

USDA Announces Sale Of Tobacco

WASHINGTON — The remaining 55 million pounds of 1983-crop burley tobacco owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation have been sold for \$30.8 million, according to CCC Executive Vice President Milton Hertz.

The sale consisted of 39.6 million pounds of strips, 12.5 million pounds of stems and 3.5 million pounds of scrap. Strips are the portions of the leaves remaining after the leaf stems are removed.

Hertz said successful bidders were notified July 1 and that the accepted bids ranged from \$1.10 to 30 cents per pound, averaging 72 cents per pound for strip quality tobacco. The strips were sold for \$28,374,688. Stems were apportioned to the buyers based on pounds of strips purchased. The 12,484,042 pounds of stems were

sold for 13 cents per pound for a total of \$1,622,925. The 3,574,350 pounds of scrap were sold for \$835,437, averaging 23 cents per pound.

On May 13, CCC invited bids for purchase of the remainder of the 212 million pounds of tobacco which CCC has acquired May 7, 1986 from the Burley Stabilization Corporation of Knoxville, Tenn. and the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association of Lexington, Ky., as mandated by the provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985. The associations had pledged the tobacco as collateral for CCC loans and have contracted to assist CCC as servicing agents for maintenance and sale of the tobacco.

Hertz said sales of burley tobacco acquired from the Burley

Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association totaled 181,452,805 pounds for \$103,621,792 and sales of burley tobacco acquired from the Burley Stabilization Corporation totaled 30,985,200 pounds for \$22,069,895.

CCC was owed \$608.6 million in total principal and interest on the 212 million pounds of tobacco when CCC acquired it, Hertz said. All of the \$109.5 million that was owed in interest was recovered by CCC from the producer funded net cost tobacco account. Also, \$125.7 million will be derived from sales proceeds, resulting in a net loss of approximately \$373 million on the tobacco, he said.

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Infection Reduction Checklist

BY M.L. O'CONNOR
UNIVERSITY PARK — The hot humid weather is upon us. During the next few months cows will experience stress for several days or weeks at a time. Unfortunately those micro-organisms in the dry cow area, maternity pen, stalls, bedded pack and generally throughout the barn are not stressed but instead they accelerate their growth during such weather. Thus the cows are not only stressed by the weather but also by the higher concentration of micro-organisms.

Stressed cattle are more susceptible to infection especially around the time of calving and in early lactation. Research shows that most any stress at the time of calving whether it be retained placenta, difficult calving, uterine infection of milk fever will result in longer days to first estrus, reduced conception rate and possibly a higher incidence of cystic ovaries.

One can expect an increased incidence of uterine infections, retained placenta and mastitis if precautions are not taken to provide a clean, dry and well-ventilated environment for the cows. Such infections may persist well into the autumn. Some management practices that may help to reduce summer stress and infections are as follows:

- Insure that all cows and heifers receive plenty of clean, fresh water. Don't take water consumption for granted.
- Provide supplemental ventilation when needed.
- Shade should be provided for cows on pasture.
- Maintain appropriate body condition. Overconditioned and underconditioned cows suffer more during hot humid weather.
- Insure cattle receive an adequate intake of salt, potassium, selenium, vitamin E and vitamin A.
- Separate the cow that is due to freshen from the other dry cows.
- Cows should calve in a clean, dry nearby pasture or if one is not available a maternity pen should be reserved for calving.
- Clean out the stalls, maternity pens and the dry cow area more frequently.
- Consider reducing the concentration of animals in each group especially in the dry and early lactation group.
- Fence off poorly drained and swampy areas where the cattle tend to congregate in the mud and contaminated water.

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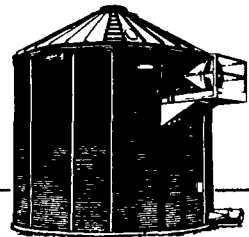
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