

## Cut Firewood Now For Next Winter

NEWARK, Del. — If you want to be sure of a roaring blaze in your fireplace or woodstove next winter, now's the time to cut firewood, according to University of Delaware extension agricultural engineer Dr. Jim Scarborough. "Firewood needs to be seasoned properly before burning, or a lot of the hard work, and money put into it is wasted," he says.

Wood produces more heat and less creosote if it has been seasoned (air-dried) for at least six months before burning. Fresh-cut wood may weigh two to three tons per cord, but green wood has a lower heat value than cured wood because some of the heat of burning must be used to drive off excess moisture. Seasoning allows the sun's energy to draw off the water in firewood before burning. "While it can take as much as a

year for split and stacked wood to reach a fully stable, air-dry condition, the time left before next winter is enough for firewood that's cut now to attain over 90 percent of its potential heat value," Scarborough says.

To speed the seasoning process, he suggests stacking split wood off the ground in an open area. A transparent cover, which also helps keep off rain, and unrestricted air flow around the wood will act as solar driers. "At minimum, a tarp should be used as a cover," Scarborough says. Just remember to leave the sides of the stack uncovered so air can circulate through it. Don't store firewood in your garage or basement in order to dry it. You may be inviting termites and other insects into your home."

When buying wood, think heavy, the engineer advises. While firewood is generally sold by the cord, a stack 4 by 4 by 8 feet, the value of air-dried wood depends mostly on its weight, not its volume. Hickories and oaks are the heaviest woods, weighing nearly two tons per cord air-dry; ash weighs more than one and a half tons; pine and most soft hardwoods weigh less than one and a half tons; while yellow poplar weighs barely one ton per cord.

Other factors to be considered when buying firewood include the wood's heat value versus its cost, aroma, tendency to smoke, ease of lighting, tendency to spark, burn-

ing time or intensity, and ease of splitting.

"If you cut your own wood," Scarborough says, "make chainsaw safety your top priority. A chainsaw is the most dangerous tool most people ever handle. Few chainsaw injuries are minor."

When cutting wood from your own lot, also consider the timber and esthetic value of the trees. Cut low-value ones first—those which are small, crooked or partly rotted. Cutting them can improve your woodlot by allowing the remaining trees to grow faster.

The Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service (NRAES) has published a 90-page

booklet, "NRAES-23, Burning Wood and Coal," to aid people who want to use firewood as a fuel. This booklet describes the characteristics of commonly burned woods, tells how to season and store wood, and also provides much useful information on selecting and using stoves and fireplaces. Copies of this publication are available for \$4.95 by writing: Extension Agricultural Engineer—Plan Service, Room 058 Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19717-1303.

Make checks payable to the University of Delaware and be sure to specify NRAES-23 when ordering.

## BOU-MATIC Offers New Plate Cooler

MADISON, Wisc. — You can preserve milk quality and prevent possible income loss with the new BOU-MATIC Dari-Kool Plate Cooler from Dairy Equipment Co., Madison, Wis.

This new plate cooler offers more efficient cooling at a very economical price. Special herringbone design causes the warm milk and cool water to "roll" as they pass through alternate stainless steel plates, thereby transferring maximum heat out of the milk. The resulting lower tank blend temperature keeps bacteria count down, and

prevents excessive agitation — important for preserving milk quality.

A Dari-Kool Plate Cooler also cuts compressor run time (how much depends on flow rates and water temperature). This saves wear on the compressor and can extend its life. The Dari-Kool plate cooler is very compact, and cleans-in-place during the wash cycle. It can be easily expanded for increased milk flow.

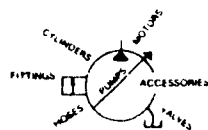
For more information, contact BOU-MATIC Milking Systems • Dairy Equipment Company • P.O. Box 8050 • Madison, WI 53708.

Get 21% to 49% more horsepower at no extra cost

Use Gates Hi-Power® II V-Belts and Pulleys for superior performance and economy.

Available at

15% OFF Thru March



BEILER HYDRAULICS



Box 255A, R.D. #1, N. Shirk Rd.

New Holland, PA 17557

(717) 354-6066

## Pole Shed & Barn Material Center

ROUGH CYPRESS BOARDS For Fence And Gates • 1x6 • 1x8 • 1x10 • 1x12

Large Selection of PANELING In Stock

- 1x8 Barn Siding 6' to 16'
- 2x8 T&G Yellow Pine Barn Flooring

Large Selection of LAWRENCE HARDWARE

- Door Hangers • Bumpers
- Brackets • Stay Rollers
- Track • Latches

PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER

- Sizes • 2x4 • 2x10 • 6x6
- 2x6 • 4x4 • 2x6
- 2x8 • 4x6 • T&G

Excellent For:

- ★ FARM BUILDING
- ★ PATIO ★ FENCE
- ★ POLE SHEDS
- ★ SUNDECK ★ OTHERS

Large Selection of ALL DIMENSION LUMBER



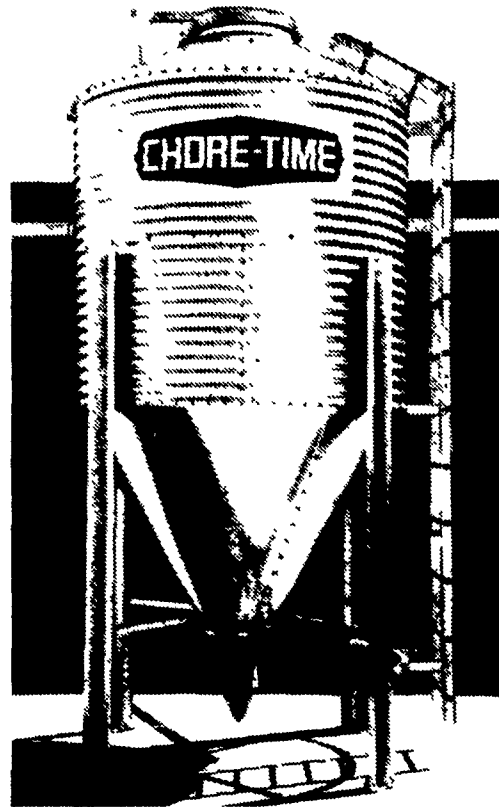
200 BRIMMER AVENUE, NEW HOLLAND, PA

Phone 717-354-4321

Hours Daily 7 AM to 5 PM, Saturday 7 AM to 12 Noon

CHORE-TIME

## CHORE-TIME FEED BINS



We Will Assemble And Deliver Bins To Your Farm!

The feed bin is the very heart of any feeding system. If the bin lets you down, the system quits.

That's why we put so many quality features into our complete line of feed bins - which includes 6-foot diameter steel or polyethylene (great for H.M. corn), 7-foot, 9-foot, and 12-foot models. All are available in several capacities - so you have a wide selection of bins to fit your needs.

Here are just a few of the quality features that make our bins such an outstanding buy:

- Sturdy Ladder System
- All Bin Seams Are Double Caulked
- Choice of 16 or 25 Inch Hopper Opening
- All Galvanized Steel Parts

COMPLETE SYSTEMS, EQUIPMENT, SALES, INSTALLATION, SERVICE FOR CATTLE, HOGS AND POULTRY.

We Welcome Your Inquiries - Call Or Write

AGRI-EQUIPMENT, INC.

RD 4, East Farmersville Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522 (Lancaster County)

(717) 354-6520

HOURS Mon.-Fri. 7:30 to 5:00 Sat. 7:30 to 11:30 (Parts Only)