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## Ford, Arnold pleased with special session

By William Million  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff  
CARLISLE — The 1991 Special Session of the Kentucky General Assembly has come to an end, and Nicholas County's voices in Frankfort are pleased with its accomplishments.

Representative Adrian Arnold (D-Mt. Sterling) and Senator Ed Ford (D-Cynthiana), say the session has brought about momentous decisions for the Commonwealth.

The most publicized and emotional, topic in Frankfort was House Bill 11, the "DUI Bill."

Ford said "There is no question, this is much stronger than the current law. The bill passed overwhelmingly with minor changes, and it was welcomed by the people of Kentucky."

Arnold agrees. "This bill strengthens the law and represents the feelings of all Kentuckians."

House Bill 11 strengthens the existing DUI law, in effect since 1984, in several respects.

Most notably, the "illegal per se" provision, which states that anyone with a blood alcohol level of .10 or higher is li-

gally intoxicated. Previously, a .10 was only presumed to be intoxicated.

Senator Ford says that offenders must now carry the burden of proof to prove their innocence.

"They have to prove that the machine (breathalyzer) is wrong. Since the machines are calibrated continually and operated by certified personnel, the machine is very accurate."

Arnold added, "The offenders still have the right to a blood test at the police station, so they have a chance to prove their innocence. The bill will probably result in more people pleading guilty since they are already proven to be intoxicated."

Other changes in the law include calling for the fourth DUI offense in five years to be a felony offense.

First offenders will find themselves slapped with a 90 day license suspension.

The bill does allow for a occupational, or hardship, license, but the license will not be allowed until after the first 30 days of the suspension.

"We wanted to make it clear that you can't drink and drive and not have to pay a

penalty," said Arnold. "The hardship license will not be automatic, and the offenders will find it tough to be without a license."

Senator Ford says the Senate called for an automatic revocation of the license, but Representative Arnold explained why the "administrative per se" did not gain the House's approval.

"We wanted to leave the revocation in the hands of the courts. We believe everyone has the right to a trial."

Arnold warns the people of Kentucky this law will not rid Kentucky of its drunk-driving problem.

"I hope people do not think this will end the problem. The law will not take all the drunk drivers off the road."

"Ten percent of the drivers in this state have a drinking problem. Hopefully the toughest enforcement will make these drivers seek treatment, but there will always be a DUI problem in Kentucky."

"Hopefully, this law will cut into that problem."

Also on the agenda for the Special Session was the state's growing solid waste problem.

Representative Arnold, who serves on the Natural Resources Committee, says the law is "the first big step in controlling Kentucky's waste problems."

The bill puts local governments in control of waste management, and sets regulations to go by.

The law mandates that county government must make county-wide trash collection available.

Senator Ford said, "The law not only encourages individuals to recycle and out their waste down, but encourages county leaders to look at regional collection and disposal."

Arnold is encouraged by the new law, and says it is a matter of time before all Kentuckians have trash collection.

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Representative  
Adrian Arnold

Senator  
Ed Ford

## Tobacco farmers find new use for conventional greenhouse

By William Million

The Carlisle Mercury Staff

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles about the changing tobacco industry.

CARLISLE — Greenhouses are not a new concept when it comes to raising flowers and other plants, but tobacco farmers are presented with another use.

Tobacco farmers in cooler climates of the burly belt have been using greenhouses to raise tobacco plants for quite some time, but the concept is just starting to catch on.

Greenhouses that are used in raising tobacco come in sizes ranging from a three foot high bed to a full-size greenhouse.

Much like hydroponics, the plants are raised in small trays that have a cubic for each plant.

The tray can house the plant from germination of the seed until the time it is ready to be set in the field.

The greenhouse is covered with a plastic dome, held in place by curved braces over the house's frame.

Farmers who have used the greenhouse system have found that plants can be started sooner and mature more quickly.

The plants mature quickly because the plastic covering captures the heat from the sun, and holds it inside the system.

Many farmers also use fuel heaters to insure the warmth of the plant.

The trays contain soil enriched with time-released fertilizer. The plant receives as much fertilizer as it needs.

When the plant yellows, the tobacco is ready for the transplant to the field.

Nicholas County Extension Agent Mike Phillips says that many farmers believe that the greenhouses involve less maintenance and management than the conventional canvas tobacco beds.

Phillips says that this is a misconception.

"A lot of farmers don't realize the costs of the system.

The maintenance, disease factor, and the rate of plant growth really are not back for the greenhouses."

Air temperature of 55 degrees is required for tobacco plants as they reach maturity.

Many farmers don't realize this, and leave the plants enclosed in the greenhouse for a warmer air temperature.

Phillips says that even when a farmer may feel it's cool outside, the doors of the greenhouses should be opened up during the day time.

The plastic over the system traps the heat during the day. After night fall, the air outside the greenhouse gets cooler. When the warm air inside the greenhouse, the cool air outside the plastic, condensation forms on the covering.

If the greenhouse is not properly maintained and the plastic is not replaced, the excess moisture leads to disease in the young crop.

"A disease in a greenhouse environment is very devastating," Phillips said.



A true game face  
Walker Mattox, son of Mark and Donna Mattox, Carlisle, was dressed for the occasion and filled with the spirit for the Nicholas County—Bourbon County girls' district basketball tournament in Paris last week. Despite his efforts, Bourbon County upset the Lady Jackets.

The Carlisle Mercury/Hark Bond Photo