

The manager's office (18) usually is located near the unloading platform. The empty crate conveyor, used for moving empty field crates out of the washhouse, leads to an outside platform, where the crates are stacked and loaded on trucks, which have previously discharged a load of celery. A shop for repairing damaged field crates usually is maintained near the empty field crate platform.

Numerous types of trash conveyors are used. Many of them merely eject the strippings on the ground outside the washhouse. More satisfactory types lift the strippings into an elevated hopper equipped with a trap door, which permits the waste celery in the hopper to fall into a truck.

VARIATIONS IN TYPES AND SIZES OF WASHHOUSES

Other than number of chains, the chief variation between houses is in the length of the stripping chain. This depends largely on whether or not a dumping table is used. Some firms dump the celery on a dumping table, whence it is fed to the stripping chain. Strippers, standing beside the stripping chain, pick up and strip those stalks which appear to require stripping beyond that done in the field. Other firms do not use a dumping table but place the field crate beside the stripping belt so that the strippers remove each individual stalk of celery from the field box, strip it and place it on the chain.

Of 18 washhouse layouts observed in detail, 13 followed the practice of dumping the celery from the crate on a dumping table, while five had workers remove the stalks one at a time from the field crates and place them on the stripping chain. Eight of the 18 houses operated more than two chains. The largest houses operated four chains and the smallest operated only one side of one chain.

OPERATIONAL STUDIES OF CELERY WASHHOUSES

UNLOADING AND TEMPORARY STORAGE

Celery is hauled from the field to the washhouse in trucks or trailer-trucks. It is unloaded by means of hand clamp-trucks to the temporary storage platform of the washhouse. The celery is then moved, as it is needed, from temporary storage to the dumping table or stripping chain. The crates, stacked four high on the trucks, are moved into and out of temporary storage in the original stacks which were unloaded from the field trucks. Unloaders not only unload the trucks but also move the celery