Sugar Beet Campaign Draws to Close

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's 1974-75 sugar beet campaign is rapidly drawing to a close, and operations are expected to be ended by early next month.

The Great Western Sugar Co. plant at Mitchell completed slicing operations early Monday after 106 1/2 days of work. The Bayard factory finished up early last Saturday after 105 days of operation. The seasonal campaign will be finished up at both factories after two or three days of clean up work.

The plants at Scottsbluff and Gering are still slicing, but are expected to complete their operations during the last week of this month. However, no specific date has yet been estimated.

As with the plants that have already completed slicing, two or three days of clean up will be needed before the campaign is ended.

The beets kept very well, and the Nebraska campaign was a good one, according to Ty Miller, Great Western's Nebraska area manufacturing manager.

Illinois Sues Sugar Firms Over Prices

Chicago (AP) — Five major sugar refiners and an association of sugar beet growers have been accused of alleged price fixing in a suit filed by Illinois Atty. Gen. William Scott.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court, seeks unspecified damages for Illinois retail sugar buyers and commercial buyers including candy, bakery goods manufacturers and others.

Named were Western Sugar Co., Denver; Holly Sugar Co., Colorado Springs, Colo.; California and Hawaiian Sugar Co., San Francisco; American Crystal Sugar Co., dissolved in June, 1973 and succeeded by the American Crystal Sugar Co., Fargo, N.D.; Amalgamated Sugar Co., Ogden, Utah, and the National Sugarbeet Growers Federation, Greeley, Colo.

The complaint charged that since a period before 1970, the defendants engaged in a conspiracy to fix and raise refined sugar prices; to fix the amount charged for prepaid freight; to eliminate discounts to customers, and to fix and raise selling prices of refined sugar.

The defendants, Scott said, processed and sold refined sugar in a market area known as Chicago-West. The area embraces states lying west to the Rocky Mountains, plus Illinois.

He said that in 1972, Chicago-West sales of sugar totaled about $720 million and the defendants sold $3 per cent of the total.

1975 Sugar Campaign at End Thursday

Bayard finished Jan. 18 and Mitchell finished Jan. 20. The Scottsbluff factory completed slicing Sunday.

Ty Miller, Nebraska area manufacturing manager for GWS, said that, overall, this campaign has been good for the Nebraska area. There were no weather problems during the fall harvest, beets were of good quality and they remained in good condition throughout the storage period. The campaign ended Thursday.