

# Tobacco Growers Reluctant To Sell As Auction Season Opens

(Continued from Page A1)

late-season dry weather — excellent for curing. Many growers expected the price to top \$1.40, perhaps even as high as \$1.50 per pound. (For comparison, the top price of tobacco at the auction was \$1.61 in 1990.)

Last year, on opening day, 350,000 pounds of tobacco were sold for an average price of \$1.15 per pound.

This year, one buyer from Mount Joy who wanted to remain anonymous was intent on getting a \$10,000 check — looking for \$1.50 per pound for his cash crop — or not selling at all. "It's a real fine crop this year," he said.

On Wednesday at the start of the

auction, 425,000 pounds were on the floor and 64,385 pounds were sold for a top price of \$1.27 per pound, offered by the warehouse. Top price for other buyers paid was \$1.25 per pound. Average price was \$1.24 per pound. Some lower grade tobacco sold for about \$1.10-\$1.15 per pound.

The county's number one cash crop had a value of \$18.13 million in 1994, encompassing 8,250 acres with a yield of 16.82 million pounds, according to the 1994-1995 Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service summary.

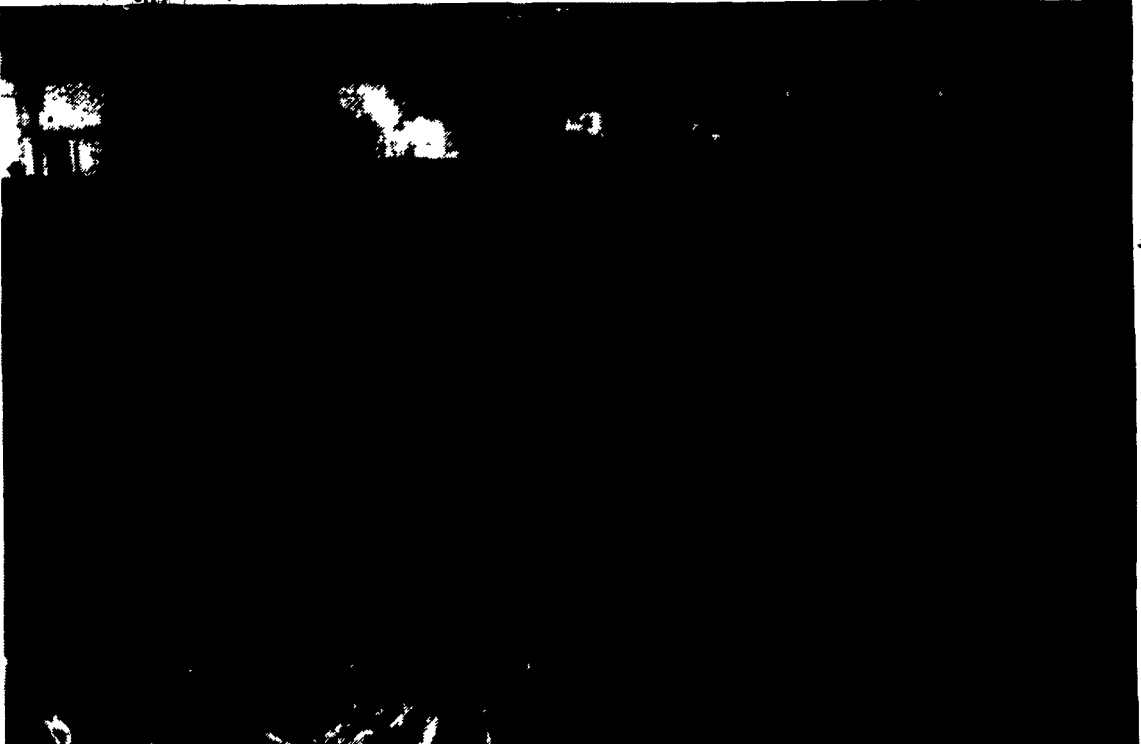
The season continues every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until the week before Christmas. After New Year's Day, the sale resumes until about mid-February.



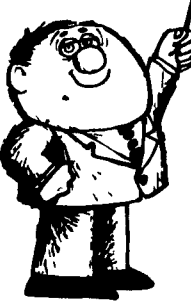
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Buyers at the auction. This year boasted a great growing season, with early rains and late-season dry weather — excellent for curing. Many growers expected the price to top \$1.40, perhaps even as high as \$1.50 per pound. The top price of tobacco at the auction was \$1.61 in 1990.



There were about 424,000 pounds of Maryland 609 tobacco on the floor at the sale Monday, and 61,328 pounds were sold. The same day last year was a Paradise Tobacco Auction record with a total of 636,000 pounds on the floor.



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