

### Know your tobacco program

What is the U.S. tobacco program? Federal budget deficits have brought a renewed study of the U.S. tobacco program. In the interest of a better understanding of the program, the Kentucky Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association has issued the following summary:

Is the tobacco program a "subsidy"? No, it is neither a subsidy, grant, gift, donation nor bounty. It is a loan, payable with interest, and with the tobacco held as security. Who benefits from the program? Mainly the 600,000 to 700,000 producers, mostly small farmers and their families, by obtaining a fair price for their tobacco.

Are these mostly large or small crops? Principally small allotments, averaging about one acre each, for barley. How does the program operate? Basically, it stabilizes the market by limiting production, and guaranteeing price supports. How is the program self-financing? Produce-owned cooperatives borrow Commodity Credit Corporation funds to finance price supports. Tobacco which fails to bring its grade support price goes to the association under loan. Here it is held until sold, usually at a more advantageous price, and at a set gain for the farmer.

How does tobacco benefit the government? By yielding \$6.5 billion annually in taxes, in local, state and federal revenue. Also in exports tobacco contributes \$2 billion toward U.S. balance of trade with foreign countries. What would happen if the program stopped? Without the production price supports many small farmers would be adversely affected, as would the economy in the tobacco states.

along with state, county and local tax structures, banks and other business enterprises. Tobacco would still be grown and marketed, but much of production would be transferred to other countries, with consequent U.S. tax losses, plus loss of export trade benefits. What has the program paid the government? To cite one example, the Kentucky Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association has paid \$18 million in interest to C.C.C. on the 40-years-of-price supports, without loan to the government of a single dollar in loans or interest.

How much has been earned for the growers? Total gains distributed have been \$16.5 million, with more to come on 1979, '78, '77, and '78 crops which have been sold but not finally settled. When these are settled total gains will exceed \$20 million earned and distributed to growers. This is in addition to the grade prices they received at marketing time.

How does tobacco rank in U.S. agriculture? Tobacco is sixth largest cash crop, behind corn, soybeans, and all kinds, wheat and cotton. Tobacco crop is worth \$2.2 billion, representing 23 percent of total for all cash crops.

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### A 4-H 'Celebration'

These sixth grade 4-H members performed to dance number, "Celebration" Saturday night during the 4-H Talent Show, and were chosen as one of the small group acts to appear on T.V. Showcases May 23 through 24.

They are from left, Kelly Howard, Anissa Hunt, Tammy Anderson, Tracey Hallor and Lesley Duncan. —Mercury photo.

### Crackdown on unlicensed operators

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is beginning a crackdown on operators in termite extermination, said Don Lamar of the Department's pest control division. The crackdown is aimed primarily at operators in termite extermination, said Don Lamar of the Department's pest control division. The crackdown is aimed primarily at operators in termite extermination, said Don Lamar of the Department's pest control division.

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### Ky. Department of Education seeks sponsors

The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking sponsors to operate the 1981 summer food program in Kentucky. "People tend to think only of the children in cities and forget the nutritional needs of children in rural areas," said Cooper White, director of the division of school food services. "We would like to see many responses from interested organizations in the rural areas of Kentucky."

The summer food program provides free, nutritious meals to children in needy areas during school vacations that last longer than three weeks in most areas of the program from May through September. Eligible children include those through age 18 and certain handicapped students over 18.

Sponsors can be reimbursed for program operating and administrative expenses up to the current rates of reimbursement. Administrative costs may include expenses related to planning, organizing and supervising the food service. Fiscal sponsors or sponsors preparing meals on site will receive additional administrative money and will be allowed to claim expenses for transporting children in rural areas to designated rural sites.

According to White, sponsors may be public or private, non-profit, non-residential organizations serving areas where at least one-third of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches. Handwritten name cards upon enrollment include needy children also may act as program sponsors. Sponsors may include city government agencies, county and municipal school systems, recreation departments, churches and social service organizations. Sponsors must be non-profit organizations.

— Re-Elect —  
**Beulah M. Hughes**  
Circuit Clerk  
and  
**Deputies:**  
**Boogie Hall and June Wilson**  
Democratic Primary May 26, 1981

Re-Elect  
**Taylor T. Mathers**  
**Nicholas County Coroner**  
with  
**Roy Gaunce and**  
**Allan J. Hamon, M.D. Deputies**  
May 26 Primary

Re-Elect  
**Lovell (Bob) Livingood**  
Magistrate - Third District  
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