

## POTATO HOUSE IS BEST IN STATE

Agricultural Department Comments Favorably On Curing House Built Here

The new potato curing house now in operation in Beaufort and built by Carteret Growers Inc., got favorable mention in a recent issue of "Market News". This publication edited by Miss H. M. Berry of the State Department of Agriculture says that the Beaufort house is probably the best in the State and gives full information about it.

The article in full is as follows: In Carteret County at Beaufort there is probably the best sweet potato storage house in North Carolina. This house is built solidly, having two thickness of tongue and grooved boarding with a thickness of one inch felt between. The house is divided into six compartments, each compartment having a storage capacity of 3,000 bushels. In the house is a receiving platform which extends its entire length, making another ideal curing room holding an additional 3,000 bushels. The capacity of the whole house is 21,000 bushels. There is a railroad siding at one end of the house and if the volume of business should increase, an addition holding 18,000 bushels can be built.

The potatoes are cured by the "Forced Air Draft" method. A Draft method. A large furnace is built in a small brick building at one end of the storage house, and fans force the air through the furnace and into the rooms where the potatoes are. When fully cured (after a period of 10-14 days), the air is turned off. The temperature and humidity are well regulated through this method. This house has the greatest storage capacity of any house in North Carolina. The varieties stored are Porto Ricans, Nancy Halls and Jersey Yellows. There is a growing tendency in this section to plant Jersey Yellows, both for early and late crops as these varieties grow to large size early in the season and yield a large proportion of number ones. Also these varieties

sell at higher prices than other types in the Northern markets because of their yellow color and the consumers have developed a taste for them. The market for this type of sweet potato in the North is well established and the trade in these markets will pay a premium of from 25-50c per hamper for this type of stock. The Southern yams sells at a discount in the Northern markets because it appeals to a cheaper class of trade and because of its poor quality due to inferior grading and packing.

When one storage room is filled in this Beaufort house, the doors are closed and the roof drafts opened, which can be cut off by two separate ventilators and the air draft is forced into the room through its slatted floor. This method of curing removes the humidity, which is generally held about 30, and the temperatures in all portions of the room are kept even.

The house, containing about 21,000 bushels, reduces the overhead per bushel because of the large volume, the insurance is low with the fire outside of the building and with each of the rooms separate. The large volume also assures the buyers of a regular supply, being the equivalent of 40 carloads; and, if well graded and packed, a good reputation will be established, which will bring repeat orders for the same brand of goods.

Mr. G. W. Huntley of Beaufort, N. C., who owns and operates this house, is a far-sighted business man and is keenly interested in the agricultural development of his section; he is trying to create an all-year-round business for Carteret County and thus insure their agricultural prosperity. He deserves the cooperation of all public agricultural workers.

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