

The Net is “Smokin”

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

NEW YORK — Convenience stores are losing customers to online cigarette vendors, having seen their 60 percent share of sales slowly go up in smoke.

Web sales have already taken away an estimated \$1.5 billion in tax revenues from shops, according to a report put out by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Many Internet services are run by Native American tribes, which don't have the same tax obligations and are able to charge lower prices for cigarettes.

1. If the \$1,500,000,000.00 represent 60% of the market, what is the total revenue generated via cigarette sales annually?

The 'Power' of Manure

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Along with milk, some dairy cows in California are providing another kind of juice — indirectly. At the **Straus Family Creamery**, an organic dairy farm north of San Francisco, manure from 270 Holstein and Jersey cows is being collected and deposited into a methane digester — a specially covered pond filled with natural bacteria that eats the manure and gives off methane gas. The methane, in turn, drives the power plant.

Straus figures the \$280,000 system saves him \$6,000 a month in energy costs. And turning waste into energy is half the story. The **methane digester** is burning a greenhouse gas with 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

2. How much would a methane digester cost over a period of 20 years?
3. Disregarding routine maintenance and related expenses associated with any equipment over a specific amount of time, approximately how much money is being saved over the same 20-year duration in comparison to the previous energy costs?

Georgia on my Mind

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WASHINGTON - A 29-year old recently married Jr. High school educator accepted a middle school History teaching position in Stockbridge, GA; a mere 2741.3 miles and a 42 hour and 10 minute drive from his present position. However, transporting all of their earthly possessions from Puyallup, WA to a home in McDonough, GA a 2738.2-mile journey quickly became a concern.

Without including gas, the following prices were derived: UHAUL -\$2514.00, Budget - \$2422.00. Realizing his young wife was pregnant, the teacher stated, “Dern. That is expensive. And the idea of you helping me carry a mattress down the steps is the wrong answer. I wonder how much it would cost to have a moving company disassemble, reassemble, pack, drive, and transport everything from here out yonder (to Georgia)? Then, we can just take our time and drive across the country in the Toyota while some other joker does all the work.”

Here is what he found: Team USA - \$2482.00, Atlantis Van Lines - \$2500.00, Best Price Movers - \$1800, City Moving -\$2984.53, Wright Way Moving - \$2770.00, Jordan River - \$2400.00, East/West Moving - \$1893.00, Moving Cost - \$2563.00, Upack - \$1593.00, and Mayflower – \$2548.17. “I got it! I will rent a trailer (\$450), have a towing package (\$250) installed on my Toyota, purchase a canopy (\$800) and pull it myself (gas - \$700+)”

4. Create a box and whisker plot and identify the interquartile range in costs as listed above?
5. In paragraph form, what option in moving would you select and why? Explain.