

# Farmers get woodlot tips at Berks forestry meeting

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Staff Correspondent

**LEESPORT** — The growing interest in forestry and woodlot improvement became very evident as close to two hundred people turned out last Wednesday to the Berks County Agricultural Center, here, for a program devoted to forestry improvement and firewood.

Sponsored by the county extension service and ASCS offices, the program explained the services available to woodlot owners towards improving woodlot productivity and also emphasized the proper usage of a chain saw and the safety precautions needed in sawing trees for firewood.

An untended forest or woodlot is similar to an untended garden, the large audience learned. It must be thinned out for maximum productivity.

John Bearer, Berks County State Forester, explained how his office will evaluate a stand of timber and in accordance with the owner's wishes and future intentions, recommend the best alternatives for its improvement.

Bearer explained that woodlots are categorized in two phases: a precommercial stand and a traditional or commercial forest stand.

In a precommercial stand, a state forester will mark the trees which should be

thinned out to allow the remaining trees more room and sunlight to grow to their potential.

In a commercial stand the state forester must supply a list of professional consulting foresters from which the landowner may choose to consult.

A consulting forester is a self-employed professional who works for a fee. He can provide a stand analysis make an appraisal as to the worth of the timber, do thinning, market the timber, map the area, make a conservation plan, reseed, or provide for stand conversions.

The large audience also learned that cost sharing programs for timber stand improvements are available through county ASCS offices.

These cost share programs may go as high as covering 75 percent of \$65 per acre for improving woodlots, through the Forestry Incentive Program.

In thinning a woodlot, the foresters explained they remove the trees that won't amount to much, leaving space for more productive, healthier trees. This space for which the trees are competing for sunlight is called the crown space.

When the crown space is rated at 100 percent, that area is growing all it possibly can, Bearer explained. Those woodlots are then stagnate and can't

produce anymore timber than already there.

Usually the state foresters will trim a woodlot back to 70 percent, leaving the rest of the crown space open for tree growth. Careful consideration to cutting trees is given during the thinning.

Damaged trees and big old 'wolf' trees are usually culled, depending on the purposes or uses intended for the woodlot.

Woodlots can be used for recreation, habitat, scenery, fuel-wood or timber purposes, each needing to be managed a different way.

With the present interest in fuelwood, a film stressing safety when using a chain saw was also shown to the audience. It explained the proper procedure in felling a tree and pruning branches. The care of a chain saw was highlighted as well.

Loose hanging branches in trees called "widow makers" also were mentioned. Foresters advised everyone to stay clear of such trees. Emphasized was the use of a hard hat and tight fitting clothing that has less chance of being snagged on a tree or branch.

Following the film and discussion the program was moved to woodlot located in the Blue Marsh Dam Project where everyone had the opportunity to see the difference in a thinned woodlot and natural, unmanaged stand.



John Bearer, State Forester for Berks County told a large audience how to turn their farm woodlot into some extra money with a bit of help from several agencies.

## McCarrell again wins state hay show

**HARRISBURG** — Jay McCarrell of Eighty Four, Washington County, exhibited the grand champion hay sample at the 64th Farm Show. His entry was a heat cured later cutting of alfalfa.

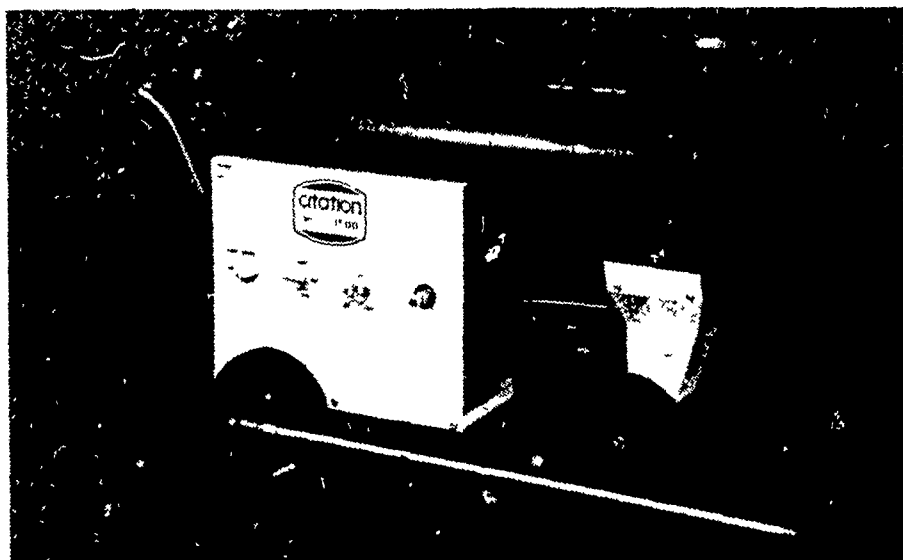
The reserve champion, a field cured later cutting of alfalfa and grass mixed, was exhibited by Duane E. Shuman of Bloomsburg, Columbia County.

**Class winners are:**  
 Class 1 Alfalfa First Cutting 1 Milton Hershey School Founders Hall Hershey 2 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown 3 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown 4 A L Orner Sons R1 Rockton 5 John R Sankey R2 Clearfield  
 Class 2 Alfalfa Later Cutting 1 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown 2 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown 3 Albert Hack R2 Berwick 4 Floyd & Barry Ott R2 Bangor 5 George Ott R4 Bangor  
 Class 3 Alfalfa Grass Mixed First Cutting 1 Duane Shuman R8 Bloomsburg 2 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown 3 A L Orner Sons R1 Rockton 4 Don Kregel Cherry Tree 5 LeRoy F Rowles R1 Olanta  
 Class 4 Alfalfa Grass Mixed Later Cutting 1 Duane Shuman R8 Bloomsburg 2 Michael Reich R1 Beaver Springs 3 Fred Brodzma Warriors Mark 4 Dan Gearhart R1 Clearfield, 5 Steve Smith R2 Mansfield  
 Class 5 Clover 1 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley 2 Daniel Brubaker R1 Ephrata 3 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown 4 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown, 5 Ashcombe Dairy Dover  
 Class 6 Clover Timothy Mixed 1 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley, 2 A L Orner Sons R1 Rockton 3 Paul Jacobs Dover, 4 Joe Stump R10 York 5 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown  
 Class 8 Birdstoot Trefol mixed 2 Tim Kunes Frenchville  
 Class 9 Grass First cutting 1 Daniel

H Schlegel R1 Oley 2 Tim Kunes Frenchville 3 LeRoy F Rowles R2 Olanta 4 Galawn Farms Dover 5 Nevin Lambert Jr R3 Stoystown  
 Class 10 Grass Later cutting 1 Elwood & Bruce Fox R2 Bangor 2 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley 3 Nevin G Rice R1 Blain 4 Dan & Tim Alderfer Harleysville 5 Nelson Narehood R1 Beavertown  
 Class 11 Mixed More than 50 percent of legumes 1 Penn Smith, R2 Mansfield 2 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown 3 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley 4 Carper Acres Dairy Fm., R2 McClure 5 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown  
 Class 12 Mixed More than 50 percent of grasses 1 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley 2 Carl J Pearce Kylertown 3 Fred Long R1 Curwensville 4 Tim Kunes Frenchville 5 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown  
 Class 13 Summer annual grasses Sudangrass 4 Donald Bollinger R3 Myerstown 5 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown  
 Class 14 Alfalfa First cutting 1 Milton Hershey School Fm Founders Hall Hershey 2 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four  
 Class 15 Alfalfa Later cutting 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four 2 Milton Hershey School Fm Founders Hall Hershey 3 Donald Bollinger R2 Myerstown  
 Class 16 Alfalfa Grass mixed First cutting 3 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four  
 Class 17 Alfalfa Grass mixed Later cutting 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four  
 Class 18 Clover 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four

Class 19 Clover Timothy mixed 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four  
 Class 22 Grass First cutting 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four 2 Milton Hershey School Fm Founders Hall Hershey  
 Class 23, Grass Later cutting 1 Jay McCarrell, Eighty Four  
 Class 24 Mixed More than 50 percent of legumes 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four 2 Paul Bollinger R2 Myerstown  
 Class 25, Mixed More than 50 percent of grasses 2 Jay McCarrell, Eighty Four  
 Class 26 Summer Annual Grasses 1 Jay McCarrell Eighty Four  
 Class 27 Alfalfa First cutting 1 Dan & Tim Alderfer Harleysville 2 Hughes Brothers LaJosa  
 Class 28 Alfalfa Later cutting 1 Nevin G Rice R1 Blain 2 Glenn & Barry Hicks R2 DuBois 3 Albert Hack R2 Berwick 4 Danny Shaw R2 Curwensville 5 Daniel Schlegel R1 Oley  
 Class 29 Alfalfa Grass mixed First cutting 2 Dan & Tim Alderfer Harleysville  
 Class 30 Alfalfa Grass mixed Later cutting 1 George N Rice, R1 Blain 2 Owen Hotecker R4 Johnstown 3 Daniel Schlegel R1 Oley  
 Class 31 Mixed hay More than 50 percent legumes 1 Glenn & Barry Hicks R2 DuBois 2 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley 3 Owen Hotecker R4 Johnstown  
 Class 32 Mixed Hay More than 50 percent grasses 1 Nevin G Rice, R1 Blain 2 Daniel H Schlegel R1 Oley

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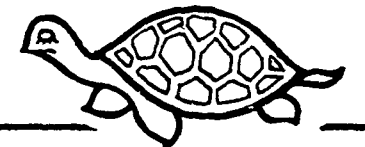
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