

Carl Kauffman guides the apples up the elevator. They will then travel through the shredder and into the press.

Cider-Drinking Time

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can go into the press, be made into juice, bottled and in the hands of the consumer in less than an hour.

But their operation was not always quite so efficient.

Carl explained that their press was the first one like it in the county. They have had the press for six years, and Carl has been making the cider for five of those years.

"This press is a one-man operation," Carl said, adding the old press had to have at least two or three men operating it. "This one is a real labor saver," he said.

But an efficient press is not the only ingredient for good apple cider. The real trick is in the blend of the apples.

"We mix sweet and tart apples together, that's the main thing," Carl said.

When blending the apples, Carl uses Red or Golden Delicious for the sweet apples, and any of the "summer varieties" for the tart apples. However, his favorite tart apple to use with the Red or Golden Delicious is the Stehman.

"They seem to blend together real nicely," Carl said.

But what is the difference between apple cider and apple juice?

"Apple cider is made without sugar and without preservatives," Carl explained.

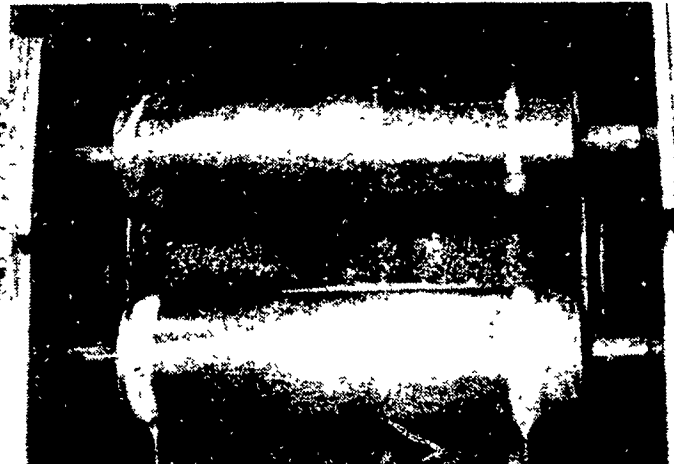
The apples used in the cider are selected by the many workers who sort apples as they come from the orchard. Those used in cider are the ones that have some sort of an outer blemish. For example, a summer's hail storm left bruises on some of the apples. These do not hurt the flavor of the apples, but

they do hurt the appearance. These go into the apples-for-cider bin.

Not all of the cider made at Kauffman's is sold in its intended form. Some of it is used as an ingredient for their homemade apple butter, and some of it is made into vinegar. To do that, the cider is stored for two years in wooden kegs.

But what about that cider that sits too long to be "regular" cider, but not long enough to be vinegar?

Sorry. That can't be purchased at Kauffman's.



These stainless steel rollers in the press are easy to clean and do not rust. The cider never touches any metal except for stainless steel at Kauffman's Fruit Farm.

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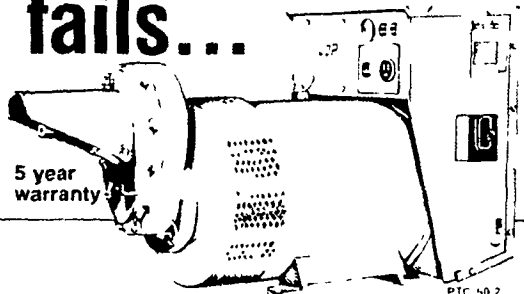
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