

Apple Picking Equip. Developed

Equipment to make apple picking easier and more efficient has been developed by the Agricultural Experiment Station at The Pennsylvania State University.

The device is a picking platform, built on a standard wagon chassis. The platform was designed to attract previously unavailable persons to work in orchards, according to Gary W. Allshouse, agricultural engineer in charge of the development.

He claims picking apples from the platform is less strenuous than picking from a ladder. Pickers ride through an orchard instead of walking. Moreover, they have a flat level surface to stand on while working.

The complete unit can be produced in a farm machine shop at a cost of \$4500, about half of which is for labor.

The platform is basically a tower with extendable walkways for four pickers to use at the side of a tree. It was designed to pick apples from standard size trees, averaging 18 to 20 feet in height. About one-half of the apples on a tree can be picked from one side. Each picker can maneuver his walkway over a limited range within a tree.

The platform, moved by a tractor, was tested in orchards of two Pennsylvania apple growers during the 1968 picking season. Under favorable conditions, it was possible to achieve a somewhat faster harvest with the platform than with ladders. In one orchard, workers on the platform picked apples about 15 per cent faster than the same workers using ladders. In the other orchard, the picking rates were about equal.

Apples are picked into conventional canvas buckets. The fruit is collected in a bulk bin carried at the rear of the machine. The fruit is emptied from the buckets on the same level from which it is picked and the bin is never more than a few steps from the pickers.

Although the picking platform was developed for standard size trees, it was also tested on 12-foot high trellis trees and a tree wall of 12-foot height.

In testing the machine, the lower branches of all trees were first picked from the ground. Then the remaining apples were picked from the platform.

New Yorkers See Egg Recipes

September was a good month for egg publicity in New York as Ella Elvin, food editor of that city's Daily News, featured eggs on two separate occasions in her food section.

The Poultry and Egg National Board supplied photos and kitchen-tested recipes for the two articles that had a combined circulation of over 4,200,000.

One article, published during the first week of September, featured "Pickled Eggs Great at Table and Bar." The second

article, beautifully illustrated with a PENB photograph, gave the recipe for "Eggs Goldenrod" which are, in the words of Miss Elvin, "An Egg Dish that's good as Gold."

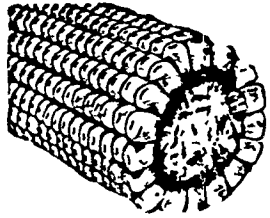
Pat Myles, PENB's Director of Home Economics, reports that these two articles are just a small fraction of the publicity throughout the U.S. resulting from the Fall mailing of photos and recipes.

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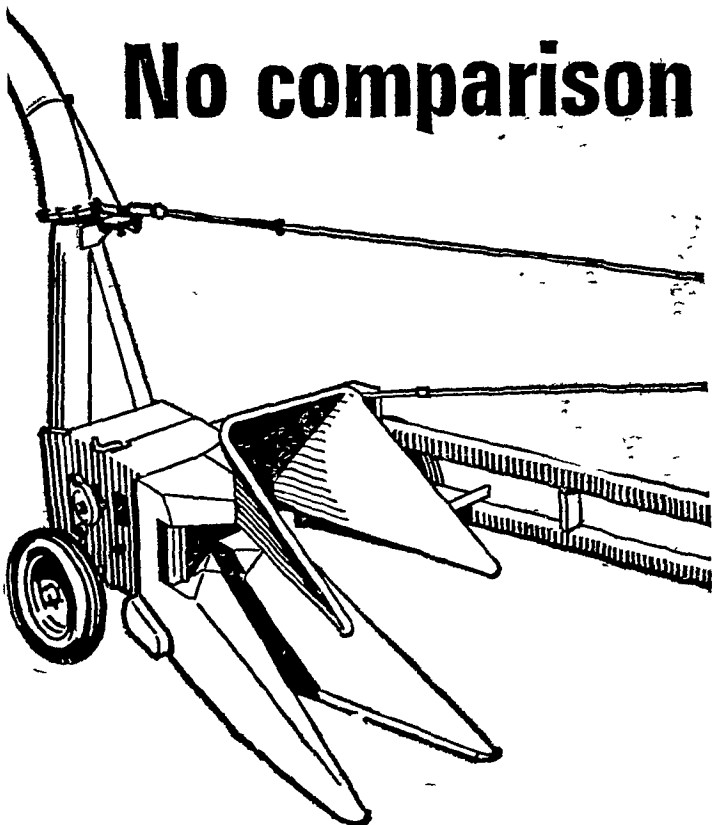
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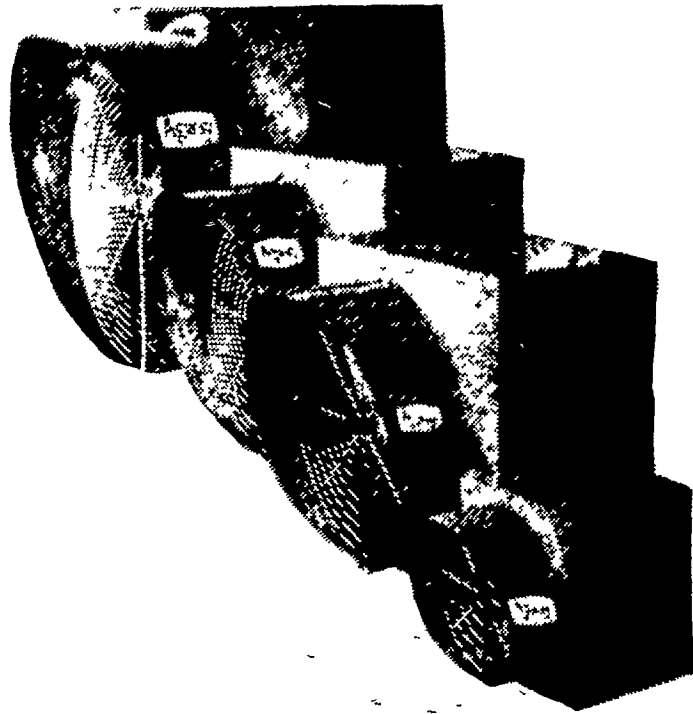
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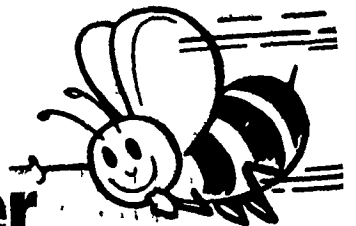
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