BEET HARVEST UNDER WAY — The harvest of the county's sugar beet crop got into full swing Monday as nearly all of the Great Western Sugar Company receiving stations opened. Robert Wagner was one of the many growers to start harvesting what is hoped to be a bumper crop. Wagner farms about five miles northwest of Greeley and has about 148 acres to deliver this year. (Tribune photo by Mike Peters)

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Weld beet crop outlook good

By LYNN HEINZE
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The crop looks real good and the growers were ready to go when the receiving stations opened.”

That sums up the reaction of the agricultural managers in the Weld County area after the start of the sugar beet harvest Monday.

Managers of the factory districts of the Great Western Sugar Company said Tuesday that the crop is expected to be one of the best on record. They also indicated growers were ready for this year's harvest and turned in “slightly higher” deliveries on the opening days.

In the Brighton factory district, which started receiving beets last Friday, agricultural manager Al Robertson said the crop looks “real good and is evidently yielding quite well.” Robertson said no yield figures were available yet on the beets harvested and declined to indicate yield potential.

Robinson did say the crops in the district had “excellent stands and the beets are of good size.” He said growers have already removed about 14 per cent of the district’s crop, delivering more than 20,000 tons to the receiving stations.

In other districts, the receiving stations opened Monday, and managers are optimistic about the crop. Lowell Giauque of the Loveland district said growers delivered about 500 loads of beets on the opening day.

“The beets are coming out clean and look good. The growers’ deliveries were a little heavy for the first day, which indicates they were ready to go,” Giauque said.

Frank Zumbrink, manager of the Greeley and Eaton districts, said, “Everything looks beautiful. We had good delivery on Monday and the beets were delivered to the best of the growers’ ability.

“We received over 1,000 loads in the two districts. The beets are cool and clean and should store well. At this rate, our harvest should be pretty well completed by the first of November, weather permitting.

“We had ideal harvest conditions last year and it looks like we should have the same conditions this year,” Zumbrink said.

Zumbrink also said that Sunday will be Russell Mosier Day at the Hambert receiving station. Mosier was badly injured during corn harvest and will not be able to harvest his sugar crop.

Neighbors joined together in an effort to harvest Mosier's corn crop and will apparently do the same thing Sunday for the sugar beet crop.

So the Hambert station will be open on Sunday for delivery of beets from the Mosier farm only, Zumbrink said. About 47 acres of sugar beets will be harvested by the neighbors, Zumbrink said.