2012

Timber Talk, February 1, 2012. Vol. 50, No.1

NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

TIMBER TALK

Nebraska Forest Industry Newsletter

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

February 1, 2012 **Vol. 50, No. 1**

In This Issue

Editor: Dennis Adams
Graphic/Layout: Anne Moore

The Nebraska Forest Service publishes ***Timber Talk*** four times annually (February 1, June 1, September 1, and November 1) to serve 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, 203E Forestry Hall, P.O. Box 830815, Lincoln, NE 68583-0815. Phone (402) 472-5822, FAX (402) 472-2964.

E-mail: dadams2@unl.edu.
Website: http://www.nfs.unl.edu

Timber Talk is partially supported by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension funding.

Lumber Market

HARDWOODS

NEWS

Northern. Log supplies are still a primary topic of conversation. There has not been much motivation for mills to build log inventories this winter. Profit margins are thin; previous gains on selective lumber items are vulnerable; and demand is far from robust. Weather's influence on logging has been mixed this winter. However, winter has now hit its midpoint; time is closing in for increasing log supplies and green lumber production before break up. In the meantime, salability has held steady or improved for most species. Pricing has stabilized, in general, and remains quite firm for selective items.

Southern. Much of the region has been impacted by wet weather. For many, logging activity is slow to non-existent. However, mills that stored logs last fall have experienced few, if any, disruptions to production based on raw materials availability. Key factors influencing green lumber output revolve around salability issues and the lack of desire to tie up additional capital by stocking lumber for resale. Activity for red oak remains slow, while shortages are noted for poplar and ash. Industrial timber markets, particularly ties and board road material, have been a bright spot for sawmills who process industrial timber items.

Appalachian. Many sawmill owners made conscious decisions to enter winter with limited log decks based on projections for lumber demand. Expectedly, inclement weather conditions during the fourth quarter and so far this year have inhibited logging. Thus, a number of mills are operating fewer working days. Reduced output has tightened supplies for whitewoods. Prices for hard and soft maple have responded accordingly. Mills that process industrial timbers seem better positioned with log inventories. Markets for ties, road material, and other industrial timber items have been solid for some time. For kiln dried lumber, domestic demand has shown little improvement based on residential construction activity. Sales and shipments to Europe have been bogged down by economic turmoil in the region. Orders to China are better, but shipments have been delayed by the New Year's celebration.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report,* January 20, 2012. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report,* call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green

	FAS				#1C				#2A			
Species	**12/11**	**9/11**	**6/11**	**3/11**	**12/11**	**9/11**	**6/11**	**3/11**	**12/11**	**9/11**	**6/11**	**3/11**
Ash	825	815	800	790	600	580	570	570	410	405	405	405
Basswood	705	705	705	705	375	375	375	375	205	205	205	205
Cottonwood	635	635	635	625	435	435	435	425	220	220	220	220
Cherry	1355	1395	1415	1480	655	655	655	655	330	330	330	330
Elm	635	635	635	635	420	420	420	420	245	245	235	235
Hackberry	475	475	475	475	455	455	455	455	265	265	265	265
Hickory	670	670	655	640	560	560	540	530	415	415	405	405
Soft Maple	985	920	870	870	600	585	570	570	340	325	325	325
Red Oak	835	900	985	985	585	640	680	680	490	510	525	555
White Oak	1000	1000	1020	1020	600	625	635	635	450	470	470	470
Walnut	2070	2155	2155	2130	1075	1160	1160	1140	705	770	770	755

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, northern soft grey elm, unselected 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, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com.)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Kiln Dried

	FAS				#1C				#2A			
Species	**12/11**	**9/11**	**6/11**	**3/11**	**12/11**	**9/11**	**6/11**	**3/11**	**12/11**	**9/11**	**6/11**	**3/11**
Ash	1160	1160	1145	1130	855	845	835	835	670	670	670	680
Basswood	965	965	965	940	605	595	575	575	425	415	415	415
Cottonwood	725	725	725	725	530	530	530	530	—	—	—	—
Cherry	1825	1845	1970	2140	990	990	990	990	625	625	625	625
Elm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackberry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hickory	1185	1185	1145	1110	990	990	960	945	780	790	790	790
Soft Maple	1225	1210	1160	1120	805	780	770	760	615	605	585	595
Red Oak	1285	1300	1410	1355	955	980	1025	1000	790	810	820	835
White Oak	1480	1525	1600	1560	970	970	970	940	770	780	780	780
Walnut	3000	3125	3185	3185	1800	1820	1820	1800	1200	1235	1235	1235

Note: Kiln dried prices in dollars per MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 4/4 lumber inspected and graded before kiln drying. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak, and white oak from Northern Hardwood 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 Market History—Green

This hardwood lumber market summary is presented to provide a historical perspective of lumber prices since 1979 with emphasis on the preceding 5 years. Hardwood prices quoted per MBF, FOB mill, truckload or carload quantities, 4/4, rough, AD, RL & W. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak & 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. #2C column indicates price for grade 2A lumber unless otherwise indicated. Prior to 1990, the #2C column listed only #2C prices.

SPECIES	DATE	FAS	#1C	#2C
ASH	1/79	565	440	230
	12/85	600	445	210
	12/90	745	585	215
	12/95	765	630	325
	12/00	755	615	380
	12/05	730	565	415
	12/07	600	430	305
	12/08	655	450	325
	12/09	675	460	345
	12/10	800	570	405
	12/11	825	600	410
BASSWOOD	4/79	455	315	170
	12/85	560	310	182
	12/90	550	295	170B
	12/95	620	365	195B
	12/00	720	425	225
	12/05	710	435	225
	12/07	695	365	205
	12/08	685	350	205
	12/09	685	330	205
	12/10	705	375	205
	12/11	705	375	205
COTTONWOOD	4/79	455	315	170
	12/85	320	267	142
	12/90	400	285	150B
	12/95	605	405	185B
	12/00	600	400	220
	12/05	600	400	220
	12/07	600	400	220
	12/08	615	415	220
	12/09	605	405	220
	12/10	625	425	270
	12/11	635	435	220
CHERRY	12/83	760	580	285
	12/85	785	615	305
	12/90	965	620	285
	12/95	1185	845	445
	12/00	1605	1115	585
	12/05	1570	1320	625
	12/07	2290	1230	640
	12/08	1895	790	425
	12/09	1530	625	320
	12/10	1530	655	330
	12/11	1355	655	330
ELM (soft grey)	12/83	313	293	183
	12/85	410	390	255
	12/90	665	440	165B
	12/95	665	440	210B
	12/00	635	420	235
	12/05	635	420	235
	12/07	635	420	210
	12/08	635	420	235
	12/09	635	420	235
	12/10	635	420	235
	12/11	635	420	245
HACKBERRY	4/79	387	367	262
	12/85	345	325	220
	12/90	390	370	240
	12/95	485	465	275
	12/00	475	455	265
	12/05	475	455	265
	12/07	475	455	265
	12/08	475	455	265
	12/09	475	455	265
	12/10	475	355	265
	12/10	475	355	265
HICKORY	4/79	310	290	165
	2/85	325	305	160
	12/90	335	315	195
	12/95	455	435	265
	12/00	625	515	340
	12/05	770	650	405
	12/07	735	610	425
	12/08	650	490	350
	12/09	615	500	350
	12/10	640	530	405
	12/11	670	560	415
SOFT MAPLE (UNSD)	4/79	390	310	185
	12/85	400	335	200
	12/90	420	335	200B
	12/95	600	490	205B
	12/00	850	640	340
	12/05	1200	790	400
	12/07	1130	600	320
	12/08	1100	545	280
	12/09	960	505	260
	12/10	870	570	325
	12/11	985	600	340
RED OAK	4/79	505	415	215
	12/85	715	450	225
	12/90	815	645	295
	12/95	1025	840	475
	12/00	1095	910	660
	12/05	1150	740	500
	12/07	945	630	500
	12/08	930	585	490
	12/09	935	610	450
	12/10	1040	680	555
	12/11	835	585	490
WHITE OAK	4/79	535	415	212
	12/85	660	355	225
	12/90	800	445	215
	12/95	800	565	340
	12/00	770	535	340
	12/05	910	625	400
	12/07	1105	620	400
	12/08	1065	570	400
	12/09	940	500	360
	12/10	1035	645	480
	12/11	1000	600	450
WALNUT	1/79	1250	795	480
	12/85	1565	855	255
	12/90	1605	855	290
	12/95	1535	810	290
	12/00	1455	785	315
	12/05	2040	1030	650
	12/07	2180	1300	940
	12/08	2010	1065	520
	12/09	1800	765	360
	12/10	2105	1125	740
	12/11	2070	1075	705

(Source: *Hardwood Market Report Lumber News Letter.* To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call (901) 767-9126, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

Tribute to a Forester

Richard Lodes, long-time and well-respected forester with the Nebraska Forest Service, died September 3, 2011, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Rich was known by friends and colleagues for his friendliness, wit and selflessness. He often went out of his way to help landowners and students with forestry projects. His quirky personality and elaborate storytelling brought humor and laughter to many throughout his life.

A forestry graduate of the University of Missouri, Rich also studied range management and received a Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Rich began his career with NFS in 1975, travelling the state extensively as NFS fire equipment manager, inventorying federal excess property fire equipment. As a result, he probably knew the nooks and crannies of Nebraska better than most native Nebraskans. In 1978 Rich became the service forester for the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District based at NFS in Lincoln.

Although a professional forester by training, Rich's interests and expertise also encompassed wildlife management and grassland conservation. During his career he helped thousands of landowners plant trees and shrubs or manage their existing woodlands for protection, wildlife habitat, wood products or other conservation objectives. He had a unique talent for persuading landowners to manage their property holistically and sustainably. He made a lasting and positive impact on the landscape that will be felt for generations.

Rich also had a passion for conservation education and the science supporting forestry, and a desire to instill an understanding of natural resources and a conservation ethic in students. He served as a mentor and succeeded in cultivating a love of nature in many young adults. A memorial scholarship in his name will assist UNL students interested in forestry, fisheries or wildlife careers.

Cracking The Walnut Case

Walnut trees have long had a bad reputation. In ancient Rome, Pliny the Elder complained that it "causes headache in man and injury to anything planted in its vicinity." More recently, in the 19th century, farmers bemoaned damage to crops planted adjacent to or under black walnut and some warned of the "poisonous nature of the drip." Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there are numerous historical reports of wilted or dead apple trees, alfalfa, and tomatoes found in the vicinity of lurking walnut trees. By the turn of the 20th century, black walnut stood indicted of many crimes against "botanity." With walnut's suspicious lack of alibi, researchers moved from documenting "opportunity" to a full criminal investigation of motive and a search for the murder weapon.

A big break in the case against black walnut came in 1928, when Everett Davis of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station presented the results of a study describing a newly isolated chemical from black walnut. Davis' presentation further claimed that the chemical (named juglone after the walnut family, Juglandaceae) was shown to be injurious to tomato and alfalfa plants. Here was the smoking gun of mechanism that quickly led to the conviction of black walnut. Subsequent research proceeded to demonstrate that many other species were susceptible to juglone. Extension agencies from across the range of the black walnut relayed this information and provided lists of species known to be susceptible and those thought to be more tolerant of walnut's deadly poison.

Alongside studies of mechanism, other researchers began to piece together a coherent theory of motive. Black walnut became (and in some cases remains) the textbook example of allelopathy. While allelopathy is a very general term that refers to the negative effect of a chemical produced by an organism to harm another, use of the term is often restricted to the toxic chemicals produced by plants that affect co-occurring vegetation. But why should a plant poison its own environment? A Darwinians perspective can provide sufficient insight. A plant with many competitors stands to gain much from poisoning itself a little, if in so doing, it also poisons its competitors and gains access to their foregone resources (light, water, nutrients, etc.).

Opportunity, motive and a smoking gun; case closed. People familiar with the phenomenon (including the current authors) can easily find landscapes filled with walnuts and relatively open, park-like understories. Verifications of this pattern are seemingly abundant, but verifications come cheaply and is not the stuff of rigorous science.

Our own modest investigations of black walnut toxicity took form when we noticed that quite a few walnut understories weren't barren at all, but were chock full of shrubs and herbs. Not only that, but full of invasive shrubs (e.g. honeysuckles, privets and autumn olives) and herbs (garlic mustard, a well-known allelopath in its own right). Why a bunch of non-native plants would have been adapted to be tolerant of black walnut was perplexing enough to start (literally and literarily) digging around.

The literal digging around led to some frustrating experiments that resulted in our utter inability to kill any plant by treating them with juglone or walnut tissue. Meanwhile our literary investigations led to some very interesting findings that seemed to explain our inability to experimentally poison plants with black walnut. Though we wouldn't go so far as to say the charges against black walnut are entirely trumped up, they are a far cry from the open and shut case that has become conventional wisdom.

Consider that the "smoking gun" experiment by Davis involved direct stem injection of unidentified concentrations of juglone without mention of control groups. The surviving details of these experiments are from a published abstract of a presentation—no materials, methods or results open to scrutiny. Consider that the multitude of studies afterwards were almost singularly experiments where extremely high concentrations of juglone (orders of magnitude higher than those documented in soil under walnuts) were added to hydroponic cultures. Consider that the original observations

at the turn of the 20th century were most often documenting crop failures at the edges of agricultural fields where conditions were uniformly unfriendly to crops, walnuts or no. When all the evidence is in, the case against black walnut is not very convincing.

We aren't claiming here that black walnut should be acquitted on all counts. There is substantial evidence that black walnut doesn't play well with others (most notably pines and plants in the tomato family), but the "don't plant" list should be much more restricted than most currently are. Be skeptical of claims that a certain plant won't live near black walnut. Pay close attention to what you observe in your own forests and fields. The park-like appearance and open understory is often as easily explained by walnut's incredible abilities to colonize open areas as much as by its alleged toxicity. Don't mow a part of your field or pasture for a year and you'll quickly figure that out.

Black walnuts are a common and useful component of our native forests. For our part we hope they stick around and prosper. With the deadly Thousand Cankers Disease looming near Pennsylvania's borders, black walnut may not only need our apologies, but our assistance. We think it deserves both.

(Source: Penn State Extension newsletter *Forest Leaves*; Summer 2011; article written by Norris Z. Muth, Assistant Professor and Acer VanWallendael, Undergraduate Student, Juniata College.)

Woody Biomass Facts: A Look At The Myths Regarding A Sustainable Energy Source

Due to growing interest in climate change, the environment and energy security, woody biomass is receiving more and more attention as a renewable energy source. Though it still accounts for only a small portion of energy use worldwide, woody biomass is one of the top candidates for oil equivalents and a fast growing source of renewable energy. As a result, using biomass as an energy source has come under extensive scrutiny. Woody biomass has become a topic of intense debates and controversy as questions have been raised regarding its sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and greenhouse gas impact.

As the demand for biomass has grown, so has the number of criticisms and misconceptions about it. One of the often heard complaints is that the burning of biomass as fuel releases CO_2 and other greenhouse gases (GHG), contributing to global warming, making it no better than fossil fuels. In reality, woody biomass is a carbon neutral energy source. For this to be understood, it is necessary to look at the entire cycle, not just the combustion of the fuel. Trees are part of an atmospheric cycle. As they grow, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere temporarily storing it. When a tree dies, the same amount of carbon that it absorbed during its lifetime is released back into the atmosphere as it decomposes, adding no new carbon to the atmosphere. When woody biomass is burned to produce energy, it releases that same amount of carbon that would have been naturally released if the tree had been left to decompose on the forest floor.

Though woody biomass is a carbon neutral energy source, research has found that it also has several other environmental benefits as well. A study from the Pacific Research Institute found that biomass energy production contributes to healthy forests and reduces the potency of the CO_2 than would otherwise be naturally released.

"The total amount of carbon that is sequestered in terrestrial biomass affects the amount of carbon in the atmosphere," said Dr. Gregory Morris, director of Green Power Institute. "Energy production from forest fuels contributes to forest health and fire resiliency, thereby increasing the amount of carbon that is stored on a sustainable basis in the earth's forests."

Also, biomass energy production can change the timing and relative mix of carbon forms associated with the disposal of the biomass resources emitted into the atmosphere.

"As a greenhouse-gas, reduced carbon (CH_4) is 25 times more potent than oxidized carbon (CO_2) on an instantaneous, per-carbon basis," said Dr. Morris. "Therefore, the form in which carbon is transferred from the biomass stock to the atmospheric stock is critically important from the standpoint of greenhouse forcing impact. "

It is important to realize that much of the biomass that is converted to energy would otherwise be landfilled or left in the forest and eventually decompose or burn in a wildfire. Both ultimately lead to GHG emissions with higher levels of potency than if it had been burned in a controlled boiler.

"Compared to combustion in a controlled boiler, open burning entails poor combustion conditions and gives rise to significant emissions of carbon in a reduced form," said Dr. Morris. "This elevates the greenhouse-gas potency of the emissions. Biomass burial in a landfill or agricultural field leads to even greater emissions of reduced carbon than open burning. Although the emissions from landfills are delayed, the greenhouse-gas potency of the emissions over the long term is much greater."

Beyond its positive effects of GHG emissions, the use of biomass also contributes to forest health in another way. There has been concern that increased biomass energy production would lead to deforestation. However, forests need to be properly managed to remain healthy. This includes thinning to prevent over-crowding and the removal of underbrush and fallen trees. Overgrowth forests can become unhealthy and have a higher susceptibility to disease, pests and wildfires. Biomass energy production can encourage sustainably managed and maintained forests and help offset the costs to do so by paying for removal of overgrowth and residuals.

Despite the benefits provided for forests by biomass harvesting, some have taken to using the slippery slope argument that biomass power producers might run out of residuals, start using higher grade timber and be the cause of increased deforestation. However, this ignores the fact that part of what makes biomass energy affordable is that it utilizes cheap residuals. Buying expensive timber would not be profitable for anyone, let alone affordable. Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of the Biomass Power Association (BPA) said the biomass power industry cannot generate enough revenue to pay for its fuel, much less pay for higher value fiber like chip and pulpwood.

"We can't afford biomass, let alone merchantable timber," he said.

(continued on page 7)

Nebraska Forestry Industry Spotlight

RHEMBRANDT CONSTRUCTION & FOREST CARE

Rhembrandt Construction & Forest Care is improving the health and sustainability of the forestland in northwest Nebraska. The ravages of wild fire and mountain pine beetle (MPB) are persistent and growing threats to forest resource to the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska. Active forest management, including thinning, is the key to helping the forest thrive and better defend itself against these destructive forces.

Dan and Jack Rhembrandt with their Clark 666B grapple skidder.

The family-owned company was originally founded by Dan (father) about 10 years ago. Dan has worked his whole life around heavy equipment, so the idea of putting his know-how to work in the woods appeared to be a logical next step in growing the business. Dan's first piece of heavy equipment was a John Deere 772 grader. With the help of his son Jack, they built hundreds of miles of Pine Ridge logging roads for Pope & Talbot, Inc. Also, about 5 miles of public access roads were rebuilt for the Nebraska National Forest. Most recently, they re-built 2 miles of access roads on the Metcalf Wildlife Management Area for the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. In addition to building and rebuilding forest roads, the company has a contract with the Nebraska National Forest to grade 40 miles of federal access roads three times per year. Needless to say, a good system of well-maintained forest roads provides important private and public benefits, including quick access for firefighters.

Dan and Jack's line of equipment has steadily grown. It includes a Case 550H dozer, Gehl 690 "mini-grader", Galion 830 grader, Case W14 front-end loader and Bobcat skid-steer. The most recent acquisition (Clark 666B grapple skidder) has proven invaluable for their timber thinning venture. Not only is this versatile machine a workhorse in dragging whole trees to the landing, it has helped the Rhembrandt's increase production by treating more forest acres. Presently, they're finishing a strategic fuel treatment contract on 400 acres of private land along both sides of a key Dawes County road. When completed, this firebreak will safeguard against wild fire and MPB devastation for the next 30 years. In addition, it will generate over 4,000 tons of woody biomass to feed Chadron State College's wood energy plant, which will save the college over $150,000 in natural gas fuel costs.

Rhembrandt Construction & Forest Care can be contacted at: Dan Rhembrandt, 51 Bartlett Rd., Chadron, NE 69337; phone: 308-430-2873, email: danbettyr@hotmail.com or Jack Rhembrandt, 163 Maple St., Chadron, NE 69337; phone: 308-430-3802, email: jkrhembrandt@yahoo.com.

NFS Welcomes New M&U Forester

Forest products marketing and utilization (M&U) have always been central to the mission of the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). Over the past year, however, these functions have gained special emphasis with the addition of Ralph Johnson as NFS marketing & utilization (M&U) program leader. Prior to joining NFS, Ralph was a visiting assistant professor at Purdue University where he taught courses in forest measurements and timber management. He also conducted workshops for landowners. Ralph is a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester and has experience in silviculture, inventory, strategic planning, cruising and log scaling. In addition to coordinating NFS M&U efforts, Ralph also provides leadership for inventories of Nebraska's forests and management of three NFS properties.

Since joining NFS in May 2011, Ralph has focused on woody biomass utilization. Finding uses for Nebraska's vast eastern redcedar resource will be high on his agenda. Currently redcedar management consists primarily of cutting, piling and burning. The addition of a wood boiler at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis has created a need for biomass processing and served as an example of the potential economic impacts eastern redcedar can have for Nebraska. Potential biomass uses also include burning chips for heating and cooling, as well as processing it for lumber and specialty products, such as pet bedding and fence posts.

The M&U staff also includes Adam Smith, who is currently engaged in a project that will develop methods for accurately estimating biomass using Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies and ground sampling. This will allow NFS to rapidly estimate the biomass volumes and determine if it is available for harvest.

Ralph sees his job as one of education, linking biomass users with biomass resources, and developing Nebraska's woody biomass processing industry. The challenge is connecting these efforts in a fashion that creates profitable ventures and demonstrates sustainable management practices.

NFS M&U staff can provide information about equipment needed for processing woody biomass, grants and financial assistance. They are available for utilization feasibility demonstrations as well.

Ralph can be contacted at 402.472.6640 or rjohnson23@unl.edu.

The Trading Post

The Trading Post is provided as a free marketing service for forestry industry. Only forestry-related advertisements will be accepted with the exception of products manufactured in the normal course of your business. 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

Sawmill. Enterprise 2HB handset, hydraulic sawmill, 52" & 32" blades live deck, edger. Detroit 6V-71 power. Will cut 24'6" logs. Can be moved on a 48' flatbed. Contact: Halfway Lumber Co., 62322 Hwy 65 West, Table Rock, NE 68447. Phone: (402) 839-6715.

Sawmill. Mighty Mite band sawmill. 20 horse electric motor, tandem axles with brakes on one axle, 36" x 24' log capacity, (I have cut 46" beams) hydraulic operation includes winch, knees, taper, near arm, dogging arms, far arm, dogging spike, log loading arms, and electric clutch and blade lift. Also includes automatic blade sharpener, setting machine, 12 used blades and 4 new blades. Excellent condition. Never been used commercially. $17,500. Contact: Gary Fisher, Crawford, NE. Phone: (308) 665-1580; email: fisher@bbcwb.net.

Tree Shear. 14" Dymax Model 2135D1, Double grapple. Used very little. Excellent condition. Fits universal skid loader mounts. $4,000. Contact: Gary Fisher, Crawford, NE. Phone: (308) 665-1580; email: fisher@bbcwb.net.

Lumber Dry Kiln. 2007 Nyle L300 Lumber Dry Kiln. 8000 bf capacity. Single phase, 100A, 220V, comes with 3 fans, 3 motors, 3 shrouds, wet and dry bulbs. Never been removed from shipping crate. $9,800. Contact: Dave Champlin, 1842 N. 210th Rd., Concordia, KS 66901. Phone: (785) 275-2181; email: trees2trim@ncKcn.com.

Sawmill. Circular sawmill. Includes power unit and two 48-inch insert tooth blades. Contact: Monte Reynolds, R&R Sawmill, 75455 Rd 409, Farnam, NE 69029. Phone: (308) 569-2345.

Planer. 24" Goodall & Waters planer. 2 knives. Includes 5 HP electric motor. Manufactured about 1890 in Philadelphia. $250 OBO. Contact: Carl Hinds, 450 Gulf Rd., S. Sioux City, NE 68776. Phone: (402) 494-2127 or cell (712) 281-1472.

Lumber. Rough cut. Air dry. Approximately 500 bf – Black Walnut, 290 bf – Pecan, 100 bf – Poplar, 500 bf – Cherry, 500 bf – Soft Maple, 100 bf – Hickory, 300 bf – Ash. Contact: R&R Sawmill, 75455 Rd 409, Farnam, NE 69029. Phone: 308) 569-2345.

Walnut Logs and Walnut Boards. Shedded for 20 years. Boards up to 3 inches thick. Near Pleasant Dale, NE. Contact; Ernie Rousek at 402-488-9032 or email: erousek@neb.rr.com.

Wanted

Logs and Slabwood. Cottonwood, cedar and pine. 4" to 26" diameter and 90"-100" lengths. Below saw grade logs acceptable. Contact: American Wood Fibers, Clarks, NE at (800) 662-5459; or email: Pat Krish at pkrish@AWF.com

Cottonwood Logs. Veneer-quality cottonwood logs, 16" to 36" diameter, 7' and longer. Pick up service available. Contact: Barcel Mill & Lumber, Bellwood, NE 68624. Ask for Barton or Megan. Phone: (800) 201-4780; email: bj@barcelmill.com.

Services and Miscellaneous

Woodshop Services. Millwork made from your lumber on my planer/molder. Chris Marlowe, Butte, NE (402) 775-5000. Marlowepasture@nntc.net.

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. North America's largest source of used portable sawmills and equipment. Contact: Sawmill Exchange (800) 459-2148, website: www.sawmillexchange.com.

Woody Biomass Facts: A Look At The Myths Regarding A Sustainable Energy Source *(continued from page 5)*

'If biomass plants run out of sources of forest residuals and byproducts, they shut down. Already 20% of the California biomass fleet has become non-operational due to a lack of residuals", Bob said.

For this reason, it is important that the nearby resources be considered carefully when the location of a biomass plant is being chosen. On a national basis, there is an abundant supply of wood residues, byproducts and slash available. A report on wood energy sources and uses from the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) said that there is enough wood readily available in the U.S. to provide up to 10% of the nation's energy use from wood.

"We could increase use significantly, without depleting our timber resource, by using material not now used, such as logging residues, manufacturing residues, land-clearing residues, urban wood residues, and wood from insect, disease and fire-killed trees," said the report. "Nationwide, volume of annual wood growth exceeds the volume that is cut."

At present, biomass power provides more than half of the renewable "green" electricity in the U.S. – around 8,500 megawatts per year which provides enough electricity to light about 8.5 million homes—and roughly 4% of the country's total energy use. The demand for renewable energy sources is only going to increase from this point. More than half of the states have already passed legislation that requires a portion of electricity be produced from renewable sources by 2020. A federal standard is also being considered. If passed, it will create an even higher demand than there is now for renewable energy sources.

In spite of the research that shows woody biomass to be a sustainable and renewable alternative to fossil fuels and that the growing need for just such a resource, there are still a number of obstacles in the way of it being recognized as such and utilized to its full potential. These include a lack of infrastructure for marketing wood fuel products, emphasis on non-wood fuels in research and subsidy programs, and failure to give due credit to environmental, natural security and economic benefits of using wood fuels. If these obstacles are overcome, woody biomass could become key to energy security and an answer to climate change concerns.

(Source: *Pallet Enterprise*, July 2011, article by DeAnne Stepheus Baker.)

Timber Sales

The following listings are for stands of timber or logs being offered for sale by owners or persons of delegated authority. Timber was cruised and/or marked for harvest by Nebraska Forest Service or other professional foresters. Volumes in board feet (Doyle scale unless otherwise indicated) are estimates by the forester. If no volume is listed, the trees or logs were not marked by a forester and the listing is included only as a marketing service to the owner. Listings are prepared according to information at the time of publication.

Item			Forester/Date	Contact
1.	**Black Walnut** (21 trees)	3,396 bf	Karloff	Michael McKibbin
	Veneer 3 - 318 bf		12/11	73459 645A Ave
	Lumber 1 - 598 bf			Peru, NE 68421
	Lumber 2 - 1,398 bf			(402) 872-4145
	Lumber 3 - 1,082 bf			Location: Nemaha County

How Did Scragg Mills Get Named?

"Scragg" is a word used to describe small, irregularly shaped, ragged, knotty and/or crooked logs that sawmills often cut. Scragg logs are normally shorter logs, usually ranging from about 36 inches up to 60 inches in length. They are also smaller in diameter, but can be from 5 inches up to 16 inches. Visually, these logs look like two pieces of firewood left together.

Scragg logs originate from tree tops or limbs. They can also be tree boles with too much bow in them to cut an 8-foot or 10-foot log, so these are used as scragg blocks. In effect, these pieces create a shorter, straighter piece of wood that can be sawn into a useable piece of lumber.

The wooden pallet industry is the biggest end user of scragg mills, due to the fact that they need so much short lumber. This industry has set standard sizes for pallets, provided by each pallet buyer, such as the Grocery Manufacturers Association. (This association is the largest end user of wooden pallets in the world.)

Every pallet requires 15 pieces cut from scragg logs. Tree tops and smaller diameter trees actually supply a higher quality piece of wood than do the conventional "cants" that come from longer log centers, for the bigger the log the more apt it is to have a rotten or hollow core. Tree tops or tree limbs and smaller diameter trees have little or no rot in them.

A conventional way of sawing logs is with a circular sawmill, which has about a 48 percent recovery with an average production of 15,000 to 18,000 board feet per day. A typical scragg mill with two circular blades and a single band splitter head can get up to 75 percent recovery by volume. The scragg mill has evolved over the past 25 years and now has become a major part of the wood industry due to the use of what was once considered waste materials.

(Source: adapted from the Minnesota DNR newsletter *The Market Place* spring 2011. Article written by Clyde Reed. Baker Products)