

Chimney, fireplace, and firewood hints told

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — There's a nip in the air these mornings and before long, evenings will be getting cooler, the house chilly.

If one is inclined to plan ahead, he should have a couple of things to consider: Inspecting and cleaning his chimney, and stocking in his supply of wood.

Whether one burns wood in a fireplace or a wood stove, the chimney must be carefully checked. One should inspect for cracks and other damage that may have occurred, as well as inspect for soot and creosote. Any cracks or damaged tiles should be repaired.

One can clean his own

chimney if he can safely get to the chimney top. Using several tire chains tied together, one should raise and lower them briskly and frequently to scrape the sides of the tiles, break through the build-up of creosote, and dislodge nests of birds and other wildlife.

Wood stoves, specifically the modern, efficient, re-

circulating types, are slow burners. Often claimed to burn for long periods, they can last as much as 12 or more hours before adding more fuel.

But, the danger in these stoves is in the build-up of creosote in the chimneys and connecting pipes.

One may decide to secure the services of a "chimney sweep." Fireplace and chimney cleaning services are available and should be considered if one has any doubts about the system. A sweep comes with more than a long-handled broom. They will be equipped with power vacuum cleaners and other tools that thoroughly clean out the system.

Also, one might check with a mason on the soundness of the chimney.

Another important consideration is in the quality of the firewood a person chooses.

The heat that is derived from the combustion of the wood depends upon the concentration of the woody material, resin, ash and water. The first three features vary depending

upon the tree species and its growth rate while the latter depends on the species, season in which the tree was cut, and the seasoning procedures used.

In general, the heaviest woods, when seasoned, have the greatest heating value.

The greatest heat equivalents of wood are associated with apple, American beech, hickory, black locust and white oak.

The next group of woods categorized by their heat equivalents would include white ash, white and yellow birch, black cherry, sugar maple, black walnut, and red oak.

Those species considered to be moderate heat equivalents: black ash, red maple, silver maple, American sycamore, and the Eastern larch.

The poorest in heating quality are aspen, basswood, butternut, balsam fir, hemlock, red and white pines, red spruce and black willow.

Wood should be seasoned approximately eight to 12 months. This will appreciably reduce the

creosote build-up in the stove's exhaust system.

One would also remind wood buyers that the only legal measurement for fireplace wood in New Jersey and Pennsylvania is the cord. And, that's the standard cord, not the face cord.

A standard cord comprises a stack 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet deep. Total volume would be 128 cubic feet.

The face, or short cord, would be 8 feet long, 4 feet high and a foot to 2 feet in depth, depending on the length of cut.

There are many other considerations in purchasing firewood. The Extension Service has an exceptionally good book, "Burning Wood." Published by the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, it is available through our office at a very nominal price.

The publication includes chapters on wood as a fuel, fireplaces, stoves, (types and efficiency), furnaces, installation, and an interesting section on cutting fuel wood with a chain saw.

Inter-State claims financial strength, but cautions dairymen against over-production

AIRVILLE — Members of Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative who met here recently for their annual membership meeting were told by their director, Roy Weaner of Gettysburg, and Inter-State's treasurer, Robert M. Dever, that their cooperative remains strong and is prepared to meet the future needs of the dairy industry.

But there were also a few words of caution directed at producers who have been taking advantage of the record-high milk prices.

Both Weaner and Dever noted that the marketing of surplus milk is expensive. Last year, for example, Inter-State spent \$700,000 to move surplus milk out of the area, resulting in the lowest cooperative profits in four years. Dever reported that the cooperative made \$571,000 during 1977.

Weaner, who predicted that Class I 3.5 per cent milk will be priced at \$12 in December, asked the assembled dairymen not to overdo it with their production. "Production so far has been long and prices are good and feed is cheap ... but don't overdo it," he emphasized. "There is no use producing milk for a market we don't have," he added.

According to Dever, it costs as much as \$3 per hundredweight to market excess milk. Inter-State has in the past covered those expenses through a reduction of prices paid to dairymen for surplus milk. "We like to keep these costs current, rather than build up these costs," he explained.

Declaring that Inter-State has \$18 million worth of assets, Dever noted that the Philadelphia-based milk marketing cooperative is financially strong. Both he and Weaner asked the membership for continued support.

Dever also spoke on the Cooperative's involvement with Q C, Inc. and Holly Milk Cooperative. While the latter



Robert Dever



Roy Weaner

held at the Host Farm, Lancaster, on November 16. Tickets should be secured by November 7.

Weaner closed his remarks by encouraging farmers to support their general farm organizations and the Young Cooperator program. "They're building leaders for tomorrow, and believe me it does pay off ... it gives us a more secure future," he declared.

is still undergoing trials, he emphasized that costs of the plant are still at \$8.2 million, as originally planned. Rumors to the contrary are unwarranted, he said.

Q C, Inc., Inter-State's wholly-owned quality control laboratory, has been a fantastic success, according to Dever. The firm is paying its own way and offering financial returns which exceed Inter-State managers' expectations.

On a final note, the member-dairymen of Inter-State were invited to the Cooperative's annual meeting and banquet, to be

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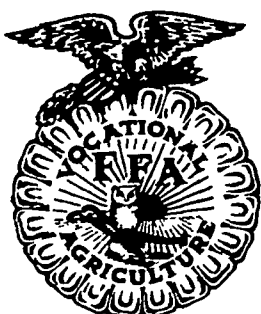
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