

Tobacco Growers Hold Meeting In Paradise

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — Tobacco growers gathered at the tobacco auction barn to receive information about growing and marketing tobacco. Dr. David Smith, tobacco specialist, North Carolina State University, told the group about a successful plant raising float system used in the South.

Growers form a water bed with 2x6 framing and line it with plastic. Then the bed is filled with four inches of water. A polystyrene tray is filled with an artificial potting medium that is floated in the water. The tobacco seeds are planted in the tray, which is divided into sections. A hole in the bottom of the tray allows water to wick up to the plant seeds, much like oil to a wick in a lamp. Later, as the plants grow, the roots are extended down to the water. These systems can be used in greenhouses or small hot bed type structures can be made over the float system for protection of the plants and to utilize a supplemental heating system if needed.

When the plants are ready, the whole tray is taken to the transplanter, and the operator pulls the plants from the tray and places them in the row all in one operation.

Bill Cornell, lobbyist in Harrisburg for the Lancaster County Tobacco Association, gave figures that show the extent of tax revenues to national, state, and local governments. Figuring federal excise, state excise, and state sales taxes on 72,000 packs of cigarettes, you get \$48,000 per acre in taxes. From this acre the farmer would get approximately \$3100.00. "When the farmer plants tobacco seeds, he is really growing money for the government," Cornell said.

John Barley, representative from Lancaster County, said no new taxes on tobacco products were likely this year. And he identified with the growers because he grew up on a Lancaster County farm and helped raise tobacco as a youth. Barley said that raising tobacco allows farm families to pull together. And in Pennsylvania, 80,000 jobs are directly attributed to the tobacco industry.

Larry Weaver, president, said a number of legislators from Lancaster County in Harrisburg are farmers and therefore understand what farmers are going through. He said farmers were fortunate to have these people in Harrisburg but that the farmers needed to become members of the association so they have a greater voice of support.

Kathy Baxter from the Consolidated Farm Service Agency reminded farmers the tobacco



Tobacco Association President Larry Weaver, left, and William Cornell, lobbyist for the association in Harrisburg, sit at the head table at the informational meeting of tobacco growers.

referendum will be this spring. The exact dates have not been set, but they should watch the papers, contact the agency at the Farm and Home Center, or contact directors of the association.

Mac Bailey, a buyer from Virginia, reported that market conditions this year were much like in the late 80's when the bottom dropped out of the market. Fortu-

nately, the price did not go as low as it might have. Bailey also showed samples of imported tobacco that can be obtained for manufacture much cheaper than U.S. tobacco.

Bailey also farms 241 acres on his 1,200 acre farm that has been in the family for many generations. In 1994, along with son Steve, the Baileys started to manufacture a

cigarette that uses only U.S. blends, including 609 from Lancaster County. The market for this new product is growing in Virginia, and they hope to sell also in North Carolina and Lancaster County. The fledgling enterprise is of special interest to local growers because of the use of local tobacco in the product.

The Baileys are from Keysville, Virginia, and use a logo of an old

barn that Mac played in as a boy. Mac said you don't need a license to manufacture the product, but you need a wholesale license to sell. That's what he is seeking so that he can distribute in Pennsylvania, hopefully in the next several weeks.

The Pennsylvania Tobacco Growers have a mailing list of over 1200 growers.

Mill Celebrates 50 Years In Feed Business

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Sensenig's Feed Mill, celebrating 50 years in the feed business, since 1945, held their annual Dairy Informational Meetings with over 275 area producers attending. The introduction of Master Mix Feeds' new AIM (Amino Acid Impact Management) technology was the main

topic of discussion. Featured speakers from Master Mix's research and marketing department included Dr. R. Don Jaquette, dairy nutritionist, Dr. Merrill May, dairy nutritionist and Matt Schrage, dairy marketing manager. Results from the AIM studies conducted at Master Mix Feeds' research facilities, inde-

pendent university studies and nine Lancaster County herds were presented.

The introduction of the AIM technology in Lancaster County field tests presented by Mike Sensenig. Mike reviewed the test results from nine herds totaling in excess of 325 cows. These herds represented a cross section of various sizes, feeding programs, and management levels. Results from producers using either existing Master Mix technology or competitive nutritional programs were compared. The average milk response of the herds was 5.7 lbs. milk per cow per day. Herds converted to the AIM program from competitive feed programs, re-

sponded with an average 10 lbs. more milk per cow per day.

AIM represents the third generation of industry leading patented protein technology from Master Mix Feeds' continued commitment to research. Its technology focuses on increasing the total essential amino acid flow to the small intestine. AIM feeds feature higher rumen undegraded protein (RUP) levels with defined concentrations of lysine and methionine. This is achieved using highly palatable, highly digestible plant protein sources for optimal protein efficiency. AIM technology offers the producer greater flexibility within the product line and physical form.



At the Sensenig's Feed Mill dairy meetings are from left, Matt Schrage; Dr. Don Jaquette; Dr. Merrill May; and Ken Sensenig.



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We at Golden Leaf Tobacco Company would like to thank all our farmers for another successful year. It has been a pleasure dealing with you in the 1994-95 tobacco season. Golden Leaf Tobacco plans to return this fall as a major buyer of your 609 tobacco. We will strive to provide 609 growers with a strong market and reliable outlet for their 1995 crop. We wish you the best of luck in the coming months. We will receive tobacco at our Bareville location on Feb. 21 and 22. Please call for an appointment.

Golden Leaf Tobacco Co.

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