



Flue-Cured Tobacco...
SCOOP

...A newsletter from
Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative
Stabilization Corporation
www.ustobaccofarmer.com

2006 Market Opens!

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative is excited about the opening of the 2006 tobacco marketing season. Tobacco growers have weathered many trials so far this year. Growers have had to deal with too little or too much rain. Heat and disease have taken their toll as well. Some growers in eastern North Carolina and certain areas of the Piedmont have had to destroy some acres of tobacco due to excessive rain.

But all in all, 2006 is shaping up to be an excellent crop. On a hot Tuesday morning in early August, Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative recently traveled to Sampson Tobacco Warehouse in Clinton, NC to assess the crop as farmers begin delivering their tobacco. The Marketing Center manager in Clinton told us that lower stalk tobacco was beginning to come in. He mentioned that the tobacco possessed very good quality. He added that most of the tobacco received to date has been very clean and bright.

Morris Murphy of Albertson, Duplin County, was making his first delivery of the season while we were at the Clinton Marketing Center. Mr. Murphy said that he was pleased with his crop this year and has had good growing conditions to this point. He delivered 12 bales of bright clean lower stalk tobacco. He told us that it only took approximately 15 minutes to unload, weigh, grade and receive

his check. Mr. Murphy was pleased with the grade he received for his tobacco and the service that he received while at the Marketing Center.

Clinton Marketing Center grader, Tim Trimble mentioned that Mr. Murphy's tobacco graded well and was very clean. He also mentioned that the tobacco received so far this year looks good.

Upper Right:

Morris Murphy delivers his first load of tobacco for 2006.

Middle Right:

Morris Murphy watches as Tim Trimble grades his tobacco.

Lower Right:

Mary Jane Osborne hands Morris Murphy his check.



Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation is the grower owned and supported cooperative that serves flue-cured tobacco growers in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

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2006 Market Opening Meetings

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative recently held a series of grower meetings from mid to late July, regarding the 2006 Exclusive and Non-Exclusive Agreements. We discussed topics pertaining to opening dates, unloading schedules, information about Non-Exclusive auctions and other general information. The meetings were held in Nashville, GA, Marion, SC, Clinton, NC, Williamston, NC, Danville, VA, South Hill, VA, and King, NC.

Some of the important topics discussed were:

Keep tobacco clean, especially Non Tobacco Residue Material.

Apply only labeled pesticides at approved rates.

Cooperative pesticide residue sampling program is being expanded.

Please let us know, by calling your Marketing Center, if you have experienced any production problems and are concerned about making your Exclusive contracted pounds.

Board of Directors increased price of all grades by 2¢ per pound due to increased production costs.

Be very mindful of MH residues as foreign customers are very concerned with elevated levels.

Exclusive Marketing Agreement growers are reminded to fax or mail in your FSA form 578.

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative is grower owned and growers share in any profits.

Good, clean, ripe tobacco always has a market.

Be very careful not to be enticed to sell tobacco out of the barn door to others and not fill your Exclusive contract as this may result in poundage penalties in 2007 and beyond.

We are very concerned about cost of production and are working on several projects to lower the cost of production.

Reiterated the new crop throw percentage, maximum 30% lower stalk and maximum 70% upper stalk.

Sales Agreements are available at each Marketing Center to sign for growers who do not have an Exclusive or Non-Exclusive agreement who desire to sell tobacco at the Non Exclusive auctions.

Research on Reducing Curing Costs

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative is engaged in a research project this season to evaluate the cutting of harvested green tobacco into strips as the tobacco is being loaded into curing barn boxes. Some prior cut green tobacco research data indicates that the volume of tobacco per barn increases significantly with cut green tobacco.

The Cooperative will be monitoring this cut tobacco project from harvest and processing to the final product in a cigarette. This data will

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Coop to Hold Leadership Program

The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation would like to offer a leadership program to our Exclusive Marketing Agreement growers. After being nominated by a Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative board member or marketing center manager, the applicant would have to make application to be accepted into the two week program (not consecutive weeks).

The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation would like to offer this program to its Exclusive Marketing Agreement growers, which include close family members who have an interest in the tobacco crop, to learn about how the Cooperative operates. Sessions will include all aspects of our business model. The leadership group will attend meetings with board members, top level management, University personnel, and many others. The group will also travel on trips to our US Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers, Inc. facility in Timberlake, NC, our Tobacco Growers Services storage facility in Fuquay-Varina, NC, and a trip to Washington D.C. to meet with our Congressional delegation.

This program is designed for our Exclusive Marketing Agreement growers to help them understand the benefits of doing business with the Cooperative. Participants will see behind the scenes activities that it takes to operate the business of the Cooperative.

Acceptance into the leadership program will be competitive. It will take a willing effort to be accepted. Active participation is mandatory as we want each participant to gain a greater appreciation for our

Cooperative. This program will also allow each participant to gain leadership abilities that will make them a better citizen in their local community and to be involved in local issues and help shape the future decisions that affect agriculture.

The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. wants to help build community leaders in the areas that we conduct business. We also want to help in developing leadership that can help the Cooperative and tobacco growers in the future.

Our main goal is to help our Exclusive Marketing Agreement growers remain competitive.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Must be between 18 and 40 years of age.**
- **Must be in a decision making position on the farm.**
- **Must have an Exclusive Marketing Agreement in their name or be a close family member (son, daughter, etc. that has an interest in the crop) with The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation.**
- **Must be willing to commit two full weeks to the program. (Not consecutive)**
- **Must be willing to actively participate in the leadership program.**

How to apply

There will be one candidate accepted from each of the 10 Districts for the Leadership Program. The first week of the program starts at noon on Monday, October 30, 2006 and runs until 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 3, 2006. The second week runs from noon on Monday, February 5, 2007 until noon on Thursday, February 8, 2007.

Interested candidates should contact their Board Director for their district or contact their Marketing Center manager for an application. Applications must be postmarked by September 22, 2006 to be eligible for consideration. We expect that there will be multiple candidates interested from each district. It will be important that you get your application in as soon as possible. A committee will review all applications to accept a candidate from each district.

If you have further questions please call Scott Bissette at (919) 821-4560.

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Research on Reducing Curing Costs

be collected to assess information on the impact that the cutting process has on quality and integrity of the cured tobacco leaf.

The Cooperative's Board of Directors authorized the research to pursue possible methods of reducing curing costs for the grower and to help keep Cooperative member growers competitive in the international market.

1839 completes first shipment

1839, a Premium blend of flue-cured roll-your-own/make-your-own (ryo/myo) tobacco completed its first production run and shipped to distributors in July, 2006.

1839 incorporates as part of its blend, premium US flue-cured tobacco grown in the traditional growing areas of the southeastern United States. 1839 has three different blends: Full Flavor, Mild, and Exotic. 1839 is currently available in 6 oz. and 16 oz. bags. More information is available at our web site <http://www.1839ryo.com>

1839 is a U.S. Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers, Inc. product that sells well to smokers who prefer to roll their own cigarettes.



1839, shown above in the 16 oz. bags, is currently being distributed in the upper midwest of the United States.

Reminders.....

- Mail in or fax your FSA form 578 if you have not done so. It is a requirement of your Exclusive Marketing Agreement.
- Slip Sheets and baling wire are available for sale at each Marketing Center. Slip sheets are \$2.75 each and wires are 30 cents per wire.

- **Warehouse telephone numbers:**

Nashville, GA	(229) 686-9763	Statesboro, GA	(912) 764-3930	Lake City, SC	(843) 374-8821
Mullins, SC	(843) 464-4300	Clinton, NC	(910)-592-8933	Williamston, NC	(252) 792-2254
Rural Hall, NC	(336) 969-6891	Danville, VA	(434) 836-1119	South Hill, VA	(434) 447-3540