U.F.W. Reaches Accord With Big Lettuce Grower

SALINAS, Calif., Aug. 31 (AP) — The United Farm Workers union, announcing a major victory in its seven-month-old strike, said today that a tentative contract agreement had been reached with Sun Harvest, the largest of California's lettuce growers.

The union's president, Cesar Chavez, immediately called off a boycott against United Brands, Sun Harvest's parent company. He then announced that the strike, which has followed the harvest north from the Imperial Valley since January, would focus on a boycott of non-union iceberg lettuce produced by Bruce Church Inc. and marketed under the Red Coach label. Bruce Church is the second largest of 11 lettuce growers struck by the union.

The proposed contract, the second agreement with a lettuce grower in the union's latest strike, calls for a minimum wage of \$5 an hour for all field workers, the union said.

Sun Harvest broke away from a bargaining coalition two weeks ago and began talks with the U.F.W.

"I think we're relieved and we think we have a competitive contract," said Roland Kemp, vice president of Sun Harvest. However, he warned consumers that because of higher fuel costs and wages, competition would force his company to plant less lettuce next June.

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