

2014

## Timber Talk, Vol. 52, No. 1, February 1, 2014

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/timbertalk>

 Part of the [Forest Biology Commons](#), [Forest Management Commons](#), [Other Forestry and Forest Sciences Commons](#), and the [Wood Science and Pulp, Paper Technology Commons](#)

---

"Timber Talk, Vol. 52, No. 1, February 1, 2014" (2014). *Timber Talk: Nebraska Forest Industry Newsletter*. 24.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/timbertalk/24>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Forest Service at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Timber Talk: Nebraska Forest Industry Newsletter by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE



Nebraska Forest Service

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

February 1, 2014

Vol. 52, No. 1

## In This Issue

Lumber Market News .....	1
Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green .....	2
Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Kiln Dried.....	2
Hardwood Lumber Market History—Green.....	3
Lumber Abbreviations.....	4
Timber Talk Editor Retiring.....	4
North American Pellet Exports Continue to Rise.....	4
Wood: Fastest Growing Heating Fuel in America.....	5
EAB Quarantine Updates.....	5
Chinese Wood Demand Expected to Rise 50% by 2015 .....	5
Nebraska Forestry Spotlight.....	6
The Ancient Art of Cooperage.....	6
The Trading Post.....	7
Timber Sales.....	8

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](mailto:dadams2@unl.edu)  
Website: <http://www.nfs.unl.edu>

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



## Lumber Market

### HARDWOODS



**Northern.** Brutally cold temperatures caused problems for logging and sawmill production across the Northern region. This one setback will not have a lasting impact on supplies. However, supplies of key species and grades are falling short of the market's growing needs. Red Oak business, in particular has enticed mills to produce this species as much as possible, when they otherwise would concentrate on whitewoods during winter. Even with additional Red Oak production, demand is still surpassing developing supplies of this species. Prices are showing signs of pressure after the holidays.

**Appalachian.** Activity was mixed through the holidays, as suppliers and end users took time off. Green lumber production is marginally adequate to meet the market's needs for species ranging from Ash to White Oak. There are concerns mill output could fall further before conditions become more conducive to increasing hardwood log and lumber production. Reported prices have responded to tightening supplies, with green Hard Maple, Oak, and Walnut leading the way. Domestic and international demand for kiln dried stocks continues to improve. For a number of species, inventories are extremely low. As with green lumber, information shows prices ticking up for many species, grades, and thicknesses.

**Southern.** Market conditions following the holidays changed little. The direction of business continues to be stronger demand and shortages of lumber, a formula for rising raw material costs. Shortages are not relegated to lumber and industrial timber products. Wet weather conditions and the freeze/thaw cycle kept loggers out of the woods and log receipts down. Green production has not been adversely affected to this point but could impact mill output in the weeks ahead. Housing forecasts show continued growth for residential construction in 2014 and into 2015 — good news for hardwood products companies.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report*, January 10, 2014. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report*, call (901) 767-9216, email: [hmr@hmr.com](mailto:hmr@hmr.com), website: [www.hmr.com](http://www.hmr.com))

## Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	12/13	9/13	6/13	3/13	12/13	9/13	6/13	3/13	12/13	9/13	6/13	3/13
Ash	835	820	850	860	575	575	605	615	390	390	410	410
Basswood	835	810	795	765	505	475	465	445	260	240	235	225
Cottonwood	670	655	635	635	470	455	435	435	240	240	220	220
Cherry	1235	1235	1235	1235	775	745	700	640	455	430	385	330
Elm	635	635	635	635	420	420	420	420	270	245	245	245
Hackberry	475	475	475	475	455	455	455	455	285	265	265	265
Hickory	845	810	765	735	715	700	650	620	520	510	480	460
Soft Maple	1250	1250	1250	1250	810	765	765	735	510	440	440	410
Red Oak	1320	1150	1125	1005	885	765	735	660	700	595	530	495
White Oak	1200	1075	1050	1000	750	695	665	615	610	560	495	455
Walnut	2250	1980	1795	1795	1175	990	875	875	685	575	475	475

Note: Lumber 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

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	12/13	9/13	6/13	3/13	12/13	9/13	6/13	3/13	12/13	9/13	6/13	3/13
Ash	1295	1275	1290	1290	880	880	930	930	720	720	735	735
Basswood	1155	1120	1120	1120	750	720	720	720	480	480	470	470
Cottonwood	830	815	780	725	615	600	570	530	—	—	—	—
Cherry	1830	1800	1800	1800	1170	1155	1115	1065	760	745	720	670
Elm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackberry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hickory	1365	1345	1290	1275	1155	1135	1080	1065	945	925	870	855
Soft Maple	1710	1710	1710	1710	1100	1100	1100	1085	785	785	785	785
Red Oak	1790	1675	1650	1550	1325	1150	1090	1055	1100	990	905	875
White Oak	1680	1595	1595	1595	1200	1100	1100	1045	970	890	860	845
Walnut	3240	3065	2915	2915	1855	1725	1645	1645	1035	945	900	900

Note: Kiln dried prices in dollars per MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 4/4 lumber measured after 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; email: hmr@hmr.com; 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. Prior to 1990, the #2A column listed only #2C prices.

SPECIES	DATE	FAS	#1C	#2A	
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	
	12/09	675	460	345	
	12/10	800	570	405	
	12/11	825	600	410	
	12/12	860	615	410	
	12/13	835	575	390	
	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	
12/09		685	330	205	
12/10		705	375	205	
12/11		705	375	205	
12/12		735	410	205	
12/13		835	505	260	
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	
	12/09	605	405	220	
	12/10	625	425	270	
	12/11	635	435	220	
	12/12	635	435	220	
	12/13	670	470	240	
	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	
12/09		1530	625	320	
12/10		1530	655	330	
12/11		1355	655	330	
12/12		1235	640	330	
12/13		1235	775	455	
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	
	12/09	635	420	235	
	12/10	635	420	235	
	12/11	635	420	245	
	12/12	635	420	245	
	12/13	635	420	270	
	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	

SPECIES	DATE	FAS	#1C	#2A	
HACKBERRY (cont.)	12/09	475	455	265	
	12/10	475	355	265	
	12/11	475	355	265	
	12/12	475	355	265	
	12/13	475	455	285	
	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	
12/09		615	500	350	
12/10		640	530	405	
12/11		670	560	415	
12/12		720	595	445	
SOFT MAPLE (UNSD)	12/13	845	715	520	
	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	
	12/09	960	505	260	
	12/10	870	570	325	
	12/11	985	600	340	
	12/12	1165	705	385	
	12/13	1250	830	510	
	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	
12/09		935	610	450	
12/10		1040	680	555	
12/11		835	585	490	
12/12		895	600	480	
12/13		1320	885	700	
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	
	12/09	940	500	360	
	12/10	1035	645	480	
	12/11	1000	600	450	
	12/12	1000	600	440	
	12/13	1200	750	610	
	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	
12/09		1800	765	360	
12/10		2105	1125	740	
12/11		2070	1075	705	
12/12		1795	875	475	
12/13		2250	1175	685	

(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)

## Lumber Abbreviations

The following are the more commonly used abbreviations in the commercial lumber industry.

<b>AD</b>	air dried
<b>ALS</b>	American Lumber Standard
<b>AV or avg</b>	average
<b>BD</b>	board
<b>BD FT</b>	board feet
<b>B/L or BL</b>	bill of lading
<b>BM</b>	board measure
<b>BTR or Btr</b>	better
<b>cft or cu.ft.</b>	cubic foot or feet
<b>CLR</b>	clear
<b>COM or C</b>	common
<b>DIM</b>	dimension
<b>FAC</b>	factory
<b>FAS</b>	firsts or seconds
<b>FASIF</b>	firsts and seconds one face
<b>FG</b>	flat or slash grain
<b>FOB</b>	free on board (named point)
<b>FT or ft</b>	foot or feet
<b>Hrt</b>	heart
<b>IN or in.</b>	inches or inches
<b>KD</b>	kiln dried
<b>LBR or lbr</b>	lumber
<b>LFT or Lf</b>	linear foot or feet
<b>M</b>	thousand
<b>MBF</b>	thousand board feet
<b>MC or M.C.</b>	moisture content
<b>No.</b>	number
<b>R/L or RL</b>	random lengths
<b>R/W or RW</b>	random widths
<b>S-DRY</b>	surfaced dry
<b>S-GRN</b>	surfaced green
<b>SEL or Sel</b>	select or select grade
<b>SM</b>	surface measure
<b>STD or std</b>	standard
<b>S1E</b>	surfaced one edge
<b>S2E</b>	surfaced two edges
<b>S1S</b>	surfaced one side
<b>S2S</b>	surfaced two sides
<b>S4S</b>	surfaced four sides
<b>TBR</b>	timber
<b>WTH</b>	width
<b>WT</b>	weight

(Source: *Wood Handbook*, USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory General Technical Report FPL-GTR-190.)

## Timber Talk Editor Retiring

Dennis Adams, Rural Forestry Program Leader with the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), is retiring on April 25, 2014, after 41 years of service with the NFS, University of Nebraska. During his long career he has held several positions within the NFS, including 34 years serving as Timber Talk Newsletter editor and coordinating forest products marketing and utilization activities for the NFS.

Adams said he has thoroughly enjoyed working with sawmillers, loggers, and others in Nebraska's forest products industry all these years, but is looking forward to transitioning to a retirement mode. Immediate post-retirement plans include attending to backlogged "honey do" projects, family activities, fishing, golf, and managing the Christmas trees and walnut timber on the family tree farm near Lincoln.

Although he will miss the day to day contact with cooperators, Adams said he is excited about the increased emphasis on forest products marketing and utilization services within the NFS. Good markets for forest products not only enhances the state's economy, but improves the health and productivity of our forests.

Forest products marketing and utilization programs will continue (and expand) under the direction of Adam Smith, the new Forest Products Utilization Team Leader. His contact information is: Adam Smith, 203G Forestry Hall, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68583-0815; phone 402-472-1276; email [asmith11@unl.edu](mailto:asmith11@unl.edu)

## North American Pellet Exports Continue to Rise

Pellet export volumes from North America to Europe continued to rise during the second quarter of 2013, representing steady growth for the past seven quarters, according to data compiled by Wood Resources International (WRI) and reported in the North American Wood Fiber Review (NAWFR). In that period of time, volumes exported to Europe have more than doubled, from just over 500,000 tons in the third quarter of 2011 to more than 1.1 million tons in the second quarter of 2013.

Most of the increase in exports over the past two years has been from the U.S. South, while exports from the other major supply region, British Columbia, have been growing at a fairly modest rate since early 2011. In the second quarter of 2013, pellet volumes exported from Canada were nearly static from the previous quarter, which was a reflection of a pellet-producing sector running at close to full operating rate and with limited investment in new capacity planned for the past few years. With additional capacity in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, pellet exports from Canada will probably expand significantly in the come year. To date, Canada's share of the total exports from North America accounted for 38 percent in the second quarter of 2013, which was down substantially from the level of 62 percent seen just two years ago.

In the U.S. South, meanwhile, pellet export volumes in the second quarter of 2013 increased 16 percent from the previous quarter to just over 700,000 tons. In the second half of 2013, pellet trade data will also reflect additional shipments from U.S.

Gulf Coast ports in Texas and Alabama, because new plants have started their commercial operations in the third quarter of 2013, as reported in the NAWFR ([www.woodprices.com](http://www.woodprices.com)).

The United Kingdom has emerged as the major importer of pellets exported from North America. However, pellet shipments from North America into the UK likely peaked in the second quarter of 2013 for this year, as REW's major biomass power plant in Tilbury shut down in August 2013. Power plants utilizing pellets in the UK are still on track to increase their volumes consumed over the next several years, but the ramp-up may not continue as smoothly as has been seen in the past two years.

(Source: *The Northern Logger and Timber Processor*, January 2014.)

## Wood: Fastest Growing Heating Fuel in America

Recently released statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau reveal that wood or wood pellets are again the fastest growing heating fuel in America. In 2012, 63,566 more families used wood or pellets as a primary heating fuel, a 2.6% increase over 2011.

Wood and pellet home heating grew by 34% in 10 years (2000-2010), "faster than any other of the fossil fuels, including solar and natural gas," the U.S. Census said. Moreover, oil and propane use continuously declined since 2010.

At the present, 2.5 million American households use wood as primary heating fuel. Compared with 500,000 that use solar panels and only 50,000 that use solar thermal heating, wood is by far the most used renewable energy in the United States.

2.1 percent of Americans use wood or wood pellets as a primary heating fuel (2000: 1.6%) and 7.7% U.S. households use it as a secondary heating fuel, according to the 2009 EIA Renewable Energy Consumption Survey.

The U.S. Census Bureau started recording heating data in 1950. Since then, wood heating has had some discordant fluctuations: in 1950, 10% of the U.S. population was using wood as a heating method; to drop at 1.3% in 1970 at an all-time low. By 1990, this percentage went up to 3.9%, to drop again at 1.6% in 2000.

(Source: *International Forest Industries*, Oct./Nov. 2013.)

## EAB Quarantine Updates

Several new Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) finds in surrounding states have led to changes in state and federal EAB quarantines. This may impact where you obtain regulated articles, which include firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species, nursery stock, green lumber, and other material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, and composted and un-composted chips of the genus *Fraxinus*.

Currently 22 states are known to have EAB infestations. Several states bordering Nebraska have full or partial quarantines:

- In **Iowa**, the state and federal EAB quarantines cover a block of 25 contiguous counties on the eastern edge

of the state. In December 2013, EAB was also found in Creston, Iowa (Union County), in the southwest part of the state. State and federal quarantines are pending for this new find.

- The entire state of **Missouri** is now under state and federal quarantine for EAB.
- **Kansas** continues to quarantine Johnson and Wyandotte counties in northeast Kansas.
- **Colorado** identified EAB infesting ash trees in the Boulder area in fall 2013. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has enacted a state level quarantine for Boulder County and some surrounding areas. A federal quarantine is pending.

What does this mean for you?

- If you purchase any hardwood firewood or ash logs/lumber harvested from a quarantine area, make sure the supplier is under a compliance agreement and meeting the federal quarantine certification requirements.
- If you harvest any hardwood firewood or ash logs/lumber from any quarantine area, or accept any green waste products from quarantine areas, contact Jeff Marker, USDA Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist, for assistance in meeting quarantine requirements. Jeff can be reached at (402) 896-8256 or [jeffery.d.marker@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:jeffery.d.marker@aphis.usda.gov).
- If you had been purchasing ash nursery stock from any of these quarantine areas, you will need to find a new source. Ash nursery stock cannot be certified or shipped interstate from EAB quarantine areas.

EAB has not been found in Nebraska. Report suspect EAB finds in Nebraska to Jeff Marker, or to Julie Van Meter with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2351.

## Chinese Wood Demand Expected to Rise 50% by 2015

Official statistics from the Chinese customs show a 11.34% increase in log imports in the first six months of 2013, over the same period of 2012, [muyezhan.com](http://muyezhan.com) reports. Overall, China imported 25 million cbm of logs, in the period mentioned above, at a value of \$5 billion.

Softwood timber imports are also on an upward trend. In the first half, China purchased 9.1% more softwood timber, especially from Canada and Russia, [woodmarkets.com](http://woodmarkets.com) reported. Moreover, European countries made a breach on the Chinese market: according to Eurostat figures, Chinese imports of softwood timber from the European Union almost tripled in January-June 2013, reaching a value €107 million.

In the following years, Chinese demand of logs and softwood timber is expected to further rise and by 2015, the Chinese State Bureau of Forestry estimates a 50% increase in wood supply deficit.

(Source: *International Forest Industries*, Oct./Nov. 2013.)

# Nebraska Forestry Industry Spotlight



## REMCO, INC.



Remco, Inc. located in Sutton, Nebraska, started as a part-time business in 1988 by brothers Rich and Delary Hofmann to manufacture “Dog Ear” fencing, in addition to their busy construction company.

Delary states that “We basically began with a radial type saw to produce 1”x6” lumber to make slatted fencing for backyards, privacy screening, etc. in conjunction with another business in Sutton, but we steadily grew over the first few years.” Following tornado damage in 1990 and 1994, the brothers began changing their product line to custom pallets and large wood skids to address the needs of equipment manufacturers in the area. “Our pallets have been used to ship agricultural equipment and parts all over the world”, added Larry. When Rich passed away in 2009, his wife Elizabeth “Liz” became a co-owner in the business.

The custom pallets are made from pine, including various species from Canada and yellow pine from Arkansas. Most of the lumber arrives at Remco, Inc. as heat treated certified (HTC) 2”x4” and 2”x6” lumber in various lengths. A “Holtec” Precision Crosscut System, powered by a 15 hp electric motor, cuts the lumber into the lengths needed. The lumber is run through two gang saws to make 1” thick boards. Liz points out “Our employees build pallets that range in size from standard dimensions to 7’x10’ depending on the customer’s preference”. Other Remco, Inc. products include large wooden skids made from oak lumber. The same equipment is used to build the oak skids which can vary in size from 4’x10’ or larger. Other oak products include crating, dunnage, and blocking used in shipping. Liz adds,



**L to R: Liz, Larry, Jesse, Ashley, Jeff**



**Air Dry Kilns**

“We have also processed Apitong lumber from Indonesia for trailer decking”. Most of Remco, Inc.’s customer base is within 3 to 4 hours of the facility. Products are shipped out by trucks.

Beginning in 1998, Remco Inc. started contracting with another company to dry processed sheets of plywood that can vary in thickness from one quarter inch to two inches. Today two large air dry kilns can lower the moisture content of green plywood to 18 percent in just a few days. The air-dry plywood is shipped to out-of-state marine industry customers to build boats.

To better utilize byproducts, this past year the company installed a “HeatMor” wood furnace that heats four hundred gallons of water that is circulated throughout the other buildings at the site. Liz’s daughter, Ashley, who serves “as controller” for the company, adds “Not only is this setup more efficient, but having the furnace in its own building addresses the safety issue of

possible dust explosions”. Any woodchips generated are sold as livestock bedding.

Other family members involved includes Liz’s son, Jesse, the General Manager of the operation, and Ashley’s husband Jeff Thompson, a trained mechanic that just recently joined the family business. Along with a workforce of around twenty employees, all members of this family-run business keep very busy attending to the daily needs of the operation and customers.

Remco, Inc. can be contacted at: 1407 2nd Avenue East, Sutton, NE 68979. Phone: 402-773-4223, Fax: 402-773-4205, Email: remco@windstream.net

### Little Known Nebraska Facts

**Nebraska is both the nation’s largest producer and user of center pivot irrigation.**

# The Trading Post

**T**he *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.** 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.

**Walnut Lumber.** All dimensions. \$3.00 per board foot. Falls City, NE. Contact: Bruce Walker at (402) 245-2031.

## 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. 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.

# The Ancient Art of Cooperage

*Editor's note: Although this article refers to stave mills in Missouri and Minnesota, it is a good exposé on "cooperage."*

McGinnis Stave is a manufacturer of wine and whiskey barrels. It is a thoroughly modern mill that deals with a craft hundreds of years old. The plant processes an average of 160 thousand board feet of predominately white oak each week. This species is preferred due to its properties, which meets the requirements of porosity, strength, resilience, workability, weight and character. The large thick rays of the wood give white oak extra toughness and bend ability, while making it relatively stable during dry shrinkage and wet swelling. Standards require clear unblemished oak for the construction of wine barrels, while small pin knot defects are allowed for the construction of whiskey barrels.

This plant quarter saws the oak bolts for staves, but the type of barrel determines the process. Wine barrel staves are stacked and set outdoors for three years to age the wood, which leaches out much of the harsh tannins. The tannins still present in the wood at the time of barrel construction impart a distinct flavor into the wine as it ages in the barrel. McGinnis make the staves, but due to the cost of shipping to far-flung locations, such as Spain and Australia (in addition to California); actual barrel making for wine takes place after the staves arrive at its destination. Stave bundles, with all the appropriate components, are put on pallets that are phytosanitary certified and prepared for overseas shipping.

As for the whiskey barrels, the quarter sawn white oak is graded and then kiln dried. The staves are shaped and the barrels are constructed. Once built, the barrels are charred to provide color and flavor to the bourbon aged inside. Prior to

shipping, each barrel is pressure tested to ensure it doesn't leak. Each day, hundreds of trucks arrive with sawlogs and each day a similar number of trucks leave with the finished products, barrels picked to excite the taste buds of bourbon consumers.

Minnesota has its own stave manufacturer. Located in Caledonia, in southeastern Minnesota, Staggemeyer Stave has been in business for numerous years, creating staves from locally grown white oak. Their staves are shipped abroad as well as within the United States. Many end up in California, where one recipient, a French barrel maker, works his cooperage magic to create wine barrels.

Cooperage is all about precision. The methods haven't changed much over the course of a millennium or two, except for the addition of hydraulic presses to aid in the barrel-making process; it's still all hands on. Even though barrel making is an art, it is not one that lasts long. The average wine barrel has a useful life expectancy of about five years. After that time, the barrel imparts no more flavor.

Barrels can be restored, either by shaving away several inside layers of the staves and re-toasting the wood, or by adding another layer of oak slates to the interior. This can extend the life of a barrel up to 10 years, but the results are not as good as the original barrel. Bourbon distillers normally use the barrels only once in the ageing process. After the one time use, many barrels are repurposed as planters and sold at gardening stores. However, other used barrels are exported to Scotland and Ireland. There, the second-hand containers are utilized for ageing scotch whiskey, which does not require the fresh charring to color the product.

(Source: *The Market Place Bulletin*, Summer 2009. Minnesota DNR. Article written by Lance Sorenson and Mimi Barzen, Utilization and Marketing)



# 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. <b>Black Walnut</b> (38 trees) 5,340 bf Lumber 1 - 856 bf Lumber 2 - 3,105 bf Lumber 3 - 1,469 bf	Karloff 12/2013	Jay Boyer 15464 E. State Hwy 8 Liberty, NE 68381 (402) 239-7361 Location: Gage County
2. <b>Green Ash</b> (2 trees) 230 bf  <b>Black Walnut</b> (16 trees) 3,510 bf Veneer 2 - 111 bf Veneer 3 - 706 bf Lumber 1 - 168 bf Lumber 2 - 1,849 bf Lumber 3 - 676 bf	Karloff 1/2014	John Buhmann 5048 NW 10th Street Lincoln, NE 68521 (402) 802-8679 Location: Lancaster County
3. <b>Black Walnut</b> ( 11 trees) 1,653 bf Lumber 1 - 158 bf Lumber 2 - 841 bf Lumber 3 - 654 bf	Karloff 1/2014	Gene Benes 12500 W. Agnew Road Valparaiso, NE 68065 (402) 610-6550 Location: Lancaster County
4. <b>Red Oak</b> (1 tree) 740 bf  <b>Black Walnut</b> (11 trees) 1,940 bf Veneer 3 - 106 bf Lumber 1 - 237 bf Lumber 2 - 1,092 bf Lumber 3 - 505 bf	Karloff 1/2014	Ron Bowman Freedom Center 1398 Capitol Avenue Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 297-9017 Location: Cass County

***You know you're  
from Nebraska if...***

Going to Tractor Supply  
is your idea of fun!