



NO BOTHERSOME LONG STALKS to handle when tobacco is processed by the Solaranza process. The stalks as well as the leaves are cut into three inch sections and the stalks spread on the field with a conventional manure spreader. The tobacco is not shredded but chopped; therefore the stalks are not mangled or broken. —LF PHOTO

● Tobacco Drying

(From page 10)

factory and more economical on most farms.

Solaranza gets its name from the method used to supply most of the heat used in the drying process. Black paint on the shed roof helps the roof absorb more heat from the sun. Through a duct built on the under side of the rafters, air is warmed as it flows to the tobacco holding bins. Supplementary heat is furnished, when needed, by a gas fired hay drier unit, but the use of artificial heat is held to a minimum. "We have the heat on only 2½ to 5 hours a day, depending on the weather outside," Bomberger said.

More Acres Per Shed

"From what we have learned so far," Bomberger says, "We believe a farmer can handle three acres for every one he handles in a shed now"

Bomberger knows of two other experiments similar to his program, but they are both out of the state. The experiment in Wisconsin uses approximately the same operation as the Lancaster County trials, but the Connecticut experiment uses extremely high heats to drive out the moisture.

"They are not concerned with costs in Connecticut. They are just looking for

● County Riders

(From Page 1)

Quarryville R2; Harold Groff Manheim R2.

Equitation: Sidney Shoemaker, Quarryville R2; Charles Risser, Ephrata R2; Barbara Shoemaker.

Barrell Race: Woodrow Sites, Manheim R2; Barbara Shoemaker and Harold Groff.

Trail class: Barbara and Michael Shoemaker and Billy Gible, Manheim R2.

Western working class: Barbara and Michael Shoemaker and Harold Groff.

Pleasure class: Pony: Robert Adams, 4th Street, Akron; Gerald Wagner, Quarryville, and Eloise Gross, of Kirkwood.

Pleasure class, Western: Michael and Barbara Shoemaker and Charles Risser of Ephrata R2.

Bareback equitation: Paul Martin Jr, Blue Ball; Barry Kulp, Church Street, Reamstown, and Barbara Shoemaker.

Grooming and showmanship: Sidney Shoemaker, Galen Sweigart, 6th Street, Denver and Charles Risser.

REPOT BEGONIAS

Repot begonias, ferns and other house plants using a good soil mixture, advises A O. Rasmussen, Penn State extension ornamental horticulturist. He also suggests removing all seed pods from annuals in order to prolong the blooming period.

some answers. We are looking for answers too, but unless the process saves enough labor to pay for itself, we know it won't be worth anything," Bomberger says.

Unofficial estimates indicate the process cost about five cents per pound last year which is considered too high by Bomberger who believes it can be reduced "But when considered that no labor is needed for stripping, that is not too far away," Bomberger adds.

"We don't know yet how the tobacco will react in processing," Bomberger says, "But we will have enough this year to give it a try. Two years ago we had just a small plot. Last year we processed 3 acres and we have over six acres this year."

Tobacco remains one of the last crops to resist mechanical harvesting methods, but perhaps the day is not too far away when even that traditionally labor consuming crop will have to bow to the mechanical revolution on the nation's farms.



E. R. BOMBERGER REELS IN TOBACCO from the bin where it has been stored for approximately a week since cutting in the field. About a half acre is stored in this bin until the yellowing stage has been completed. At the far right in the picture can be seen the ductwork where air enters the underside of the tobacco pack to help drive out the moisture. This tobacco will be chopped and stored under more forced ventilation until the browning stage has been reached. —LF PHOTO

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