

Miles Fry

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Revolution. Fry's office, for example, is in a former kitchen which boasts an enormous walk-in brick fireplace built sometime before 1760. Like the thousands of poplars on his farm, Miles Fry has deep roots in Lancaster County.

In 1955, Fry started his poplar nursery with eight cuttings, a fact which was duly reported at the time in the pages of LANCASTER FARMING.

"When I first started the trees," Fry commented, "I took a lot of kidding from people who told me I ought to plant corn instead of sticks. But I knew that the hybrid poplar was going to be an important tree, and I stuck with it."

In the catalog which they send to prospective customers, Fry and his son have this to say about hybrid poplars:

"When we planted eight Hybrid Poplar cuttings in the spring of 1955 we hoped that we were planting a tree that would grow good timber in our time. That was our only purpose. Thruout the intervening years there has been a steadily increasing public concern about our deteriorating environment and the impairment of ecological balance and the conservation of our natural resources

"In our Hybrid Poplar catalogue for 1972 we have tried

New Holland 4-H Baby Beef Club Reorganized

The first meeting of the 1973 New Holland Baby Beef 4-H Club was held recently at the home of John Groff, 37 Quarry Rd., Leola.

The following officers were elected for 1973:

Ken Groff, president; Gordon Hoover, vice-president, Judy Weaver, secretary, Jeff Martin, treasurer, Kathy and Mike Martin, game leaders, Rick Good, song leader; Bill Hughes, reporter

Leaders are John Groff, Harvey High, Bob Martin, Lester Weaver and Mark Yoder. There are 29 members this year.

The next meeting will be held February 19 at Bob Martin's, New Holland

to show you the part that Hybrid Poplars have in helping to find a solution for some of these problems. We wish that we could actually show you growing trees instead of sending you our catalogue. We would show you:

"Pleasant shady trees lined with 25 to 40 foot trees planted five and six years ago. In the back yards of these new homes there are shade trees and screens that provide the comfort a family needs. One home owner told the story: 'Planting the Hybrids has meant the difference between a good community to live in or a sprawl of houses.'"

"In our farm community we would show you good trees planted in pastures, along the farm lanes and roads and around farmsteads.

"On the churned up land of the mine spoils you would see good young timber growing. Not many years ago these black spoils were regardless as useless.

"Sanitary land fills are an increasingly serious problem in many communities. Generally they are a blight of the surrounding area. The growth of the Hybrid Poplar rooted cuttings on the Ft. Dix fill is assurance that within a few years these acres can be converted into beautiful forests.

"You would see prime saw and veneer timber growing on abandoned farm land, pulpwood in eight to ten years, saw timber and veneer in from 20 to 25 years. To those of us who grew up with the reality that it took seventy-five years to grow a good wood lot this seems incredible. The plantings at Williamstown are evidence that it can be done."

From those eight cuttings, the Frys have now developed both a commercial and an experimental tree-growing operation with over 100 different varieties of hybrid poplar. Every year, some 500,000

tree cuttings are taken from the farm. Some 150,000 to 175,000 are replanted, and the rest are sold.

Over the years, Fry has worked with young people almost as energetically as he's worked with trees and crown vetch. Countless numbers of trees and crown vetch cuttings have been donated to young people, particularly FFA groups.

No FFA group has ever paid for trees received from Fry for the

many home and community improvement projects. Among the projects of special interest are an FFA project to reforest unlevelled spoil banks, planting trees on the discharge from deep mine waste, and plantings done at old iron ore mines. These projects involved FFA groups in Berks, Schuylkill, Somerset, Erie, and Lancaster Counties.

In addition his efforts have been extended to the Grassland

Chapter in Eastern Lancaster County School District as well as chapters in Ephrata and Quarryville. He's also worked with the Elementary Agriculture Program encouraging young members in the development and appreciation of the environment. There are between two and three thousand young trees growing around the district carefully tended by their youthful recipients.

Hey everyone ... come meet

DAVID BROWN

at

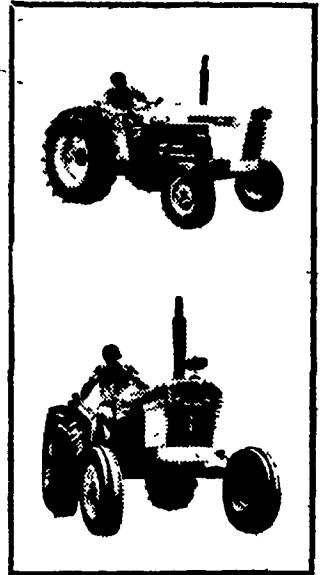


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