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BRIGHT LEAF TOBACCO CURING BARN CONSTRUCTION[1]

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High fuel cost and need for control of the curing conditions in the barn to secure a high quality cured leaf emphasize the importance of proper barn construction. A barn built according to the following plans, if managed properly during the curing, will give very satisfactory results with an appreciable saving in fuel. This size barn has a curing capacity for about four acres of average tobacco. It is well adapted to the farm tobacco acreages grown in Georgia and it can be filled in one day by a labor force requiring two stringers.

A barn built according to this plan must be operated somewhat differently from the usual loosely constructed barn which may be closed as tightly as possible during the yellowing period in an effort to maintain high humidity conditions. It will be necessary, as with any other barn, to keep ventilation adjusted to secure the proper rate of yellowing and drying. It is advisable to provide ventilation to this type barn from the beginning of the cure since it is more tightly built than most barns in general use. However, care should be taken in ventilating to avoid excessive drying during the yellowing period. Excessive drying at this stage may result in premature setting of objectionable greenish color in the tobacco.

Construction Details

It is desirable that all framing lumber be dressed. If not dressed on all sides, it should, at least, be sized.

Foundation

The foundation wall is made of three courses of 8" x 8" x 16" concrete blocks and one course of 4" x 8" x 16" blocks resting on a concrete footing 8" thick and 14" wide. In some instances, more courses of blocks will be necessary since the footing should be on firm, undisturbed earth. The course of 4" x 8" x 16" blocks should be laid between the two top courses of the large blocks and with the cells horizontal. This row of openings around the barn provides the bottom ventilation. It is realized

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