



NOTE NUMBER 4

AGRICULTURAL WOOD PROCESSING



Wood processing

This technical note is about the use of trees in building materials, art and design, firewood and paper industry.

What does the farmer and Skjetlein uppersecondary school do with their forests in the middle of Norway? (the Trøndelag counties)

Norway is a land with many forests, fjords and mountains. Traditionally wood often was used for making houses, boats, churches and tools. Woodcarving traditions are very strong in this country. The Vikings used wooden boats with rich decorations. The early small wooden churches in the eleventh and twelfth century also had many woodcarvings with religious and pagan motifs on their doorposts, walls and roofs. In Norway more than approximately 80 % of the forest properties are privately owned, and the larger part of these properties are small. The average size of a forest property in Norway is 6 hectares. There are few large, industrial forest owners in Norway. The total amount of forest is about 37 % of the land area and in the Trøndelag counties, where Skjetlein uppersecondary school is situated, it is about 28%. Skjetlein uppersecondary school has 700 hectares commercial forest. Most timber is taken for commercial and industrial use. The trees that are used for taking timber are for example fir, pine, birch, and alder. The farmers and students start in the months February and to cut – saw the trees for use in wood production. Timber of large trees is mainly used for building materials and construction materials and timber from minor trees for heating purposes and paper industry. Our students also learn to cut the trees with chainsaw. Afterwards the timber is cut up in pieces that will be dried in plain air for several months and sold to customers. Many Norwegian houses have fireplaces that use wood as fuel.

Timber in building industry used for house construction. “Norway has developed a policy and tools for promoting innovative wood products. This is an essential part of our forest policy. Norway has traditionally used wood as construction material, and wood is still the main choice for small houses. It is important to transfer the knowledge in this part of the construction sector to larger buildings – and especially multi-storey buildings. This is an important part of the innovative development of the Norwegian forest sector” Quote former minister of agriculture The EU is the main trading partner for the Norwegian wood processing industry. 90 % of the production is exported, mainly to the EU.



Activities at Skjetlein uppersecondary school

Examples:

The building classes at Skjetlein uppersecondary school make prefabricated walls that are used in housebuilding.



This year our students build wooden 'containers' for a new garden. They will plant herbs in these containers.



Activities at Skjetlein



The students work with: chopping down the trees using chainsaws, forest tending.



Wood is an excellent material for making handicrafts products. These are often sold at fairs and designshops.

Of course there also is a big paperindustry in the middle of Norway.