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Carlos Navarro
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by Carlos Navarro

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According to the Northwest Chihuahua Apple Producers Guild, 14,000 MT of apples may spoil because growers have been unable to obtain a loan to move the produce to market. The growers, mostly from communal farms known as ejidos, had tried to streamline marketing by selling directly to retailers in cities. Guild spokespersons Eraclio Rodriguez Gomez and Omar Davila Heredia said intermediaries reportedly were offering producers only US$0.05 per pound, compared with the retail price of US$1. Sergio Zamaniego, spokesperson for the small-business oriented Banco Nacional de Pequeno Comercio (BanPeco), said his bank turned down the loan request because ejido lands are held in trust and cannot be used as collateral. (Source: El Financiero International, 10/26/93)

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