



Woodland News

Pennsylvania's 1990

Outstanding Tree Farmers

George and Joan Freeman from Knox in Clarion County are Pennsylvania's 1990 Outstanding Tree Farmers.

The Freemans began purchasing forest land in Clarion in 1957. By the late 1960s, they owned nearly 700 acres of land. From the beginning, George and Joan were interested in managing trees on their woodlands. Much of the land they purchased over the years had been cut over and was in need of intensive management. Old abandoned fields, excessive grapevines throughout the woodlot, and the need for timber stand improvement cuts were the challenges they faced.

And so the hard work began. They planted more than 44,000 tree species, including red pine, larch, spruce, white pine, and small quantities of hardwoods on the old fields to make them productive again.

They eradicated grapevines on 300 acres of the property. They removed culls and low-quality trees along with marketable timber. Three timber sales carried out with the help of John Chapman, Jr., a consulting forester, yielded 270,000 board feet of saw timber, 878 tons of pulpwood, and a financial reward for their work.

Through their efforts, the Freemans turned their woods into a highly productive Tree Farm. Their property has been a certified Tree Farm since 1975. With help and professional forestry advice from Dave Williams and Robert Merrill, both foresters with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the Freeman's management plan is creating a healthy and productive forest for today and the future.

The Freeman's objective for their Tree Farm is described by the following quote from George Freeman: "Tree farming is more than developing a marketable timber stand. It is a love, a haven to

develop dreams, a place to work, play, and relax. Many lessons are taught by one's experiences, especially patience, faith, respect and responsibility — qualities we apply to our everyday life. Your efforts, using good conservation practices, are rewarded by the beauty of nature."

— Scott Kurtzmann, *The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co.*, in "Pennsylvania's Tree Farm News," Sept. 1990.

Pennsylvania's Kitchen Cabinet Industry

As part of a continuing effort to obtain information on Pennsylvania's secondary wood products industries, this study determined the size, structure, material inputs used, and other characteristics of the kitchen cabinet industry. For many of Pennsylvania's forest products industries, national statistics are available but state-level data are lacking.

Information received from 55 percent of the estimated 239 companies active in the industry indicated the average firm annually produced 42,000 cabinets and had \$5.1 million in sales. To obtain this level of production, the average firm employed 67 workers and used more than 497,000 board feet of lumber and 1 million square feet of panel stock.

In 1987, Pennsylvania's kitchen cabinet industry produced 7.2 million cabinets, had annual sales of \$1.1 billion, employed 16,000 people, and used in excess of 83

million board feet of lumber and 222 million square feet of panel stock.

Approximately 34 million board feet of lumber was purchased from out-of-state suppliers. Principal species used were red oak (*Quercus rubra*), 38.8 percent; black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), 22.4 percent; yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), 10.3 percent; western white pine (*Pinus monticola*), 7.3 percent; white oak (*Quercus alba*), 4.6 percent; and both sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) at 3.7 percent. The remaining 9.4 percent consisted of hickory, ash, walnut, and various foreign species.

Other materials besides lumber and wood-based panels were used to produce, finish, and ship kitchen cabinets. Expenditures for hardware, finishing materials, packaging, and adhesives amounted to \$82.1 million — 38.3 percent of this amount being purchased from out-of-state vendors.

Thirty-seven percent of the kitchen cabinet manufacturers reported the purchase of dimension materials with approximately one-third being purchased out-of-state. Over one-half of the dimension materials were purchased fully machined, 26 percent partially machined, 8 percent cut-to-size particleboard, 6 percent cut-to-size laminated particleboard, and 3 percent rough dimension.

This study indicated that Pennsylvania's kitchen cabinet industry has 38 percent more firms than is indicated by the United States Bureau of Census data and 10,000 more employees than reported in census information.

— Dr. Walter W. Johnson, Dr. Paul R. Blankenhorn, and Lynn Doud, *School of Forest Resources, College of Agriculture, Penn State.*

Resources

"Farming the Small Forest: A Guide for the Landowner" is a book for holders of 25 to 25,000 acres of timberland who depend on mills to buy and harvest their timber.

It is written for folks who need to understand forest management practices, silviculture, and government policies. The author, Laurence C. Walker, is a research and management forester who was dean of the School of Forestry at Stephen F. Austin University in Texas for 13 years.

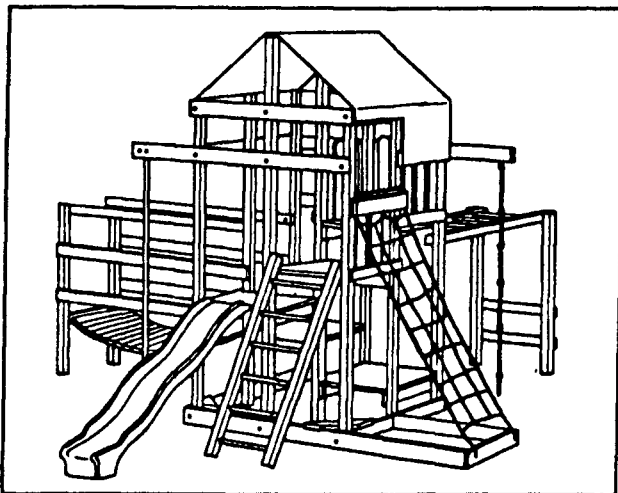
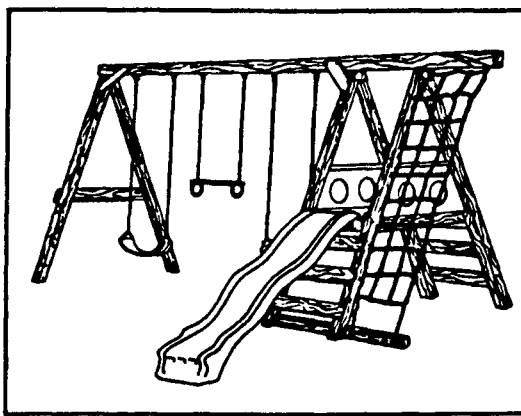
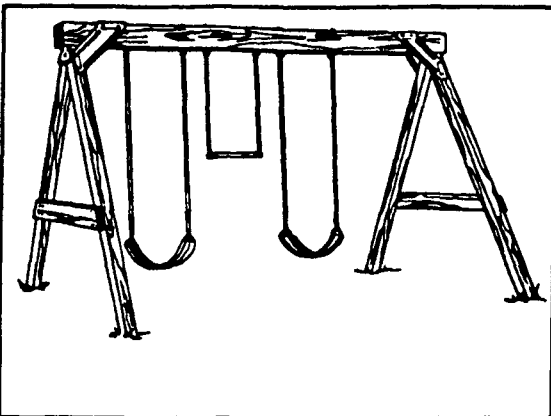
The 176-page book is divided into five sections: silviculture, harvesting, administration, uses other than for wood, and stewardship, plus a glossary of forest terms and scientific names of trees mentioned in the text. For more information, call (800) 848-5594.

The "1991 Forest Farmer Manual" is an educational reference tool for timberland owners, foresters, consultants, loggers, and other individuals who are connected to forestry in the South in any way. The manual provides information on how to operate and profit in today's environmentally sensitive business climate. The manual is available for \$20 plus \$3 postage and handling from the Forest Farmers Association, Inc., P.O. Box 95385, Atlanta, GA 30347. The manual is free with Forest Farmers Association membership.



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