Rare Sugar Beet Bonus Announced

DENVER, Colo. — The first extra payment in 11 years for sugar beets has been announced by the Great Western Sugar Co. (GWS). The extra payment will average $3 a ton and will add to the record high return already paid for the 1973 beet crop.

The payment will be mailed July 2 to more than 4,000 growers who produced beets last year for Great Western in Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Montana.

WITH THE EXTRA payment, said Robert J. Fisher, senior vice president of agriculture for GW Sugar, grower returns for the 1973 crop will average $26.17 per ton to date, $6.65 per ton more than the average for all payments for the 1972 crop, the previous high. The figures include Sugar Act compliance payments financed by a federal tax on the sugar industry.

In the Nebraska area, including Wheatland, Wy., payment levels will be slightly higher than the company-wide average because of the higher sugar content of the beets.

The extra payment will average $3.02 per ton in the factory districts of Scottsbluff, Gering, Bayard and Mitchell. In those four districts, this will bring the total average payment to date to $26.38 per ton, up $5.76 from the average of all payments for the 1972 crop, according to Leonard Henderson of Scottsbluff, Nebraska Area agricultural director for GWS. With the July 2 payment, he said, sugar beet returns to date for the 1973 crop in the Nebraska area will reach nearly $30 million.

Company-wide, the extra payment will add up to $13.5 million, making total returns for the 1973 crop to date $117.6 million.

FISHER NOTED that the record-breaking returns for the 1973 crop could not be considered windfall profits for beet growers because this year they must absorb much higher costs for fuel, labor, fertilizer, machinery and other farm materials. At the same time, he added, returns from alternative crops also increased.

The unusual summer payment, Fisher, said, is made at this time to increase grower payments as net proceeds from sugar sales are increasing.

Ordinarily, growers receive three payments for their crop — in the fall, in the spring, and a final settlement in October based on the results of the entire marketing year.

With the extra payment on July 2, Fisher said grower returns for the 1973 crop will average $28.17 per ton to date, or $6.65 per ton more than the average for all payments for the 1972 crop, the previous high. The figures include Sugar Act compliance payments financed by a federal tax on the sugar industry.

In the North Central Colorado area, payment levels will be higher than the company-wide average because of the higher sugar content of the beets.

In the factory district of Eaton, Greeley, Loveland, Longmont and Brighton, the extra payment will average $3.14 per ton. In those five districts, this will bring the total average payment to date to $27.40 per ton, up $5.52 from the average of all payments for the 1972 beet crop.

With the July 2 payment, Hettenger said Sugarbeet returns to date for the 1973 crop in the North Central Colorado area will reach $19 million.

The payment will be mailed on July 2. This payment will amount to $3.19 per ton of beets on the Eaton Factory average sugar content of 17%. The average payment to Eaton growers, including the Sugar Act Compliance payment, will total $27.82 per ton for the 1973 crop on an all-time record payment.

The 1974 crop is planted and is much ahead of previous years. The Eaton growers are working on a bumper crop.

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