

Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

MORE FUEL FROM THE WOODLOTS.



It is Where Team-Hauled Wood Can Be Used Instead of Railroad-Hauled Coal That Changes of Fuel Should Be Made.

FARMERS ASSIST COAL STRINGENCY

Use of More Wood Would Aid Economy in Commodity.

MANY DOLLARS ARE IDLE

It is Where Team-Hauled Wood Can Be Used Instead of Railroad-Hauled Coal That Change of Fuel Would Help.

Are you a coal burner when you might be a wood burner? Have you a woodland that isn't working? What can the town man and the suburban dweller do about the coal stringency? Much would be accomplished toward meeting the present situation arising from the unparalleled demand for coal and from the great burden on the nation's railroads, it is believed, if not only the farmers who have woodlands but city and suburban real estate owners possessing more or less wooded tracts of land would draw on these areas for a part, at least, of their fuel supply. In the neighborhood of small cities as well as larger ones there are many woodlots from which much fuel wood could be obtained without encroachment on the needed shade trees and without detracting from the beauty of the landscape. In fact, proper thinning in many cases will help the development of desirable trees.

Save by Burning Wood.

As an instance of how coal can be saved by the burning of wood, the United States department of agriculture has cited figures for 17 northern and eastern states with a rural population of about 20,000,000 which, it is estimated, uses annually about 18,000,000 tons of coal. It is figured that the substitution of wood for one-fourth of the coal burned by farmers and for one-tenth of the coal burned in villages would result in a saving of nearly 3,000,000 tons, or between 65,000 and 70,000 carloads.

It is where team-hauled wood can be used instead of railroad-hauled coal that the change of fuel should be made. While it is not expected that the substitution of wood for coal could be complete, it is true that for heating many kinds of buildings wood is the more convenient and ordinarily the cheaper fuel.

This is particularly true in buildings for which heat is required only occasionally, but then is wanted in large volume at short notice.

Arrange for Burning Wood.

Furnaces are built especially for burning wood in three or four-foot lengths. If a stove grate is too coarse for wood a sheet-iron cover over a good part of the surface will make it suitable, or a few bricks can be used.

PRIVATE WOODLOTS HELP MEET A COAL SHORTAGE.

Throwing open the woodlot on his suburban place to all who would come and cut, a Washington (D. C.) man aided shivering families to meet the coal stringency a few weeks ago. Then he located some 5,000 cords more in either fallen or dead standing timber in wooded lands nearby and obtained the consent of the owners to allow the public to cut fuel in needed quantities under proper supervision.

Are the woodlots around your town doing their part in the fuel emergency?

Wood grates are sold in two pieces which can be inserted through the fire door and placed on top of the regular grate.

In heating value one standard cord of well-seasoned hickory, oak, beech, birch, hard maple, ash, elm, locust or cherry is approximately equal to one ton (2,000 pounds) of anthracite coal.

Of soft maple a cord and a half is required to equal one ton of coal, and of cedar, poplar or basswood, two cords. One cord of mixed wood, well seasoned, equals in heating value at least one ton of average-grade bituminous coal.

The most common method of making cord wood is to cut the trees into four-foot lengths with an ax and split the larger pieces. The pieces are then piled in a standard cord, which is eight feet long, four feet high and four feet wide. The contents are 128 cubic feet, of which 70 per cent is wood and 30 per cent air.

Best Heating Value.

To have the best heating value as well as to reduce the cost of hauling, wood should be thoroughly seasoned.

HOW MUCH WOOD WOULD A WOODCUTTER CUT IF—

Taking white oak as fairly typical of the hard woods and white pine for the soft woods, the figures below will show approximately the amount of cord wood that may be cut from trees of different sizes. The figures will vary considerably with the extent at which the tops and branches are utilized and on the taper of the tree trunks. With forest-grown trees, utilizing the branches and tops to about two inches, these amounts may be expected:

White Oak.

Ten inches in diameter, 50 feet high, one-sixth to one-seventh of a cord; 15 inches in diameter, 60 feet high, about two-fifths of a cord; 24 inches in diameter, 70 feet high, one and one-fifth cords.

White Pine.

Ten inches in diameter, 50 feet high, one-eighth of a cord; 15 inches in diameter, 60 feet high, one-third of a cord; 24 inches in diameter, 70 feet high, seven-eighths of a cord.

which means drying it from six to eight months when piled so as to get a good circulation of air. However, 50 per cent of the moisture may be removed in three months.

Because of the unusual demand for cord wood it is believed that the present time offers unparalleled opportunity not only for farmers to improve their woodlands by cutting out the poorer trees and selling them, but for private and public owners of wooded tracts to clear their lands at a profit. Communities which feel they are threatened with a serious fuel shortage will do well to take measures to stimulate the cutting of wood. Such action may be viewed as part of America's co-operation in the national endeavor to feed and sustain America's army and allies.

Without any special inconvenience and without any risk to health or well-being, the sugar consumption of the average person can be lowered. Anyone who uses sugar in excessive amounts will be the better for using less.

More Food From New Islands.

Our new possessions in the Atlantic—the Virgin Islands—will become more nearly self-supporting if the aim of the United States department of agriculture is realized. A representative of the federal department investigated the agricultural situation in these islands last season and made suggestions intended to help the people there to produce more food.

The only crops the investigator found under extensive cultivation were sugar cane and Sea Island cotton, the yields of which are low compared with other West Indian islands. The representative found that there was an almost complete absence of vegetables and fruit on the markets, indicating very limited supplies of locally grown food materials. Stock growing is followed to some extent, but improved stock is needed, better forage plants should be introduced, and more attention is needed to the proper handling of stock, dairying and other farm enterprises.

TRADING IN PULETS AND HENS IS NOW FORBIDDEN.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Trading in live or freshly killed hens and pullets anywhere in the United States is forbidden in an order announced today by the United States food administration. February 23 is fixed as the date when fresh stock must be disposed of and adds that additional stocks may not be purchased.

By restricting the killing of chickens which have been heavy layers, the administration hopes to increase the production of eggs and allow them to be put in storage at a reasonable price.

Make the Hens Help Win the Fight.

In an effort to stimulate North Carolina farmers and poultry keepers to do their part toward doubling our poultry supply during this year, B. F. Kaupp, head of the poultry work of the College and Experiment Station is recommending that increased poultry production for North Carolina be included as a vital part of the general food production campaign.

The ten following rules if observed will aid in increasing our production:

1. Keep more pure bred hens of a good laying strain.
2. Keep one breed, the best you can get.
3. Select your breeding eggs from the best layers—the latest hens to molt in the fall and winter.
4. Select large uniform eggs of even shape and color.
5. Hatch pullets in March, April and May.
6. Keep plenty of green feed where the hens can graze it regularly.
7. Provide good feed and housing, and provide water in clean vessels.
8. Feed a variety of grains, such as wheat, corn, oats, and sunflower seed.
9. Feed a dry mash of corn meal, cottonseed meal, wheat bran and shorts or ground oats.
10. Keep a good scratch of straw and throw all grain feed in it to induce exercise.—N. C. Extension Service.

Legume Cultures and Pulverized Limestone.

Take no chances this year. Get the best—most virile and effective—inoculating bacterial cultures from the N. C. Department of Agriculture for your spring and summer legume crops—clovers, alfalfa, peas, beans and other legumes.

Pulverized limestone is recognized as one of the most essential factors in economic crop production in N. C. The farmers of this state have a limestone pulverizing plant in east Tennessee that will soon be ready to ship high grade pulverized stone into N. C. at cost.

W. A. GRAHAM,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

Carelessness and a Match.

"A boy hunting for his coat in a dark closet, using matches for a light," is the cause assigned by an Assistant State Fire Marshal for a fire which resulted in the total destruction of a house in Daviess County.

The above is but one of the many reports of carelessness that are received daily by the State Fire Marshal. Such fires as the above help to make up the terrible annual fire waste due to preventable causes, and serve to emphasize more clearly the need of greater caution on the part of citizens to the end that the number of fires of careless origin may be reduced to the minimum.

Careless fires at this time are more heinous, when the Nation is facing the enormous task of feeding and clothing not only its own people, but those of its allies. We play into the hands of our enemies when we permit the needless destruction by fire of natural and manufactured resources. A single fire can nullify the labor of hundreds of persons and destroy the production of thousands of acres.—Indiana Bulletin.

His Wife Did It.

A man who had been drinking too much liquor for his own good was induced to sign the pledge the other day. His wife was delighted. She took the document and said:

"You must let me have it. I will keep it for you."

So the paper was confided to her custody. On the next day the man was drinking again as freely as before.

"How is this?" asked a friend, "You signed the pledge yesterday, and now you are drinking whiskey again."

"It's all right," replied the pledge-signer in unsteady tones, "I didn't have to keep that pledge. My wife says she'll keep it for me. That's the kind of a wife to have, old fellow."—Chicago Herald.

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