Weld beet growers near mid-way point in harvest

The harvest of sugar beets in Weld County is moving ahead at “full steam” this week, after some delays following a storm last weekend.

Factory managers reported that the moisture, which fell over a week ago, held up harvest operations in some areas. But all operations are reported back to normal this week.

About 46 per cent of the beet crop has been delivered to Great Western Sugar Company receiving stations, according to North Central District Manager Ralph Hettinger. The Greeley district reports 42 per cent complete; Eaton is 47 per cent; Loveland is 45 per cent; Longmont, 42 per cent, and Brighton has about 66 per cent of the crop delivered.

“We needed the moisture so badly in most areas in order to get the crop out. But the rain and snow did slow up operations somewhat,” Hettinger said.

“But the growers are delivering one of the finest crops I’ve seen in my 28 years with the company. It’s a beautiful crop and the growers are doing a great job of delivering it. The growers are proud of the beets they’re delivering,” Hettinger added.

Hettinger said “it is too early to accurately estimate the yields and sugar contents of the crop” because less than half had been delivered. He said it appears the crop yield and sugar content should be above average, however.

Many growers should be finishing up this week, “if the weather leaves us alone, so we should be over the hump by this time next week.” Frank Zumbieg, Greeley-Eaton Agricultural Manager said.

75% Of Beet Crop Is Harvested In District

With ideal weather conditions continuing, the sugar beet crop of the Great Western Sugar Co. in the Fort Morgan district is now 75 per cent harvested as of Saturday night, Norm Davis, agricultural manager, reported.

Of the 27,000 acres to be harvested, there are only 6,700 acres left in the ground. “We’ll be running fairly good for four or five days this week and after that, it will be just a matter of finishing up,” Davis said.

“Harvesting conditions have been excellent since we began on Oct. 1,” Davis said, “and the yields and sugar content are very satisfactory. The percentage of the crop finished is pretty general over the district,” Davis said.

It’s a good crop with good sugar that is going to make good money, Davis said, as the reasons for farmers speeding the harvest this year and they don’t want anything to prevent them from getting out their crop.