

USTOBACCO COOPERATIVE SCOOP...

A newsletter from
U.S. Tobacco Cooperative
www.ustobaccofarmer.com

GROWER MEETINGS HELD

Four pre-season grower meetings were held during June in Nashville, Georgia, Mullins, South Carolina, Wilson, North Carolina, and Danville, Virginia. The meetings were called by the USTC Board of Directors and President Tommy Bunn to discuss the potential impact of FDA regulations on growers. While the regulations have not been written, it is important to discuss cultural practices that impact the volume and the value of tobacco for 2010 tobacco deliveries. Mr. Bunn believed FDA could require and hold the purchasers of tobacco accountable for limits on residues of MH (Maleic Hydrazide), TSNAs (Tobacco Specific Nitrosamines), and pesticide residues. Mr. Bunn said high residue levels in any of these three categories could lead to reduced volume or loss of Marketing Agreement contracts for the current and



USTC Chairman of the Board Albert Johnson (center left) and Marketing Center Chairman Jimmy Pate (right) observe grower meeting.



Senior Vice President Wayne Crawford presents power point presentation to Co-op growers.

future years. He stressed that this is serious business and our cooperative will comply with all FDA regulations on residues.

Senior Vice President /Leaf Operations, Mr. Wayne Crawford, re-emphasized the importance of Mr. Bunn's opening statements and reviewed a power point presentation which included the following 2010 marketing policies and procedures. (continued on page 2)

call and set up an appointment at your assigned marketing center prior to each delivery of your tobacco. The opening marketing center dates are:

1) Mullins, South Carolina – August 3rd (Tuesday)

Location: Big L Warehouse
901 NE Front Street
Telephone: Office: 843-464 - 4300; Fax: 843-464-4282
Operations Manager: John Shelley

2) Wilson, North Carolina – August 4th (Wednesday)

Location: Big Star Tobacco Warehouse
1920 Black Creek Road
Telephone: Office: 252-206-1800;
Fax: 252-206-9074
Operation Managers: Arthur Ray Talley and Jeff Radford

3) Nashville, Georgia – August 5th (Thursday)

Location: Planters Warehouse
300 Watson Street
Telephone: Office: 229-686-9763;
Fax: 229-686-7555
Operation Managers: Jimmy Parker and L.E. Watson

4) Danville, Virginia – No Date Set*

Location: US Flue Cured Tobacco Growers Green Storage Facility
660 Kentuck Road
Telephone: Office: 434-799-8202;
Fax: 434-799-8203
Operation Manager: W.H. Williams

*The Danville Marketing Center will be determined at a later date by the Board of Directors.

USTC MARKETING CENTER OPENINGS

USTC Board of Directors has set the following dates for the marketing center openings. Please remember to

individual bale grades. Those individual bale grades carried a numerical value. A chart of individual grades and their assigned number was shown to growers. Examples of the seasonal average numerical calculations were demonstrated to growers. Then, the seasonal average numerical values were assigned an alphabetic letter grade. Each grower was notified of their letter grade.

Wayne explained the numerical value for each grade. Each numerical grade is relative to quality. Our customers' needs are factored into the value determination. Finally, the volume of non-usable purchase grades marketed is factored into determining the numerical grade.

IDENTIFYING YOUR CURING BARN:

A picture of a slip sheet pointed out the location where each barn number should be placed on both sides of the slip sheet. Placing the barn number on each side of the slip sheet is required for the 2010 season. If you have two different barns in the same bale, place both barn numbers on the slip sheet. If you have more than one location for your barns, identify the locations by using letters (example: your number 3 barn in location A is recorded on the slip sheet as 3A and your number 3 barn in a different location B would be recorded on the slip sheet as 3B). Again, Wayne reiterated barn testing would be conducted during the growing season.

REMINDERS FOR THE 2010 MARKETING YEAR:

- 1) Your FSA form 578 must be in the Raleigh office before you can deliver your first bale. The marketing center operators will not have the ability to unblock any grower at the marketing center. It will be unblocked only from the Raleigh office. You can fax the form to our Raleigh office at 919-821-3691, Attention: Robin Poole, or mail the form to Attention

Robin Poole, U.S. Tobacco Cooperative Inc., PO Box 12300, Raleigh, North Carolina 27605.

- 2) Maximum bale weight is 800 pounds. Maximum bale weight to qualify for the moisture incentive is 750 pounds.
- 3) Slip sheets and wire – we use a 250 pound “burst strength” slip sheet. There will be slip sheets and wire available at the marketing centers. The slip sheet price is \$2.65 per sheet and the wire price is \$0.30 a piece. Contact your assigned marketing center if you are interested in purchasing these items.
- 4) Marketing center scheduling – you must contact your assigned marketing center to schedule your deliveries. Let the marketing center know which day, time, and how many bales you will bring.
- 5) Recordkeeping – we request each grower to maintain accurate records of chemical applications to your crop.
- 6) Note the changes in crop throw – X2 is added and increased to 15%; maximum lugs in the crop throw is 20% (includes X1).



Growers listen intently at meeting in Danville, Va.

- 7) The baling of tobacco for members is discontinued at the marketing centers.



Attentive growers listen to the message at their meeting in Mullins, SC.



Board member Kenneth Dasher (center and wearing yellow shirt) along with fellow Florida and Georgia growers listen at meeting in Nashville, Georgia.

- 8) Bale inspection penalties are increased from 2009.
- 9) Third party deliveries: if multiple growers are delivering their crop via a third party, each grower is responsible for properly identifying his or her bales. Again, under a third party delivery system, if any grower is not present with the delivery of his or her tobacco at the marketing center, then, the grower's check will be mailed to his address of record.

Mr. Bunn introduced Mr. Frank Grainger at each meeting. Mr. Grainger is a USTC grower member and the owner/CEO of Fair Products, Inc., (continued on page 4)

which manufactures tobacco sucker control chemicals. He discussed methods of tobacco sucker control using Fatty Alcohol contact chemicals, organic Fatty Alcohol contact chemicals, and Maleic Hydrazide. Mr. Grainger reviewed several steps in the chemical application process that will improve the efficiency of sucker control chemicals and will help to reduce MH residues. He especially emphasized:

- The application of contact when the plants are in the early button stage.
- The recommended five day frequency of applications of contact until tobacco has been harvested once and preferably twice.

- The use of low sprayer pressure (approximately 20 psi).
- The proper mixing and best nozzles for application of chemicals.
- The ten day delay between MH spray application and the next harvest.
- The importance of rain, irrigation, or sprayer water to remove MH crystals from leaves after the 10 hour absorption period.
- The high residue problems that added surfactants can cause if MH crystals sticks to the leaf and does not wash off before the harvest.

- The international focus on high MH residues on U.S. tobacco.
- Tobacco production without the use of Maleic Hydrazide.
- Other recommendations on efficient use of sucker control chemicals.

Mr. Grainger turned the meeting back to Tommy Bunn. At this point, Mr. Bunn opened the floor for a question and answer discussion from the growers to USTC Board members, staff, and Mr. Grainger. USTC takes this time to thank growers who attended the June meetings.
