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NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

TIMBER TALK

Nebraska Forest Industry Newsletter

Nebraska Forest Service | Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources | University of Nebraska–Lincoln

November 1, 2006 | Vol. 44, No. 4

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Graphic/Layout: Anne Moore

The Nebraska Forest Service publishes *Timber Talk* four times annually (September 1, November 1, February 1, and June 1). The purpose of the newsletter is to serve and promote the forest industry of Nebraska. All questions and correspondence concerning *Timber Talk* should be directed to: Dennis M. Adams, *Timber Talk* Editor, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska, 109 Plant Industry Building, P.O. Box 830815, Lincoln, NE 68583-0815. Phone (402) 472-5822, FAX (402) 472-2964. E-mail: dadams2@unl.edu. *Timber Talk* is partially supported by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension funding.

Lumber Market

NEWS

HARDWOODS

Northern. Demand for White Oak is still running high, due in large part to brisk offshore activity. Log deck information is somewhat varied, though few sawmills report losing production to a lack of logs.

Southern. Generating buyer interest in FAS and 1F Red Oak is challenging. Conversely, demand for White Oak is unsatisfied and pricing remains very firm. Export markets are playing a vital role in total demand for #1C and Btr White Oak and #1C Poplar. Log decks are adequate and a number of sawmills are bolstering inventories prior to the winter months.

Appalachian. Highly competitive markets for FAS and 1F Red Oak and Hard Maple. Competition for orders for other grades and species has grown due to declining new home construction and remodeling. Business for White Oak, Walnut, Cherry and Poplar is robust to stable.

International. Exports play an increasingly vital role in grade lumber markets for North American hardwoods. Through 8 months of 2006, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) figures show the total volume of hardwood lumber exports running 5.14% over last year, an increase of 44 mm board feet of lumber.

Although hardwood exports to China have eased in recent weeks, to this point exports to Mainland China have been robust. FAS figures show exports of U.S. hardwood lumber to China up nearly 24% over the first 8 months of last year, representing over 189 million board feet. China and Hong Kong represent 22.94% of total U.S. exports of hardwood lumber totaling nearly 208 million board feet through August 2006.

U.S. exports to other Asian nations are dynamic as well. Shipments to Vietnam continue to grow, outpacing 2005 figures by 55.13%, accounting for nearly 27 million board feet thus far this year. Increases in hardwood exports were also seen in Taiwan (+3.66%), Japan (+8.27%), Indonesia (+15.43%) and Thailand (+11.27%). However, decreased in shipments were recorded in Malaysia (-6.18%) and Korea (-8.45%).

Shipments to the European Union (EU) are up 5.29% for the first 8 months of this year. Italy is currently the top EU destination for U.S. hardwood lumber (+18.23%). Other EU destinations and change in export volume from last year are: Spain (-9.81%), UK (+4.24%), Ireland (+19.98%), Germany (-0.91%), Portugal (-2.50%), and Denmark (+114.81%).

Mexico has also shown an increase interest in U.S. hardwood lumber with a gain in year-to-date shipments of 14.06%, or approximately 85 mm board feet of hardwood lumber.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report,* August 26, 2006. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report,* call 901-767-9216, or email: hmr@hmr.com.)

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Nebraska Forest Service is implied.

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green

	FAS				#1C				#2A			
Species	**12/05**	**3/06**	**6/06**	**9/06**	**12/05**	**3/06**	**6/06**	**9/06**	**12/05**	**3/06**	**6/06**	**9/06**
Ash	730	670	670	640	575	575	575	485	415	365	365	345
Basswood	710	795	785	785	435	435	425	425	225	225	225	225
Cottonwood	600	600	600	600	400	400	400	400	220	220	220	220
Cherry	1570	2330	2350	2350	1320	1290	1305	1305	625	575	585	630
Elm	635	635	635	635	420	420	420	420	235	235	235	235
Hackberry	475	475	475	475	455	455	455	455	265	265	265	265
Hickory	770	770	770	770	650	650	650	660	405	415	435	450
Soft Maple (UNSD)	1200	1525	1510	1185	790	825	825	750	400	425	415	380
Red Oak	1150	1125	1125	1080	740	730	720	700	500	500	500	500
White Oak	910	910	910	970	625	590	590	590	400	400	400	400
Walnut	2040	2040	2055	2080	1030	1045	1100	1155	650	685	745	850

Note: Hardwood prices quoted in dollars per MBF, average market prices FOB mill, truckload and greater quantities, 4/4, rough, green, random widths and lengths graded in accordance with NHLA rules. Prices for ash, basswood, elm, soft maple, red oak and white oak from Northern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods listings. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report Lumber News Letter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call (901) 767-9126, website: www.hmr.com.)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Kiln Dried

	FAS				#1C				#2A			
Species	**12/05**	**3/06**	**6/06**	**9/06**	**12/05**	**3/06**	**6/06**	**9/06**	**12/05**	**3/06**	**6/06**	**9/06**
Ash	—	970	970	970	—	760	750	735	—	615	615	615
Basswood	—	1045	1045	1045	—	640	630	630	—	400	400	410
Cottonwood	—	755	755	755	—	520	500	520	—	—	—	—
Cherry	—	3000	3000	3000	—	1725	1725	1710	—	990	990	1010
Elm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackberry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hickory	—	1290	1290	1260	—	965	965	965	—	795	800	830
Soft Maple (UNSD)	—	1650	1650	1650	—	1000	1000	990	—	590	580	570
Red Oak	—	1760	1715	1675	—	1040	1040	1040	—	750	740	760
White Oak	—	1435	1450	1480	—	890	910	910	—	650	670	670
Walnut	—	2560	2575	2665	—	1480	1540	1625	—	1220	1280	1400

Note: Kiln dried prices in dollars per MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for lumber inspected and graded before kiln drying. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods listings. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report Lumber News Letter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call (901) 767-9126, website: www.hmr.com.)

2006 Central Regional Woodland Stewardship Conference

The ninth annual **"Central Region Woodland Stewardship Conference**" will be held Saturday, **November 18**, 2006, at the beautiful Lied Conference Center which is located on the National Arbor Day Foundation's Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City.

The Central Region Woodland Stewardship Conference is sponsored by State and Extension Forestry in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The conference is specifically designed to provide landowners in the 4-state area with the knowledge and skills to manage their woodland and related resources using good stewardship principles.

The conference agenda includes 20 presentations organized under four concurrent session themes. Concurrent session themes and presentation topics for the 2005 conference include:

Wildlife & Prairies

- Creatures of the Night
- Deer Damage Control
- Invasive Species
- Establishing Prairies
- Improving Woodlands for Wildlife

Woodland Management

- Why Manage Your Woodland
- Best Management Practices
- Timber Sale Contracts
- Timber Taxes
- Starting a Forest From Seed

Working Trees/Agroforestry

- Riparian Buffers
- Managing Streams for Water Quality
- Weed Control in Your Tree Plantings
- Windbreak Design
- Windbreak Renovation

Tree Health

- Pruning for Timber & Shade
- Tree Anatomy & Physiology
- Tree Identification
- Insect & Disease Update
- Oaks at Risk

Conference registration is $41 per person before November 10. Late registration after November 10 is $50 per person. The registration fee includes a great buffet luncheon, refreshments, and handout materials. Service foresters from all four states will also be available for individual consultations. Conference enrollment is limited to 200, so pre-registration is encouraged.

The registration table will be open at 8:00 a.m., November 18. The Conference sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:50 p.m.

Because of their popularity at past conferences, three free pre-conference optional outdoor sessions are scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Friday afternoon, November 17.

1. Tree Identification
2. Direct Seeding
3. Shade Tree Care

For more information contact any UNL Extension office, Nebraska Forest Service office, http://www.nfs.unl.edu or the Nebraska Conference Coordinator: Dennis Adams, phone (402)472-5822, e-mail: dadams2@unl.edu. Conference information is also available under the Coming Events section on the website: www.nfs.unl.edu.

Researchers Hope to Tap Silver Maple Sap Potential

James J. Zaczek is feeling pretty sap happy these days.

A forest ecologist from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), Zaczek has been trying to find out whether silver maple trees could compete with sugar maples in producing syrup - and extra income - for the region's farmers.

"After two years of data collection, it's obvious that we have some clear winners," he says.

Experts have mostly pooh-poohed the silver maple as a syrup source because, they say, it doesn't have enough sugar in its sap. But, says Zaczek, tests at SIUC show sap from these trees contain at least 1.5 percent sugar and often as much as 2 percent, which is the standard concentration in sugar maple sap.

With support from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Zaczek and fellow researchers Andrew D. Carver, John E. Preece, Jean C. Mangun and Karl W. J. Williard have spent two years studying the silver maple, a fast-growing, bottomland species.

They're focusing mainly on silver maples used in previous SIUC research aimed at turning out fast-growing trees. Grown from cuttings, each tree variety in this study has exactly the same genes as all others of its kind. This helps the researchers pinpoint how differences in where each kind is planted and what happens to it there affect the amount of sap it produces.

"The winners tend to be winners whether they are planted in wet sites or dry ones, though they sometimes change in their ranking (when comparing trees at dry sites with trees at wet ones)," says Michelle L. Crum, a forestry graduate student from Brocton assigned to the project.

Zaczek has measured hundreds of trees. Because some of them came from stock from other states and Canada, he decided to tap local silver maples as well so as to get a clearer fix on area conditions. These results varied more than those from the research trees, but his team did find high volume, sweet-sap trees among the homegrown varieties.

"They were pretty consistent, too, in being good for bad trees," Cum says. "And the good thing about silver maple is that they thrive in a riparian (or stream

side) zone. That's a side benefit. They're a good tree to control agricultural runoff. This would mean that a farmer who planted them as a buffer zone could also get added income from them."

A gallon of syrup now sells for $38, Zaczek says. While a tree may produce only half a gallon of syrup in a season (it takes 43 gallons of sap containing 2 percent sugar to make a gallon of syrup), that's still $19 per tree, he notes.

The study has one more year to run. When it's over Zaczek says he'll be able to say which varieties would grow the fastest while making a lot of pretty sweet sap.

"Unfortunately, these (research) trees are not commercially available just yet, but we're hoping someone might have an interest in that aspect," Zaczek says. "Often, if there's a need and a niche, someone will step in."

Source: *The Northern Logger & Timber Processor,* **May 2003.**

Private Forests

The *Economist* magazine reports that "a new breed of investor is taking over America's forests". Across America, vast swathes of land may have become more valuable for their development potential than for their timber. Since 1900, when Frederick Weyerhaeuser, a German immigrant, and 15 partners purchased 900,000 acres of land from a railway company in Washington State, big timber enterprises have held land for decades. They harvested trees for lumber or paper pulp, replanted, and patiently waited for another harvest in 50-60 years. It was a conservative, relatively safe business; the demand for wood and paper, although it has ups and downs, has remained generally strong. Investments in timber land proved a good hedge against inflation, and often did well when stocks on Wall Street fared poorly.

Now all that is changing. New tax rules, demand for building land and the influence of big investors such as pension funds have transformed the ownership of forest land. In recent years most tree-owning and lumber companies have sold their land to Timberland Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs), in which private investors pool together to buy timber holdings. Forest-products companies then buy trees from the TIMO-owned land and convert them to lumber or paper. In early April, for instance, International Paper, which is based in Connecticut, sold its 5.1 in acres of American timber land for $6.1 billion to two TIMO investor groups.

Other companies, such as Plum Creek, have become publicly owned real estate investment trusts (REITs), which are also attractive to investors and reduce corporate tax. Plum Creek now owns more than 8 million acres of forest land and reaps profits from timber, property and minerals. Today only two large publicly traded forest-products companies—Weyerhaeuser, based just outside Seattle, and Temple-Inland, based in Austin, Texas—still have substantial forest holdings. (Weyerhaeuser owns or leases 6.5 million acres in the United States; Temple-Inland owns about 2 million.)

Since 1996, 301 million acres of private forest lands have changed hands, causing turmoil in the industry. Some of those most disturbed by the trend are the same greens who bitterly fought logging on federally owned lands during the 1980s and 1990s. They admit that logging in private forests, too, often wrecked the landscape. But companies such as International Paper were also diligent about replanting trees and creating new forests that became valuable wildlife habitat and sources of clean water. Moreover, in many parts of the United States, timber companies allowed local people to hike, hunt or fish on their lands, a tradition greens fear may be lost.

The biggest current battle on this front is taking place around Moosehead Lake in northern Maine. Plum Creek owns 421,000 acres around the 117-square-mile lake, and would like to build as many as 1,000 houses, as well as lakeside resorts. The development would "fundamentally change the character of Moosehead Lake", now a quiet, rural region of hunting and fishing cabins, says Pete Didisheim of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Plum Creek counters that it is also preserving vast tracts of land around the lake. Critics, unconvinced, are fighting a rezoning proposal which the company needs to proceed. In many other parts of the country there is fear that new forest owners will quickly log their land, and then sell the denuded ground for housing.

Others see opportunity as forest ownership changes. In Wisconsin, for instance, the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources negotiated an agreement under which investors bought 101 square miles of land from International Paper as part of that company's big woodlands divestiture earlier this year. The land will continue to produce maple, oak and cherry lumber—all very valuable—while also remaining open for recreation and wildlife conservation. "Because these forested areas are for sale, it's a great opportunity to buy them for preservation and sustainable forestry," says Bill Ginn, who works on forestry matters for the Conservancy. Groups such as Mr Ginn's also hope to make state tax rules more favorable to owners of forests.

No doubt, in years to come, some of the forests' new owners will opt for a quick and dirty profit from their lands, selling to Boston or Seattle residents who want a place in the (former) woods. But land across much of the United States was logged during the agricultural and economic expansion of the 1800s, and has grown back. Perhaps the natural patience of forests will prevail again.

(Source: The *Economist*, June 10, 2006.)

Grading Rules For Eastern Redcedar

Lumber grades, just what are they and what do they do for you when buying or selling lumber? When determining the value of lumber, you could just apply a price given the volume or board footage available. For example, a 4-inch wide board that is five-feet long would have 2 board feet (See: How to determine surface measure and board footage) multiply this by the price per board foot and you have the total price. However, the value of a board is typically based on more than just how much wood there is. The quality of the board must also be taken into account. Quality may have to do with the number of knots or how much heartwood is contained in a board. Grading rules allow some value to be placed on the quality of the piece of lumber. They also allow for consistency and uniformity between a buyer and seller of lumber.

Grading rules are usually based either on the predicted strength or how much usable material is available for further manufacturing, such as in making furniture or moldings. Visual appearance grading rules are based on the defects that are visible on the surface of the lumber that would reduce its usefulness in further manufacturing processes. For example, in most hardwoods, knots are considered a defect that must be removed before the remaining wood can be used, The more knots, the lower the grade.

Standardized grading rules provide consistency between producers and loads of material. A manufacturer of furniture must know that each time a certain grade lumber is purchased and run through the plant that given the same part sizes the same yield will be obtained. If there were no grading rules, then the furniture manufacturer would not know how much lumber to buy or how to estimate the cost of producing the furniture.

Are grading rules required for red cedar lumber? Some would argue that, yes, we must have consistency of product to have reproducible production yields and costs. Others might argue, no, it allows for an individual to maximize profit within his/her specific market. Proprietary grading rules are those that you develop yourself, specific to your market. They are based on what quality aspects you or your customer value rather than those accepted as an industry standard. Industry standard grading rules are usually developed by a trade association and are agreed upon by all those participating in the association. Should industry standard grading rules be used or should you design your own proprietary grading rules? To truly answer this question one should ask the following questions:

1) Does your market require the use of standardized grading rules?
2) Would proprietary grading rules allow you to capture and hold onto a specific market?
3) Would proprietary grading rules limit your market and cause you to lose customers not familiar with your grading techniques?

Standardized grading rules already exist for eastern red cedar. The National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) located in Memphis, Tennessee developed a set of rules for red cedar. There are only two grades defined by the NHLA for aromatic red cedar: No. 1 Common Better and No. 2 Common, which are presented in Table 1. The rules specify the minimum width and length of board required to meet a certain grading specification. For example, a No. 1 Common board must be wider than 3 inches; however, in a load of purchased lumber 25% can be 3 inches. Each board graded as No. 1 Common must have enough cuttings 3 inches wide by 2 feet long or 2 inches wide by 3 feet long to make up 66-2/3 clear volume in the board. A cutting is a portion of a board obtained by cross-cutting, by ripping, or both that must not contain wane, loose pith, rot, or shake. There is no limit to how many of the cuttings are permitted. These grades will accept sound knots, white streaks and firm, tight pith in the cuttings. Figure 1 displays a board with two cuttings. Boards are graded on the poorest visible side. The total amount of sapwood in cuttings may not exceed one sixth the heartwood side. The amount of sapwood is unlimited on the reverse side.

Table 1. National Hardwood Lumber Association grade rules for aromatic redcedar.

Grade	*No. 1 Common*	*No. 2 Common*
Minimum Widths	3″ and wider Admitting 25% of 3″ width	2″ and wider Admitting 35% of 2″ width
Minimum Lengths	3′ and longer	2′ and longer
Minimum Cutting Sizes	3″ wide x 2′ long or 2″ wide by 3′ long	2″ wide or wider containing not less than 48 square inches
Each piece shall yield	66-2/3% of cuttings	50% of cuttings
Basic Yield	Surface Measure x 8	Surface Measure x 6
Number of cuttings allowed	No limit	No limit

Let's go through an example of how to apply the NHLA grade rules for an eastern red cedar board. In Figure 1, a four inch wide by ten foot long board is displayed showing the worst face. This board was cut to 1-inch thickness so its volume would be (4″ x 10′)/12 x 1 = 3 board feet. Since the board is 4-inches wide, it meets the minimum width requirement for a No. 1 Common board. Since it is 10-feet long, it exceeds the minimum length required. There are two potential cuttings in this board, one is 3-inches wide by 5-feet long and the other is 2-inches wide by 4.5-feet long. Each of these cuttings meets the minimum size requirements for a No. 1 Common board. If we total the amount of cutting units, there are 24 cutting units (15 units + 9 units = 24 units total). To obtain 66-2/3% of clear cuttings we need 24 cutting units

(continued on page 8)

Nebraska Forestry Industry Spotlight

SIZER MILL

The nearly treeless sandhills of Nebraska are an unlikely place to find a tree farm or a sawmill; yet Wilbert Sizer aka 'The Tree Man' operates both in Arthur County. Sizer Tree Farm, founded in 1971, is located with-in the village of Arthur and grows windbreak and deciduous trees as well as shrubs in containers. Additionally, bareroot stock is ordered for resale each spring. Sizer Tree Farm conducts spring tree sales in more than 20 towns from North Platte to the Wyoming border, with a wide variety of shade, ornamental, fruit and windbreak trees and both evergreen and deciduous shrubs. Wilbert and his son, Greg, transplant trees up to 4 inches in trunk diameter with a 44 inch Vermeer tree spade and remove tree stumps with Vermeer stump grinders.

Wilbert Sizer operates portable bandsaw mill.

In 1987, Wilbert purchased a Woodmizer LT40 portable band sawmill. It is powered by a 20 hp Onan gas engine and has the capacity to cut logs up to 36 inches in diameter and 20 feet in length. Wilbert has recycled many power poles on the mill. Fir, pine and spruce poles have become floors for machinery or livestock trailers while western redcedar poles are often cut for decks and porches.

Wilbert enjoys discovering the unique grain patterns hidden within logs of many species. He has cut apple, ash, basswood, birch, cottonwood, elm, fir, hackberry, honeylocust, katsuratree, maple, oak, pine, spruce, eastern redcedar, western redcedar, black cherry, mulberry, black walnut and Russian olive. The multicolored lumber of katsuratree is highly interesting.

Area woodcrafters buy a lot of Siberian elm (often mistakenly called Chinese elm) for its attractive wood grain and ease of use. It produces attractive projects that appeal to the public and utilizes readily available wood supplies that are generally burned.

Oak lumber that Wilbert has cut on his sawmill has gone to Montana to build a stagecoach and to an eastern South Dakota state park where 2″ x 14″ planks were used to repair an historic log cabin. Currently Wilbert has a large stock of white oak logs ready to be milled into quality lumber.

Safety of operation and increased productivity are important features of a band sawmill over a circular mill. The minimal blade exposure decreases opportunities for injury, while the narrow saw kerf wastes much less lumber in the form of sawdust. Sale of slabs for windbreaks and bundling of scrap as firewood for sale at Lake McConaughy keep the site free of trash, increasing the safety and productivity of the mill.

Some of the area high schools have purchased lumber from the Sizer sawmill for their industrial arts programs. Lumber from the mill is air dried and is sold either as rough cut or planed lumber.

In September, Wilbert sets up his sawmill at the Keith County fairgrounds in Ogallala. For about a week before and during the Indian Summer Rendezvous he custom cuts logs brought in by the public. On Thursday and Friday of the Rendezvous, he demonstrates the cutting of lumber and makes a presentation of the value of trees to approximately 300 area 4th grade students during their American Heritage Days.

Wilbert also demonstrated his sawmill at the Ash Hollow Pageant near Lewellen, NE in September of this year. He again cut logs brought in and also cut a large elm tree logged on the Ash Hollow Park site for use at the park.

Wilbert Sizer may be contacted at: PO Box 118, Arthur NE 69121. Phone: 308-764-2473. Fax: 308-764-2598. E-mail: vsizer@neb-sandhills.net

The Trading Post

The Trading Post is provided as a free marketing service for forestry industry. Only forestry-related advertisements will be accepted. Please submit written ads to the *Timber Talk* editor at least 15 days before scheduled *Timber Talk* publication dates. Ads may be edited to meet space constraints.

For Sale

Hedge Corner Posts. Some hedge logs for hobby lumber. Contact: Joe Straube, Tecumseh, NE. (402) 335-2400.

Electric Bandsaw Mills. One M-324 ($1200) and one M-267 ($2195). Contact: 4M Lumber, Ravenna, NE. Phone: 308-452-4032; e-mail: fourm57@Charter.net

Wanted

Logs. Cottonwood, cedar and pine. 4″ to 26″ diameter, 90″-100″ lengths. Below saw grade logs acceptable. Contact: American Wood Fibers, Clarks, NE at (800) 967-4789; email: mvanskike@AWF.com

Hardwood Cross Ties and Switch Ties. Size 7″ x 9″ – 8′ only. **Mixed Hardwood Timbers.** All sizes. **Pallet Cants.** 3″ x 6″ and 4″ x 6″. **Logs.** C45, Veneer and C35 logs. Must be able to load 40′ containers. Cherry, Walnut, Red Oak, White Oak, Ash, Hard Maple and Poplar logs. **Timbers for Log Homes.** **Switch Ties.** Oak and mixed hardwood, 7″ x 9″ – 15′, 16′, 21′, 22, 23′. **White Pine Plank.** #2C, 5 T/LS per month, Rough, green, 1 5/8″ x 7 5/8″ or 2 ½″ x 9 3/8″, up to 1/3 – 8′, bal. 10′-16′ lengths. **Walnut Sawlogs.** Woods run, #1, #2, #3 grades. **Log Inspector** to inspect logs before shipment. **Cross Tie Buyers.** Good incentive arrangements. **Mills to Produce Oak Car Decking.** Surface, drill – oak or mixed hardwoods. Contact: W. Preston Germain, Germain Lumber Co., Inc., Pittsburgh, PA 15251; 402-782-3240; FAX: 412-781-2551; e-mail: germainlumber@verizon.net.

Services and Miscellaneous

Sawmill Service and Supplies. Saw hammering and welding. Precision knife and saw grinding. Certified Stihl chainsaw sales and service. Contact: Tim Schram, Schram Saw and Machine, PO Box 718, 204 E. 3rd St., Ponca, NE 68770, (402) 755-4294.

Used Portable Sawmills. Buy/Sell. Contact: Sawmill Exchange (800) 459-2148, (205) 661-9821.

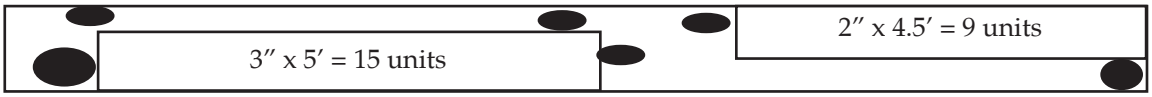
How Observant Are You?

These 30 questions are about things we see almost every day or have known about all our lives. How attentive are you? No cheating. Check your answers on the next page.

1. On a standard traffic light, is the green on the top or the bottom?
2. How many states are there? (Don't laugh, some people don't know.)
3. In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch?
4. What size colors are on the classic Campbell's soup label?
5. What two letters don't appear on the telephone dial? (No cheating!)
6. What two numbers on the telephone dial don't have letters by them?
7. When you walk does your left arm swing with your right or left leg?
8. How many matches are in a standard pack?
9. On the United States flag is the top stripe red or white?
10. What is the lowest number on the FM radio dial (rounded to the nearest whole number)?
11. Which way does water go down the drain, counter or clockwise?
12. Which way does a "no smoking" sign's slash run?
13. How may channels are on a VHF TV dial?
14. Which side of a women's blouse are the buttons on?
15. On a Nebraska license plate, is the word Nebraska on the top or bottom?
16. Which way to fans rotate?
17. Whose face is on new dimes?
18. How many sides does a stop sign have?
19. Do books have even-number pages on the right or left side?
20. How many lug nuts are on a standard car wheel?
21. How many sides are there on a standard pencil?
22. Sleepy, Happy, Sneezy, Grumpy, Doc. Who's missing?
23. How many hot dog buns are in a standard package?
24. On which playing card is the card maker's trademark?
25. On which side of a Venetian blind is the cord that adjusts the opening between the slats?
26. Whose picture is on the $20 bill?
27. On the back of a $20 bill, what is pictured in the center?
28. There are 12 buttons on a touch-tone phone. What 2 symbols bear no digits?
29. How many curves are there in the standard paper clip?
30. Does a merry-go-round turn counter or clockwise?

Grading Rules For Eastern Redcedar *(continued from page 5)*

Figure 1. No. 1 Common and Better Aromatic Cedar Board



Tight knots =

Loose knots = ●

How to determine surface measure and board footage*

Surface Measure = $\frac{\text{Width in inches and fraction of inches x length in feet}}{12}$

Board Footage = $\frac{\text{Width in inches and fraction of inches x length in feet}}{12}$ x Board thickness in inches

*Always round to the nearest whole foot

(Surface measure x 8 as specified by the rules). This board contains enough yield to make the No. 1 Common grade.

Do the NHLA grading rules represent the needs of your customer and the markets that you do business in? If not, then you will be required to develop your own proprietary grading rules. For eastern red cedar, I would expect these rules to contain information about minimum board widths and lengths, heartwood percentages, and acceptable number of tight and loose knots in the grading face. Expert knowledge of your customer's needs will assist you in developing the grade specifications and price differences.

Grading rules are needed to assist buyers and sellers of cedar lumber in determining the value of the material as well as provide consistency in the product. Currently, the National Hardwood Lumber Association provides some standardized grading rules for red cedar; however, you may find that they to not meet your customers needs. If you or your customers have different needs, then you will have to develop proprietary grades to meet their needs.

For more information on the National Hardwood Lumber Grading Rules:

National Hardwood Lumber Association
6830 Raleigh-LaGrange Road
Memphis, TN 38184-0518
Phone: (901) 377-1818
Email: info@nhla.com
Website: www.natlhardwood.org

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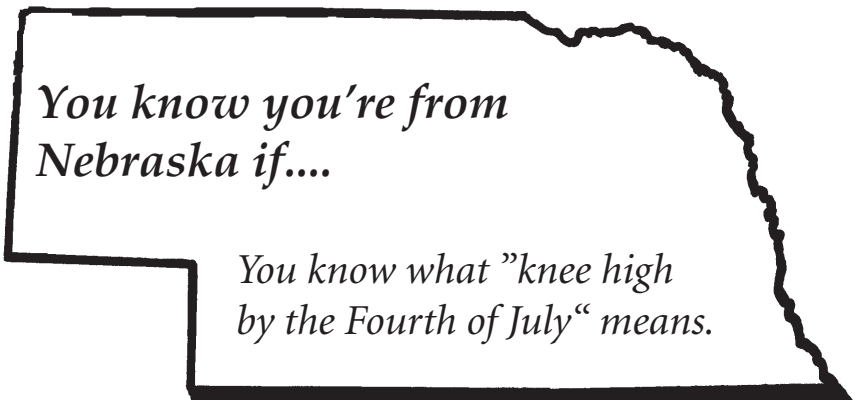
Answers to: How Observant Are You?

1. — Bottom; **2.** — 50 (Please tell me you got this one!); **3.** — Right; **4.** — Blue, red, white, yellow, black and gold; **5.** — Q, Z; **6.** — 1, 0; **7.** — Right; **8.** — 20; **9.** — Red; **10.** — 88; **11.** — Clockwise (north of the equator); **12.** — Towards bottom right; **13.** — 12 (no #1); **14.** — Left; **15.** — Top; **16.** — Clockwise as you look at it from the front; **17.** — Roosevelt; **18.** — 8; **19.** — Left; **20.** — 5; **21.** — 6 ;**22.** — Bashful; **23.** — 8; **24.** — Ace of spades; **25.** — Left; **26.** — Andrew Jackson; **27.** — The White House; **28.** — *, #; **29.** — 3 ; **30.** — Counter