

Preliminary Evaluation of Mechanical Harvest in Dark and Burley Tobacco

2011 – UKREC, Princeton, KY – Harvested October 6

- Compared walk-behind and Kirpy harvesters to hand harvest in dark and burley tobacco in 2011.
 - Dark: PD 7309 (4900 plants/A)
 - Burley: NC 7 (7841 plants/A)
- Data collected:
 - Time required for each harvest method
 - Leaf loss
 - Yield
- 2011 – best dark and burley crop since 2006
 - Large tobacco, more brittle at maturity than in 2010

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Time Required for Cutting with Each Harvest Technique (cutting operation only)

Tobacco	Cutting Method	# Plants	# Sticks	Time (min:sec)	Time/plant (sec)
Dark	Hand Cut	144	24	5:12	2.17
Dark	Walk Behind	144	24	1:49	0.76
Dark	Kirpy	144	24	4:57	2.06
Burley	Hand Cut	216	36	6:49	1.89
Burley	Walk Behind	216	36	3:01	0.84
Burley	Kirpy	216	36	6:20	1.76

*Tobacco from all 3 cutting methods was manually spiked on sticks. Dark tobacco was fire-cured.

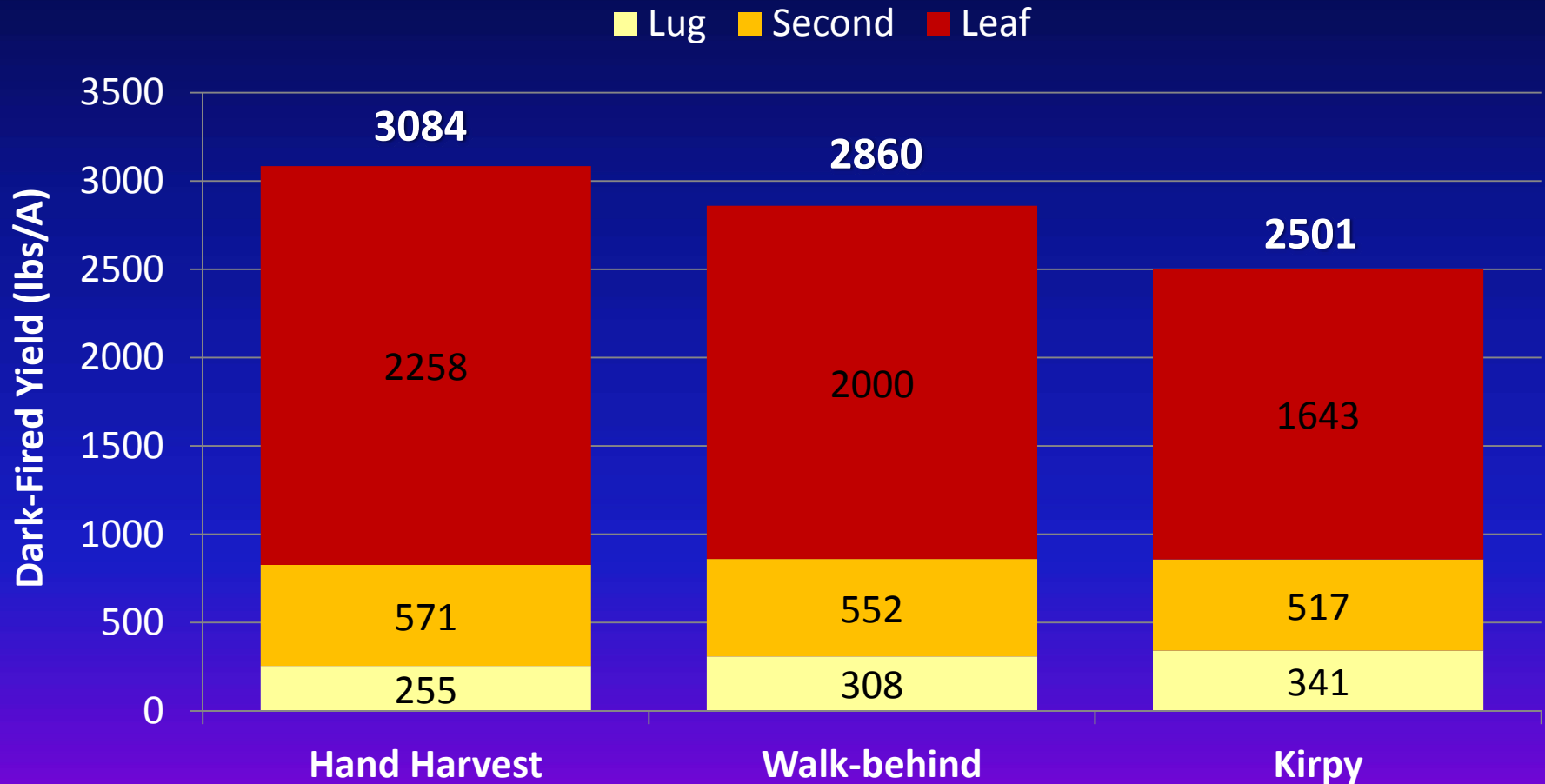
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Leaf Loss at Harvest

Tobacco	Cutting Method	# Plants	# Sticks	Mangled or missed plants	Leaves lost per plot	Leaves lost per plant
Dark	Hand Cut	144	24	0	76	0.53
Dark	Walk Behind	144	24	2	128	0.89
Dark	Kirpy	144	24	5	93 Field + 290 Wagon = 383	2.66
Burley	Hand Cut	216	36	0	83	0.38
Burley	Walk Behind	216	36	4	137	0.63
Burley	Kirpy	216	36	6	111 Field + 286 Wagon = 397	1.84

Mechanical Harvester Evaluation in Dark Tobacco

2011 – UKREC, Princeton, KY – Dark Fire-Cured Yield



% of Hand Harvest:

93

81

% Harvest Loss:

7

19

Mechanical Harvester Evaluation in Burley Tobacco

2011 – UKREC, Princeton, KY – Burley Yield

