Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stablization Corporation

By John Sledge President

As rhe 1982 marketing draws to a close, concern is being exram because of the amounts of leaf being aken in under loan by the Flue - Cured Tobacco negotiations. Cooperative Stabilization

the "no-net-cost" program was signed into law. This represented a progressive and constructive effort by growers to answer the critics of the program, while leaving the basic program intact. The new law was the result of many agonizing sessions and touch - and - go

One provision of the new law gave the Secretary of Corporation. law gave the Secretary of Claiming that current Agriculture the authority to support prices are to blame, reduce the normal support buying companies have price increase by up to 35 made suggestions that per cent under the old consideration be given to a formula. This reduction, reduction, or at least a which the Secretary freeze, of price supports -- a exercised this year, placed move that would require the average support level at Congressional action. \$169.90 per 100 pounds.

However, the latest Without the decrease, the dollar in relation to most

In 1983, any increase in price supports will be added to the new base of \$169.90. If the Secretary exercises his discretionary power each year, it is anticipated that the formula would allow increases totaling only 32

cents per hundred pounds or 4.7 per cent per year through 1986. Buying companies con-tend that although U.S. high quality leaf is considered the world's best, it is being priced out of the market both by the increase of the price support level and the increasing value of the U.S.

foreign currencies. However, in view of the

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support formula, the respecter of marketing question naturally arises, problems. question naturally arises, "Should we give the program, as it now stands, a chance to work?"

There is also much concern that attempts to change the price support formula would open up the basic program to further attacks in Congress. At best, this would be an extremely risky endeavor.

Further, to adjust the formula would require the complete support of other flue-cured as well as burley producing states. If changing the price

support formula is indeed the answer, farmers can take only limited price reductions before being

There are, obviously, no easy or simple answers. We do know that this is a time for unity; a time for compromise and positive effort in order to resolve the problem

Tobacco is too important to North Carolina's growers and to the total economy of the state to do otherwise.

The solution to the problem will require the best thinking and input of the entire industry.



In a typical election year, about 30 or 35 per cent of the eligible voters take the time to vote. Far less are familiar with the candidates, their views and philosophies.

We can take a great deal of pride, however, in the fact that farm and rural citizens have earned a reputation for good citizenship based on the relatively high per-centage of eligible voters who cast ballots in rural precincts.

Because of their dwindling numbers and mounting investments, farm people probably have more to gain or lose than any other group in the American

November 2 would do well to do some last minute "homework" before going

Time To Become Knowledgeable On Candidates

to the polls.

We must do better than guess between two unknows or base our decisions on such things as "television personality" or other superficial "qualifications."
The real test comes in determining how each of the candidates stands on the issues of importance to you, your district, and your

If you are an informed voter, you'll cast your ballot for the candidate who shares your views on many important issues. It is only in this way that government

self - government is all

Although Farm Bureau does not endorse political candidates in elections at any level, it does encours all members to be informed and to support the basic beliefs.

We hope there will a only be a record turn the polls on November 2 that all voters will have taken the time to be knowledgeable in local state and national issues the candidates' positio

The world's oldest living things are bristlecone pines in California, estimated to be 4,600 years old.

