

# Satellite Station

(Continued from Page E44)

that when the test equipment is operating, data is gathered on a 24 hour basis.)

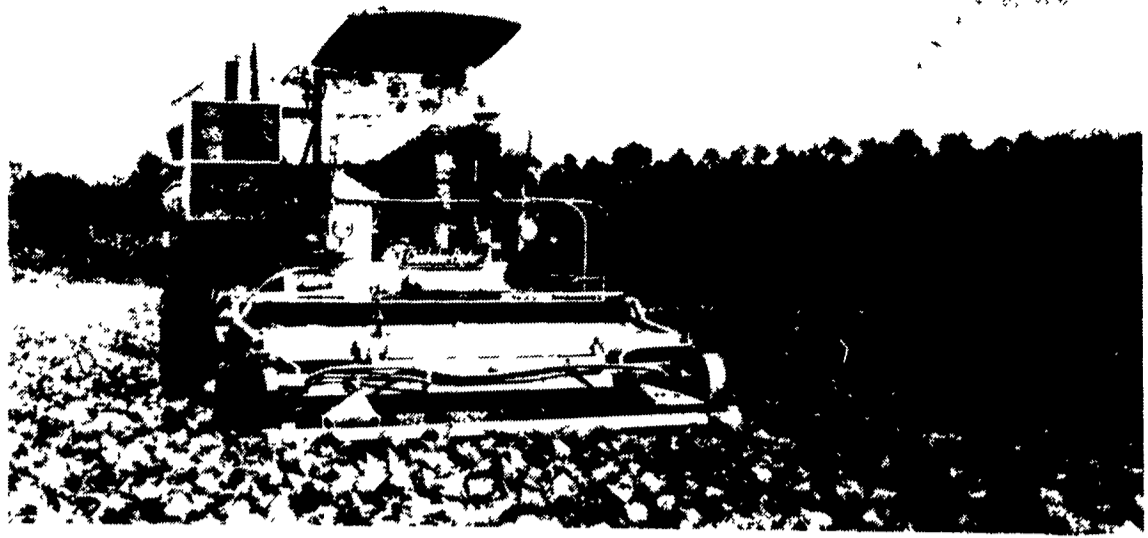
About a third of the Shaffer bean crop goes to Hanover. Loads are taken into the plant by appointment on a 24 hour basis. The remaining two-thirds of the crop is sold to a broker. Twenty acres of carrots will be harvested in mid-October. Shaffer is one of the few growers in this area who continues to grow the crop. The variety is a dicing carrot and can reach five pounds. All but 20 percent of the crop is bought by Hanover. Campbell Soups in Delaware takes the balance.

Shaffer manages his large acreage with only one full-time field hand. He has two full-time truck drivers. The beans are harvested with two Chisholm Ryder bean pickers. Two tractor trailers with 22-ton capacity haul produce to Hanover. The broker provides an additional two semis

for their purchases.

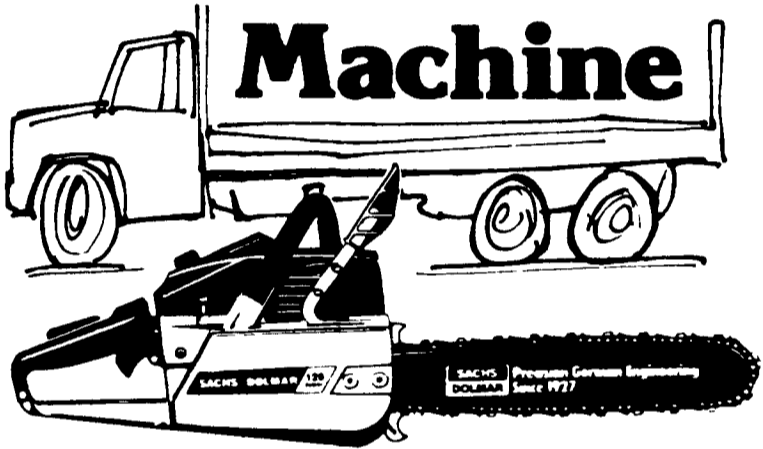
The carrot crop is picked with an FMC harvester. An unusual feature about a good carrot crop is the necessity of a good, strong top. The plant enters the machine where pulling pressure is applied by way of the top - while a shovel lifts from the bottom. The top is then sheared off, the carrot lands on a conveyor and is transported up and into an adjoining potato wagon. This harvesting equipment is pulled by a 756 International tractor.

Carl also does contract work. His day begins at dawn and often ends at 10 p.m. He is pleased with the outstanding yields this summer. Even with almost daily showers during most of July and early August, he's been able to get produce off the vine on schedule. There have been some days when soft ground slowed down the work, but the excess moisture produced quality as well as quantity.



For optimum yields, vegetable crops such as these beans require intensive management. Satellite weather stations capable of monitoring weather, crop and soil conditions may take some of the guesswork out of farming.

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