

# USDA Proposes New Regulations On Leaf Quotas, Price Supports

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week announced it is considering changes in marketing quota and price support regulations of the flue-cured tobacco program.

These changes are being considered after allegations of abuses in the program -- particularly related to production and marketing of tobacco outside a farm's quota -- were brought to USDA's attention in a series of public meetings. During the meetings, individual farmers, farm organization representatives, and members of the tobacco trade stated they felt that many farmers produce substantially in excess of their quotas and illegally dispose of the excess. The belief was also stated that high flue-cured tobacco leasing costs could be attributed, in part, to speculation by some producers.

The changes being considered are (1) eligibility requirements for approving the lease of marketing quotas filed after June 14 of any year and (2) establishing compliance with acreage allotments as a condition of price support eligibility. Under the first change, a farmer could only lease out a quantity of quota equal to the difference between the expected production on the acres he actually plants and the production on those acres. Under current regulations, a farmer can lease out a quantity equal to the difference between expected production on his total allotment and the actual production on the acres planted.

Leases filed after June 14 would also be disapproved if the quantity stipulated in the lease exceeds the difference between the receiving farm's quota and the amount of tobacco it has on hand to market. Under current regulations, there is no limit on the amount of quota a producing farm may receive.

June 14 is used as a cut-off date because of limiting factors in current legislation that become effective on that date and because by that time, a producer should have a nearly-accurate estimate of his production and would, therefore, have no reason to acquire an amount of quota later than the estimated production.

Under the second considered change, a farm on which the certified or measured acreage planted to flue-cured tobacco exceeds 107 percent of the farm acreage allotment would be ineligible for price support and would receive a marketing card marked "no price support" to so indicate. (Marketing cards are documents issued by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service which stipulate what quantity of tobacco a producer may sell without penalty and indicate a producer's eligibility for price support.) Under current regulations, price support is made available without regard to actual acreage planted.

If USDA goes ahead with formal proposals, the changes will be set forth in detail in Federal Register with the public invited to express its comments and recommendations.

No decisions will be made with respect to the proposed changes until such a notice has been made and responses evaluated.

(1) The "expected production" on the lessor farm would be the certified (or measured) acreage times the established farm yield (the farm yield shown on MQ-123).

(2) The actual production on the lessor farm would be based on the marketings if marketings are completed or on estimated production (estimate furnished by producer with verification that may be

required by operating instructions) if marketing not completed. This could require a period of time between the time the lease is filed and the time of approval of the transfer agreement.

(3) Unless the law is changed, the same planting requirements as currently apply would continue.

(4) The lessee farm could lease only the number of pounds needed to market the entire production without marketing more than 100 percent of the effective quota. The

amount of tobacco "on hand to market" would be based on the producers estimate including carry-over tobacco. A substantial undermarketing of the final effective quota would be cause for cancellation of the transfer agreement unless the reason for such undermarketings is explained to the satisfaction of the COC.

**Example for Lessor Farm.** The farm has a 10.00-acre effective allotment and an established farm yield of 1.820 pounds. The effective quota is 18,200 pounds. The

farmer planted 7.30 acres of tobacco but due to adverse weather and the loss of barn by fire he has only 8,360 pounds of tobacco to market. The maximum quota that may be transferred from the farm after June 14 would be 4,926 pounds (7.30 acres time 1,820 pounds equals 13,286 pounds minus 8,360 pounds produced equals 4,926 pounds). The remainder of the effective quota (4,914 pounds) would be undermarketing which would be added to the next year's quota if otherwise eligible.

**Example for Lessee Farm.** The farm has an effective quota of 16,316 pounds on June 15. The total tobacco on hand to market (current year production plus carry-over tobacco) is 17,536 pounds. The producer can lease 1,220 pounds of quota (17,536 pounds less 16,316 pounds) even though he could market the entire production within 110 percent of the effective quota for the farm.

## Magistrates Court

The following speeding cases were heard by the magistrates: Richard W. Gibson, Rt. 2, Box 187, Raeford, speeding 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5 fine and court costs; Betty Harrell Whichard, Rt. 1, Box 57, Raeford, 70 in a 55 MPH zone, \$10, costs; Marion McLaughlin, Rt. 1, Box 381 A, Raeford, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs; Washington Carver Glover, Greensboro, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5 and costs.

William Frank Shupe, Baltimore, Md., 67 in a 55 MPH zone, \$10 and court costs; Faye Boone Hatcher, Monroe, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs; William Truett Harrelson, Red Springs, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs; Paul Lawrence Turner, Wadesboro, 66 in a 55 MPH zone, \$10, costs; Jimmie Spuries Pierce, Rt. 1, Box 132,

Aberdeen, 50 in a 35 MPH zone, \$10, costs; Henry Frank Peterson, Fayetteville, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs.

James Winston Southerland, Jacksonville, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs; Nathaniel Sumpter Jr., Ft. Bragg, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs; Melvin Ray Lyles, Fayetteville, 66 in a 55 MPH zone, \$10, costs; William Johnny Rumpfelt, Rt. 1, Box 280, Aberdeen, 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs; Antonio Mauriello, Haskell, N.J., 65 in a 55 MPH zone, \$5, costs.

The following traffic violations were also heard: Bonday Oxendine, Rt. 1, Shannon, inspection violation, court costs; Willie Charles Mack, Red Springs, improper equipment, court costs; Larry Charvis, Rt. 3, Box 209 D, Red Springs,

driving without a license, 30 days in jail, suspended, and \$25 fine plus costs; Lois Kearns Barnett, Rt. 3, Box 210 A, Raeford, failure to see before turning, court costs; Coy Gilmer Swing, Winston-Salem, failure to see before starting, court costs; Clarence McIntosh, Rt. 1, Box 466, Raeford, failure to dim lights, \$10, costs; Angela Malloy, Maxton, public intoxication, \$10 plus court costs.

Worthless check charges heard included: Priscilla Slocumb, Rt. 1, Box 621, Raeford, \$20 restitution for Robert Harrell plus court costs; Ray McDougald, Rt. 1, Box 451, Raeford, \$10 restitution for Robert Harrell plus court costs; Ronald Dale McBee, St. Pauls, \$15.50 restitution for Franklin Davis plus court costs.

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