

excessive drop or crushing potatoes by insufficient clearance in filling bulk trucks.

The amount of physical damage in potatoes at the packinghouse and also the efficiency of the operations of mechanical harvesting and handling equipment are affected to a considerable extent by the arrangement at the packinghouse for receiving potatoes hauled in bulk. In setting up packinghouse facilities, the following are recommended: (1) Unload potatoes from the bulk trucks onto a rubber belt or rubber-covered rod conveyor or into a flume; (2) provide means to compensate for the increase in height of the bulk body as the potatoes are unloaded so that the distance of fall from the bulk trucks to the receiving conveyor is kept to a minimum; (3) arrange receiving conveyors so that two bulk trucks can be placed in unloading positions at the same time, and provide two motors for unloading; (4) adjust the speed of the conveyor in the bulk bodies so that the volume of potatoes unloaded is approximately the same as the volume needed to supply the packinghouse; (5) have conveyors and elevators of adequate capacity to carry a volume of potatoes needed to supply the washing and grading equipment; (6) the equipment at the packinghouse should be such as to facilitate the removal of dirt, vines, weeds, and grass in bulk loads; and (7) packinghouses using bins for temporary storage should provide a satisfactory method of transferring the potatoes from the bulk bodies to the bins.

Many of the problems of mechanical harvesting will be corrected with further research and as more experience is gained.

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