When the first pioneer came to Ohio, most of the 41,000 square miles of the state was in timber, and, according to estimates of foresters, there must have been at that time no less than 175,000,000,000 board feet of standing timber. Today, it is estimated that the total of all standing timber left is less than 9,000,000,000 board feet and that cutting and devastation are continuing at the rate of 210,000,000 board feet annually. This process has transformed Ohio from a wood-exporting to a wood-importing state; the consumption now exceeding the output by more than 1,200,000,000 board feet annually. The timber remaining occupies not more than 3,500,000 acres. Very little of this acreage is in a state of natural forest. Aside from a few parks, most of it is in isolated tracts, chiefly farm woods. To care properly for these farm woods is one of the important and difficult problems in the conservation of the remaining timber in the state.

OBJECT

From the standpoint of the preservation and production of timber in farm woods, foresters recommend that the pasturing of them be discouraged and, if possible, avoided altogether. They contend that pasturing results in injury through defoliation, cropping of bark and stems, and by uprooting and killing many seedlings. Furthermore, they say, the trampling of the animals exposes, more or less, the roots of the larger trees and tends to pack the ground, thus making difficult the starting of seedling trees.

Farmers are reluctant to discontinue the pasturing of woods. They feel they cannot sacrifice the pasturage and this feeling is accentuated by the steady decline in the productivity of their permanent pastures, which is becoming more and more pronounced with the passing of the years. Among stockmen the feeling is general that livestock do not relish woodland pasture as well as they do open pasture, but there is little or no experimental evidence in support of this view.

The purpose of this paper is to consider open and woodland