

# Md. tobacco auctions to begin March 31

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — The 1981 auction season for Maryland Type-32 tobacco will make history two ways when it opens on Tuesday, March 31st—it will be opening earlier than ever and it will feature, for the first time on a regular basis, sales of untied tobacco, according to the Maryland State Tobacco Authority of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Untied tobacco sales, utilized on tobacco markets in other states, have long been seen by some as a means of reducing the high man hours per acre labor factor in Maryland tobacco production by eliminating the traditional tying of tobacco leaves into hands during the stripping process

on the farm. The new method would allow farmers to place their graded tobacco in loose piles which would then go to market in baskets, or on sheets.

The 1981 auction season, for the eight Maryland sale floors, will last seven weeks concluding on Thursday, May 14. Sales will be held Monday through Thursday each week with the exception of opening week. No sales will be held on Monday, April 20 because of the Easter Holiday.

Traditionally, tobacco auctions in Maryland have opened in mid-April and run until about the first of June.

To be sold is the 1980 Maryland tobacco crop which is estimated to total

231 million pounds, up somewhat from the "blue mold" plagued short crop of 22 million pounds in 1979. Generally, condition of the 1980 crop is described as "good" with a high proportion being "light" due to the dry growing conditions experienced last year.

In an effort to inform

## State grain output drops

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers produced less corn for grain, corn silage, soybeans, hay and potatoes in 1980 than in 1979, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting

growers of the details involved in untied tobacco sales, a special meeting, hosted by the five Southern Maryland Farm Bureau chapters, will be held Monday, January 26, at 7.30 p.m. at the Izaak Walton League building in Hughesville, Charles County.

Service.

Pennsylvania tobacco production increased in 1980.

Based on acreage utilization and production data, 1980 production of corn for grain in Pennsylvania totaled 96,000,000 bushels, down 20 percent.

All hay, at 4,182,000 tons, was down three percent, as was corn silage at 6,275,000 tons.

Soybean production in Pennsylvania was down 20 percent at 2,524,000 bushels, while white potatoes, at 4,180,000 cwt were down 30 percent.

Pennsylvania tobacco production, at 22,750,000 pounds was up 29 percent.

National quantities produced and percent changes from 1979 are as follows:

Corn grain produced, 6.65 billion bushels, down 16 percent; all hay produced, 131.1 million tons, down 11 percent; soybeans produced, 1.82 billion bushels, down 20 percent, and all tobacco produced, 1.77 billion pounds, was up 16 percent.

## Sheep to Shawl

(Continued from Page C20)

Bechtelville; and Ginny Leber, Camp Hill will be splitting \$150—the purchase price of the shawl given by Heim to his wife, Sadie.

Two more Lebanon County bidders held out for the fourth and fifth place shawls — both bringing \$120 for Washington Spinners, a team from western Pennsylvania, and Weavers Guild and Sheer Madness, a team from Maryland.

Not to be outdone, Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell jumped

into the bidding on the sixth place shawl, woven by the Bucks-Montgomery County Wool Pool team. Holding out until the end, Hallowell had the final bid at \$120. Obviously pleased with the shawl, Hallowell exclaimed, "It's the least I could do for my home county team," as he tried it on for size.

Other teams competing included. Montrose Spinners, Ridley Creek Craft Guild/South; Ridley Creek Crafts Guild; and Romney Rovers.



The second place team and the team with the fastest finishing time was the Lancaster Niddy-Noddies. Pictured from left are Barbara Lynch, Pequea; Connie Rannel, Hershey; David Eckman, Lancaster; Phyllis Robinson, Lancaster; and Dotty Lewis, Lancaster.

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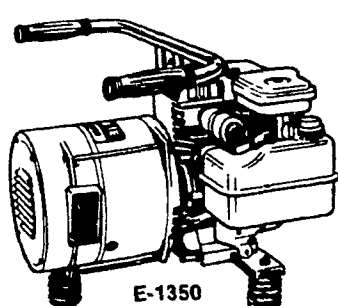
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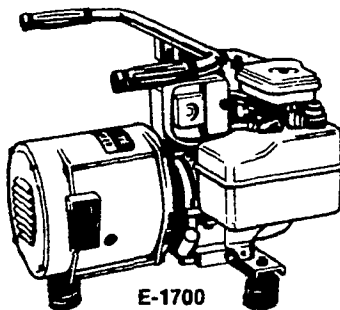
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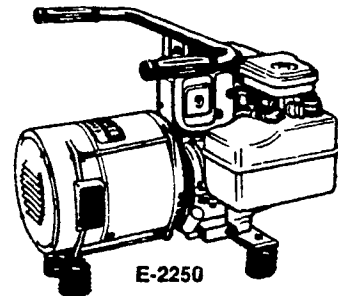
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