

Forester Gives Farmers Tips, Advice On Farm Wood Lot Management

In a recent trip to Lancaster County Edward P. Farrand, assistant extension forester from Penn State, gave some tips and advice on farm wood lot management. As part of the trip, Farrand

visited the woodlot of B. G. and J. Mark Bushong, R2 Columbia. The timber covers a 12 to 13 acre area.

Bushong's problem is that he has received several offers from saw mill operators to come in and cut off the marketable timber, but he did not know how to go about

putting a value on the timber. In a survey of the wood lot, Farrand found that the woods is composed of general mixture of species with a high percentage of mature commercially desirable trees. At the same time, he found that there were many trees in the woods with little or no commercial value.

These were in addition to several large spreading "wolf trees" that shade and crowd out young growth without adding any commercial value to the wood lot.

Farrand said that the Bushong woods were typical of the average farm woods that has been allowed to grow without management or harvest.

His recommendations were:

1. Oaks with a stump diameter of 20 inches or more can be cut.
2. Poplar and cherry trees with a stump diameter of 26 inches or more can be cut.
3. Trees smaller than this should be allowed to stand unless they are so crooked or branchy that they will never be good saw trees. In this case, they can be allowed to stand a few years for seed if needed, or they can be cut and allowed to lay or they can be killed by chemicals.
4. In selling timber, the farmer can mark the trees to be cut and so specify in the contract, or the contract with the mill man can specify size trees to be cut.
5. Before selling, it is usually best to get bids from more than one operator.

Farrand said that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has available sample contracts for farmers to use as a guide in selling timber. They are found in Measuring and Marketing Farm Timber, Farmers Bulletin 1210.

The same publication also contains scales for determining board feet in a given tree.

Noting that labor costs are high in timber production, Farrand said that the farmer can make an additional 15 cents a thousand board feet by cutting and hauling logs to the edge of the wood lot for pick up by the mill truck.

In marking trees to be cut, two marks should be made, he said. The first should be made about four feet up on the trunk of the tree. The other should be made on the stump near ground level.

(Continued on page 13)



EXTENSION FORESTER Edward P. Farrand shows J. Mark Bushong, R2 Columbia, a sample boring from an oak tree trunk. By looking at the rings of the tree extracted by the borer, it can be determined if the tree is growing rapidly or not. This tree showed that it was growing at a rate of about half an inch a year. Farrand said that in most cases when a tree is still making such rapid growth, it should be allowed to stand. (LF Photo)

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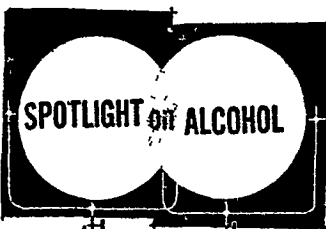
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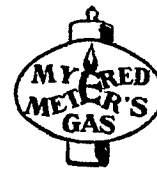
"In our report to the Massachusetts Legislature we pointed out that the direct annual cost of alcoholism to our state totaled more than \$60 million, while the total annual cost of alcoholism to taxes on the liquor industry amounted to about \$13 million.

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