What do you think?

Sugar price won't stop holiday bakers

Good news for sugar buyers! Prices have hit their peak and should start dropping soon, say sugar growers.

But will much of a drop be noticed before Christmas and in time for some traditional holiday baking? Or will consumers, despite the high prices, continue to use as much or nearly as much sugar as usual?

At one store in Fremont this week, sugar was priced at $3.63 for five pounds and $7.24 for 10 pounds. A sign on the display advised against buying sugar. "We think it's too high" the grocer had printed.

Sugar is the subject of this week's man-on-the-street interviews, a regular feature in the Tribune. The question: "With sugar prices as high as they are, are you planning to do less baking over the Christmas holiday?"

Mrs. Bob Olson, Fremont — "No. I won't be baking less. Christmas isn't Christmas without all the trimmings, and all children love sugar cookies. I'll try to find different recipes that use less sugar though. Honey is a good alternative because it keeps cookies moist. Also, corn syrup and molasses can be used."

Mrs. Nels Bridges, 648 W. Washington St. — "I'm through with my holiday baking already. I baked about the same as always with a few extras because my neighbor broke her arm, some went for Head Start and some for the church tea. Christmas is Christmas, and since we buy for a month at a time, when I found out the price was going up I got a little extra. A lot of my recipes use brown sugar, which doesn't seem so bad, but I haven't used any substitutes."

Mrs. Barbara Tellatin, 1425 N. Park Ave. — "Since I started teaching this year, I've been too busy to do any Christmas baking this year, but if I did, it would probably be less because of the prices. Last time we went to the store, I bought five pounds instead of 10 for that reason. We haven't been using any substitutes either."

Mrs. Raymond Hansen, Route 1 — "Prices are terrible. I usually do a lot of Christmas baking, but I don't think I'll do so much this year. I've been using honey instead of sugar. It works just as well. I think we'll just have to go without sweet things for a little while."

Barb Layman, 911 W. Military Ave. — "I used to buy a lot of Kool-Aid and a bag of sugar along with it. But, lately, I haven't bought anything like that. I do have some sugar at home, but I don't think I'll buy much more. I haven't been baking and we haven't had any drinks with sugar in them. We drink a lot of milk and water."

Judy Gregurich, 726 E. 12th St. — "I probably won't cut down on the baking this holiday, but I will be using less sugar. The main thing I've cut down on is soda pop. Diet soda pop is the same price as sugar - sweetened pop. I think that's ridiculous."

Carol Keehn, 335 S. Birchwood Drive — "I'm not using any less sugar. I don't bake much, but I plan to do some this holiday season. I won't bake any more or less than last year."

Sandra Tinker, 165 Pershing Road — "I'm not going to use any substitute for sugar. I plan to bake the same amount as I did last year. I have tried substitutes before and I didn't like them."