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RT 32 MOREHEAD KY

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Bracken growers

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county farmer.

In addition, like the vintage ads for Avis car rentals, Bracken farmers "try hard," too.

"In general, our allotments are smaller than, say, in Bourbon County," said Glenn Grear of the Brooksville Farm Supply. "But with smaller allotments, our farmers can baby the tobacco more."

And baby? It, they do.

Based on KANS figures for 1988, Bracken burley growers:

- √ Significantly beat the Kentucky average for yield per acre in burley.
- √ Devoted four times the number of cropland acres to tobacco than was done, on average, across the Commonwealth.
- √ Concentrated over 93 percent of their total production in tobacco.

An alternative to tobacco?

"Our farmers eat and sleep tobacco," said Dwayne "Pie" Jeff, Bracken's judge-executive. "They do the best job they can. They've been raised as burley farmers, and they're not interested in alternative crops."

This sentiment was echoed recently during the 1990 Bluegrass Agricultural Tour, sponsored by the BTGSA and the Council for Burley Tobacco.

"We hear all the time from the opponents of the tobacco program. 'Why don't tobacco producers grow something else?'" said Carol Dubard, a veteran staffer for the Agriculture Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

And what response did Dubard say she usually gives to that question?

"I always say, 'Okay, what do you want them to grow?' And they say some thing like, 'Well, strawberries. So I say, 'Fine. Then how many more strawberries do you think people are going to be willing to eat, just because these farmers gave up tobacco?' The only thing you're going to do is put two types of farmers out of business — tobacco farmers and strawberry farmers — because you're going to flood the strawberry market," Dubard said.



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U.S. 27 North, Cynthiana on November 19 for first sale of 1989 sales season.
We sell tobacco every sale day.

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