

News story from David W. Evans Adv. Agency, 618 McIntyre Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah  
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Recent announcement by War Food Administration again assured to beet growers for 1945 highest prices for sugar beets in the history of the industry. The government price support program will guarantee growers throughout the nation an average of about \$12.50 per ton for beets.

Word to this effect was released August 5 in the following statement;

"The War Food Administration announces a price support program for the 1945 sugar beet crop and for the 1945 Louisiana and Florida sugar cane crops which will assist growers to increase production.

"The price support program for the 1945 sugar beet crop will be at least as favorable as the 1944 program, under which growers will average about \$12.50 per ton of beets, including payments under the Sugar Act of 1937-----

"Announcement of the price support programs is made at this time to enable growers to plan for 1945 production, particularly in California where part of the sugar beet crop is fall-planted and where there is a good opportunity for increasing production. Sugar beet growers can make an important contribution to wartime food needs by substantially increasing their sugar beet plantings. Increased sugar production is necessary to meet needs of the armed forces, civilians, and Allies. The price support programs will help growers to meet wage rates necessary to obtain sufficient workers. It is feared that lowered production of sugar cane in Louisiana and Florida, due to scarcity of labor, may continue unless growers are able to obtain an increased number of workers."

Mr. R. L. Howard, District Manager for Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, points out that sugar beets and sugar cane are so far the only crops for which a price support program has been announced. "With the war's end in Europe considered highly probable in the near future, this puts sugar beets in a most favorable position," he added.

"Although sugar beet acreage has been somewhat below normal in this district since the entry of the United States into the war, prospects are good for substantial increases in 1945. The following table gives the beet acreage for this district from 1938 to 1944:

1938 --- 15,259	1942 --- 14,656
1939 --- 14,676	1943 --- 11,268
1940 --- 16,338	1944 --- 15,024
1941 --- 12,953	



Mr. Howard also pointed out that in 1941 the beet sugar industry operated under quotas which reduced acreage by 20 per cent. In 1942, with quotas suspended, the district's planted acreage returned to its normal position. The year 1943 showed a reduction of 23 per cent, largely due to delayed and inadequate government sugar beet program for this year, which was not made available until March and which failed to make beets competitive with other crops.

With the ending of the war we can expect surpluses of many agricultural products. A shutting down of many war plants and a suspension or slackening of Selective Service demands will mean an increase in the farm labor supply.

Further developments will be made in farm machinery, including improved precision planting that will produce 90 per cent or more single emergence, greater accuracy of planting, and better control of seed rates at normal traveling speeds. The precision planter developed by Utah-Idaho Sugar Company this year planted 70 per cent of the total crop in all U and I districts.

Other favorable prospects for 1945 include the greater use of beet loaders and mechanical toppers.

A world shortage of sugar is expected to continue for some time after the war. Protecting future acreage allotments, in the event a government quota system is established when the present emergency is over, is also important.

Commenting on this point, Mr. Howard notes that Congress recently renewed the Sugar Act of 1937 for two years giving the President authority to restore acreage quotas when the present emergency is over. While it is hoped that any quota system established in the future will take care of the American grower up to his ability to produce, we will do well to remember that the formula applied in the establishing of previous quotas under the Sugar Act of 1937 was based on past performance of individual growers. It is reasonable to expect that a similar method will be followed in any future quota system.



With some favorable factors facing the beet sugar industry, growers are urged to plan and prepare their land this fall for greater sugar beet acreage than the industry has achieved since 1942.