Wednesday Was A Big Day

Pace Harvest To Get All Beets, Too Valuable To Lose

Thousands of truckloads of sugar beets moved to receiving stations and factory sites in Western Nebraska Wednesday on the first real day of harvest of the 1974 crop.

This figured at 3,010 loads in the Bayard district, 2,060 at Scottsbluff-Gering districts and 2,601 in the Mitchell district, making a tonnage delivery of approximately 61,368 tons, or about 15% of the anticipated harvest on that one day.

Ag managers were estimating that growers will have delivered from 25-33% of the crop by the weekend.

Conditions were almost ideal for this year's harvest, much the opposite of the problem confronted last year at this time. Dry field conditions was the one factor that presented difficulties in some areas so far this year.

Great Western ag managers were stressing this week that growers should not let speed interfere with a quality harvest. As one stated, "We are harvesting a valuable crop and realize that growers are anxious to get it harvested. In the rush to get the job done, especially under dry conditions, we note they are losing beets in the field."

One ag man estimated that 100 pounds of beets to a ¼ mile row makes a ton to an acre, and it would be easy to lose from 1 to 2 tons per acre through a "rush, rush" program. A 29-ton field could be a 22-ton field if machines are run at a reasonable speed so they can do the best job possible, he added.

Gordon Hobert, ag manager at Scottsbluff and Gering, reported sugar content averaging from 16½% to 16¾%, much better than the start last year. About 4½% of the tonnage came in Wednesday. At this rate, Hobert thought, his district will be 20-25% completed at the weekend.

From the previous Thursday to Wednesday, Bayard received 6.7% of the anticipated tonnage, then 5.7% on Wednesday, to give 12.4% completion that night. Red Johnson, ag manager of the Bayard district, reported Thursday that he was projecting up to 30% completion by the weekend. Sugar content tests were averaging 16½%, he said.

Mitchell district 15½% completed and Wheatland 9.7% done by Wednesday evening, was the story from Al Auger, ag manager for Mitchell district. We've have some high yielding fields, but no final figures as yet, Auger said. Sugar content was averaging almost 17% so far with Wednesday testing averaging 17.08%, he said. At the present pace, the district will be about 1/3 done at the weekend, Auger added.

Neither yield averages on finished contracts, nor estimates on what tonnage averages might be in the various districts was available Thursday at this early point in the harvest.

Sugar
Making
Days Are
Here ...

EARLY BEET deliveries at Morrill Monday afternoon were made by Harold Rawlings, driving for Roger Sato; Larry Peister, hauling for his father, Vern; and S. Otsuki, also hauling for Sato. Otsuki farms near Stegall helping Sato in his early start.

Work Crews Are Busy Everywhere

FAMILY teamwork was harvesting beets for Steve Dahlinger, right, near Mitchell Monday. Steve, in his first year of farming, had his Dad, Harold Dahlinger, left, topping, while cousin, Tom Meyers, center, and brother Bruce (not pictured) were driving trucks. The men were cooperating in harvest work, a common practice in the valley. The crew had completed some beets for the elder Dahlinger. Dahlinger reported a successful bean harvest with averages over 40 bushel and corn looking better than last year.