

Tobacco

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will go before they any contracts. SLZ buyers for the US companies which aster Farming spoke to

this week, three leaned toward the belief that prices will have to go two to three cents higher, while two made no comment, and one said the market was too variable

to tell the price would turn out to be.

But, every buyer spoken to agreed that this year's crop, countywide, is excellent.

Said a representative from Lorillard, "The crop is not questionable in any buyer's mind and every company will want some this year. Another buyer agreed with this statement, and added, "There is only so much of it to go around, so it is very

possible that the prices will have to go up."

And, this year there is an extra finger in the pie - American Cigar, a division of American Brands, is reviving its activity in the area after about four years of dormancy. So far the company has only purchased a few scattered crops around the area, and as of this writing was not using buyers, as such, but employees from the office to do the work of gathering the crops to fill their orders. The office in Lancaster is only a branch of American Brands which is based in New York. They started buying this year again because of orders from their main office, and while the Lancaster based operation is not certain if orders from New York will be increased in the future, speculation has it that they might be. At any rate, American is in there adding extra demand this year.

So far, Lancaster Farming has been unable to determine how many total acres of tobacco have been sold at the 60 cent level. On Tuesday in the Millersville area only two small crops had been sold by growers who normally let their crop go early.

And "quite a bit" has been sold from Route 72 to the Mt. Joy area. There is also a documented case of 60 acres purchased in the Landisville area by John Berger and Son. However, only a small amount has been purchased in the Manor area, and farmers from Witmer, and Intercourse report that no selling is going on at all around them. And, as of Thursday morning, farmers reported that Lancaster Leaf and Owens buyers had not purchased much of the 1976 crop.

"It's only a drop in the bucket," says one buyer.

Richard Lantz, manager of Lorillard Corporation refused to comment on how many acres that firm had purchased in the past week and declined to acknowledge if the buy had been large or small. He did say that his buyers are covering the whole county and not concentrating in one area.

A. Kenneth Mann, on the other hand, who is an agent for nonlocal tobacco firms, was quick to explain that his company has purchased more than a couple of hundred acres in Penn-

sylvania of both sorted and unsorted; Maryland; and Type 41 tobaccos. Mann started buying last month and is paying 78 to 81 for Maryland - sorted and tied - and 58 to 50 for Type 41 straight stripped. For Type 41, sorted, he is offering 65 cents.

As far as the price is concerned, farmers themselves, have been speculating that the price will go higher than 60 cents. Wisconsin tobacco, a direct competitor, was a poor crop this year; the Lancaster crop is excellent; and production costs have gone up, so farmers are asking the natural question, "Why shouldn't our prices go up?"

One Manheim grower who asked to remain anonymous

said, "They are trying hard to buy it right now, and I believe that the next few days will be the determining factor."

Another said, "My crop is premium tobacco, and you'd better believe that I'm holding out for more."

Grower resistance may be high because of what one grower called "bullheadedness." "I really resent it when these buyers call on the phone and don't bother to come out and look at the crop," the grower said with emphasis.

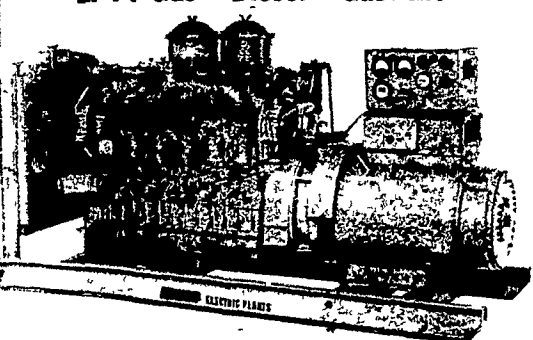
Reported weights for this crop range anywhere from a pound and a half to a pound and three quarters per lath, which is light compared to other years, but adds to the top quality of the '76 crop.

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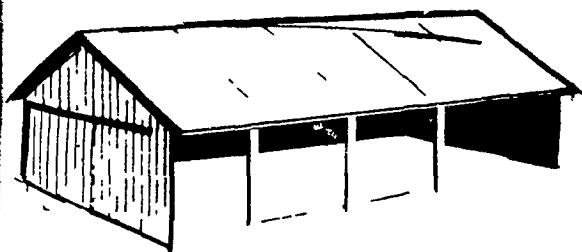
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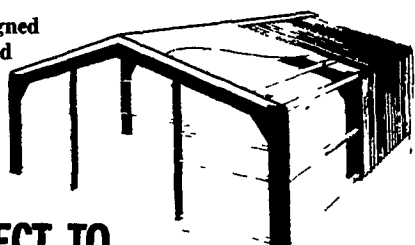


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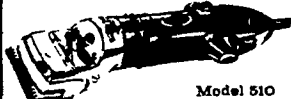
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Snowmobile complaints received in Pa.

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Along with the start of snowmobiling activity in some areas of the Commonwealth, the Department of Environmental Resources has received complaints about the improper use of snowmobiles on private property.

Secretary Maurice K. Goddard today reminded snowmobilers that operating on private property without the consent of the landowner is a violation of the State's Snowmobile Law.

"There are in Pennsylvania," said Secretary Goddard, "some 64,000 registered snowmobiles and since it is illegal to operate

on private property without consent snowmobilers have a responsibility to stop and identify themselves to a landowner and must remove their vehicles from the property if requested to do so."

He also called upon the snowmobile operators, who are looking forward to an adequate snowfall this winter, to remember the Snowmobile Code of Responsibility and respect the rights of others.

For a copy of the Snowmobile Code of Responsibility and a Snowmobile Safety Handbook, contact DER's Snowmobile Unit, P. O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Small fruit

growers to meet

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - The production, marketing, and economics of strawberries and brambles will be discussed at a Small Fruit Growers Roundtable scheduled for Jan. 18 at the Friendly Farm Steak House in Baltimore County, Maryland.

According to Dr. Peter A.

Ferretti, Extension horticulturist at The Pennsylvania State University, any interested small fruit grower in the state is encouraged to attend. The meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The main purpose of the Roundtable is to discuss the major problems affecting Pennsylvania and Maryland small fruit growers and to come up with a consensus as to how to tackle them," Dr. Ferretti said.

Two prominent Maryland growers will lead the discussions. Extension and research personnel from the two institutions will be available to answer questions and assist in the discussion.

To get to the Friendly Farm Steak House, take Route 83, exit 27. Go west on Mt. Carmel Road (Md. 137) approximately 5 miles, turn right on Forrester Road and follow the signs.

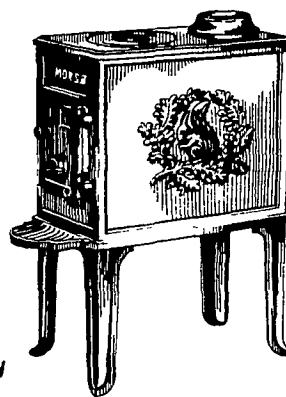
There will be a family-style lunch served at the meeting.

Farm Machines Numbers Drop

The number of machines on farms dropped in 1975, after heavy sales in 1973 and 1974. Shortages of machinery have eased considerably since inventories are no longer depleted, but prices will be higher, reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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