



## LOCAL CROP AVERAGES \$1,000

# Kentucky Farmers Find Profits In Pickles

It pays to grow pickles—cucumbers if you will—ask Fred Whaley and Dennis McDonald, their 5-acre plot brought in \$51,78 or the equivalent of \$10,775.50 an acre. Eugene Lecher one-half acre, \$470.40; Carlisle Methodist Men's Club, one-half acre, \$448.40; Eddie Ellington—Moorefield, 1/2 acre, \$443.83; Bobby Sexton, Carlisle, 1/2 acre, \$411.58; Frank Terrell, Carlisle, 1/2 acre, \$403.43. There were others, this is just a sample of Nicholas County growers. Top money people seemed to be Stumler Brothers, Starlight, with 30 acres and \$30,343.39.

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture says that in income reported for the past growing season indicates that Kentucky farmers are learning that pickles can be profitable.

According to Hubert Davis, extension vegetable specialist for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, some 250 to 300 Kentucky cucumber growers made over \$1,000 per acre this past growing season.

Davis attributed the above average profits to three factors. "First we had a rather good growing season in most of the state's production areas. Secondly, we've used a cucumber variety this year which is more productive than those used in the past. Growers accustomed to the old varieties remember having to harvest the crop two or three times before it began to yield well. This is not the case with the new varieties. They start off with a good yield on the first harvest."

"Finally, the growers are continuing to adopt cultural practices based on recommendations from the University and the Extension Service."

Three or four of the state's 2,500 cucumber growers showed profits just about of \$2,500 per acre, according to Davis. "With 10 to 12 per cent of the state's growers exceeding \$1,000 per acre profits, I think this shows that if a grower is willing to work, he can make cucumbers profitable," he said.

While these encouraging profit figures are likely to result in an increase in cucumber acreage next season, "Historically, if we have a good crop, the next year we've increased acreage," Davis said farmers should be aware that money made from this crop is not "easy money."

"An acre of cucumbers takes an average of 200 to 250 hours of labor during the growing season (May 10 to about Aug. 31)," Davis explained. However, he added that "for some of these people who base acreage in tobacco and are looking for something to take up the slack and provide additional income, cucumbers may be the answer."

"This is the first time profits have ever been as great as they were this past season," he said. And the benefit to Kentucky farmers could be even greater than it is now, Davis said, adding that "there are plenty of counties in this state where this crop isn't being grown, and if the people in these areas are interested in getting into the cucumber business, they need to do is get information from their local county agents."

Davis emphasized that cucumbers were recommended only as a crop for family labor. "You've got to harvest the crop 10 to 15 times—so crops should not be grown with the expectation of going out and hiring labor to do the work—there are just too many harvest times necessary."

**Man Killed Sunday Night On Ky 32**

Farm Goddard, reported to be in his early sixties, of Robertson County was killed Sunday, Dec. 13, 1970 around 7:15 p.m. when he stepped in front of an automobile driven by Robert Allen Staggs of Mayfield.

The accident occurred on Ky. 32 between Howard's Garage and the Calloway Hill Road. At the coroner's inquest held Tuesday morning, Ralph Shearer, coroner, ruled death as accidental. No charges were placed against Mr. Staggs.

OVERALL RESULTS FOR 1970:	Kentuckiana	ACTUAL Carlisle
Yield/Acre	210 Bu/Acre	182 Bu/Acre
\$/Acre	\$439/Acre	\$221/Acre

Kentucky's cucumber crop is traditionally grown on small amounts of land—this year's average acre was a little less than an acre—therefore, the crop tends to be profitable to family labor. "I've had some parents tell me that with summer employment for school children getting harder and harder to find, a cucumber crop offers them an income and opportunity to work during the summer. I think a teen-ager boy or girl can handle a quarter-acre cucumbers without too much trouble—and the profits will help pay school costs and provide spending money," Davis notes.

The largest cucumber crop in the state was 30 acres planted by the Stumler Brothers of Starlight. This farm, according to Davis, grossed \$30,343 this past year. All the cucumbers grown in the state are sold to Hirsch Brothers & Co. in Louisville after farmers take their crop to various receiving stations throughout the state.

"The income potential of this crop has increased tremendously," Davis said, "especially as a result of these higher yielding varieties, which require about a week less harvesting. This could mean that some farms may be able to increase their cucumber acreage slightly—but it doesn't mean they're going to be able to double their acreage."

If this season is any indication, Kentucky has a tremendous potential for pickle picking.



## More Work Than Meets The Eye

Sam Reynolds measures the end of the Christmas tree noting that approximately nine inches will have to be removed—54 picas as the photographer noted—before this beauty of a tree would fit into a tub of moist sand. The tree was later decorated by the younger members of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church Sunday School. Below, Mrs. S. Evans throws eyes the tree for vertical alignment as Kimball Booth fastens the top to a wire projecting from the wall. Assisting with filling the tub was Bill Young—Mercury picture.



## It's Back Again

PERSONS PASSING Blue Grass Industries this Christmas may again enjoy seeing a manger scene. Last year ICI was unable to have a manger because it was destroyed in the Carlisle Stockyards fire in November of 1969.

## Nicholas Native Killed In County Auto Wreck

A young Bourbon County woman was killed in an automobile accident in Nicholas County, the accident apparently occurring Saturday night, however, her body was not discovered until Sunday morning, according to a report from the Nicholas County sheriff's office. Dead is Mrs. Carolyn Craig Keeton, 24, of the Game Ridge Road. She was an employee of the Bourbon Steam Laundry in Paris, having worked there approximately five years.

According to the report, Mrs. Keeton had been to visit her mother, Mrs. J.W. Craig, in Nicholas County and was believed to have been enroute to her home in Bourbon County, having left her mother's home about 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The Nicholas County sheriff's office said Mrs. Keeton's car was traveling on the Jackson Road in Nicholas County and left the road, going through a guard rail and down an embankment into a creek. The wreck was not discovered until about 7:30 a.m. Sunday. The Nicholas County coroner's verdict was that death was due to a broken neck.

## Two Children Escape Fire

Two children narrowly escaped suffocation from smoke early Monday morning as a blaze caused by a defective fuse ate its way across the floor plates and into the rafters of the home of John L. Ecton, Moorefield Road, near Freytown.

The 3 a.m. fire was answered by the Nicholas County Volunteer Fire Department. Fire Chief Woodrow Wilson reported that Mr. Ecton stated that the children's coughing had awakened him. Wilson added that volunteers were unable to attack the fire from the stairwell and resorted to breaking the upstairs windows to allow excessive smoke to escape.

The upstairs was badly damaged by fire and the downstairs area suffered much water damage.

It was also reliably reported that the fire had undergone repair work recently.

## Early Copy Is Sought

### Get Pictures News In TODAY!

All pictures and news items for next week's Christmas issue should be in the Mercury Office by Thursday afternoon, Dec. 17 (today). This deadline is made necessary because the Christmas edition will be mailed to you on Monday, Dec. 21 instead of on Wednesday which is the usual mailing date.

## Former Drug Addicts Answer Questions

By Joanne Conley

Several former drug addicts were present to answer questions

### Health Department Closing Dates Listed

The Nicholas County Health Department will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, also Jan. 1.

### Santa To Be At JC Clubhouse

Santa Claus will be present at the Carlisle Jaycee Clubhouse on South Locust Street (old Depot Building) on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All children are invited to come and visit with him.

### Bridge Slated For Abners Mill Road In Summer

FRANKFORT—Highway Commissioner B.E. King, Friday announced a road improvement project for Nicholas County.

The installation of a bridge and approaches is planned for Abners Mill Road over Buckman Creek, 3.6 miles southeast of the Old US 68.

### Veteran Posts To Play Santa

The American Legion Post No. 17 and the V.W.W. Post No. 8666 will sponsor Santa Claus bringing treats for children on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 2 p.m. in front of the Clubhouse.

### Bridge Slated For Abners Mill Road In Summer

FRANKFORT—Highway Commissioner B.E. King, Friday announced a road improvement project for Nicholas County.

The installation of a bridge and approaches is planned for Abners Mill Road over Buckman Creek, 3.6 miles southeast of the Old US 68.

### Man Killed Sunday Night On Ky 32

Farm Goddard, reported to be in his early sixties, of Robertson County was killed Sunday, Dec. 13, 1970 around 7:15 p.m. when he stepped in front of an automobile driven by Robert Allen Staggs of Mayfield.

The accident occurred on Ky. 32 between Howard's Garage and the Calloway Hill Road. At the coroner's inquest held Tuesday morning, Ralph Shearer, coroner, ruled death as accidental. No charges were placed against Mr. Staggs.



4-H CLUB PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS—learned the procedures for a successful business meeting at the 4-H Officers Training School held on Dec. 7. 4-H Council Officers and Team 4-H Leaders conducted the sessions. Pictured are left to right: Steve Vico, Debbie Myrre, James Myrre, Bobby Titcher, G.L. Cartwright, 4-H Council president, Jeff Mattox, Kim Smoot, Charlotte Waggoner and Patty Fryman.