

**2006 State Ag Advisory Meeting**  
*Tobacco Break Out*

Tobacco specialists were unable to attend as they were at their annual tobacco workers conference. Dr. Barrett sat in to represent the department and specialists.

Compliments were given to the tobacco group for all the work they have done over the years and the fact that they were remaining active in a very different environment.

**Needs & Concerns**

- Strong concern from group regarding the recommendations that companies are making regarding production. That is that the recommendations benefit the company while costing the producer in direct expenses by requiring infrastructure changes, decreases in yield, or increased management time. In return, they are not seeing any incentives for their extra costs.
  - Examples include : Push for Big Bales & the requirement of no MH
- There is a great concern over the lack of interest of individuals to lease/rent barns for curing. Thus, it is our opinion that we need to revisit outside structures. Retrain existing agents and train new agents on their use and begin working with producers to utilize this option for curing.
  - There is also a need for more information in managing curing in traditional barns.
- The tobacco variety report needs to be in circulation or at least on-line by early-mid January as producers are making seed selection decisions earlier.
- Additionally the report may need to look at adding a line for color characteristics of the varieties.
- As acreages grown by one individual continues to increase and amount of land available decreases, the ability to rotate also decreases. This in turn is increasing problems with black shank.
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