

For Marketing Purposes, Tobacco Grower Survey Will Arrive By Mail

(Continued from Page A1)

noted Hess this week. They include: should the association continue? What type of system should be used — the auction or private sale?

This past auction season offered little help for growers, many of whom held onto their tobacco for another year and perhaps better prices. Some growers, noted Hess, could move

tobacco to Maryland markets with some success.

Since the cooperative marketing association was formed, about 625 members remain. Only about 45 members dropped out.

"That number almost indicates they want (the association) to go on," said Hess.

But according to the cooperative, for every pound of tobacco sold, three cents must be

"checked off" the price, including tobacco sold at auction or privately.

This year, growers sold only a million pounds of tobacco, mostly in Lancaster, according to Hess. About 3-4 million pounds remain unsold.

The checkoff goes to pay bills — a great deal (about \$30,000) to rent the building in New Holland where the auction is conducted.

If growers don't send in the checkoff, "we can't operate this year," Hess said.

A small amount from private sales has been received. But bills remain to be paid.

The survey deadline is Oct. 1 this year. That also happens to be the deadline for members to decide if they want to stay with the co-op. If they opt out, they must do so by Oct. 1. If they don't, they must continue to abide by the rules of the co-op.

The survey has nothing to do with the government. "We need the feedback to come back to us

so we know how to plan," Hess said. That planning includes obtaining the right size of auction house dependent on how many acres of tobacco are grown.

If members want to opt out, Hess noted they must write a statement to the effect that they no longer want to be a member, sign it, date it, and return it to the attention of Dennis Hess, PTMA, 870 Clay Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.

For more information about the PTMA or the upcoming survey, contact Hess at (717) 626-6970.

will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No.2y — 2.02 bu., 3.62 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 1.95 bu., 3.26 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 1.35 bu., 2.88 cwt.
- Oats, No.2 — 1.24 bu., 3.85 cwt.
- Soybeans, No.1 — 4.22 bu., 7.05 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 67.04 ton, 3.35 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 106.25 ton, 5.31 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 105.00 ton, 5.25 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 118.75 ton, 5.94 cwt.

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Average Farm Feed Costs for Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's last week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania.

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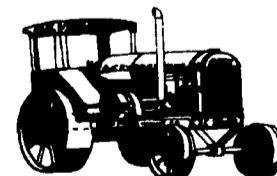
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