

# While Tobacco Market Intensifies, Stauffer Grabs Champ

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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Depending on how much credit the U.S. allows the Soviets, Lancaster tobacco growers could be looking at a booming market. Trouble is, many of the Eastern Bloc countries don't have the money to pay for a lot of domestic tobacco, according to John Yocum, senior research associate

at the Penn State Southeastern Field Research Laboratory in Landisville. Yocum spoke at the Lancaster County Tobacco Show at the Farm and Home Center Thursday. During show judging, Yocum answered questions about the tobacco market. Yocum also explained the different classes of tobacco and what judges look for when determining

a winner. "The binders wrap the tobacco filler, and the judges look for thin veins," said Yocum. "The binders make up the middle to the lower part of the plant. These days, fillers are often referred to as the thick leaves, but technically are the overripe, dead leaves at the bottom of the plant."

In the fillers, said Yocum, judges look for uniformity and stretch, and consider other factors such as the amount of holes, insects, veins, color, etc.

To Clark Stauffer, 37, Ephrata, excellent growing conditions the past year and watching the amount of fertilizer that went onto the ground helped him capture grand champion Pennsylvania smoking tobacco honors at the show. His certified Maryland 609-type tobacco, using seed genetics obtained by Watson Seed Co., Watson, N.C., netted him the award.

Stauffer's champion hand of middle one-third tobacco is an example of the result of careful soil nutrient management and eight years of hard work on his four acres of 609 type in Ephrata.

Stauffer and his wife, Lucille, entered tobacco in three classes (all Pa. grown smoking) — Class bottom one-third, Class 5 middle one-third, and Class 6 top one-third.

This was Stauffer's second year as an adult at the tobacco show and has exhibited before in the youth class. This is his first Lancaster show championship, and he placed high last year at the Harrisburg Farm Show and also will be show-



Clark Stauffer, Ephrata, picked up grand champion Pennsylvania smoking tobacco honors at the Lancaster Tobacco Show Thursday.



Judges for the Lancaster Tobacco Show were, from left, Jeffrey Ranck, Domestic Tobacco, and Jay Frey, Lancaster Leaf.

ing this year.

"I'd tell farmers to keep the manure off and don't overfertilize," said Stauffer. "It's also important to plant before the end of

June — June 15, or around the first or second week of June. Also, keep the ground loose — the looser it is, the better."

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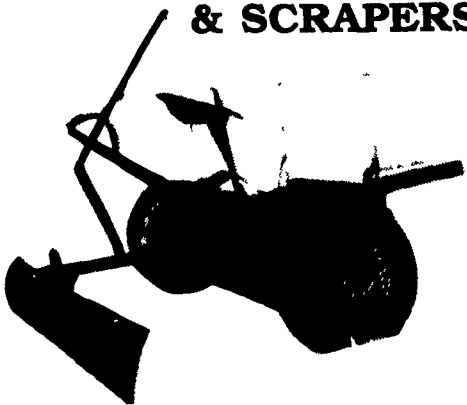
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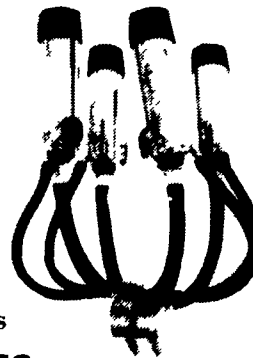


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