

Washington's Big Decision – Tobacco or Wheat?

	Tobacco	Wheat
Labor		
Impact on Soil		
Uses for Product		
Markets		

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	Tobacco	Wheat
Labor	Requires much labor, 18 month process, creates addition need for slaves in the fields, more expensive in terms of labor	Does not require as much labor as tobacco, lowers demand for slaves, less expensive in terms of labor, shorter growing season
Impact on Soil	Burns out the soil, after repeated years of planting the soil is depleted, soil in this part of Virginia is not as suited to tobacco	Less taxing on the soil than tobacco, can be used in crop rotation to save soil
Uses for Product	This tobacco was large leaf tobacco used in making cigars	Wheat can be made into flour for humans, waste material can be fed to animals, wheat also used at the distillery to produce alcohol
Markets	Only sold to buyers in England, limited market	Very marketable to different places in the world, Washington even sold it to buyers in Europe, West Indies and Portugal