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THERE'S MONEY  
IN  
YOUR WOODS.

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BY  
STUART H. BUEHLING



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U. S. FOREST SERVICE

Southeastern Forest Experiment Station.  
Asheville, N. C.

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times. Fire, though frequent in the past, has been kept out in recent years. Standing timber approximates 3300 board feet per acre, Doyle scale. This model woodlot will serve to demonstrate what a farmer can do in his woods with farm tools to get an annual cash income while improving the quality and quantity of remaining timber.

The Santee Experimental Forest is located in Berkeley County, South Carolina, and lies about 16 miles southeast of Moncks Corner, via Highway #402. Visitors welcome.

COSTS AND RETURNS - FARM WOODLOT  
SANTEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

<u>Product</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Unit price at roadside</u>	<u>Cash income</u>	<u>Cash costs(3)</u>	<u>Man hrs. worked</u>
1ST ANNUAL CUT 1950-51					
Pine saw timber	4,255 bd. ft.(1)	\$67.53 per M bd.ft.	\$287.34	\$11.50	68
Pine pulpwood	5.5 cds.(2)	\$ 8.18 per cd.	\$ 44.99	\$ 8.50	37
TOTAL 1950-51			\$332.33	\$20.00	105
2ND ANNUAL CUT 1951-52					
Pine saw timber	3,747 bd. ft.(1)	\$46.44 per M bd.ft.	\$174.01	} \$21.76	40
Hardwood saw timber	833 bd. ft.(1)	\$24.97 per M bd.ft.	\$ 20.80		
Pine pulpwood	13.68 cds.(2)	\$10.75 per cd.	\$147.06	\$10.00	86
TOTAL 1951-52			\$341.87	\$31.76	126
GRAND TOTAL TWO YEARS' CUT			\$674.20	\$51.76	231

(1) Doyle Scale.

(2) Standard cord 128 cu. ft.

(3) Direct costs of operating of equipment.

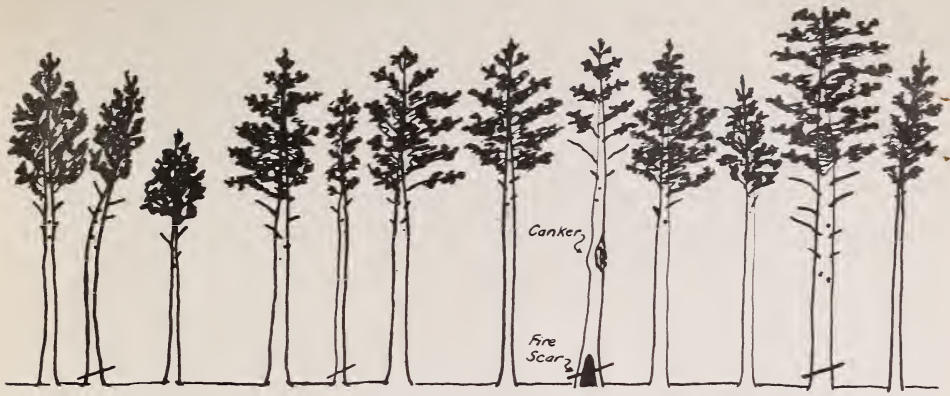
## THERE'S MONEY IN YOUR WOODS

### THIS IS HOW TO GET IT

The first and most obvious thing to do is to keep out wild fire. Generally farm woods are patchy and little trees that are killed by fire are needed to fill up the openings and to replace large ones that are cut. Protection is helped by plowed fire breaks and having fire-fighting tools--rakes, swatters, and water--ready and handy in fire season. Frequently, the most important thing is a change in attitude on the farmer's part--from a woods burner to a forest protector.

It is important to find out what you have in your woods and how best to manage them. The South Carolina State Commission of Forestry and the Extension Service have foresters who can help you on this. They will tell you how much timber you have and how much and what to cut under good forestry practices. In our "guinea pig" woodlot, timber is growing at the rate of about 170 board feet each year on the average acre. Annually, we cut the equivalent of only two-thirds of this growth so we can build up a larger reserve of timber or "growing stock." Later, we plan to cut the entire growth each year, indefinitely. Much of the pulpwood can come from tops of trees cut for sawlogs. Additional sources are trees too crooked for saw timber, or diseased, damaged, or overtopped ones. For all products, concentrate on the poorest trees first.

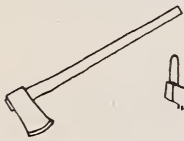
In our model woodlot, trees like those illustrated on the next page will make up most of the cut for the first five years.



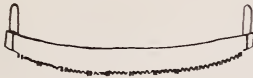
*Crooked    Suppressed    Defective    Wolf*

## Examples of Trees to Cut

You may not wish to do your own harvesting, but by doing so you can earn more money. In the Santee woodlot, 126 man hours of work yielded \$132.41 more than stumpage value. This equals \$1.06 per hour which considerably exceeds the earnings of many farm activities. The harvesting job includes cutting the trees down, sawing them into proper lengths, skidding the products, and piling them in an accessible place, such as the roadside. As illustrated, the equipment needed is available around most farms without special purchases.



*Axe*



*Saw*



*Chain*



*Wedge*



*Cant Hook*



*Animals*

*OR*



*Tractor*

*AND*



## Basic Logging Equipment

When you decide to sell any wood products, shop around for best prices. Make negotiations with a buyer before you do any cutting. Agree on a price and on the lengths, sizes, and species he will accept. Sawlogs should be moved promptly after cutting to prevent damage from stain, rot and bugs. Find out where and how a product should be piled. Some pulpwood buyers have special loading equipment and hauling vehicles. Knowing how to stack so they can best handle the wood with this equipment might greatly increase prices paid.

For farm and home use, cut trees you can't sell. This will help you clean up your woods after logging and make more room for better trees to grow. This policy is closely followed in our model woodlot. For example, each year, 6 cords of firewood are cut from poor hardwoods or tops of trees cut for other products. Similar sources provide materials for items such as crop poles, rough timbers for building, corral fencing, gate poles, etc. Forty-eight fence posts are made from pine thinnings too small for pulpwood or from non-pulping hardwoods. These can be treated with chemicals for long life (Circular 262, obtainable from your County Agent, gives full information on methods).

Plant trees where needed. This is mostly done in idle fields. Sometimes we plant to replace low-value trees, or in large openings in existing woods. This is most important where there is no evidence that natural seeding will do the job. On our woodlot, two plantings have been made--one mixed planting in an old field about 1 acre in size and one cedar planting beneath an understory of scrub oak. The oak will be removed or deadened in a few years after the cedar becomes established. The survival of the cedar was 80 percent and we are well satisfied with it. In the old field, alternate rows of slash pine and Arizona cypress were planted with poor



results, largely because of cattle and hogs. We are in open range country and the animals concentrated in the large opening to graze, which resulted in trampling damage. This illustrates one reason why stock should be kept out of the woodlot when young seedlings have been planted or are coming in naturally.

Small woodlands vary in size, ability to grow timber, kind of trees present and accessibility to markets. The desires of the owners are different. Some may want an annual income, and some may want the woodland for an investment. In each case, the exact details of management will also vary, but the basic principles remain the same:

1. Keep wild fire out of the woods.
2. Cut no more than is growing.
3. Cut the poorest trees first.
4. Plant trees where needed.
5. Use on the farm what you can't sell.
6. Do as much of the work as possible yourself.

Information for your individual problems can be had by contacting your County Agent, or by writing to the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, Columbia, South Carolina, or the State Extension Forester, Clemson College, Clemson, South Carolina. You are also cordially invited to visit the Santee Experimental Forest, near Moncks Corner, South Carolina.



Well stocked portion of a loblolly pine farm woodland.

Photo by Clemson College Extension Service