

# Growers get 'peanuts' for apples, says PACMA

CAMP HILL — Guy Donaldson, president of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association - reports prices being offered growers for processing apples are below their real market value.

"The prices we've been offered so far barely cover a grower's costs of production," says

Donaldson, an apple grower from Gettysburg, Adams County. "We believe that canners' prices not only should be higher but will be going higher to balance supply and demand."

Noting that apple harvesting is now getting underway in Pennsylvania, Donaldson said, "We're recommending growers shop

around for the best price offer they can find. We think prices will improve when canners realize this year's crop is going to be short."

About 60 percent of the apples grown in Pennsylvania are processed into sauce, juice or other items. USDA estimates this year's crop is going to be about 21 percent below last year's.

"We believe the crop will be even shorter than USDA's estimate and we also think canners will be using as many apples as they did for last year's large pack," predicts Donaldson.

PACMA is a marketing cooperative of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. PACMA's apple division represented

growers of five million bushels of processing apples in Pennsylvania and Maryland in 1980.

This summer, growers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and seven other apple-producing states in the East recommended a minimum price of \$8.25/cwt. for 2½" and up, U.S. #1 canner processing apples.

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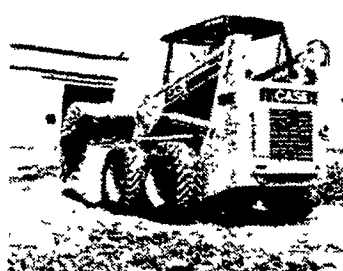
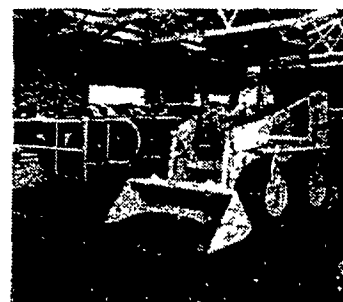
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