Flue-Cured Tobacco

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Facts on Tobacco

• North Carolina ranks 1st in Tobacco Production as a whole and Flue-Cured Tobacco in the US.
• Nearest State is Virginia which is about 325,000 pounds behind in Flue-Cured Tobacco.
• Considered North Carolina’s backbone in it’s Ag heritage and one of the most important industries.
What is Flue-Cured Tobacco?

• Used in Cigarettes
• Cured by heat for 6-8 days
• Most common curing type
• Flue-cured varieties require warm weather, humidity, light rainfall and a sandy, loam soil for their four-month growing season.
What is Flue-Cured Tobacco?
Production: Greenhouse

- Seeded February to Early March
- 55 days to produce a transplant
- Seeded in styrofoam or plastic trays
- Floated in water
  - Add fertilizer to water
- Easiest way to manage in greenhouse
- Clipped 15-25 times
Transplanting

• Starts Mid April
• Planted on raised beds
• 6,000 plants per acre
• Very slow process
• Requires about 12-15 people
Crop Management

• Cultivation
• Fertilization
• Insect and Disease Management
• Topping and Suckering
  • Remove flowers from tops to promote leaf growth
  • Remove unwanted suckers to force all energy to leaf growth
  • Mainly all hand labor
  • Labor expenses are very high
  • Can treat suckers with chemical applications
Harvesting

• First Harvest is around first of July
• Crop 4-7 leaves every time
• 3-5 Cropping's per season over a 50-70 day period
• Start at bottom and work your way up
“Putting In”

- 7-8 days curing process to nearly 0% moisture
- Moisture is added back for handling purposes
- 3 step process
  - Yellowing
  - Leaf Drying
  - Stalk Drying
- Temperature starts at 95° and goes to 165°
“Taking Out”

- Baled into 650-850 pound bales
- Moisture about 14%
Marketing

• Grade tobacco to give it a price per pound
• Average Price at about $1.70 per pound
• Tobacco Buying Companies
  • Alliance One
  • Universal
  • Reynolds
Who’s Smoking?

- Related to poverty and education level

Who makes a smoker

Percentage who reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes during their lifetime and who reported smoking every day or some days.

**GENDER**
- Female: 15.8%
- Male: 20.5%

**EDUCATION**
- 0-12 years (no diploma): 24.7%
- 8th grade or less: 15.2%
- 9-11th grade: 32.1%
- 12th grade (no diploma): 24.7%
- High school graduate: 23.1%
- College, no diploma: 20.9%
- Associate degree: 17.9%
- Undergraduate degree: 9.1%
- Graduate degree: 5.9%

**RACE**
- White: 19.7%
- Black: 18.1%
- Hispanic: 12.5%
- Indian: 21.8%
- Asian: 10.7%
- Mixed: 26.1%

**AGE GROUP**
- 18-24: 17.3%
- 25-44: 21.6%
- 45-64: 19.5%
- Over 64: 8.9%

**POVERTY LEVEL**
- Above: 17%
- Below: 27.9%
Tobacco Trade in US

- Tobacco leaves in metric tons
  - total imported: 196,597
  - total exported: 182,519

- Cigarettes in metric tons
  - total imported: 15,274
  - total exported: 148,533
But Why?

- USA exports of leaf are about the same as imports
  - Because of US tobacco being popular globally it tends to be more expensive than tobacco from other countries
  - Value is about double
Decline in US Tobacco Industry

- We produce tobacco mainly for cigarettes
- Amount of tobacco in cigarettes is 40% less than it was 45 years ago
- Less people smoking
  - Declined ever since reports of tobacco related health concerns
- Rise of the Brazilian Tobacco Industry
- Advertising Ban in some Countries
Future of Tobacco Industry

- iQOS
- eCigs
- Vapes
- Organic Tobacco