

## Page 4

## The Final Step:

# Migrant workers play role in Kentucky's production

LEXINGTON (AP) - Kentucky tobacco farmers are raving about the efforts of migrant workers, saying they overcome a language barrier and inexperience with burley to help ease the annual labor shortage at harvest.

And the farmers say they hope the migrant workers will return next year.

About 200 migrants from the Southwest and Mexico may have assisted in harvesting this year's burley crop for about 40 farmers, University of Kentucky tobacco experts said Monday.

The farmers, speaking at a meeting of the Burley Farmers Advisory Council, said the costs

in hiring the migrants were in line with employing local workers.

Red Kugel of Davies County, with help from the Kentucky Farm Bureau, hired eight migrant workers through a company in El Paso, Texas. The migrants learned quickly and worked hard, he said.

Including fees to the El Paso agency, transportation costs and housing, Kugel said his labor cost averaged \$2.20 an hour - the same amount that he paid local workers.

The eight migrant workers cut and housed more than 50 acres or 150,000 pounds, he said.

Mark Amerman, a farmer and part owner of tobacco warehouses in Cynthiana and Paris, hired 58 migrant workers for himself and 10 other farmers. All the farmers who hired the migrants want them back next year, he said.

One worker traveled more than 3,400 miles for the job, he said.

"These people are desperate for work," Amerman said.

Amerman said the labor costs for the 11 farmers came to about \$500 an acre. Last year, his labor costs were about \$350 an acre.

Scott Mason, a U.S. Department of Labor compliance officer, told the farmers they must provide good housing for the migrants,

pay at least minimum wage and comply with the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. Farmers failing to do so can be fined up to \$1,000 per violation.

Meanwhile, burley farmers can expect a higher average price per pound when the markets open Nov. 20, said UK agriculture economist Will Sossel.

Demand is strong for this year's high-quality crop, he said. Also, the flue-cured market, which is an indicator of the burley market price, is averaging \$1.67 a pound, up several cents a pound over last year. Last season's average price for burley was \$1.61 a pound.

## King-Burley Tobacco Warehouses

It is time once again to think about selling our tobacco. Sales will open Monday, November 20 for the 1989-90 season.

King-Burley Tobacco Warehouses in Maysville, KY would like to welcome you to either of their locations.



New Burley — Newest and Most Modern in the Area.  
Located across from Meadowview Hospital on the AA Highway.

Kentucky King on Forest Avenue — Behind Clyde's Super Valu.



King-Burley pays \$3.00 per hundred weight haul rebate. Haul your tobacco today — Get your haul rebate today.

For additional information or assistance call or contact:  
New Burley 606-759-5361 Kentucky King 606-564-9441

D.K. Bilyeu 513-549-3524

We pledge equal treatment, highest prices and best of service

Also may contact: Reese W. Smoot 606-289-5526

## The Final Step:

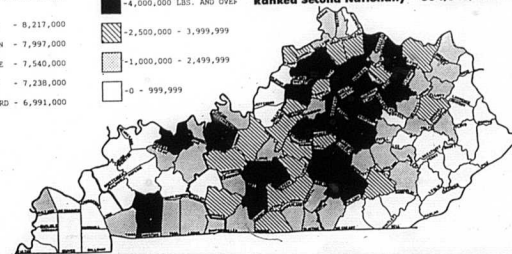
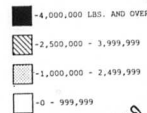
## Page 5

### Burley Tobacco Production

Ranked Second Nationally - 304,845,000 lbs.

TOP FIVE COUNTIES (LBS.)

1. BARREN - 8,217,000
2. BOURBON - 7,997,000
3. FAYETTE - 7,540,000
4. SHELBY - 7,238,000
5. WOODFORD - 6,991,000



### Harrison Tobacco Warehouse and Implement

A few main reasons to sell your tobacco with us.

1. \$3.00 per hundred - hauling.
2. Free twine to our customers.
3. We sell every day.

Call Toll-Free

1-800-221-7482



N. Church St.  
Cynthiana, Ky.  
(606) 234-2315

### FARMERS TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

E. Main Street — Paris, KY

Operated by  
Bob and Mike Ammerman  
Of  
Harrison Tobacco Warehouse &  
Implement Co., Cynthiana, KY

1. \$3.00 per hundred - hauling.
2. Free twine to our customers.
3. We sell every day.

Call Collect  
(606)

Office  
987-3360

No. 4 Warehouse  
987-3598