

News Release

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USDA ANNOUNCES 1998-CROP FLUE-CURED TOBACCO IMPORTER ASSESSMENT RATES

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1998 -- The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced assessment rates effective July 1, 1998, on unmanufactured flue-cured tobacco imported for consumption. The assessment rates are the same as for domestically-produced flue-cured tobacco and will remain in effect through June 30, 1999.

Flue-Cured Tobacco Importer Assessment Rates Effective July 1, 1998 -- June 30, 1999

	Cents Per	
	Pound	Kilogram
No-Net-Cost	.3720	.8201
Budget Deficit	1.6280	3.5891
Total Assessments	2.0000	4.4092

The total amount of assessments is due within 10 business days after imported tobacco is released by the U.S. Customs Service for entry for consumption into the commerce of the United States. Failure to pay or timely pay the amount of assessment due can result in a marketing penalty of \$2.84 per kilogram for the amount of flue-cured tobacco on which such failure occurred. Rates for burley and other kinds of tobacco that are subject to importer assessments will be announced by October 1, 1998.

For further program information, contact David McCarty, (202) 720-6389, or via e-mail at David_McCarty@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

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