



The tobacco harvest is going right on schedule at the farm of Clint and Levi Rohrer, Lititz R2.

Tobacco growers

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comparison to last year's crop.

Initially, the incidence of disease is down in the county. Few farmers report tobacco etch or black shank, although the aphids were prevalent.

The weight of this year's crop is heavier on the whole, as well. Growers estimate that they'll get anywhere from 1800 pounds to a ton per acre this year.


However, the excess weight has some downsides, as well. The tobacco is harder to handle and the leaves break off the stem fairly easily. In fact, several growers report that their tobacco is "crisp" like lettuce, or brittle, which makes the handling difficult.

The plants have also grown so well in some cases that the leaves in neighboring rows intermingle so that the plants don't lay over properly when the stalks are cut.


And, the rain has put some growers behind schedule because sucker sprays weren't as effective as they could have been had the rains come further behind application.

But, on the whole, growers are optimistic about their healthy, heavy crops.

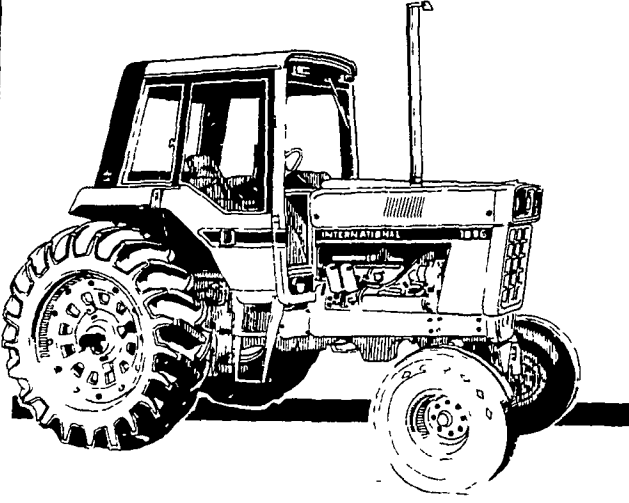
Now, if the stands can escape hail cutting, and if the tobacco cures well in the sheds, and if the price stays where it is, 1977 will definitely be a good tobacco year.



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