

# Agricultural

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 a time as possible. The majority of our woodlots could be much more useful and profitable if we encourage fast growth by the following methods:

## FAST GROWTH

1. Thinning young stands to give proper spacing. This reduces competition and speeds up growth. A natural thinning would eventually occur by survival of the fittest, but by aiding nature, returns are much quicker.
2. Leaving fast-growing trees to grow instead of cutting them prematurely. A tree between three and eight inches in diameter, breast high is like a person in his teens, as the growth is greatest during this period.
3. Cutting mature, diseased, dead and dying trees creates small openings which will regenerate with valuable commercial species, instead of weeds and bushes, which ordinarily occur if the stand were clear-cut.
4. Plan your cutting so as to favor trees that are disease resistant and that are suited to that particular type of soil. The maximum cannot be obtained by fast growth alone, we must have quality as well.

First, the owner should know the most valuable kind of trees. He should cut wisely so that these trees are given the best chance to grow and propagate. Secondly, the trees that are left should be good shape or form. A good straight tree with an even taper is worth more than a crooked, forked or branched tree.

Third, only sound trees should be left in the woodlot. If rotten or defective trees are left, not only will their infection spread to healthy trees, but the wood from them will not produce high quality products.

Fourth, the larger the tree the greater the value provided it is sound. Not only does the sale of clear logs bring higher prices than smaller knotty ones, but the work involved in cutting and limbing trees of small diameter is twice as great as the cutting and limbing trees twice the diameter.

If a woodlot is managed properly on a sustained yield basis, mature trees can be cut year after year and yet there will be as much or more wood on the woodlot as there was at the start. Sustained yield means that the loss of wood through cutting and decay in one year should balance the growth put on in that year. Old trees should be used and the young trees left and protected until they grow up.

The woodlot should be integrated with the farm enterprise and treated as a crop, if it is going to serve its owner to the fullest extent.

## THE DAIRY BARN

Construction: Select a well drained location. The entrance to the dairy barn should be of concrete or asphalt. The stable floor should also be of concrete. Water tight wood may be used.

The walls and ceiling of the cow stable should be smooth and have tight joints, which are easily painted. In the construction of the walls and ceiling of the stable, avoid dust collecting ledges and rafters. Gutter should be properly constructed for good drainage. Provide a clean bedding for the cows when they are kept in the barn. Ask your county agricultural agent for information regarding dairy barn construction.

Ventilation: Provide an abundance of fresh air so as to remove feed and other odours and keep the barn dry. Avoid direct drafts of air through the barn which are generally filled with unsanitary dust particles.

Lighting: Allow four square feet of window space for each cow. It is much easier to clean a well lighted than a poorly lighted barn. Keep the windows clean also. Provide sufficient artificial light for working in the stable at night.

Sanitation: Remove the manure and used bedding at least 30 feet from the barn. Spread the manure on the field often. Clean the barn twice daily. Each time new bedding is added, scrape the old bedding to the rear of the stall.

In order to prevent the ac-

cumulation of dust and fine material in the stall, sweep the stalls often and sprinkle the floor and gutters with superphosphate or powdered lime. Cement floors should be washed clean where facilities are available. Always remove uneaten food from the mangers. Keep out dogs, cats, hogs and chickens. Wash milk stools. Paint or whitewash the interior of the milking barn when needed.

## MILK HOUSE

Location: Every dairy barn should have a milking house and for convenience, it should be constructed within six to ten feet of the barn. The location of the milk house should be such that prevailing winds during the dry season will carry dust away from it.

Construction: Select a well-drained site for the milk house. The floor should be water tight. Use concrete and provide good drainage. Further desirable features of the milk house are right, smooth walls and ceiling. Self-closing screen doors, opening outward. Racks for cans, pails, strainers and brushes. Facilities for washing and drying hands. The building should be rodent proof. Avoid ledges and exposed rafters to prevent the collecting of dust. Keep the interior of the milk house well painted and get rid of flies during the summer months.

Ventilation: Good air circulation prevents odours, keeps the walls and ceiling dry and helps to dry the clean utensils and prevents them from rusting. All openings in the milk house should be screened. The ceiling ventilation should be screened also. A high arched ceiling is preferable to a low ceiling.

Lighting: The milk house should be well lighted. The window space in the milk house should be equal to at least 10 per cent of the floor space and sufficient artificial light should be provided.

Equipment: Adequate equip the milk house for proper cleaning, sterilizing, and storing of utensils. Washing sink should be of a two-compartment type when steam and hot water sterilization is practiced and of the three-compartment type when the clean utensils are to be chemically sterilized. Provide adequate facilities for cooling and storing milk or cream in the milk house.

Water: The water supply must be pure. If in doubt, regarding the purity of the water, have it examined bacteriologically.

The Alexandra and District 4-H Club rounded up last year's business and made arrangements for the coming year when they met at the home of their Club leader, Mrs. Charles Jones, on Monday, January 19th. Miss Audrey MacMillan was present and each member brought a parent, or parents, and a friend interested in Club work—the gathering numbered thirty. The members brought the gathering to order by standing and singing the "National 4-H Club Pledge".

The value of club work and the requirements for completing the year's work were outlined, as well as several questions regarding the requirements for a beef class were answered.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Miss June MacCabe, distributed the last of the prize money with five members sharing \$27.00 from the Holstein Friesian Ass. (\$46.50 had been distributed previously).

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a trophy cup to Janet Jones by her fellow-members and leader in remembrance of her trip to National 4-H Club week last November.

A nominating committee was appointed to draw up a slate of officers for the coming year, this will be brought in the first regular meeting to be held at Pownal School on February 20th. A social period followed this brief business session with everyone joining in for games and a buffet lunch prepared by several parents of the Club members.

Earncliffe — Cherry Valley Calf Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Young on January 24th, with ten members present. The meeting opened with the 4-H Club Pledge, followed by the reading and approval of the minutes.

The business period was opened by Douglas Young, moving that a card party and dance be held at Earncliffe School on March 30. The committee appointed

was Dianne Carrier Verna Irving and Doug Young. It was moved and seconded to ask the Cherry Valley and Earncliffe Women's Institutes to assist us. The committees appointed were Program — Judy Carrier and Verna Irving; Roll call — name of tree, and lunch — Judy Carrier and Wayne Hayden. The collection for the evening was 47 cents. The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Carter, February 13th.

New Perth 4-H Calf Club was called to order on January 15th by the singing of the 4-H Pledge. After the minutes were read and approved the annual report of the club was read by the Secretary. The roll call of "what benefits you got out of the club in the past year" was answered by nineteen members.

A challenge from the Summerville Calf Club for a debate was accepted. After the reading of the Treasurer's report Mr. Dave MacLean was called upon to conduct the election of the officers for the year. They are as follows: President—George Dewar, Vice-President—Joyce Dewar, Secretary—Kenny Mellich, Assistant Leader—Mrs. J.L. Dewar.

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 1959, at 8 p.m. A vote of thanks was moved by the Club to Mr. James Cain, past Club leader, Mr. Dave MacLean, Agricultural Representative, and Mrs. Reg. Hinnebury for her project that raised five dollars for the club.

## TORONTO

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