

Tobacco Research and Extension Collaborations

University of Kentucky

University of Tennessee



Background

- Discussions began 1999-2000 between Experiment Station Directors
- Federal funds not available for tobacco research
- Breeder left UK to form a seed company
- Breeder at UT was a former UK PhD student
- Memorandum of Agreement developed

Kentucky-Tennessee Tobacco Improvement Initiative

- Objective: support cooperative regional programs; current commitment through 2019
- PI selected jointly by TAES and KAES
- PI resident at UK Lexington, tenure track
- KAES 60% and TAES 40% of salary
- Technical support from each institution
- Field sites in both states
- Main activity: variety development



Revenue sharing

- Varieties are joint releases
- Revenue shared proportional to funding and dispersed according to each institution's policies
- Patents through UK Research Foundation (none yet)
- TAES and KAES may independently or jointly receive grants and gifts



How it has worked

- Initial appointee changed residence from UK to Tennessee
- Second appointee added in the dark-fired tobacco area; housed at a field station
- Main contracts: large multinational tobacco companies
- Gifts: various tobacco companies
- Royalties: considerable



Extension

- Separate cooperative agreement
- UT Extension provides 70% salary and fringe; UK transfers funds to UT Extension
- Full time employee UT Extension
- Evaluation in consultation with UK
- Travel funds from UK submitted annually to UT
- Agreement 2008 through 2013



Why it has worked so well

- Faculty and department leadership have been reasonable and cooperative
- Experiment Station and Extension administration have mutual trust
- Financial pressures continue











