

# Larger U.S. tobacco crop still falls short of use

LANCASTER — Total tobacco production for 1980 is estimated at 1.77 billion pounds (808,000 metric tons), 17 percent above last year's extremely short crop.

Use of U.S. tobacco in the current marketing year may slip below last season. Nevertheless, use is expected to exceed the 1980 crop, and next summer's carryover may drop two percent from the 3.3 billion pounds carried into the 1980-81 marketing year.

Larger total tobacco output is likely for 1981-82 if there is a recovery in yields. The effective flue-cured quota is down, but the burley quota will likely go up.

Domestic tobacco supplies for 1980-81 are two percent smaller than last season because beginning stocks were down nine percent from the previous year. The 1980 crop is up because of increases in both acreage and yields. Despite widespread drought and some disease outbreaks that hurt crop quality, the crop staged a big recovery from

1979's output, which was reduced by blue mold.

Auction prices for flue-cured tobacco fell after mid-September at late season demand weakened. But average prices for the season were record high, up four percent from 1979.

Burley sales began in late November, with prices averaging sharply above 1979 levels. Fire-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos have also sold at higher prices this season.

Total tobacco use in 1980-81 may be down slightly from last year. U.S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco for July-October 1980 rose in volume from a year earlier. But shipments are expected to go below year-ago levels the rest of the season. A decline in domestic disappearance will further lower utilization for this marketing year.

U.S. cigarette output for 1980 may rise one percent above 1979, because of a small gain in domestic sales. Despite uncertain economic

prospects in the Nation and continued antismoking efforts, growth of the adult population should maintain total cigarette sales in 1981 at the record-high 1980 level. Chewing tobacco output is increasing. In contrast, cigar and smoking tobacco volume is lagging, and the downtrend may continue in 1981.

Exports of U.S. leaf have increased during 1980 to around 600 million pounds (equivalent to 660 million pounds farm-sales weight), six percent above the 1979 level. Total export value is also up. Reduced quality of the 1980 U.S. crop, along with sizable foreign holdings of older U.S. crops, means prospects for next year's exports are not as good.

Imports accounted for 31 percent of U.S. manufacturers' tobacco use last marketing year — 30 percent of use in cigarettes and 40 percent of use in other products.

January-October duty-paid imports of un-

manufactured tobacco and of Customs category 170.80 ("tobacco manufactured or not manufactured not specifically provided for") were two percent above a year ago. This calendar year's total imports may exceed last year's 384 million pounds. A similar amount could enter in 1981.

The flue-cured tobacco supply for the 1980-81 marketing year (July-June), at 3.060 billion pounds, is virtually the same as last year despite the larger crop. With marketings above indicated use, the mid-1981 carryover is expected to exceed this year's 1.965 billion pounds by around 25 million.

This year's grower prices for flue-cured averaged \$1.45 per pound, five cents above 1979. Because of the uneven effects of the drought, market and State averages across the five-state flue-cured belt varied more than in the last several years.

The sizable loan stocks of downstake tobacco remaining from older crops were augmented by considerable immature, lower-grade tobacco from the 1980 crop.

The 1981 national flue-cured marketing quota has been set 7.5 percent below 1980. Tentatively, the effective quota (reflecting adjustments for the 1980 marketings above and below quota) is 1.11 billion pounds, 6 percent lower than in 1980. The price support level will go up about 12 percent next season, reflecting higher prices paid by farmers.

The burley tobacco supply for 1980/81 (October-September) is 1.58 billion pounds, 5 percent below last season and the lowest since 1950. Carryover on October crop (November forecast) is 555 million pounds, 25 percent above 1979's disease-reduced production.

Burley auctions through December 8 average \$1.66 per pound, 22 cents above last year. About three-fourths of the crop will be sold before Christmas. For 1981/82, the effective quota will increase over the basic quota because of the large

quantity of undermarketings from the 1980 season.

Supplies of the Maryland, fire-cured, dark air-cured, and cigar tobaccos are below

last season. Marketing quotas and acreage allotments for types under quota will be announced by February 1.

## USDA issues 1980 Yearbook on cutting energy costs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Cutting Energy Costs," the 1980 Yearbook of Agriculture, was issued Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The 408-page book is designed to help bring down energy costs of farmers, foresters, homemakers, communities and the food industry.

"Every American should find something worthwhile in this volume," Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said in the book's foreword. "...All of us are well aware of how the increases in energy costs have cut into our incomes."

"Farmers especially have been struggling to hold down their production energy requirements so that Americans can continue to get their food at reasonable cost," he said. "In fact, a new agricultural revolution may be in progress — one in which agriculture's own renewable energy supplies may be used increasingly to fuel farm machinery, heat farm buildings, dry grain

and serve many other purposes.

"Some of agriculture's renewable energy supplies already are being used in gasohol to fuel the family car."

A copy of "Cutting Energy Costs" may be purchased by sending a check or money order for \$9.50 to Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 20402. Sales copies also are available at U.S. government bookstores which are located in a number of cities.

Members of Congress have limited allotments of the book for free distribution to constituents.

USDA has no copies for distribution.

The four sections of the new yearbook are agriculture and forestry, family living, communities and alternative energy sources. Authors are specialists mainly from USDA and the state land grant universities. The book has 48 chapters and many illustrations.

Some of the topics in the book are how to grow crops with less energy, the do's and don'ts of home insulation, how your community can cut energy bills and turning farm wastes into usable energy.

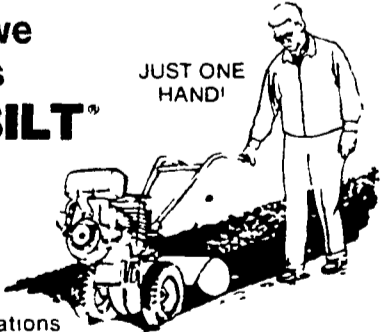
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