The tobacco on-farm testing program is a cooperative program in which members of the extension and research staff collaborate with extension agents, cooperating farmers and industry to bridge the gap between research and application of research information on the farm. The on-farm testing program is an excellent way to collect information on varieties, breeding lines, chemicals and cultural practices under a broader range of environmental conditions than is usually available at the Agriculture Experiment Stations.

Industry has a continuous flow of new chemicals such as growth regulators, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers that must be tested and evaluated under a wide range of farm conditions.

GUIDELINES

Contracts should be limited to 1500 pounds or one-half acre of land unless justification is given in writing and approved by the College.

The county extension agents and the County Tobacco Committee, in conjunction with the research and/or extension person involved, will be primarily responsible for selecting the farmer. Experimental tests must be arranged in conjunction with and approved by a specialist or other researcher at the University of Kentucky. County extension agents must notify county FSA officials of experimental tests by June 1st. Any experimental tests not submitted in time for county FSA officials to inspect while tests are in the field will be considered ineligible to receive a marketing card.

The cooperator certifies that he is legally entitled to enter into the contract with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and that he is not or will not be violating either directly or indirectly, any conflict of interest statute (KRS 42.990, 61.092-61-096, 164.390), or any other applicable statute or principle by the performance of this contract (is not employed by the state).

The participation of cooperators should not exceed two years out of five unless a specific study requires more time or special conditions. Extension of this provision must be justified in writing and approved by the Associate Dean for Research. Before a grower is selected, county agents should coordinate with the researcher and potential farmer specific details of the study such as soil conditions, crop conditions, insect and disease problems, and other procedures that are pertinent to results of the test.

There shall be a maximum of three tests per county and one test per grower unless a study or problem requires specific conditions met only on a particular farm or within a particular county. The researcher shall summarize and report the required data as appropriate.

Close relatives of the University of Kentucky faculty and staff shall be prohibited from participating in on-farm tobacco research plots where tobacco quota is provided.

Signed contracts must be in the office of the Coordinator by April 15 and to the Associate Dean's office by May 1.