

DATA DRIVEN PROCESSING

IN GOD WE TRUST. EVERYONE ELSE
SUPPLY DATA

WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

- Quality of leaf
- Farmer grading
- Farmer package
- Transport and handling of package
- Receiving and verification of quality
- Storage of green tobacco
- Consistent blending and conditioning
- Steady flow
- Removal of NTRM
- Minimum creation of fines
- Consistent drying

At the farm

- Does bundling make sense?
- Does bundling improve quality?
- Does straight-laying make sense?
- What is the optimum package?
- What is the optimum leaf moisture?
- What should the farmer do with scrap?

Receiving

- How should the bales be unloaded?
- What is the best inspection method?
- How can moisture be checked?
- What is the best storage system?
- What is the best tracking system?

Blending

- Is tipping advantageous?
- Does tipping improve throughput?
- Does tipping improve yield?
- Do makers need large particles?
- How much scrap does tipping create?
- What is the effect on stem std. deviation?
- How do tips affect final moisture?

Blending contd.

- What are the advantages of bale-blending?
- What are the disadvantages?
- Do DCC's cause more fines generation than blending-table/feeder systems?
- Do green-leaf silos generate fines?
- What are advantages of leaf silos?
- What are the disadvantages?

Quality Picking

- How efficient is manual picking?
- How can the efficiency be measured?
- What is an acceptable efficiency?
- What is the real risk of NTRM?
- Is the entire NTRM issue litigation driven?
- What is the cost of attempts to reduce NTRM?
- Are optical scanners justifiable?

Optical Scanners

- Pros and cons of each type
- Load/efficiency scale
- Set-up and maintenance
- Pre-threshing, post or both?
- Best means of feeding scanners.
- Scanning of rejects.
- Overpick/efficiency ratios

Threshing and Separating

- What are ideal moisture and temperature?
- How does threshing efficiency affect particle-size?
- What affects the creation of fines?
- What is the ideal loading factor?
- What is the ideal tooth spacing?
- What is the ideal basket configuration?
- What is the ideal rotor hub diameter?
- How well can these be measured?

Drying and Packing

- What are the criteria for uniform drying?
- Are low cooler moistures necessary?
- How fast will tobacco absorb moisture?
- How fast will it lose moisture travelling to the press?
- Does a high-pressure misting system raise or lower packed temperature?
- What causes curl of larger particles?
- Is this really important?

The Testing Procedures

- The basic degradation and stem content testing methodologies and equipment have not changed for 60 years. Are they still valid and are there better options?
- At the current high production rates are 3kg samples still representative?
- Do the targets for particle size and stem content really reflect the optimum for the cutters and makers?
- What are the criteria for optimum strip? Firmness vs cigarette weight?
- Is the current method of packed temperature testing really accurate?