

# Risser Tops

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University of Tennessee 3rd, University of Wisconsin at Platteville 4th, and Ohio State University 5th; other participating schools in alphabetical order were Delaware Valley College, Iowa State, Montana State, New Mexico State, North Carolina State, Purdue, Tarleton State, University of Arkansas, University of Minnesota, and West Virginia.

Competition between the 60 individual participants for high honors was very keen, but when the mud settled, Risser was on top. Jeff is a sophomore majoring in agronomy, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Risser of RD1, Leola.

Although intercollegiate soil judging is a relatively new

student activity on university and college campuses, it has gained appreciable popularity in recent years. Presently there are approximately 45 colleges and universities that compete in regional contests in the fall to determine which schools will represent their region the following spring in the national contest.

Students benefit from this activity by gaining a much better understanding of the soil, its characteristics, and its capabilities.

Today there are 16,000 handicapped girls in Girl Scout troops across the nation.

# Clearcutting for Hardwoods

Hardwood forests in Pennsylvania are tough—and persistent. Five years after complete cutting of mixed oak-hickory forest plots, regeneration from root sprouts is exceedingly rapid, says Dr. Robert D. Shipman, ecologist for the School of Forest Resources at The Pennsylvania State University.

Such sprouts from dormant buds on freshly cut stumps serve as a major source of browse for deer and as natural seedlings for a new stand of timber, Dr. Shipman pointed out recently from field experiments at Penn State.

The amount and kind of hardwood sprouts that develop after clearcutting are highly variable he said, and depend upon the quality of the site, its soil nutrient and water holding capacity, and upon the inherent sprouting ability of the species.

Most hardwood growth after clearcutting, he added, is produced by species responding best to full sunlight—such as the oaks and hickories. Results from small blocks of clearcuttings showed that scarlet oak produced the largest sprouts. However, white oak sprouts produced the highest number of sprouts per stump and per acre.

The site is located in Penn State's Stone Valley Experimental Forest, Huntingdon County, and was clearcut in 1965. Deer browse began to increase the first growing season after cutting and increased gradually until 1970. By that time, practically all species exceeded 7 feet in height and were beyond the reach of deer.

From a timber growing standpoint, it is still too early to determine how cutting has af-

ected the final species makeup of the new hardwood forest. New trees growing from stumps have not yet reached the pole timber category, 3 to 5 inches in diameter.

Dr. Shipman indicated, however, that the new oak forest should be adequately stocked with trees. He assumes that at least one sprout per stump will become dominant within the next five years, with each of these young trees occupying sufficient growing space.

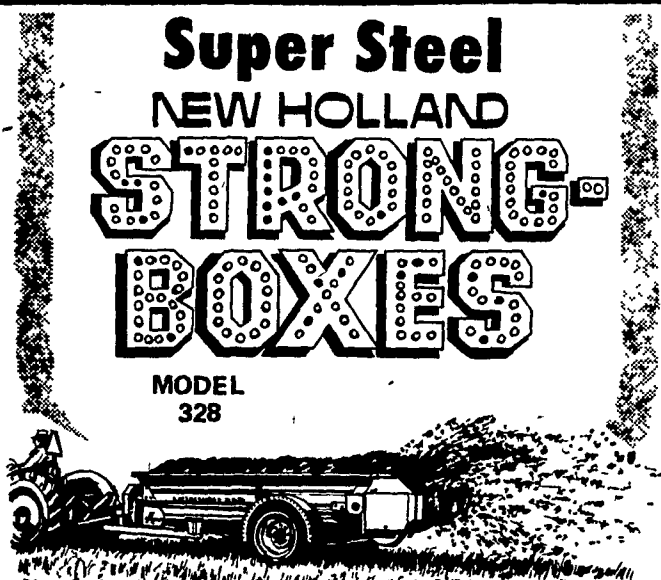
To assure maximum development, a "weeding" of the sapling stand is desirable. For example, sprouts of undesirable species, where they are growing taller than desirable "crop" trees, should be removed—thus freeing desirable stems and improving growth of the new forest.

The forest ecologist and his associates have found that hardwood seedling sprouts in clearcut areas develop mostly from stumps 4 to 12 inches in diameter—or from stubs less than 2 inches in diameter. The remaining natural seedlings on clearcut areas germinate from seed stored in the forest floor. Research was begun 10 years ago to determine the effects of complete tree removal on timber-wildlife relationships.

Since oaks and hickories are heavy-seeded species, very little if any seed in the test area was blown there from adjoining uncut areas. Thus, practically all of the natural reproduction developed from root sprouts.

Dr. Shipman and associates will continue to study the growth of trees and other plant species invading clearcut areas. Present research is investigating changes in nutrient distribution, soil characteristics, and soil moisture conditions limiting the rate of regrowth on clearcut areas.

Clearcutting of eastern hardwoods is done mostly on small plots of five to 20 acres. This is not to be confused with clearcutting of western conifers where slopes are steep and clearcut blocks often exceed hundreds of acres.



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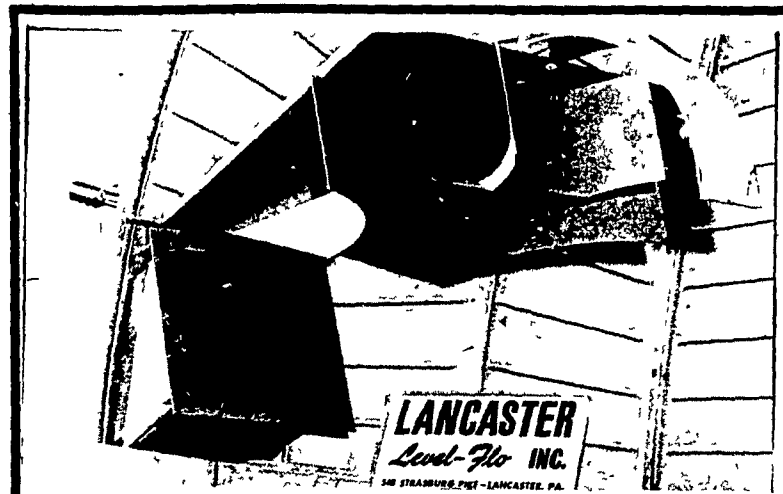
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breeds was Wayne Krieder of the Solanco team. He also took the highest position in the Jersey judging class.

High individual in the Ayrshire class was Galbreath. In the Brown Swiss class, first place individual was Mark Farmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farmer, Washington Boro RD1, of the Penn Manor FFA team. The Guernsey class saw Gary Akers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Akers, Quarryville RD1, of the Solanco FFA at the top.

The event, sponsored by the Penn State Dairy Science Club, broke all records for participation this year with 175 high school and college students entering the contests. It was the second event in the 48th annual Dairy Exposition ending Saturday.

Trophies were to be presented to the winners at an awards banquet on Saturday. Also scheduled for Saturday was the collegiate fitting and showing contest. This event, known as Show Day, was to be held under the big tent at the Penn State Dairy Barns along with several special events to highlight the affair.