

## Md. tobacco

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"Tobacco politics cross party lines," Davis said.

"They're tough and they play for keeps.

"If Pennsylvania is exempted and you start coming up with tobacco going into the burley market, there will be another law passed."

So, the key to growing Maryland tobacco this year appears to hinge on where it goes in the marketing channels.

The past few years an increasing amount of Maryland tobacco and even lighter-colored Pennsylvania tobacco has been purchased out of Lancaster County at a premium rate by a Southern buyer.

This same type of situation, but only on a larger scale in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, is what led to the change in the Farm Bill to stop the growing of non-quota tobacco in quota states.

Last year, some 11,000 acres of non-quota Maryland tobacco were grown in these three states, which have quotas.

The Maryland tobacco was being used as a substitute for burley tobacco and thus affected the CCC payments that were being paid out by the Federal Government for burley quotas.

But several things make the Lancaster County quota situation different and unique.

First, Lancaster County growers, since they have traditionally rejected tobacco quotas, did not think they were in a quota area.

At the same time, the USDA was not aware that Maryland tobacco was being grown in Lancaster County.

Thus, the interpretation by the USDA of the change in the quota law was not promptly communicated to Lancaster County by the USDA because officials didn't

think the Maryland tobacco ruling would have any effect.

Regardless, local growers still considered themselves in a non-quota area.

But a handful of quotas still exist for Type 53 tobacco in Clinton and Lycoming counties. This makes all of Pennsylvania a quota area.

But it has been determined that Type 53 was last raised by the only remaining grower in Lycoming County in 1976. He now raises Type 41.

But the tobacco allotments will remain in effect indefinitely, even

though that particular tobacco is no longer grown, because the land was placed under conservation programs.

The Pennsylvania growers of Type 53 even turned down quotas in the last referendum, but were outvoted by other growers of Type 53 in Wisconsin, Ohio and Minnesota.

"That's ridiculous," exclaimed Congressman Walker.

"We don't want the quotas. We can't get rid of them. We're locked into them. And will always be outvoted."

James Boyd, a lawyer for the USDA, was also present at the session and explained that the courts had found in favor of the government concerning the

growing of Maryland tobacco in quota states in a lawsuit brought by growers in North Carolina.

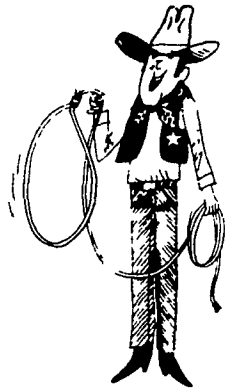
Also attending was Rep. Gus

Yatron, of Berks County, whose district will now include a northeastern section of Lancaster County under the reapportionment.

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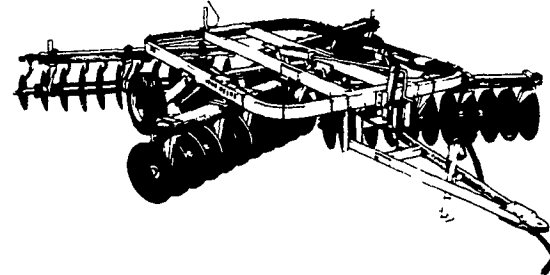
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