

Don't Allow Firewood Gathering To Turn Into Tragedy

HUNTINGDON (Huntingdon Co.) — Many people will go to the woods this fall to saw firewood and several may be injured or killed in chain saw accidents, said an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Trained, professional chain saw operators use proper personal protective equipment, well-maintained modern chain saws and appropriate safety procedures to keep themselves and their co-workers at minimum risk of accident or injury," said Lee Stover, research assistant in the School of Forest Resources.

Stover, who teaches chain saw safety, said that people who use chain saws infrequently can be at a high risk of incurring a chain saw-related accident. "Occasional users are much less likely to have a well-maintained saw and personal protective equipment. They probably have not had safety training and lack the skills needed to reduce chain saw hazards.

"One of my biggest concerns is that occasional users may not re-

cognize the hazards in a cutting situation until they experience them," he said. "This may be too late. Professional users are trained to understand the hazards associated with the chain saw itself and can analyze the hazards in an area before starting to cut."

A key hazard of chain saw use is kickback. "If the chain on the upper quadrant of the tip of the guide bar touches an object such as another log or branch, the saw can suddenly jerk backward and upward," Stover said.

"To help avoid kickback, one should always be aware of the position of the tip of the guide bar and keep it away from all objects.

"For a better understanding of how to operate chain saws safely, study one of the modern chain saw safety manuals available from many major chain saw manufacturers," Stover said. "Check with your local dealer or distributor."

Common safety recommendations for chain saws include:

- Grip the saw firmly with both hands when the engine is running.

Keep the right hand on the rear handle and the left hand on the front handle, with thumbs and fingers encircling the handles. This helps to maintain control in the event of kickback. Keep the handles dry, clean and free of oil or fuel.

- Make sure your cutting area is free from obstructions. Do not let the nose of the guide bar contact a log, branch or any other object.

- Cut at high engine speeds.
- Do not overreach or cut above shoulder height.

- Do not operate a chain saw when you are fatigued.

- Use safety footwear, snug-fitting clothing, protective gloves, and eye, hearing, and head protection. Do not start cutting until you have secure footing and a planned path to retreat from the falling tree.

- Use extreme caution when cutting small brush and saplings. These may catch on the saw chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.

Poultry Pointers



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30 percent and ammonia at levels less than 25 ppm. This is your goal.

The third factor required to maximize weight gain is to reduce the environmental challenges in the house. Nothing can decrease growth rate like enteritis, a respiratory problem, or a disease that causes death just prior to marketing.

Disease challenges decrease uniformity, or in other words, produce more stunted, small, nonefficient birds. Biosecurity is therefore a necessity. Proper vaccination methods are a must. Cleaning and disinfecting, timely removal and disposal of mortality, decreasing stress (cold stress, heat stress, water or feed starvation, ammonia, dust, etc.) are needed for each flock.

Cleaning up around facilities, rodent baiting, timely removal of floods and rebedding, thorough

cleaning and disinfecting between flocks or when total cleanout is completed, and maintaining good communication with service personnel to obtain timely and effective identification and treatment of disease challenges can reduce diseases that will enter your flocks.

It is best not to have any disease in your flock, but it is also unrealistic. Therefore, surveillance and vigilance over your flock are necessary and allow you to maximize your flock's performance.

In conclusion, best flock gains are possible when care is taken to manage ventilation, temperature, and environmental challenges. Essentially, it is preventative maintenance for your poultry flock. When the environment is controlled and air quality maintained, the birds can use all of their resources for maximizing weight gain.

Laurel Valley, D&D Largest

Simgenetic Breeders

BOZEMAN, Mont.— Laurel Valley Farms of Ligonier and D & D Land & Cattle Co. of Washington were the two largest breeders of Simmental/Simbrah cattle in the state of Pennsylvania for fiscal year 1993, according to the American Simmental Association.

Also included in the top five were Rolling Ridge Farms of Evans City, Maple Cove Breeders, of Pittsburgh and Harvest Plantation of Franklin.

The figures represent cattle that were registered from July 1, 1992, to June 30, 1993, with the American Simmental Association.

"We are very excited about the growth of the Simmental breed in the United States," said Brian Kitchen, executive vice president of the association. "The Simmental breed is well positioned to take advantage of the progressive changes happening in the beef cattle industry, specifically in the area of value-based marketing."

The American Simmental Association, which also serves as the registry for the Simbrah breed, finished its fiscal year with an increase in registrations of 3.5 percent (2,766 animals), which is the third straight year for an increase.

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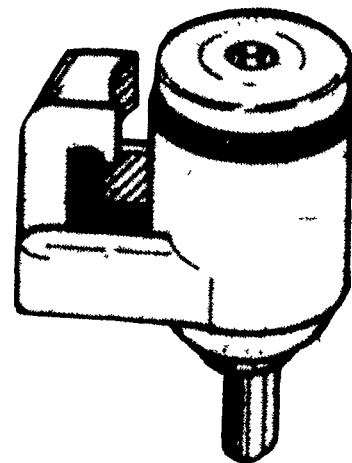
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