

received lower prices for their celery than the firms using fewer hours.

Four variations of the hand-knife method of cutting and stripping were observed or developed. One requires more labor but overcomes the chief disadvantage of the hand-knife method in that it reduces the amount of broken roots and shattering. It was also found that while stripping, palming the hand-knife was more efficient than releasing the knife.

Some firms using the push-knife method encouraged workers to trim the celery roots to a neat "pencil point." Pointing the roots materially prolonged the time required to handle each stalk.

It should not be necessary to handle every stalk two or three times to do a good job of stripping. To save labor, stripping should be done either in the field or in the washhouse, but not both places—preferably in the washhouse.

Field packing among the firms required from 3.7 to 14.3 hours per 10,000 stalks. Most firms overemphasized the importance of very neat, solid field packs. Except where long hauls are involved, celery should be packed in the field three to five stalks at a time, the packers using both hands. Packing one stalk at a time, compared with packing three to five stalks at a time, did not increase the volume of packed-out celery per field box. The stalks packed one at a time were, however, cut in slightly more uniform lengths when the topping was done.

A flexible strap was developed which fits over the top of the field box. This strap serves to hold the celery firmly in the crate while the crates are being loaded and hauled to the washhouses. The flexible strap is likely to be particularly valuable if the celery is to be reloaded at the edge of the field.

Top cutting should be done with a saw to save damaging the celery and the field crates. The saw should be used in a sawing, not hacking, fashion. A form-top may or may not be used, as there was no appreciable difference in quality of work or labor requirements.

The optimum size loading crew was found to consist of either three or four workers. Additional workers contributed little or nothing to the accomplishment of the crew.

Field boxes should be stacked close together on the truck in order to prevent "telescoping" while hauling. The use of staked truck bodies for hauling was found to cause much mechanical injury to the celery.