

# Friends Of Tobacco Meeting Held In Paradise

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor  
PARADISE (Lancaster

Co.)—In a "Friends Of Tobacco" meeting at the tobacco auction warehouse Thursday morning

more than 300 farmers, mostly Amish, listened to several speakers laud the benefits of the tobacco

industry.

Mike Brubaker, agricultural consultant from Ephrata, was the moderator and said cash crops such as tobacco are needed in Lancaster County as an alternative to intensive animal agriculture. With the high land values and the current push for legislation for nutrient management control, farming enterprises other than dairy may be needed in the future.

Farrell Delman, president, Tobacco Merchants Association (TMA), released a new study that showed the national tobacco industry was directly and indirectly responsible for 2.56 million jobs or 2.3% of all jobs in 1991. During the period 1986 to 1991, the number of jobs grew by 100,000 from 2.46 million to 2.56 million. The report entitled "Tobacco's Economic Contribution to Pennsylvania and the Nation" shows that the U.S. tobacco industry produced \$70.8 billion in salaries and wages in 1991, up some 26% from 1986's \$56 billion.

"The tobacco industry in 1991 represents a significant and dynamic segment of Pennsylvania's and the nation's economy," Delman said. "In Pennsylvania the tobacco industry was directly and

indirectly responsible for 113,000 Pennsylvania jobs, generating over \$2.8 billion in annual worker compensation. Of this total 29,700 jobs were produced in the core and supplier sector, consisting of tobacco grower, distributor and product manufacturing jobs, and direct suppliers to the industry, while 83,300 jobs resulted from spill-over effects due to the tobacco industry."

Joseph Helweicz, vice president of Corporate Communications, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, said tobacco has been an easy target for tax revenues because it's easy to collect from the few companies in the business. But he said the largest tax advantage came from payroll taxes rather than the tax on the products. Ryan also pointed out that exports have had a very positive effect on the balance of payment situation in relation to foreign countries.

Thomas Ryan, chief executive officer, Helme Tobacco Company, said the future of cigar Pennsylvania Type 41 chewing tobacco was positive and Neal Buss, Pennsylvania deputy secretary of agriculture, brought greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Eric Probst, owner of the tobacco auction warehouse, was the host for the morning meeting with a noon lunch. Sponsors listed on the program included: American Cyanamid Corporation; Bank of Lancaster County; Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service, Inc.; Carolina Greenhouse; Cochran Corporation; Dewelanco; Farmers First & Farmers Ag Credit; Fulton Bank; Keystone Farm Credit; Meridian Bank; Pennsylvania Tobacco Growers Association; Rockvale Village Inn; and Valent.



A crowd of more than 300 farmers, mostly Amish, attended a "Friends of Tobacco" meeting in Paradise, Lancaster County.

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