

Co-op farm business shows hike

All agriculture areas in Canada have co-operatively served them, says Vernon Heigton, Canada Department of Agriculture economist, reporting on the 1960 progress of the movement.

Marketing, purchasing, service and fisherman's co-ops did \$1,407 million worth of business in 1960, an increase of three per cent in one year. The 1,936 marketing and purchasing co-ops reporting (out of a total of 2,093) accounted for \$1,364 million of this.

Value of farm products marketed co-operatively was \$972 million, up \$9 million. Co-ops marketed one-third of all agricultural trade, the same proportion as in the previous year. Sales of merchandise and farm supplies increased by \$30 million to reach \$363 million.

REPORT DECREASE

The Co-operative Federate de Quebec, one of the largest multi-purpose farm centrals in the country, provided marketing, food processing and farm supply service to 375 affiliated local co-operatives, and did almost \$117 million worth of wholesale

business in 1960. Newfoundland reported a decrease in the co-operative sale of farm products from \$25 million in 1959 to two million dollars. In all other provinces, co-ops increased this activity.

The percentages of Canada's agricultural products sold through local co-ops were: dairy products 27.8; livestock 31.5; poultry and eggs 16.3; wool 72.4; grains 55.5; fruit and vegetables 22.1; maple products 49.2; tobacco 2.0; and honey 54.1. By provinces the 1960 sales were: British Columbia \$65.1 million; Alberta

\$162.5 million; Saskatchewan \$290; Manitoba \$88.4 million; Ontario \$184.3 million; Quebec \$115.7 million; Maritime Provinces, \$20 million. Interprovincial sales amounted to about \$75.6 million.

RANKED FIRST

Feed, fertilizer and spray material ranked first in sales of merchandise and supplies handled by co-operatives. They amounted to \$116 million. Food products followed with \$101 million and petroleum and auto accessories ranked next with \$63 million.

There are 10 provincial and

regional co-operative wholesales made up of local co-ops and belonging to the Interprovincial Co-operatives Ltd., the national purchasing and manufacturing agency. The wholesales are central agencies for marketing farm products, selling farm supplies, and

operating lumber mills, oil refineries, oil wells and coal mines.

Flour and feed headed the supplies handled by the wholesales with gas, oil and auto supplies next; hardware and machinery a close fourth and groceries fifth.

Hunter, Gem are resistant to blackleg

The Katahdin, Hunter and Netted Gem varieties of potatoes are the most resistant to blackleg and are seldom, if ever, affected by the disease, says J.E. Campbell, of the federal experimental farm at Charlottetown.

Most susceptible are the Sebago, Keswick, Huron and Fundy varieties and some trouble can be expected with Avon, Cobbler, Green Mountain, Cherokee, Pontiac and Kennebec.

Sound tubers and cut seed pieces that are well callused are safe from the organism which strikes through fresh cuts and bruises.

Mr. Campbell points out that weather conditions at time of planting and the way the seed is handled determines to a large extent whether blackleg will develop. Picker-type planters, and knives used to cut tubers, are the principal offenders in spreading the organism among seed.

STOPS SPREADING

Disinfecting the seed prevents the organism from spreading and a mercury compound such as Semesan Bel, used as a dip for whole tubers, is a suitable disinfectant for blackleg, wilt, rot and some other tuber-borne diseases.

Mercury compounds are poisonous and should be handled carefully, he warns.

Planting small, whole tubers helps to keep down the spread of the disease. When small lots of cut potatoes are planted they should be cut 10 days or more before planting to let them become callused. Large lots should be planted as soon as possible after cutting.

Other ways to reduce the spread of the disease include keeping storage facilities, equipment and containers clean, or using reasonable caution when operating machinery among growing plants.

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Broccoli rates as a leading process crop

Maritime provinces farmers planning to grow commercially for the vegetable processing trade may find a suitable subject in broccoli. This keeps well when quick-frozen and is readily processed, says R. G. White of the Canada department of agriculture's research station at Fredericton.

Broccoli adapts itself readily to many types of soil but grows best on the interval soils. The curds or flowers stand frost well and are not seriously harmed by October frosts.

Seeds for an early crop may be sown in a greenhouse or holed one month before field planting and later crops can be seeded directly outdoors in a nursery plot. Seedlings are transplanted in rows in the field. Growers with precision seeders and uniformly sized seed may seed directly in the field and then thin the plants. Rows three feet apart and plants two feet are satisfactory spacings. A succession of plantings extends the cropping season but yields per acre drop appreciably on plantings made after the middle of June. Successive plantings, however, provide a fairly uniform supply of broccoli between mid July and early September.

VARIETIES AVAILABLE

A number of varieties are available, the most popular being Waltham 29.

The general culture of broccoli is the same as for most vegetables. Special care is needed to control root maggots, aphids, and the imported cabbage worm. The curds are harvested when fully formed, before they become ricey and start to bloom. They are cut with a 1x1 inch stem and stored in a cool place until marketed. Side shoots provide up to 50 per cent of the crop and harvesting may be continued as long as it is profitable. Five to seven tons per acre is a satisfactory yield.

Broccoli is related to the cauliflower but its heads are perfectly formed clusters of flower buds or curds, which are usually greenish gray. It is fairly high in vitamins A and C, contains appreciable quantities of thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and iron and is considered one of the protective foods.

Offered a plan under which they could have the privilege of entertaining young men in their lodgings for an extra hour every evening, women students at England's Oxford University rejected the offer on the ground that it would then just be hard to get rid of "college boys."

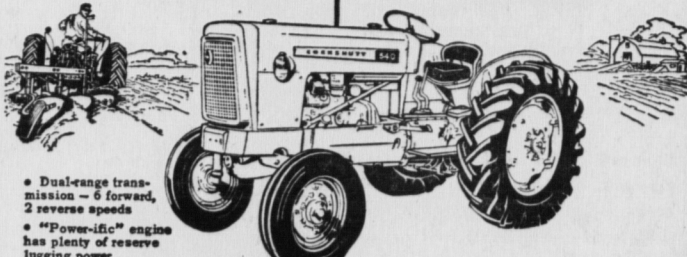
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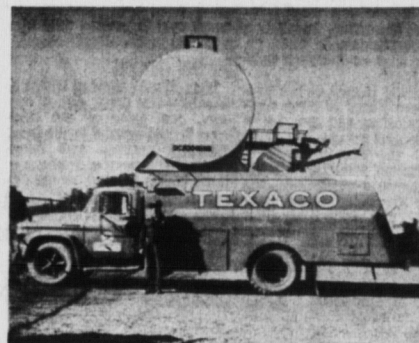
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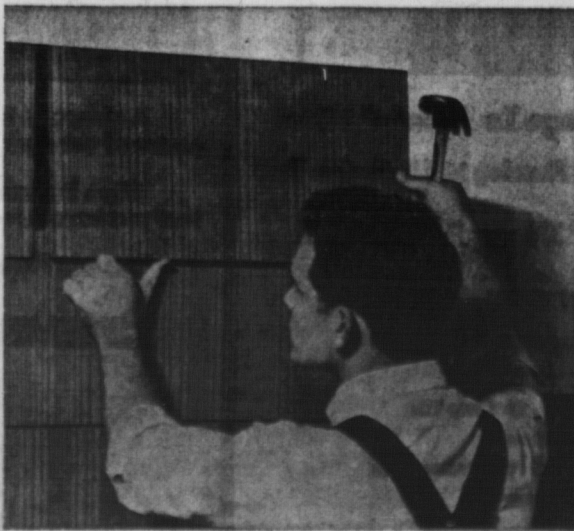
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