

# GW, Growers Reach Accord

DENVER (AP) — The Great Western Sugar Co. and growers of sugar beets in four states reached agreement Wednesday on a new three-year contract governing purchase by the company of the 1977-79 crops, a company spokesman said.

The contract includes a method of implementing a purity formula, under which the prices farmers receive for the beets would depend in part on the amount of sugar actually extracted from the beets. In the past growers were paid on the basis of the gross weight of the beets and the sugar content prior to extraction.

The contract also provides for the company and growers to share the cost of shipping the beets to Great Western plants, said company spokesman Claude Fleet.

Some "minor operational matters" remain to be worked out and individual growers still must sign the agreement before it goes into effect, Fleet said.

Fleet said under the agreement, the purity of the beets would be tested after processing of the beets into sugar has begun. The firm would use the results of the purity tests to adjust the amount paid to growers on a district-by-district basis.

Great Western will also announce shortly the date at which normal off-season maintenance will resume at 11 Great Western plants, Fleet said. The firm had suspended those maintenance operations because of what it called uncertainties over this year's crop, Fleet said.

The Mountain States Sugar Beet Growers Association, one of the groups negotiating the

agreement, represents about 3,000 growers in the four states — Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas. It and the Nebraska Non-Stock Cooperative Growers Association, another party to the agreement, together supply about 90 per cent of

all beets delivered to Great Western.

A joint statement from the growers and the firm said they were confident the agreement "...provides the foundation for a stable, long term relationship."

The basic payment scale for the beets had already been determined and was not one of the topics in the three days of negotiations leading to the settlement, Fleet said.