

U.S. Tobacco Industry Shows Trade Surplus

PRINCETON, N.J. — The United States tobacco industry closed the first quarter of 1993 with a trade surplus of \$877 million, a decrease of almost \$124 million or more than 12 percent, when compared to the first quarter of 1992, according to the Tobacco Merchants Association (TMA). This compares to the nation's merchandise trade deficit of \$20.64 billion, which was up almost \$9.5 billion or 85 percent when compared to the first quarter of 1992.

"In the first quarter of 1993, U.S. cigarette manufacturers exported 45.7 billion cigarettes, valued at \$911.2 million, up nearly \$85.4 million or 10.3 percent over the first three months of 1992," said Farrell Delman, President of TMA. "This helped propel the

first quarter tobacco products surplus, of almost \$984 million, up over 8.8 percent," he said.

"The following 10 destinations accounted for almost 81 percent of all US cigarette exports in the first quarter of 1993," said Delman: Japan (25.5 percent of total); Belgium (19.5 percent); Hong Kong (8.1 percent); Saudi Arabia (6.1 percent); Turkey (5.5 percent); United Arab Emirates (4.6 percent); Lebanon (4.1 percent); Singapore (3.3 percent); South Korea (2.1 percent); and Russia (2 percent). "Cigarettes are one of the few U.S. manufactured products having a surplus position with Japan," he said.

In spite of the 8.8 percent increase in the value of exported tobacco products, the decline in the positive contribution made by dir-

ect leaf exports explains the decline in the overall first quarter performance," said Delman. The majority of these imports, he said, were oriental tobacco, a type of tobacco which is not grown in the U.S. but is required in the manufacture of American blend cigarettes. "The more cigarette we export, the more we need to import

oriental leaf," Delman said.

At more than \$77 million, the positive trade contribution from the leaf tobacco sector was down almost 53 percent when compared with the first quarter of 1993. Leaf tobacco exports of nearly 63.4 million kilograms, valued at over \$365 million, were down 9.6 percent in quantity and almost 17 per-

cent in value, while leaf tobacco imports at 91.8 million kilograms, valued at over \$288 million, were up 24 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

"The apparent world tobacco glut is making it more difficult for the U.S. to export its higher priced leaf, and easier to import lower priced leaf," Delman said.

Crop Reporting Deadline Nears

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — All Lancaster County farmers are asked to certify their 1993 crop plantings, land uses, acreage conservation reserve, and other program acreage with the Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

The final certification date for program crops is July 15 for corn, soybeans, tobacco, hay, and vegetables.

"Certification is the procedure by which farmers report their program acreage to establish their eligibility to receive the benefits of price support, deficiency payments and other farm program benefits," said Ray A. Brubaker, ASCS county director. Acreage reports are required for all participating farms.

He said that growers not participating in the 1993 programs

should report their acreage to establish planting history, ensure future benefits, and protect crop acreage bases.

After certification, ASCS will select farms at random to verify that acreage reports are accurate. Aerial photographs are available for farmers to help identify their fields.

Brubaker said crop reporting is particularly important to producers who may want to participate in

a future USDA program.

Crops may be certified at any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. "We encourage farmers to certify as soon as possible after planting and not wait until the deadline date to report their acres," the ASCS official said.

Appointments are suggested to avoid waiting in the office. For more information, contact the Lancaster County ASCS Office at (717) 397-6235.

Conservation Meeting Set

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — To assure that conservation practices are providing effective solutions to soil and water problems in Berks County, the Agricultural Conservation Review Group (CRG) will meet at the Berks County AG Center in Bern Township at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, to discuss conservation issues.

The CRG will examine the agricultural conservation, forestry incentives and water quality programs.

"It is important to review and discuss changes made in the programs during the past year," Richard Troutman, chairman of the Berks County ASC Committee, said.

He said the group will identify specific conservation problems, set overall program priorities, goals, policies, and practices to make programs more effective in preventing soil erosion and protecting water quality.

The CRG will study the effect

of sodbuster, swamp buster, and conservation compliance provisions, and the Endangered Species and Historic Preservation Act on conservation programs.

"We will consider cost effective means to reduce soil erosion on crop, pasture and forest lands; conserve water and reduce agricultural non-point source pollution," ASCS official Troutman said.

Members of the CRG include ASCS, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Berks County Conservation District, Extension Service, county commissioners, Berks Environmentalist, Bureau of Forestry, DER conservation specialist, PA Game Commission, PA Fish Commission, and Pomona Grange.

Interested organizations and persons are invited to attend. For more information and availability of handicapped accommodations, call Josephine Bodock (215) 478-7158.



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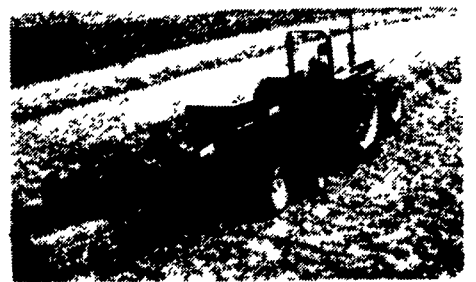
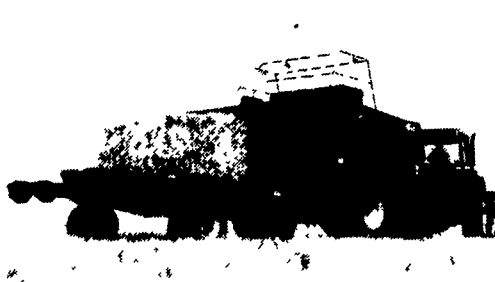


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