken toward reduction of hand labor, through use of chemical weed control and the electronic thinning machine.

In all demonstrations, the seedbed was carefully prepared in advance, beet drills were equipped with guidance equipment to effect exact tracking of subsequent field operations, single germ seed was precision planted and weed control chemicals were used.

The John Deere machine, in combinations of 2-row units and a maximum of 8 rows, operates hydraulically. A variable length knife responds to a signal probe touching the plant that is to be left, with the knife sweeping across the row ahead of it.

The 4- or 6-row Eversman is adjustable for various spacings of plants, as well as for their size, by merely turning knobs. When a beet plant cuts an electric eye beam of light, knives behind the photo cell are activated by air from an air compressor.

The German Monomat is a probe type machine with 4- or 6-row units available. When the probe touches a plant, an electric circuit is closed and one or more knives, in a revolving type thinner head, are removed from the row.

Careful advance preparation of the field is required in use of all electronic thinners. They are unable as yet to tell the difference between beets and clods or weeds.
Richard W. Blake, executive vice president, National Sugarbeet Growers Federation, Greeley; Harry Clark, Eaton; Tom J. Nix, Eaton, and Neeland Siebring, Greeley, discuss a John Deere Electronic thinner at Greeley. L. to R. On the tractor is a John Deere engineer.

Windsor area growers Harry Stromberger, Charles Scheid and Jacob Stromberger examine an Eversman Selectronic thinner at the Greeley demonstrations. L. to R.

Glen Unruh, left, and his brother, Dave, check out the John Deere electronic thinner during demonstrations at Goodland, Kans.

These 5 growers were part of the good turnout at Scottsbluff, Neb., thinning demonstrations. Top photo, L. to R., are: Albert Abel, Scottsbluff, and Leonard and Harold Abel, both from Gering. Bottom photo, L. to R.: Jacob J. Huck, Bayard, and Rinard Goss, Mitchell.

These growers are attending demonstrations in the company field adjoining the Kemp factory a Goodland, Kans. They are Rick Rogers, Homer Philbrick, Norval Evert and Glenn Burk. L. to R.
Miss Montana Knows the Ropes Of Goat Tying and Beet Topping

"I Want To Be A Cowboy's Sweetheart" was the song Miss Montana 1968 sang during the "Miss America Pageant" last fall in Atlantic City, N. J.

Karen Sue Frank, 21, Park City, Mont., as "Miss Montana" ought to be everyone's sweetheart, for she comes from a sweet farming background.

The talented daughter of Jake Frank came by her sweetness naturally, hoeing and harvesting sugarbeets with her father.

Karen, winner of the Miss Eastern Montana College title, went on to win state-wide honors and represented Montana on its float in the Rose Bowl Parade New Year's Day, 1968.

To Appear at High Ten

She keeps on the go attending special events as her state's "Queen." Her plans include an appearance at the High Ten Awards Banquet in Billings in January, where she will play the guitar and yodel as she did at Atlantic City.

In addition to helping her father with hoeing and harvesting sugarbeets, Karen pitches in to help stack hay and irrigate. She came in handy in 1968 when Jake had knee surgery. Mrs. Frank reports Jake is now off his crutches.

Winning the Miss Montana title put a slight crimp in Karen's rodeo activities. She competed regularly in high school rodeos and later in college barrel racing and goat tying contests. As a 4-H Club member, Karen has been training her own horses for some time. But, there will be no trophies until she gives up her state title this June.

Meanwhile, her favorite goat (the one she practices on for tying events at rodeos) is beginning to think it is a calf. Her mother says the goat is running with the cattle.

Karen's other talents are keeping her busy. Not only is she a "ridin' ropin' gal who knows how to wield brandin' iron," the lovely cowgirl, dances, sews, cooks and likes politics. Helping elect her father Stillwater County Democratic legislator in 1957 was her first political chore.

She is studying at Eastern in Billings to become an elementary teacher.
GW Hosts Growers, Community Leaders

Outstanding beet growers and grower association officials were among the 500 community leaders and Great Western management personnel attending special “President’s Dinners” at Sterling and Greeley, Colo. Host was Robert R. Owen, Company president.

The meetings follow the form of past dinners held in connection with annual GW directors’ tours of factories. The new series of dinners, however, provide for a broader representation of community leaders to meet with GW officials.

Guests at Sterling came from that factory area as well as from the Fort Morgan and Ovid districts, whose sugarbeet areas extend into the southwestern and central parts of Nebraska.

Representation at the Greeley function came from the Greeley, Eaton, Loveland, Longmont and Brighton districts.

A third dinner is scheduled for Feb. 5 at Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Four sugarbeet growers were honored during the GW dinner meeting for community leaders and Company management Nov. 25 at Greeley, Colo. Above, L. to R., are C. J. Herbst, Kuner grower for 50 years; Danzel Hartshorn, Longmont grower for 50 years; Lee E. Butler, Company southern district manager; Robert R. Owen, GW president; Gus Nelson, Buda grower for 50 years; and Herman Strauch, Platteville, grower since he had a 4-H Club crop at age of nine. Last fall Mr. Herbst was given the honor of pushing the button starting the campaign at Greeley factory.

GW sugar was in the foreground at the “President’s Dinners,” held by Great Western, as in this outpouring of sweetness. Dorothy Allison, Ramada Inn waitress, pours sugar into the cup of Robert R. Owen, Company president, at the dinner in Greeley. (Jim Briggs, “Greeley Tribune” photo)

These four beet growers are shown at the GW dinner Dec. 11 at Sterling. Given special recognition were, L. to R.: Francis Jenik, Sedgwick; John Sanger, Ovid; Lawrence Giacomini, Sterling; and Conrad Schaffer, Weldona.
Bankers Say Beets Important

W. V. Vermeline, cashier, and Mrs. Pauline Tangeman, stenographer, prepare initial payment checks for Mitchell, Neb., factory district beet growers.

Beet Payments Help Entire Community
By W. V. VERMELINE,
Mitchell Factory Cashier

That sugarbeets are an important crop in the Brighton-Fort Lupton, Colo., area is nowhere more evident than at the banks.

Two bankers who speak out strongly in favor of sugarbeets are Arthur A. Satterlee, senior vice president, The First Bank of Brighton, and William H. Burns, president, Fort Lupton State Bank.

As Mr. Satterlee puts it, "Sugarbeets are an important part of the area's economy. They provide the growers a diversification of crops. Being a contract crop, sugarbeets offer a minimum of risk from market changes.

"Also, the growers and we, as bankers, rely a great deal on the beet checks, which also benefit the community as a whole. Beets are grown locally and processed locally into the finished product, thereby providing added employment and additional income that help the entire area."

According to Mr. Burns, his "feeling on growing sugarbeets has improved very much in the last two years. If the farmers will test their farms and use fumigation when needed, then our bank is interested in financing. Nematode control is expensive, but pays off in the end results.

"We are encouraging our farmers to increase their beet acreage and thus make more efficient use of their equipment.

"With increased production and the better price they are receiving for the product, we feel much better in financing the beet grower. The income from sugarbeets means a great deal to our bank and community. We look for much more acreage of sugarbeets in our area for 1969."

As Mr. Satterlee points out, "While beets are a high cost crop to produce, if a good yield is obtained they are profitable. Therefore, we think it is imperative that the grower take advantage of the latest developments as to weed and disease control, fertilizers and mechanical devices for thinning, harvesting, etc."

The sturdy beet is likened to the saying, "A mighty oak from a little acorn grows." Come hail or high water, beets usually come through for the entire community.

Many people benefit from beets. Landlords collect rent. Banks are repaid for advances made during the growing season, for payment of beet labor and crop expenses.

Implement dealers are paid for equipment purchased. Car dealers look forward to increased sales. Local merchants put on special sales. Doctors, dentists and other professional people receive payment on accounts. Then Uncle Sam and state and local government take their share in taxes.

The sturdy beet is likened to the saying, "A mighty oak from a little acorn grows." Come hail or high water, beets usually come through for the entire community.

The sugarbeet payment and the sugar factory contributions are the lifeblood of this area's economy.

It has been said that agricultural payments turn over 7 times. Therefore, the Mitchell 1968 initial payment of $3,300,000 generated more than $23,000,000 of business activity in the community.

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Proper Beet Top Use Means Cash in Pocket
By JAMES F. GONYOU,
Billings Assistant Manager

Making the most of the sugarbeet crop is still essential to the high dollar return needed by farmers today. This definitely includes proper handling and conservation of the tops as a supplemental crop.

This was made evident once again during the recent harvest. Growers who made the most of their tops harvested them in a separate operation and moved them away from the row.

Some growers wait until the tops have wilted. Then they field chop and put them in a silo. One advantage of this method is that the feed can all be stored at a central spot and will simplify livestock feeding later.

Other growers prefer to field cure the tops before hauling them to the feed yard. This makes it possible to work the ground in the fall and get a head start for next year’s cropping operation. Other growers pasture tops in the field, which may work out well enough in an open winter.

Many growers realize $60 to $90 per acre through proper handling and feeding of tops. There is no reason why other growers can’t do the same.

Farmers by nature are conservationists. Planning now for beet top conservation and use will insure an even better return on the next crop of beets.

Expert Seeks Ways To Up Beet Profits

To make the sugarbeet crop more profitable for growers and Great Western is a primary goal of Dr. Charles F. Davan, Jr., recently appointed Company business development manager. He is also investigating new business opportunities which would complement GW activities. Davan is analyzing major production factors involved in growing sugarbeets more economically. This includes proper use of pesticides and equipment. A pilot program to provide technological assistance to Company growers is now being developed by the economist.

He came to Great Western from International Minerals and Chemical Corp. where he was director of economic market research and development. From 1959 to 1963 he was with the Economic Research Service, USDA, at Ft. Collins, Colo.

Author of many economic articles, Davan received his Ph.D. degree from Purdue University. He is a commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Serving his country in various advisory capacities, Davan has been an economic consultant to President Johnson’s Food and Fiber Commission and to the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. He presently is one of four economic advisers to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, studying the type of institute best able to deal with foodstuffs on a worldwide basis.

Sugarbeets, Corn and Cattle Make Good Combination

Audrey Crawford, Lexington, Neb., combines modern cultural practices with good management to run a profitable farming and livestock operation.

His 175 acres of beets in 1968 averaged 20 tons to the acre and his tops brought in additional income as cattle feed.

He combines his sugarbeet production with 2,000 acres of corn and year-round cattle feeding.

This makes a good living for Audrey, his family and his six, year-round employees.

—Roeland Elliston, agriculturist.
New, Expanded Research Plans Aimed at Increasing Beet Profit

By R. K. OLDEMEYER
Director, Agricultural Research

New and expanded research programs of The Great Western Sugar Co. are aimed at discovering better ways of making sugarbeet growing more profitable for both the grower and Company alike. The Company is entering a new and exciting period of research aimed at not only increasing sugarbeet yields per acre, but at the production of other crops that fit into its operation.

The Agricultural Experiment Station, Longmont, Colo., is already noted for its research work. This research has helped continuously to improve the sugarbeet industry since 1910.

Major Aims

There are five major aims under the Company's new agricultural research program, as follows:

1) Increase sugar production per acre at a reduced cost;
2) Expand the proportion of the present growing area which is planted to sugarbeets;
3) Reduce sugar losses from beets during storage and/or increase the economical length of storage;
4) Expand the agricultural interests to new geographic areas; and
5) Investigate the growing of new crops in the established beet-growing areas.

With new goals has come some reorganization of departments and personnel within the Company. All research and development, both agricultural and chemical, is headed by the vice president in charge of research. This officer, Whitney Newton II, has two departments — the agricultural, whose director is also manager of the Experiment Station, and the chemical.

Purpose of this centralization is to provide greater efficiency, in use of personnel and equipment, in the various fields of investigation. For example, the new chemical laboratory and office building, to be located at Longmont, will provide laboratory work room for all chemical and microbiological analysis required by the agricultural research personnel of the Experiment Station. This building is in the final stages of planning. Personnel of the chemical research department will be available for consultation, and developmental programs can be planned jointly.

The Company's vigorous research effort for developing sugarbeet varieties resistant to disease and producing the maximum amount of sugar has already begun to pay off.

Chemical weed control in sugarbeets is constantly being improved. Research in the control of sugarbeet root maggot and flea beetle larvae, with acceptable chemicals, is progressing well. A program for developing better nematode control fumigation is underway. A man is now being sought to head our nematode control research.

The Experiment Station is preparing for a stepped-up disease control program — including selection of varieties for Rhizoctonia resistance and improved chemical spraying for Cercospora leaf spot control.

Plant Growth Studies

Another expanded program involves the use of chemicals to modify beet plant growth — to make it grow larger and/or have higher sugar content and purity.

Research toward reducing storage loss in beet piles is being expanded. A plant physiologist is being recruited to direct this program.

Research is being continued in the development of the Company's agricultural interests in new geographic areas. For some projects it is direct work while in others it is advisory. For example, in southeast Missouri, seed for variety trials and for selection is supplied by Great Western while most of the actual work is being done by University of
Missouri research personnel.

Station staff members are deeply involved in the sweet stalk corn enterprise as initiated by Northland Research Co., in Minnesota and North Dakota. It has been found that corn, if no kernels develop on the ears, has a high sugar content in its stalk. As with sugar beets, fertilization, maturity and variety have profound influences on the yield of sugar. Investigations conducted by Northland Research, under Company supervision, is directed toward controlling the variables influencing sugar production in corn.

The expanding research program has caused a strain on facilities at the Experiment Station. This will be solved upon construction of the new chemical laboratory building and the new automated sugar and tare lab.

As there will be additional laboratory space in the new building, the move will enable us to remodel laboratory rooms at the Experiment Station into much needed office space.

Nematode Fumigation Increases Beet Yields

Fumigation for nematode control continues to show excellent results in the Brighton factory area. John Sadahiro, Ward Station, Fort Lupton, Colo., has learned the value of fumigation, after he stopped growing beets five years ago when nematodes cut his production to below a profitable margin.

A 12-row check strip encouraged John and his landowners, Rollie and Ralph Vincent, to fumigate five acres of a 15-acre field. The comparative results, as pictured, are not unusual in this area. But, the results were a pleasant surprise to the Sadahiros and the Vincents.

Photo No. 1, with John Sadahiro, shows a load of six rows of untreated beets in a 12-foot beet box.

The large load, Photo No. 2, with John, right, and his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shimamoto, is the result of fumigating six rows, of equal length, with 20 gallons of Telone per acre. The beets are in a 15-foot box.

The treated beets yielded 21.5 tons per acre while untreated beets yielded only 8.7 tons per acre. —Carl Luft, agriculturist
Researchers Study Weed Control With Herbicides, Crop Rotation

By A. D. DOTZENKO and M. OZKAN

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Dotzenko is professor of agronomy and Mr. Ozkan, graduate research assistant, in the Agronomy Section, Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colo.)

The Agronomy Research Center, near Fort Collins, has been carrying out a study on herbicides or combinations of herbicides that will give the best weed control in sugarbeets grown in rotation with corn, barley and beans.

Important factors in the choice of chemical and cultural methods are the weed types and amounts of weed seed present in the soil.

A good estimation of the weed seed potentials of soils can be obtained with proper soil sampling and by use of the proper germination techniques.

Objectives of the Center's study are: (1) to find an inexpensive method of counting and classifying weed seeds in the soil; (2) determining the effect of nitrogen fertilizer on weed seed populations; and, (3) comparing mechanical tillage practices with chemical methods in controlling weed seed populations.

High Level Fertility

All crops used, in the Center's experimental area, were given a uniformly high level of phosphate fertility. Water was uniformly and adequately applied.

Herbicides and rates applied are those currently recommended by the Experimental Station. Pre-emergence treatment was applied in liquid form in a 7-inch band and incorporated into the soil.

Random soil samples were collected from the experimental area after the field had been plowed in November, 1967. These were put together, crushed and divided into four samples containing about 400 grams each. After a 5-week period, the weeds in each 2-inch deep sample were counted and identified as to species.

Studies show the crop sequence in which sugarbeets follow beans has lower weed seed populations than when beets follow barley or corn.

When high nitrogen levels were used, high populations of weed seed were present, according to the studies. And, chemical weed control markedly reduced the weeds, when compared to mechanical cultivation treatments.

Weed seed populations are dependent on four factors: (1) accumulation of seeds in the soil, as a result of crop rotation practices; (2) addition of seeds by means of water, wind, animals and machinery; (3) planting weed seed with contaminated crop seed; and, (4) attrition of seeds in the soil through action of animals, insects and biological decay.

The average weed seedling count is presented in Table 1, where the effect of crop sequence is shown. Kochia, pigweed, grasses, lambsquarter and total weeds all had lower populations in the bean-beet sequence. The effect of sequence on Kochia count is of particular importance. This weed is one of the more competitive weeds in sugarbeet fields.

Since beans are a late-planted, early maturing crop, most of the early weed species can be eliminated prior to seeding time. The late maturing crop of weeds can be held to a minimum due to the short growing period necessary for beans, followed by proper field preparation. These two factors would tend to reduce the weed seed potential for following crops.

Effects of Nitrogen

Table 2 shows that time and rate of nitrogen application had a pronounced affect on the weed seed. F-1 is when low nitrogen application was made; F-2 was low nitrogen plus residual; and, F-3 was high nitrogen use.

In all three sequences the high nitrogen application had high weed count. The lowest counts were found where sugarbeets followed beans; the highest where they followed corn.

Table 3 shows the difference in weed seed populations with chemical weed control and nonchemical control. Where chemical weed control measures were used, weed seed averaged about 50 percent less than where only mechanical practices were used.

Chemically treated plots still showed rather high weed seed populations for Kochia — possibly because sugarbeets and Kochia are related plants belonging to the same fam-
TABLE 1. Weed Seedling Numbers per 400 Grams of Soil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Sequence</th>
<th>Kochia</th>
<th>Pigweed</th>
<th>Grasses quarter</th>
<th>Total Weeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Barley-Beets</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>109.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Corn-Beets</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>165.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Beans-Beets</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>44.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2. Weed Seedling Numbers per 400 Grams of Soil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nitrogen Fertilizer</th>
<th>Kochia</th>
<th>Pigweed</th>
<th>Grasses quarter</th>
<th>Total Weeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F-1</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-2</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>89.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-3</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>175.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 3. Weed Seedling Numbers per 400 Grams of Soil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed Control</th>
<th>Kochia</th>
<th>Pigweed</th>
<th>Grasses</th>
<th>Lambs-quarter</th>
<th>Total Weeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W-1—Chemical</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>74.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-2—Nonchemical</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>138.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ily. It is difficult to develop an herbicide or combination of herbicides that will differentiate between them. However, a combination of crop sequence (sugarbeets following beans) and herbicides can effectively give good control of this weed.

Selective herbicides are providing sugarbeet growers with increasingly effective weed control in beets and in all other crops.

The best method of reducing weed seed populations can be accomplished by a combination of the proper crop sequence and the use of chemical herbicides.

Growers can no longer afford to use the sugarbeet crop as a means of cleaning up fields, while permitting weeds to grow and reproduce seed in adjacent areas.

These and other studies are part of the sugarbeet industry's concerted effort to completely mechanize the growing of sugarbeets. Complex problems associated with field labor, including its high cost and increasing shortage, have increased the urgency of finding the best combination of production systems which control weeds and still maintain high yields and quality.

Colorado Grower Gets Help With Crop During Illness

Bert Crona of the Longmont, Colo., Harney district, found he had many good friends when serious illness hampered his sugarbeet growing in 1968. His neighbors helped plant his 48 acres of sugarbeets in one day and took turns helping cultivate and irrigate the beets through the summer.

Come harvest time, Vern Hamilton and Dick Purcell organized a harvest crew and Great Western kept the Harney station open on a Sunday.

Area farmers came to the harvest with 10 harvesters and two topsavers. Farmers and their wives drove 25 to 30 trucks in moving 104 loads of beets, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Upon completion of the harvest, the Grant family, as landowners, hosted a dinner for the group at Del Camino Cafe.

—Ralph R. Price, agriculturist
Stricken Grower Praises People In Area as 'Best in the World'

By AL AUGER
Company Agriculturist

Farmers from the Greeley, Eaton, Ault, Pierce and Nunn areas converged on the Stoke Morita farm Sunday, Oct. 20, to help their stricken friend harvest his sugarbeets.

Stoke, who suffered a severe heart attack in September, died the Wednesday following harvest, after being witness to the unselfishness of his fellow men.

During the harvest, there were 13, 2-row harvesters, 3 top savers or windrowers and approximately 55 trucks on the job. The Company and the Hiway Cafe of Pierce furnished coffee and donuts to truck drivers at Stage Station, kept open on the holiday to receive Stoke’s beets.

Onion Growers Inc., served coffee and donuts to the men in the field. The Pierce Handy Helpers 4-H Club donated cookies. The Farmers National Bank furnished the meal, prepared by the Green and White Cafe. Soft drinks were donated by the cafe and Johnson’s Grocery. Pierce Motor Service donated gas and Pink’s Conoco furnished a tank truck.

Equipment for the harvest was donated by Yukio and Bill Sameshima, Frank and Bob Akahoshi, Blain Souther, Max Hill, Richard Wolf, Harold and Albert Tateyama, Carl and Albert Kinoshita, Stoke, Leo Simpson, Jack Derr, J. R. Hasbrouck and Clarence Achziger, among others.

The crew running the receiving station included Ed Ehn, Bob Gill, Freda Tolle and Tat-su Matsuda. Don Redman, Eaton manager, and agriculturists Duane McDonald, Jim Robertson, Dale Tormey, and Lynn Pitcher, assistant manager, all turned out to help.

The harvest, which began at 8 a.m., was completed by 5 p.m., with 1,036 tons of beets hauled from 54 acres. Tim Weigand, bank president, delivered the last load of beets.

The previous week, many of those helping Stoke were among the friends and neighbors harvesting 68 acres of beets for Melvin Hickman who was laid up.

(EDITOR’S NOTE:) At Stoke’s request, Al Auger spent an evening at his home gathering information on the harvest. As Al was writing this article the next morning, Stoke passed away. Before he died he summed it up this way, “The people in this area must be the best in the world.”

Injured Grower Gets Aid With Harvest of Beets

Henry Schmick, north of Bayard, Neb., has a large box of load receipts to show how well his sugarbeet crop was delivered by his friends.

Henry was seriously injured in an auto accident before harvest and was confined to the hospital for several weeks.

Sunday, Oct. 20, approximately 85 friends and neighbors harvested 42 acres of his beets. Equipment used included 7 toppers, 9 lifter-loaders and about 35 trucks. The beets were hauled to Craft receiving station, kept open especially for the occasion.

Wives and daughters of the workers served a large meal to the workers at lunchtime and had enough left over for a mid-afternoon snack, upon completion of the harvest.
Neighbors Come to Aid Grower

By S. J. DAVIDSON,
Bayard Agriculturist

John Panas, Bridgeport, Neb., found out how many true friends he had when he was unable to harvest his sugarbeet crop in October.

John was stricken with a heart disorder early in the month and it didn’t take long for his neighbors and Bridgeport businessmen to come to his aid, once the word got around.

Work began at 9:30 a.m., Oct. 20, with 5 multi-row pullers, 4 multi-row toppers and 4 single-row harvesters working John’s 25-acre contract. The men also harvested a contract for Louie Panas’ 8-acre 4-H project.

DeGraw receiving station was opened on Sunday to take John’s beets. Harvest was completed by 2:30 p.m. During lunch break the men’s wives and daughters turned out a delicious feast.

It took 1 ½ hours for the hungry men to enjoy the meal, which featured many Greek dishes.

John expressed thanks to all who came to his aid.
In recent speeches, in sugarbeet growing areas of Colorado, Robert R. Owen, Great Western's president, has commented on the important subject of good housing for migrant labor.

These remarks, also pertinent to the other GW beet areas, are as follows:

"First, I wish to commend those growers who have done an outstanding job in providing adequate living quarters for workers. It was comforting to learn that a Colorado Department of Health official, at a hearing last summer, praised the quality of the average housing in the northeastern portion of the state. Keep up the good work."

"Second, I want you to know that I get just as upset as you growers when metropolitan papers play up the few cases of inferior housing in an area, and people are led to be-
Attracts Workers

I, in charge of...t for GW growers

lieve that these exceptions are typical.

"But let's face it. The exceptions will always cause trouble. And we must concentrate on getting these up to standard if we are to avoid the unfair publicity we have been getting in some quarters.

"Aside from the unfavorable publicity angle, however, and speaking in positive terms, let me say what you all know—we cannot recruit the large numbers of workers needed for all crops in our area if housing conditions and earnings prospects are not superior to those in other areas which compete for the same labor supply.

"But, of course, the best cure of all for the labor headache is to find the way to grow beets without having to use any migratory workers. This is the answer we seek, and, with continued help from growers, we will find it, just as together we found the way many years ago to lick hand-topping and hand-loading of beets."

Examples of good housing in various locations accompany this article.
Nebraska Neighbors Aid Friend

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Schlotthauer, of the Dutch Flats area north of Morrill, Neb., discovered the value of friends at harvest time when Jake was laid up following a back operation. A total of 77 friends and neighbors showed up to help Jake harvest his 52 acres of sugar beets.

Work began at 8 a.m. on a Sunday, with Wesley Ruf, Jerry Schlotthauer, Paul Kirkpatrick, Gib Reising and Victor Deines hand-topping at the row ends. Men furnishing top-pers and top savers were Duane Thomas, Dale Flock, Arthur Deines, Karl Schmidt, Victor Bauer and Harry Bartel. Those with beet pullers were Don Weinmaster, Ray Weimer, Albert Hoffman, Ron Stuckert, Johnny Dillman and Henry Bartel.

Men moving railroad cars and operating the beet receiving station were George Shaw, Marion Gould, Henry Sommer, Mike Deines, Jim Deines, Herman Dobrinski and the weigher, Doloris Dobrinski. Remainder of the men drove the trucks, unloaded dirt and did other jobs.

Harvest lasted until 4:30 p.m. It required 23 railroad cars to hold Jake's beets. His average was 18 tons per acre with 17 percent sugar.

Serving the lunch of ham sandwiches, baked beans, pie, cake and soda pop were Mrs. Arthur Deines, Mrs. Fred Tripple, Mrs. Henry Bartel, Mrs. Esther Schlotthauer, Mrs. Jake Schlotthauer and Patty Deines. The ham was donated by the Nebraska Non-Stock Cooperative Beet Growers Association.

—Tim Dollerschell, agriculturist


Gering Grower Fires Rare Guns

When collectors start talking about guns around Gering, Neb., the name of Cliff Dietrich invariably enters the conversation. Cliff farms and feeds livestock on 2,000 acres. Stanley Brozee, a retired Great Westerner from the Mitchell, Neb., factory, owns 960 acres of this land.

On the subject of gun collecting, Cliff chuckles when he explains that it all started 22 years ago when he married his lovely wife, Nadine. Today it is a family hobby with the three children, Roxanne, 16, Natalie, 13, and Oak, 9, all firing Winchesters, Colts and Kentucky rifles — and outshooting mom. Cliff says the youngsters do very well firing his 357 magnums — quite a trick for Oak.

Cliff says his favorites are the Winchester rifles, although he likes to fire the cap and ball Kentucky muzzle loaders. "I watch Daniel Boone on television but I can't run and load like he does," he adds with a smile. "Those old Kentuckies, with rifled barrels," are extremely accurate.

Cliff uses black powder on his old guns — and he fires them all, including a percussion flintlock pistol dating to the 1700's.

One of his proudest possessions is an 1860 Henry. This is the rifle the pioneers claimed they could "load on Sunday and fire all week". It has engraved metal work with an enclosed magazine tube. One of his 1866 Winchesters has part of the stock worn off where it was carried on the saddle by a renegade Indian.

Cliff started farming 20 years ago, about eight miles southwest of Gering, for Stanley Brozee. He had 97 acres of sugarbeets in 1968 in addition to beans, corn, alfalfa, oats and wheat. He keeps 100 head of stock cows on pasture. The calves are wintered and sold in the spring. Cliff chops his sugarbeet tops for feed.

Beet Growers Lend Hand

To Neighbor in Distress

It was another example of the true American spirit when 40 neighbors turned out to harvest the sugarbeet crop on the Fritzler farm at Kersey, Colo. "It nearly makes me cry," said Mrs. Fritzler, widow of Rhiennolt Fritzler, when she saw the response to a request from a neighboring grower, Allen Peters.

There were 13 harvesters and 22 trucks on hand for an all-day Sunday harvesting bee. The Fritzler farm's 35 acres of beets were delivered to the Kuner dump. Neighboring women served the workers lunch.

Farmers furnishing harvesters and other equipment were: Raymond Foos, Carl Hergenreder, Allen Peters and Jim Schaub, all of Hardin; Paul Yago, Wilfred Dreher, Herman Peterson, Tak Murata, Frank Rothe, Leland Snyder and Duane Schlage, all of Kuner; and John Cloud and K. and D. Ogata, of Kersey.

—Sven Johansen, agriculturist

Cliff Dietrich and his wife, Nadine, show off part of their gun collection. Cliff holds an 1830 Kentucky rifle while Nadine has a cap and ball Tryon pistol and a Henry Deringer. A rare flintlock pistol is on the pillow with a Volcanic arms six-shot hand gun. The Winchesters on the wall are short barrel trapper's models with another 1830 Kentucky squirrel rifle.
Wyoming Growers Market Tops
By Feeding Prize Angus Herd

Murraymere Farms at Powell, Wyo., is a father and son farming partnership that markets all of its home-grown feed through its cattle — with sugarbeet tops playing an important role.

Bruce Murray and his son, Keith, grow 230 acres of sugarbeets, 100 acres of feed barley, 100 acres of alfalfa hay and 140 acres of silage corn. In addition, some land is in irrigated pasture and unfarmed river bottom is used as summer pasture.

The cattle herd consists of 30 commercial cows and 150 registered cows and heifers which are being bred. The Murrays are maintaining their cow herd and producing registered bulls.

The herd is run on beet tops, barley stubble, hay and corn fields from October to February. These beet tops are the spillage left after harvest, since bulk of the tops is put whole in the silo on top of corn ensilage. After February, the cattle are fed beet top silage, corn silage and alfalfa hay until June, when they are divided into breeding herds and put on pasture.

The irrigated pastures are intentionally overstocked and the cows fed supplemental feed consisting of beet top silage, corn silage and ground alfalfa. Calves in these pastures also require creep feeding. Thus far, these calves have not weaned out as heavy as the grass fed calves, but seem to catch up by yearling weight time.

The Murraymere Farms herd has been production tested with assistance of the Extension Service since 1957. It was enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement program in 1965 and has been officially classified for the last four years.

U of W Graduates

Bruce and Keith are both graduates of the University of Wyoming agriculture school. They proudly point out they are the only father and son who both hold Wyoming State Future Farmers of America Farmers Degrees.

They are firm believers in using good farming methods in raising sugarbeets. They used Pre-Beta on one-half of their acreage and Ro-Neet on the other half, with good weed control reported almost everywhere. They planted six seeds to the foot, used a Black-welder thinner and close-cultivated.

The Murrays have a good working relationship with a family of laborers who first came to work for them five years ago. Through use of chemicals, proper planting and close cultivation, field labor is kept to a minimum.

Bruce Murray, prominent Powell, Wyo., sugarbeet grower, shows off his Angus herd sire at the entrance to Murraymere Farms, operated by Bruce and his son, Keith.
Minimum Labor Test Plot

Encouraging in Nebraska

A 1 1/2 acre minimum labor sugarbeet test plot at the Scotts Bluff Station yielded 17.1 tons per acre average with 16.9 percent sugar content, after the first planting of beets was frozen off and the field had to be replanted.

Frank Anderson, research agronomist at the station, says weed control was achieved by use of Ro-Neet in a band at planting, at the rate of 1-lb. per acre; then 4 lbs. of Pyramin and 2 lbs. of Dalapon were sprayed over the rows. The total investment in herbicides was $16.69 per acre. Anderson believes that broadcast application of herbicide would have increased the cost.

The beets received normal cultivation. They were mechanically thinned with the station’s old Eversman mechanical, non-selective thinner. Anderson says the thinning job was pretty poor. There were lots of doubles.

Hand labor totaled only one hour and 15 minutes, expended in pulling Kochia. The test plot was hailed twice—on June 24 and again on July 9.

Anderson says, considering the circumstances and the low investment, the results were encouraging.

Young Farmer Group Hosts New Zealander

The North Weld (County) Young Farmers (NWYF) organization, composed largely of Eaton, Colo., sugarbeet growers, had a New Zealand youth staying with them last season.

The visitor was Robin Dugdale, a member of the Young Farmers Club (YFC) in Waimate, N.Z. Robin, 27, operates his own 338-acre farm, raises 1,600 Romney ewes and grows 30 to 40 acres of wheat each year. Crawler tractors are used for cultivation because of the hilly terrain or “steep downs”, as he calls it.

Robin says no commercial beets for sugar are grown in New Zealand, only mangels and fodder beets. He says mangels yield the heaviest tonnage while the fodder is higher in feed value. Beets for sugar production have been grown experimentally.

The New Zealand YFC was formed in 1927. The NWYF organization is a young’n by comparison — it was formed about two years ago.

Panel Picked Robin

Members in the New Zealand group range in age from 14 to 30, the NWYF group ranges from 14 to 35. Robin was chosen by a special panel in Wellington, New Zealand’s capital. This panel pays his travel to this country while the Future Farmers of America pay his in-state travel.

North Weld Young Farmers are proud of this young farmer exchange program.

Sugarbeet growers in the NWYF include: Harry Simpson, president; Darryl Woods, vice president; Bob Backstrom, secretary; Ron Pappenheim, treasurer; and Al Miller, Doug Ruff, Danny Siglinger, John Leffler, Richard Foose, Dennis Isakson, Dave Gustafson, Neal Fletcher, Ken Felte, Tom Swanson, Les Peterson, Harvey Gozzens, Charles Leffler, Lee Anderson, Charles Eckhardt, Ray Weinmeister, Gene Miller, Lanny Harsh, George Tateyama, Bob Dorsey, Gary Anderson, Ellis Isakson, Lynn Ottoson and Gary Simpson.

Cliff Deibel is a non-beet grower member. Their advisor is Richard Welton, Eaton vo-ag instructor and FFA advisor.

—Allan E. Auger, agriculturist
Scottsbluff Man Delivers Beets
50 Years, Started at Mitchell

There is something about sugar beet harvest time that gets into one's blood after a person has participated for several years. This was part of Mrs. George Sommer's explanation of why her husband spends his vacations hauling beets to the Scottsbluff, Neb., dump.

In a story in the Scottsbluff "Daily Star-Herald", Mrs. Sommers was quoted as saying, "George always drove the trucks."

George, who works for the State Highway Department, celebrated his 50th year of hauling beets last fall. The Scottsbluff man hauls beets for his son, Harold. George used to farm himself until a back injury forced him to quit 16 years ago.

He credits fertilizer, chemicals, better equipment and improved farming practices with doubling the tons of beets harvested per acre, since he started hauling beets at the age of 16. He says he got about 10 to 11 tons to the acre in the 1920's.

The active, 66-year-old retired farmer well recalls the day when he took his first load of beets to a Mitchell factory dump, from his father's farm in the Dutch Flats community northwest of Mitchell.

In 1918, a team of horses pulled his wagon-load of beets to the dump. They had to be scooped on and off the wagon by hand and there was nopiler at the station. The beets had to be thrown seven or eight feet to the top of the pile.

In those days, George, his father and brother were lucky to take two trips per day to the dump. Today, he makes the four-mile trip to Scottsbluff 10 times daily in a high-powered truck. Where four-horse teams could pull between five and six tons, his truck hauls about six and one-half tons of beets.

As George told "Star-Herald" reporter Con Marshall, "I really enjoy hauling. I know everybody around the dump and get a kick out of seeing them each year. It's a lot more fun than laying around home during my vacations. Besides, it helps my son out."

Coloradans Ordering New Electric Thinner

John C. Mollendor and his son, Robert, report their machine-thinned beets yielded more beets per row on their truck at harvest time than did fields that were hand-thinned.

The Hudson Station, Brighton, Colo., factory father-son team are good, progressive beet growers. They have about 640 acres of rented land and harvested 170 acres of sugar beets in 1968. They averaged 17.7 tons per acre — in spite of a bad hail storm in August — and had 17.7 percent sugar. Their harvested stand was 102 beets per 100 feet of row.

The Mollendors used a Great Western owned Eversman Selectronic thinner on 16.5 acres of beets. They were favorably impressed and have placed an order for their own machine for the 1969 beet crop.

They planted six seeds per foot and, after the electric-eye thinner went through, there was a stand of 126 beets per 100-feet of row. They say they are buying their own thinner because "it did just as good as the labor and better, in some instances. Also we get our beets thinned more quickly. We figure the dollars we put out for hand labor will more than make the down payment on the machine". —R. H. Riddell, agriculturist
1968 was another good year for the farmer-feeder. There may be some exceptions, but nearly 100% of the growers of feed crops who marketed them through livestock during 1968 made a substantial profit.

During the past year, the American consumer showed an ever growing appreciation for choice quality fed beef, lamb and Grade A milk. If the grower of sugarbeets and feed crops will take a good hard look at this fact, he will realize that herein lies his best friend.

There are still many opportunities for the average beet belt irrigation farmer to employ some type of livestock project, to increase his returns from the feedstuffs he produces. Over a period of years, the best system for most growers has been to buy and own enough light cattle to consume all the roughage produced on his farm. One grower’s records show that, over the past 15 years of continuously following this practice, calves have averaged about $22 per head above the going market for feed crops.

Recently, as most farming units have been getting larger, many growers have gone to growing calves to fleshy feeder weights, to be sold to finishers. This practice is fine, if the price of fleshy feeders is good when the grower is ready to sell. A 32¢ per pound, 400-lb. calf can be reduced in cost to about $25.50, weighing 800 pounds, if the cost of the 400 pounds of gain is 19¢ per pound.

Cattle finishers are generally pleased with their experience with farm-grown feeders. The background built into these feeders, as they are grown from calves to fleshy feeders, complements the finishing phase. It shortens the time required for finishing, allows marketing of lighter-weight animals and produces high quality beef. This practice definitely affords an opportunity, in the years ahead, for the producer of farm-grown feeds.

More opportunities will likely exist for feeding light cattle to feed weights for other owners. This reduces the need for capital, to a large extent. Best returns will nearly always go to the farmer who feeds his feed crops at home.

It is most gratifying to note that several recent agricultural publications have printed favorable reports on the use of manure. It seems to be agreed that manure is a good fertilizer and that it is worth a little more credit than some experts have been giving it in past years.

Custom services for hauling and spreading manure are cutting costs of these operations in several areas. This is something farmers could consider, whether they are buying manure from commercial feed lots or using manure produced on their own farms. Hauling and spreading manure in large quantities is a big job. Big equipment fits best on big jobs.

We heartily welcome the return of a greater appreciation for the importance and value of manure as a fertilizer.

These calves are being fed a typical farm-grown ration at Windsor, Colo. This includes a balanced ration of alfalfa, corn silage, grain, dried beet pulp and supplement.
Eli1nination of Field Labor Aim Of Many GW Beet Growers

By R. F. CHINNOCK,
Agriculturist, Hemingford, Neb.

A more intensive mechanization and chemical program is required to make the sugarbeet crop easier and more economical to produce. This is growing more obvious as problems of obtaining and handling field labor grow more complex.

Progressive growers, in all Company areas, are working toward reduction and eventual elimination of field labor. Along these lines, work with chemicals and electronic thinners last spring, in the Hemingford-Alliance, Neb., area, gives an excellent idea of what is being done.

Beet growers in Box Butte County were impressed with the operation of John Deere and Eversman electronic thinners. The growers covered 3,886 acres with pre-emergence herbicides and 425 acres with post sprays. There were 1,337 acres mechanically thinned with generally good to excellent results.

However, many of the weeds were too large at the time of spraying and escaped effects of the chemical. Following thinning, weeding labor was used at about $12 per acre.

Pre-plant herbicides and the electric eye thinner were a winning combination for Jesper Jensen, west of Berea. Jess used the injector method of applying Ro-Neet at planting time. It did an outstanding job of weed control. Cost of labor, following the Eversman, was $9 per acre—except on eight acres weeded by Mrs. Jensen.

P. F. Johnson and his son, Dale, had 105 acres of beets thinned by a Silver, followed by the Eversman to set the stand. Several groups of Texas labor were used. The Johnsons say results were so favorable they plan to use herbicides next year, along with an electronic thinner.

Both the John Deere and Eversman machines worked 180 acres of beets on Arthur Johnson's farm near Berea. Many growers saw the machines in action.

The fields were incorporated with Pyramin and TD 282 at planting time. Seedling rates were six seeds per foot. Weed control was nearly perfect. However, severe storms reduced the stands in some places.

A guidance system was used for both incorporation and planting. This preliminary work proved its worth when the electronic thinners were used.

While running the John Deere over nearly 70 acres, Art did little guiding and could
watch the thinner at work. He is sold on the herbicides and electronic thinning combination.

Other growers participating in this program are Wayne Clark, Berea; Jerry Schnell, Gene Schoeneman and John Bauer, Ginn; and the Nagaki brothers, West Alliance.

After observing results of electronic thinning, the following conclusions were reached:

1) A smooth and firm seedbed is important. A certain degree of bedding works best in this area.

2) Some type of guiding system should be used for all subsequent operations.

3) Precision planting should be used, with about six seeds per foot, in this particular area. Prior to use of electronic equipment, another possibility could be use of some other type of thinner on heavier stands.

4) Herbicides are a must for best performance.

In summary, electronic thinners have great potential.

Growers, the Company, machinery manufacturers, dealers and chemical companies are combining their efforts to further develop electronic thinners and herbicides.

Scale Lady Celebrates 32 Years on the Job

Tons and tons of sugarbeets have gone over the scale since Nellie LaRue, Fort Collins, Colo., began weighing for the Company. The past season at Harmony station was her 32nd.

Her husband, W. H. "Hess" LaRue, raised beets in the early 30's in Nebraska. She averages about 30 days weighing annually, from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Most of the growers and truck drivers going over the scale know her by her first name, and she knows their names. And, with between 110 and 200 loads per day going past her window last fall, there were a lot of names for Nellie to remember.

Her memories go back many years, as far as agriculturists are concerned. Some of those she worked with include Harvey Riddell, now deceased, John Latta, Milt Nelson, I. L. "Red" Johnson, Bert Nelson, George Lapaseotes, Reid Dickerson and Don Redabaugh, present agriculturist for Harmony.

Red Johnson now is manager at Ovid, Colo., while George Lapaseotes is assistant to the district managers in the Denver office. Bert Nelson and Reid Dickerson are agriculturists at Loveland.

Sugarbeet growing and receiving have changed considerably since Nellie began weighing wagons. There were no pilers in those days. Beets had to be shoveled on to the pile. She says, "machinery certainly makes a difference."

Her working day is also shorter. She used to start earlier and stay later. She says she used to work about 45 days during harvest. Nellie says the days are still long. But she says she wouldn't miss her annual weighing-in chores for anything in the world.

Nellie LaRue leans out of her "sunnyside" window, at Harmony receiving station, to give Robert Weitzel, Fort Collins, Colo., his weight-receipt. Nellie celebrated 32 years weighing for the Company this fall. Robert had 54 acres of beets to weigh in at harvest time.
Sugarbeet Pellets in Sheep Feed Grow in Popularity in Colorado

A flaked grain ration, containing sugarbeet pellets and molasses, is growing in popularity with Colorado lamb feeders.

Developers of the ration were Ben Nix, Eaton sugarbeet grower and lamb feeder, Ken Pinkston, feed nutritionist for Agland, Inc., of Eaton, and Dr. Gordon Brown, lamb diseases expert from Fort Lupton. They noted that cattle feeders often reported cooked and flaked grains increased feedstuff efficiency up to 10 percent. As a result, they carried out successful tests with flaked grains in lamb finishing operations, working with the Potato Growers Cooperative at Eaton.

Ken and Ben report that beet pulp pellets and antibiotics are keys to the nutritionally balanced ration. "Lamb losses are held to a minimum with this feeding program," Ben explains. He has been feeding lambs for 35 years in Weld County.

Previously Ben says his lambs were panel or trough fed with a three percent death loss. Today he uses a self feeding program, the lambs "snack" continuously, never get hungry, and the death loss is cut to less than one percent. Labor costs are also cut through this self-feeding program.

There are 30 to 35 small farmer-feeders using the ration, supplied by Agland, in the Eaton, Longmont, Fort Collins area. As Ken explains, "this is truly a cooperative deal. Company sugarbeet growers come first when the pellets are distributed. They turn their allotment over to us and we then supply them with the mixed ration."

John Hendrickson, west of Eaton, is one of the beet growers using the ration. He used to feed about 600 cattle annually. Last year he put out 5,000 to 6,000 feeder lambs with good results.

"Many of us figured lamb feeding was done when the Company stopped distribution of wet pulp," John says. "Frankly, I never want to see any more wet pulp. More and more feeders are pasturing their lambs on the tops and using pellets in the feedlot ration with tremendous success."

Ben explains the success of the pellets thusly, "the lambs are grown on the range and grass. They need time to become accustomed to the high energy feed in the feedlot. We find the high beet pellet concentration helps facilitate the transition to this high energy feed."

There were five lots of lambs checked in the Colorado tests — a total of 3,456 head. Gains were calculated pay weight to pay weight, with no quick fill figured as gain. Average daily gain was 0.514 pounds; feed efficiency was 7.35 lbs. of feed for every pound of gain; and cost per pound gain, 19.96 cents.

Lambs came into the feedlot at 75-80 lbs., off range, off beet tops or off other roughage. They were vaccinated for over-eating disease and treated for internal para-
sites. For two days they received dry grass hay and clean water, salt and high phosphorus, all free choice.

Their starter ration, for 4-5 days, contains 60 percent beet pellets with flaked corn, grain sorghum, barley and oats, plus CO-OP Stress Crumbles and protein pellets. They have free choice alfalfa or other unground legume hay. They are provided with salt and high-phosphorous mineral, antibiotic and vitamin "A".

The intermediate ration, during the next 4-5 days, contains less CO-OP Stress Crumbles and 35 percent beet pulp pellets. Finishing ration to market weight, about 110 lbs., contains about 85 percent flaked grains with 15 percent beet pellets.

The grain in this ration is cooked at 210 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes. It is flaked and dried down to 14-15 percent moisture which makes for more efficient digestion of the starch. The pellets are cracked.

Lambs on this ration have been dressing out well, between 52 and 54 percent. As Ben Nix explains, "these lambs are very much in demand by the packers."

Sugarbeet Entries Win Awards at Fall Festival

Congratulations go to winners of six classes in the Crops Division, sugarbeet competitions, at the Fall Festival at Wiggins, Colo. Awards were presented by Great Western.

Results were as follows, in order of placing:

**Six Beets under 3 lbs.**: Ted Moeller, Ft. Morgan; Larry Graff, Wiggins; Rex Richardson, Wiggins; Clark Green, Wiggins.

**Six Beets over 3 lbs.**: Mel Green, Wiggins; Bob Bruntz, Wiggins; Billy Midcap, Ft. Morgan; Danny Busch, Wiggins.

**Largest sugarbeet**: Tim Perry, Weldona; Mel Green, Wiggins; Gary Bruntz, Wiggins.

**Junior Class Beets under 3 lbs.**: Gary Bruntz, Wiggins; Charles Kammerzell, Wiggins; Rex Richardson, Wiggins; Clark Green, Wiggins.

**Junior Class Beets over 3 lbs.**: Mel Green, Wiggins; Gary Bruntz, Wiggins; Billy Midcap, Ft. Morgan.

**Junior Class Best Shaped Beet**: Clark Green, Wiggins; Tim Perry, Weldona; Gary Bruntz, Wiggins.

—J. V. Ostermiller, Ft. Morgan manager.

Italian Researchers Visit Barnes' Longmont Farm

A visit to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barnes, Longmont, Colo., was a highlight of the recent farm tour of four members of the Italian National Research Council. The Italians, a special group studying all phases of agricultural mechanization, were guests of The Great Western Sugar Co. during the visit.

George Lapaseotes, assistant to GW's southern district manager, was host for the group. He says the Council was interested in Frank's ingenuity in designing and developing farm equipment.

Frank, a prominent beet grower and cattle feeder, is widely known as the inventor and holder of patent rights to the Heath-Barnes top saver. This machine is popular among growers as a means of conserving beet tops.
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Reitz

John A. Reitz and his wife, Kathy, of Alliance, Neb., were named the Farmer-Rancher couple of the year at the Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce 5th annual Farmer-Rancher Appreciation Banquet.

C. A. Spurgin, Company agriculturist, says John was also named Outstanding Young Farmer-Rancher for 1968-69 by the Alliance Jaycees. John has been raising sugar beets since 1949 as a 4-H Club member. He was Nebraska State FFA Star Farmer in 1955 and took the FFA American Farmer Award in 1958. He started farming for himself in 1958 and purchased a 160-acre irrigated farm in 1964.

In addition to being a farm wife, Kathy raises and shows Siberian Huskies. This winter her two dogs took reserve champion and champion of her class respectively at the Denver Siberian Husky Club Show.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Henry, southeast of Longmont, Colo., was one of three featured by the First Congregational Church's annual Christmas Home Tour. Each of the house's 14 rooms was decorated with different Christmas themes.

Jim and Nadine Henry have grown sugar beets and fed cattle for a number of years. Between farm chores they had used every spare moment to prepare for the tour. Jim even found an old-fashioned sleigh to display.

Keith Propst, Merino, Colo., was re-elected vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. He has been a beet grower for many years and has been active as president of the Sterling Local Beet Grower Association.

Agricultural development engineer, Sherman Fox, who comes to the Company from Dole Pineapple in Hawaii, has been assigned to seek and develop new technologies for the production and handling of sugar beets. He reports to Dr. Clarence Davan, Jr., manager of business development, in Denver.

In his 11 years with Dole, Fox worked out disease control measures for the pineapple crop and a system for pelletizing pineapple leaves into cattle feed. Earlier, he was on the engineering staff of the Ford tractor and implement division in Michigan. He was graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in agricultural engineering.

Allan Auger, Eaton, Colo., agriculturist, and Robert V. Gray, Imperial, Neb., agriculturist, have been promoted to agricultural superintendents in northeastern Colorado and southwestern Nebraska.

Allan will live in North Platte, Neb., and will serve in the eastern half of the Ovid, Colo., district.

Bob will continue to live at Imperial and report to the Sterling, Colo., district. He will be in charge of agricultural operations extending from Holyoke, Colo., to Holdrege, Neb.

These men are graduates of Colorado State University. Bob's brother is assistant manager of the Kemp factory district.

The GW President's Dinner at Sterling, Colo., Dec. 11 offered Herbert Hughes, Imperial, Neb., and Dr. Clarence Davan, Jr., Denver, a chance for a reunion.

Herb, a sugar beet grower, was formerly on the President's National Advisory Commission on Food & Fiber while Dr. Davan, Company manager for business development, was an economic advisor to the commission.
AROUND THE TERRITORY

These Mitchell factory growers and their wives are having a ball at Harold Dougherty's No-Ha-Loft barn during their bi-monthly barn dance. Members of the "Jills and Bills" above are, L. to R.: Dick and Donna Butcher, Morrill; Howard and Wanda Edwards, Lyman; Don and Joan Lind, Lyman; Phil and Geneva Johannes, Morrill; and Ike and Barbara Monroe, Morrill.

The entire Schedewitz family worked together to harvest 86 acres of 1968 beets, with an average of 23.58 tons to the acre, at Maxwell, Neb., according to Roeland Elliston, Company agriculturist.

Last harvest time John Schedewitz was on a two-row Farmhand harvester, following his son, John Jr., on their Wescoe top saver. Mrs. Schedewitz Sr. and Mrs. Schedewitz Jr. were both driving trucks.

Four agriculturists were transferred to other field assignments. Dale Schull was moved from Loveland to Eaton; Lloyd Crook from Scottsbluff to Sterling; Paul Blome from Lyman, in the Mitchell district, to Scottsbluff; and Loren Tweet from Chinook, in the Billings district, to Lyman.

Alec Schmidt, Lexington, Neb., has earned quite a title for himself.

Alec has been connected with production of beets since he was "able to crawl down a row" with his parents. This, with his experience in raising 100 to 120 acres of beets annually, has earned him the title "Beet King of Dawson County" among his friends, according to Roeland Elliston, Company agriculturist.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold "Corky" Harrimon and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schmidt, both from Scottsbluff, Neb., came home happy from Boulder, Colo., this fall after winning all bets, according to Charlie Reifschneider, Company agriculturist.

Charlie says they went to see the Colorado-Nebraska football game and returned "very happy" when Nebraska won.
In addition to starting a brand new year, "Through The Leaves" is starting a new column designed especially for our women readers. "Feminine Forum" will be a regular feature of this magazine.

This column will cover a wide variety of topics of interest to women. For example, one issue may contain recipes and the next may be devoted to household hints. From time to time, we will also use personal interviews with women who are connected in some way with the sugarbeet industry. Photographs of special interest will also be used.

Your suggestions to what you would like to see in this column are most welcome. We may also be able to use copies of your favorite sugar-containing recipes, household tips you would like to pass along, or you may even wish to try your hand at writing an article for use in this column.

"Feminine Forum" is your column. We hope you will enjoy it, and we sincerely hope you will send us your comments on material that appears in this and future issues.

A Mid-Winter Treat

The following "Strawberry Salad" recipe was sent in by Mrs. Nadine Dietrich, Gering, Neb., wife of sugarbeet grower Cliff Dietrich, and should help brighten some of those dreary days we have during the winter:

- 2 — 10 oz. packages frozen strawberries
- 1 — 6 oz. package Jello (strawberry)
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup commercial sour cream
- 1 banana

Dissolve Jello in water. Break strawberries and add. It will set quickly. Spread half of Jello mixture in bottom of 9" x 9" pan. Arrange banana slices on top and press gently. Cover all with sour cream. Add rest of jello mixture to form top layer. Let set several hours. To serve, cut in squares—place on lettuce leaf—garnish with dab of sour cream.

Meet "Feminine Forum" Columnist

By JOHN M. YOUNG,
Editor, "Through The Leaves"

Charlotte Crenshaw is a public relations representative for Great Western Sugar Co.

Before coming to the Company last August, Charlotte was national field coordinator for the women's auxiliaries of National Jewish Hospital at Denver.

Charlotte was born and raised in Loveland, Colo. She attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, under the Boettcher Foundation Scholarship Program.

After graduation, Charlotte moved to Denver where she became the coordinator of community relations for The Children's Hospital. While at Children's she served as editor of "The Bambino," the hospital newsletter.

RECIPES AVAILABLE

(NOTE: Folders of specially prepared recipes are available on request for use in 3" x 5" file boxes or for use in loose-leaf note books measuring approximately 7" x 10". Please send your request to: Charlotte Crenshaw, Great Western Sugar Co., Box 5308—Terminal Annex, Denver, Colorado 80217. Please use the same address for comments concerning this column, and for material you would like to see used in "Feminine Forum.")
Good food was the order of the day when John Panas' neighbors helped harvest his beets at Bridgeport, Neb., following his illness. Above, holding the wide variety of dishes they furnished the hungry men, are: L. to R., Standing, Helen Panas, Lee Karubus, Rhonda Barker, Alma Vassos, Edna Hessler and Sophia Zavaras; Kneeling, Betty Smith, Jenny Karubus, Chris Lapaseotes, Bonnie Barker, Agnes Walker, Wanda Walker and Angie Darsaklis.

Heart Tingling Aroma of the Soil

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This "Letter to the Editor" appeared in the Sterling, Colo., "Journal-Advocate". It was written by Debbie Schneider, a senior at Iliff High School. She is the daughter of Ford Station beet grower Herman Schneider.)

EDITOR: To me, one of the true smells of autumn is the smell of a red truck loaded with sugarbeets. It is an odor that can be felt in your heart, an odor of soil and glory, for the death of a sugarbeet is glorious, in that it gives off sweetness as it dies.

The smell recalls days when, blistered, sunburned and thirsty you stood with a hoe in your hands and the earth beneath your feet, and moved along the rows of new green leaves. You were their God. You decided who would live and who must die to make room for the living.

You can remember the hard knot in your stomach when you heard the roar of hail in the clouds hovering like vultures above you. You recall the voice of the priest, loud in the quiet of the church praying.

"For adequate moisture and proper weather conditions, assuring good crops and a bountiful harvest," and the people responding, "We beseech Thee, hear us." They are not just responding properly, for being mainly farmers, they have come to know that the fate of their crops and their lives rests ultimately with God.

And you remember the tiny needles of worry that are always present. "Will we get irrigation water this week? How will we get along if something happens to the crop?" A farm child learns early that "this year is sure to be good," or that "next year is sure to be better," for a farmer exists on hope.

So now the beets are being harvested and loaded into train cars for their final journey. All the farmer has to worry about now is the weather, machinery breakdowns, the amount of tare on his beets, the number of cars allotted to his area, and how many loads of beets he can dump each day. Often rows of trucks, lined up waiting to dump their loads, are etched against the rising sun. The lives of everyone are centered around getting those beets out of the ground.

Finally the task is accomplished and the farmer can relax, wait for his beet check and begin planning for next year. The sugar works in the body of anyone who cares to buy it, but it is in the blood and heart and soul of the farmer who grew the beets that produced it.
At home is where the sugarbeet check is first felt. Here Mrs. Bill McKay, Gill, Colo., receives her husband's 1968 initial payment for his 105 acres of beets. Bill has raised beets for about 10 years and his father, W. E. McKay, before him. (For more photos and stories on importance of sugarbeet checks to the community, see Pages 8-9).