

CAN HELP TO RELIEVE DEMAND FOR COAL AND THE STRAIN ON RAILWAYS



Make Wood Take the Place of Coal to Heat the Homes This Winter.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Farmers who own woodlands and people in cities, towns, and villages who can purchase wood from nearby farms can help in the coming winter—as last winter—to relieve the demand for coal and the strain on railway capacity by burning wood in place of coal.

It is not expected substitution of wood for coal will be complete or universal, as for many purposes coal is much more convenient. But for heating many kinds of buildings wood is the more convenient and cheaper fuel. This is particularly true in the case of churches, halls, summer cottages, and other buildings for which heat is required only occasionally but then is wanted in large volume at short notice.

Methods of Making Cordwood.

The most common method of making cordwood is to cut the trees into 4-foot lengths with the ax and split the larger pieces. The pieces are then piled in a standard cord, which is 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet wide. The contents are 128 cubic feet, of which about 70 per cent is wood and 30 per cent air. Wood cut 4 feet long can be sold to brickyards, limekilns, metal-working plants, and other industries, but is too large for household use. This method is used chiefly where the tree growth is comparatively small, as in second growth, because such wood splits easily.

Another method, and one better adapted for old-growth hardwoods, which are difficult to split, is to saw the tree into logs of convenient lengths, say from 10 to 15 feet. These are "sawed" but to the edge of the woodland and there sawed and split into lengths proper for the stove or furnace. The sawing is usually done

by machine, driven either by gasoline or by electricity. The wood is piled 4 feet high and 8 feet long, such a pile being called a "stove-wood" or "running" cord or "run." When the wood is sawed into 16-inch lengths, as is customary with stove material, three runs are theoretically equivalent to one cord. Actually they contain somewhat more wood, since small pieces can be packed more closely than larger ones.

Wood a Profitable Farm Crop. Firewood is expected to bring a better profit this year than ever before. It is a much less perishable crop than many which the farmer raises. When properly piled, the better kinds of wood will last from two to three years, although wood steadily deteriorates after the first year.

To have the best heating value, as well as to reduce the cost of hauling wood should be thoroughly seasoned, which means air-drying it from six to eight months. However, when piled so as to get a good circulation of air, 50 per cent of the moisture may be removed in three months. Wood cut in October and November, therefore, may be burned the latter part of the winter.

The prices which cordwood likely will bring this year offer the farmer an opportunity to improve his woodland by weeding out the inferior trees. In the past this has seldom been practicable, for the inferior wood was not marketable. With the prices indicated for the coming winter, thinning becomes practicable over a wide range of country in the vicinity of good markets. The woodland owner may secure specific information from his state forester, his county agent, his state agricultural college, or from the United States Forest Service, Washington, D. C.

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VICTORY FARMS

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Iowa farms which put in their quota of the Liberty wheat crop are to be designated as "Victory Farms," according to announcement by the county farm bureau of the state. Posters with the legend "Victory Farm" will be given to the farmers by the school district co-operators late this fall. Those who sow spring wheat will be given their posters next spring. The wheat quota is one acre out of every eight. Allowances will be made on farms having an unusually large amount of unfillable land.

distribution giving the maximum effect. The beneficial effects of a comparatively heavy application of finely ground rock phosphate extend over several years, as a portion of the phosphate becomes soluble each year. These increases in yields are greater, as a rule, in subsequent years.

To be most effective ground phosphate rock should be applied to soil that is well supplied with organic matter. Such soils are always richer in carbonic acid than those of low organic content, and this acid is important in effecting the solubility and availability of the phosphate rock. Bacterial activity, which is more noticeable in soils high in organic matter, is also valuable in aiding the solubility of rock phosphate.

QUALITY BUTTER IS WINNER

Prosperous Creameries Make High-Grade Article and in Quantities to Meet Demand.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Marked success of the creameries of Wisconsin and Minnesota—the two largest butter-producing states in the Union—is due principally to the fact that they produce butter of good quality and in a large quantity to meet market demands.

Where it is possible creameries should co-operate in producing a uniform high grade of butter and make shipments to market in larger quantities than is possible when they operate separately.

Most of the creameries in Wisconsin and Minnesota buy separated cream rather than whole milk on a butterfat basis. This plan reduces the cost of collecting and enables the dairyman to keep the skim milk on his farm. Where whole milk is sold to the creameries, usually the skim milk is returned to the patrons. Butterfat also is sold to patrons to be used as feed.

A number of creameries recognizing the relation of poor cream to poor butter, which on the market sells at low price, have sought to encourage more frequent deliveries by establishing grades of cream and by paying a premium of from 2 to 3 cents a pound of butterfat for the better grades of cream. This plan has met with the approval of many dairymen, who now deliver their cream daily during the summer and every other day during the winter. A number of creameries which churn the first and second grade cream separately, showed an average increase in price of 3.8 cents a pound for the butter churned from the first-grade cream. Shipment of butter to market usually was made in lead refrigerated freight cars.

PHOSPHATE ROCK IS USED AS FERTILIZER

If Finely Ground and Well Distributed Gives Good Results.

This Source of Phosphorus Being More Extensively Used Than Formerly on Account of Shortage of Sulphuric Acid.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Acid phosphate, which is used extensively as a commercial fertilizer, has doubled in price during the last few years. Farmers of this country are now facing a serious shortage of this material because the manitowish industry is consuming much sulphuric acid which would ordinarily be used in the manufacture of acid phosphate.

The situation has led users of fertilizers to give greater consideration to the use of ground raw rock phosphate. That this source of phosphorus is being used as fertilizer more extensively is shown by the fact that during 1918-17 at least six large companies entered the raw ground phosphate business and the annual consumption of this material has increased during the last decade to over 21,000 tons, involving an expenditure to the farmer of at least \$750,000.

Ground raw rock phosphate is far less soluble than acid phosphate. Its effectiveness appears to be due largely to its thorough distribution in the soil. This is brought about by liberal applications of very finely ground rock together with good tillage. When all these conditions are not fulfilled, it may take several years to obtain the

Should Be Quarantined.

Many physicians believe that anyone who has a bad cold should be promptly isolated to prevent other members of the family and associates from contracting the disease, especially about as catching as measles. One thing sure—the sooner you get the mucus of a cold the less the danger. And you will look a good deal better if you use a better medicine than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is the best for colds, coughs, and croup.

Do You Enjoy Your Meals?

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