

# Tobacco farmers earn \$2.2 billion

PHILADELPHIA — How much money did America's tobacco farmers earn last year?

According to a study released last Monday by the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Applied Research Center, the tobacco growers received \$2.2 billion for their commodity in 1979.

The report estimated the economic contribution of the entire tobacco industry to the nation. It defined the industry's "core sectors" as farming, auction warehousing, tobacco manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing and vending.

The independent study also showed that the tobacco growing sector contributed \$847 million to other segments of the economy through purchases of goods and services, including equipment, fertilizer, seed, energy and insurance.

Other findings in the report include:

Over a half-million Americans worked full- or part-time on 196,000 tobacco farms in 22 states;

Personal compensation for these workers exceeded \$600 million;

An addition 17,000 workers

were employed full- or part-time by auction markets, earning \$29 million;


Tobacco farming and manufacturing sectors contributed \$58 million to local governments in the form of real estate and personal property taxes.

The nation's entire tobacco industry contributed

an estimated \$57.6 billion of goods and services to the U.S. economy, or about 2.5 times the expenditures on tobacco and tobacco products, the report showed.

The president of the Tobacco Growers' Information Committee said he welcomed the study's findings.

"We feel the information in this report is most significant," said Adron Harden of Tyson, Ga. "It demonstrates the contribution that tobacco makes to our nation's economy is much greater than many people may have realized."



**On being a farm wife - And other hazards**  
**Joyce Bupp**

Come on, now, how many of you really believe some of those ridiculous television commercials they air at us week after week?

the ones that really crack me up are those where the mother suddenly discovers that her family "really does care" about which detergent she uses for their tee shirts or what brand of soap she tosses in the shower.

In fact, in this farmhouse, as long as there's a clean pair of jeans in the drawers, peanut butter in the cupboard and a gallon of milk in the refrigerator, no one pays too much attention to what goes on in mom's household domain.

Or so I believed.

Then I went on a spending binge last week. I lavished upon myself two stupendous, colossal purchases: one new frying pan and one very small rug for inside the back door.

Well, I bet no one will notice them, I figured.

"Gee Mom, where'd you get the new frying pan?" asked one, tossing books on the table and banging doors in search of a snack. "Boy, and a new rug, too!"

You'd have thought the whole house had been redone.

"Okay, Mom, who told you that you could go buy a new frying pan — and a new rug?" asked another one, a wicked grin in two small blue eyes.

Poking a finger in the agitator's direction, I reckoned that I would buy a frying pan any old time I felt

like it and the next one might come out of a certain individual's allowance if they got too smart with me.

As usual, this one was totally unimpressed.

The last one showed up shortly afterward for the supper bubbling away in the new frying pan.

"Oh, a new frying pan," came the immediate comment. And the by-now famous new rug also received notice.

Okay. The commercials might be right after all. They really do notice.

Why, then, does no one ever spot and pick up the six pairs of sneakers left lying permanently at the bottom of the stairs?



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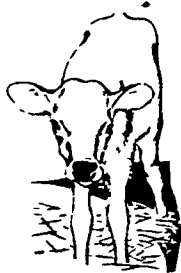


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