



Adams County Master Farmer John H. Baugher checks his apple crop grown by using wire trellis.

# Fruit grower

[Continued from Page 146]

slipping the bud down to the tree we are slipping it up from the bottom," he says. "It has been used in New York State with good success. I'm eager to see if it will work for us. Presently we have about 500 trees budded upside down."

Most of the nursery stock is sold in the Middle Atlantic States. Currently the supply is barely adequate to take care of the demand. Most other nurseries will not expand because of the problem of getting good help. For this reason, Baugher is going to try to cover the mail order and backyard markets.

In his own orchard the Master Farmer likes to grow dwarf apple trees on wire. "We probably will be shaking apples by the time this year's plantings come into production," he predicts. "For this reason I like semi-dwarfs. Our standard-sized trees are being phased out."

Labor is the reason this operation went into peach production. Baugher starts the season digging and shipping nursery stock. Next he plants his lining out stock and does nursery work. Then he handles harvest cherries on steep slopes where the machine won't go. Peaches fill in nicely between the cherry and apple seasons.

Machinery costs per acre on this farm run only \$75.88. This includes irrigation; 10 tractors; 5 sprayers; a shaker, 6 trucks; and other farm equipment. "One reason we can keep per acre costs low is by taking care of the equipment and making it last. We don't buy anything unless we really need it," Baugher relates.

As with any Master Farmer, he is actively involved in numerous civic and agricultural activities.

Baugher has held all the offices in the Adams County Fruit growers Association and is a member of the State Horticultural Association, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, Masonic Lodge, and Gettysburg Elk Club.

He is a member of the Adams County Extension Association, Mountain Orchard Cooperative, Apple Blossom Queen Contest, and

president of the Christ Lutheran Church of Aspers.

He and his wife, Nadine, are the parents of four children. Julia, the oldest, is married and a graduate of Madison College. John, Jr., is a student at Delaware Valley College majoring in horticulture; Phillip works on the farm taking care of bookkeeping; and Chris is in high school.

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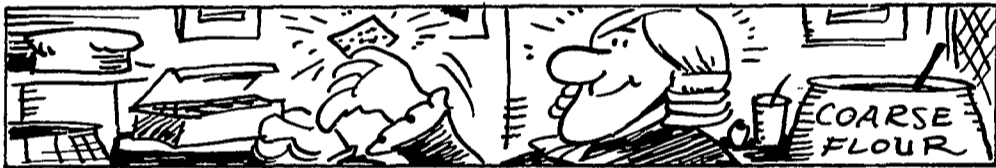


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