

## Support prices should be same for '86

By H. Carlisle Henden III  
 Dir. News and Information  
 Burley Tobacco Growers  
 Cooperative Association

Loan rates, or support prices for 1986 burley tobacco crop grades, will average the same — \$14.80 a hundredweight — as last year, but the top price has been lowered \$2 a hundred pounds from the 1985 rates, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture officials.

A number of the rates also have been increased or decreased up to \$1 and \$10 a hundredweight, respectively, and the number of grades have increased from 103 to 107 this season to reflect current market demand, the officials said.

New rates for the different burley grades this season range from a top of \$1.62 a pound, or \$162 a hundredweight, down to 90 cents a pound, or \$90 a hundredweight. Rates for the 1985 crop ranged from a high of \$164 a hundredweight, down to \$100 a hundredweight.

The 1986 grade loan rates are based on a five-year production history, said Milton Hertz, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

"Many grade loan rates have been adjusted to bring them more in line with current market demand, which should be beneficial to burley producers and the tobacco industry by lowering to-net cost assessments and increasing domestic and export market sales," Hertz said.

The top emphasis on support price increases was affixed to mixed grades, where grade M3P was increased from \$137 a hundredweight in 1985, to \$148 a hundredweight, or \$11 a hundredweight for the grade in 1986.

Grade M4P also was increased from \$133 in 1985, to \$145, or up \$12 in 1986. M4P also was raised \$1 a hundredweight, from \$123 to \$124 for this season.

Several grades have been deleted and added to the loan rates this season. Two grades — M1P and M2P — have been dropped from the grading chart for the 1986 crop. They had been supported at \$129 and \$136 a hundredweight, respectively, last season.

New grades for the 1986 crop include B3P1, B3P2 and B4P1. They are supported at \$136, \$132 and \$147 a hundredweight, respectively. Grades B3M, M4K and M5K also have been added to this list this year. They are supported at \$154, \$129 and \$123, respectively.

The largest decreases in grade loan rates came in the "tag" and "leaf" grades. Grade CM was reduced \$10 a hundredweight, from \$164 a hundredweight in 1985, to \$146 in 1986. CM and C2M also took large drops in support at \$8 and \$4 a hundredweight, respectively.

Leaf grades B3V1 and B3V2 also were each reduced a total of \$5 a hundredweight, from \$154 to \$149, and \$142 to \$137 a hundredweight, respectively.

A total of 68 grades were lowered or

average of \$1.78 a hundredweight, and 22 grades were raised an average price of \$4.94 a hundredweight. Ten grade loans remained the same.

Again this season, the Commodity Credit Corporation will not provide loans on tobacco graded N1L, N1R, N2K, "U" (unsound), "W" (wet), "No-G" (no grade) or crop.



JIMMY CASWELL is shown using an automatic tobacco press in the stripping room last week on his father, H. C. Caswell's farm on Lower Jackstown Road.

Burley tobacco may be officially weighed beginning Nov. 14, and sales begin Nov. 24. Sales will continue the first week on Nov. 25 and 26, and resume Monday through Thursday on Dec. 1 for three continuous weeks. Sales will resume on Dec. 18 for Christmas, and are scheduled to resume on Jan. 5, 1987 and remain open until all burley is sold.

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