

Preliminary Evaluation of Mechanical Harvest in Dark Tobacco

2010 – UKREC, Princeton, KY

- PD 7318LC transplanted May 26 (4900 plants/A)
- Harvested October 15:
 - Traditional hand harvest
 - Mechanical harvest with walk-behind cutter/notcher
 - Mechanical harvest with Kirpy cutter/notcher/conveyer



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

Cutting Method	# Plants	# Sticks	Time (min:sec)
Hand Cut	120	20	5:42
Walk Behind	120	20	1:29
Kirpy	120	20	4:52

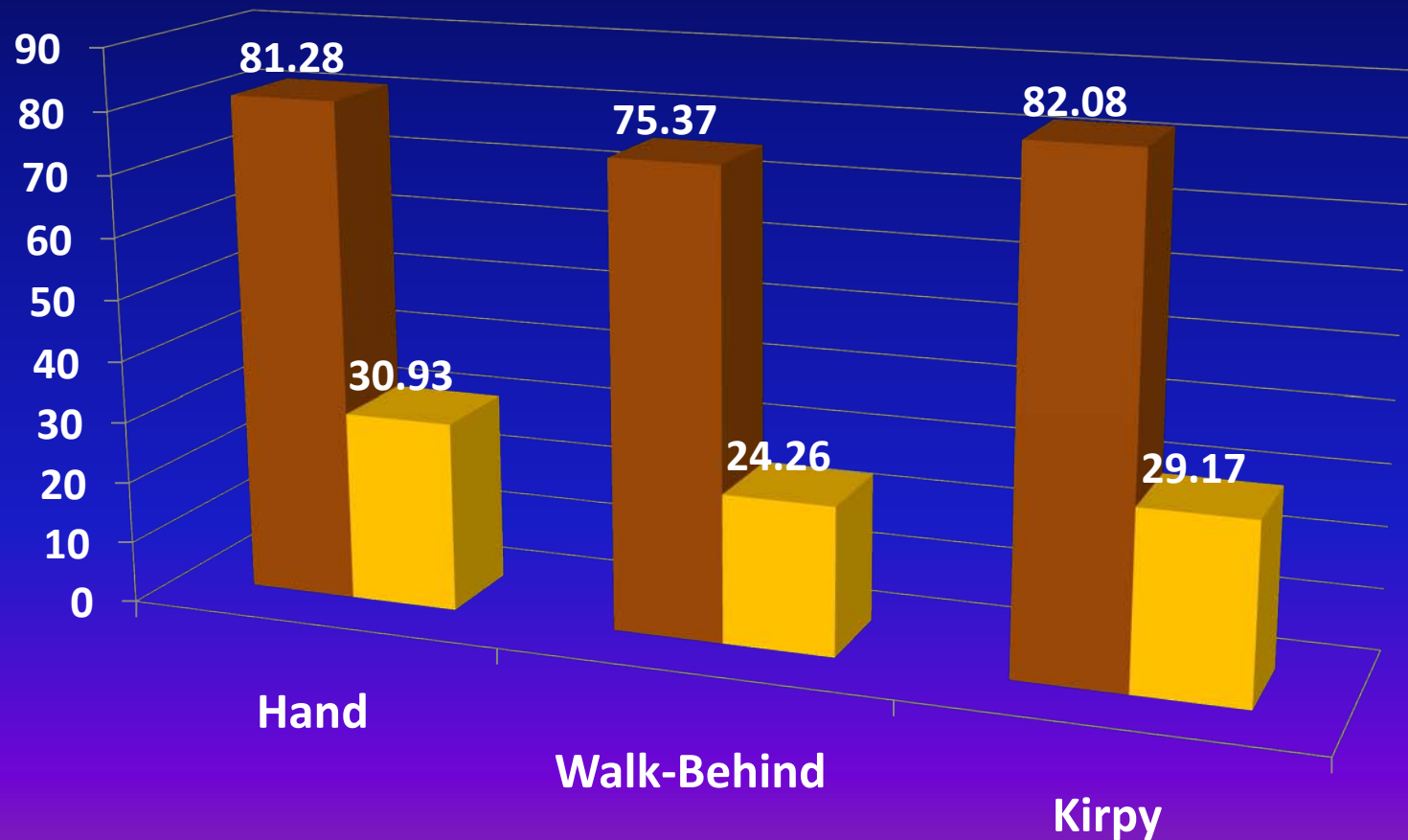
*Tobacco from all 3 cutting methods was manually spiked on sticks.

Spiking time for field-wilted tobacco (hand cut and walk behind) was 16:23 (40 sticks, 2 men)

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2010 – UKREC, Princeton, KY – Yield per plot and Quality from Harvest Methods

■ Total yield (lbs) per plot (20 sticks) ■ Quality Grade Index (0-100)



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2010 – UKREC, Princeton, KY – Summary

- Although tobacco was harvested late (October 15), dark tobacco was not as brittle as normal.
- No differences observed in leaf loss at harvest between hand harvest and mechanical harvest.
- Appeared to be no differences in yield and quality between hand harvest and mechanical harvest.
 - Much different than in 2008 experiment