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WORLD AUCTION UPDATE:

Zimbabwe Tobacco Auction Update: Zimbabwe's Tobacco Marketing Board reported that 145 million kg of flue-cured tobacco was sold after twenty weeks of the auction season for an average price of U.S.\$2.96 per kilogram, down nearly 5 percent in volume but almost double in value for the same period a year ago. Leaf quality is described as good.

U.S. DEVELOPMENTS

RECENT REPORTS:

CCC Announces Changes In Flue-Cured Tobacco Price Support Differentials: USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation published its final rule in the Federal Register announcing changes to the flue-cured tobacco price support differentials effective for the 2002 crop. For complete report go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/news/releases>

USDA Announces Tobacco Referendum In Florida and Georgia: USDA announced that it had received requests from 25 percent of the active flue-cured tobacco producers in the States of Georgia and Florida for a referendum. Results from the referendum will determine whether or not USDA will permit the sale of flue-cured tobacco quota across country lines within the states of Florida and Georgia beginning with the 2002 crop. The referenda will be conducted from October 15 to October 19, 2001. For complete report go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/news/releases>

U.S. AUCTION UPDATE:

U.S. Flue-cured Auction Update: Through the twelfth week of the 2001 auction season, total flue-cured gross sales reached 177,879 metric tons at an average price of \$4.19 per kg. This represents a 6-percent increase in price when compared to the same period a year ago. Loan receipts so far this season reached nearly 13.5 percent of all flue-cured tobacco marketed. Based on the effective quota, about 90 percent of the 2001 flue-cured crop has been sold at auction. For complete report go to <http://www.ams.usda.gov/tob/mncs/index.htm>.

CONVERSION FACTORS

1 Metric Ton	=	2,204.622 Pounds
1 Pound	=	0.0004536 Metric Tons
1 Kilogram	=	2.2046 Pounds
1 Pound	=	0.4535924 Kilograms
1 Hectare	=	2.471 Acres
1 Acre	=	0.4047 Hectares
Dry Weight (DW)	=	88 to 92 percent of Farm Sales Weight (FSW) ^{1/}

^{1/} Unmanufactured tobacco's conversion from dry weight to farm sales weight varies depending on a country's cultivation and processing conditions and practices. The average conversion factor ranges from 88 to 92 percent, but it can be as low as 60 percent.