Corner on commerce

Sweet checks for growers

Record payments to sugar beet growers have been made by Utah-Idaho Sugar Company of Salt Lake City and Amalgamated Sugar Company of Ogden, the two firms reported today.

Ut&I made the largest single payment in its 83 year history — despite a harvest expected to be 30 percent smaller than last year.

The company mailed checks totaling $47.2 million to sugar beet growers in Utah, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. This is almost equal to the total payment for the 1973 crop. Additional payments are expected as the harvest continues, and could reach $70 million for the year, according to Rowland M. Cannon, Ut&I president.

Amalgamated mailed checks totaling $37 million this week to growers in Idaho, Utah and Oregon as the initial payment on their '74 beet crops. The company said its acreage was down 40 percent for the year compared to 1973.

The initial payment, nearly $30 per ton, is for beets harvested and received through October. Checks for beets received after Nov. 1 will be issued by the company early in December.

TAKING STOCK

Farmers Getting Record Payment

By CLIFF THOMPSON

The largest single payment in history has been mailed to sugar beet growers by Utah's two sugar processing companies.

Representing the initial payment for 1974 crops, checks mailed to farmers by Amalgamated Sugar Co. and Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. this week total $84.2 million.

Ut & I mailed checks totaling $47.2 million to growers in Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Amalgamated's payments totaled $37 million to its growers in the same states.

U & I payments were for beets delivered through Nov. 6 and Amalgamated payments for beets delivered through Nov. 1.

The initial payments for the 1974 crop averaged almost $30 a ton, about $12 more than for the 1973 crop.

Both companies will make subsequent payments as the harvest and processing of the 1974 crop progresses.

Officials of both companies said per acre yields were down somewhat and that total acreage was down.

However, they anticipate increased acreage for the 1975 crop because of climbing prices for the beets.