

## APPROVED PRACTICES FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTION

Select the approved practices from the list below which will be of benefit to your enterprise and record them on pages 3 and 4 in your Supervised Agriculture Experience Record Book. (This is only a general suggested list. Detail should be added to match your specific situation.)

1. Gather soil samples to determine nutrient needs
2. Decide on acreage and arrange field layout for effective ingress/egress
3. Use certified tobacco seed and a good variety for your area
4. Monitor soil temperature for optimum planting dates
5. Keep plants cool before planting
6. Utilize optimum row width for equipment purposes and plant growth
7. Cultivate and establish plant according to establish practices
8. Provide water source for plant beds
9. Distribute fertilizer and seeds evenly over plant beds
10. Use appropriate herbicides for initial growth stages of the tobacco plant
11. Monitor emerging plants for signs of stress and disease
12. Monitor temperature in order to protect plants as needed
13. Remove plants from bed area when correct size
14. Transplant plants less than 24 hours after removal from beds
15. Cultivate field and establish rows according to proper management practices
16. Follow transplanting by field inspection and manual retransplanting of dead or wilted plants
17. Apply appropriate herbicides and pesticides to counter weeds and harmful insects
18. Establish sucker control program
19. Remove suckers manually when necessary
20. Correctly implement chemical sucker control
21. Fertilize following soil test recommendations
22. Use appropriate fertilizer application methods for field size and plant maturity stage
23. Maintain tobacco production equipment in proper working order
24. Monitor entire crop for insect problems
25. Place drainage ditches around field ends for water removal to allow for greater equipment maneuverability
26. Harvest at maximum stage of ripeness
27. Top plants at proper height (12-15 leaves left per stalk)
28. After topping plants, allow them to grow for an additional three to four weeks to ripen
29. Cut and allow tobacco to wilt
30. Space tobacco evenly in curing barn for optimum drying
31. Disc fields within one week of harvesting
32. Drop, lath, and spear in a safe manner, without bruising tobacco, 5 to 6 plants per lath
33. Place lath at proper spacing in tobacco shed. Spacing should be 4 to 6 inches.
34. Allow tobacco to cure about 12 weeks until dry
35. Remove tobacco from the barn when it is damp and place in stripping room
36. When tobacco is damp and pliable remove from stalk and bale
37. Check local markets and negotiate price
38. Monitor curing and drying process for potential problems
39. Maintain curing and drying facilities in proper condition
40. Perform harvesting carefully to prevent damage to leaves
41. Properly calibrate sprayers for all chemical applications to tobacco in field
42. Apply fungicides when needed
43. Develop marketing strategy regarding time and location.
44. Correctly package for marketing.
45. Keep accurate enterprise records.
46. Summarize and analyze records