

Vegetable Co-op

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 cal growers have excellent retail outlets which bring top dollar for their produce. You can't expect them to give up these retail markets to sell their product through a cooperative.

There are not enough producers who consign vegetables to the open market to make a cooperative successful, Sloan said. He pointed to the county tobacco cooperative as an example of what can happen to an organization that fails to get grower support.

Taking a somewhat more favorable view, Clyde Eshleman, a Washington Boro potato grower said he believes a cooperative could help mar-

ket produce more efficiently. He cited an example of one chain store rejecting a load of his potatoes without giving any reason for the rejection until the potatoes were back on his farm. He felt a cooperative could correct situations such as this, but said some other marketing agreement might work as well. He said he believes some control should be placed on the big retailers who are making continually larger spreads between the price to the farmer and the consumer.

Penn State Marketing Agent, Tom Piper, suggested that the group might consider other marketing programs. He said cooperative are only one answer to the problem.

Slamp then suggested that some producers might work together without a formal cooperative, and Paul Rowe agreed that this might be a better solution. "We are wasting our time," he said, "if we are thinking of anything less than a cooperative where the growers' identity is lost and all produce goes through a central packaging plant with strict quality control powers."

Dr. Martin A. Blum, Farmer Cooperative Service U.S. Department of Agriculture said he had come at the request of Brody and was not there to try to sell the formation of a cooperative, but to offer the technical assistance of his office.

Growers, acting on the sug-

gestion of Rowe, agreed by assistance of the county agricultural agent's office and Piper. The meeting was conducted by commodity basis with the by County Agent, M. M. Smith.

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