

9-2015

## Timber Talk, Vol. 53, No. 3, September 2015

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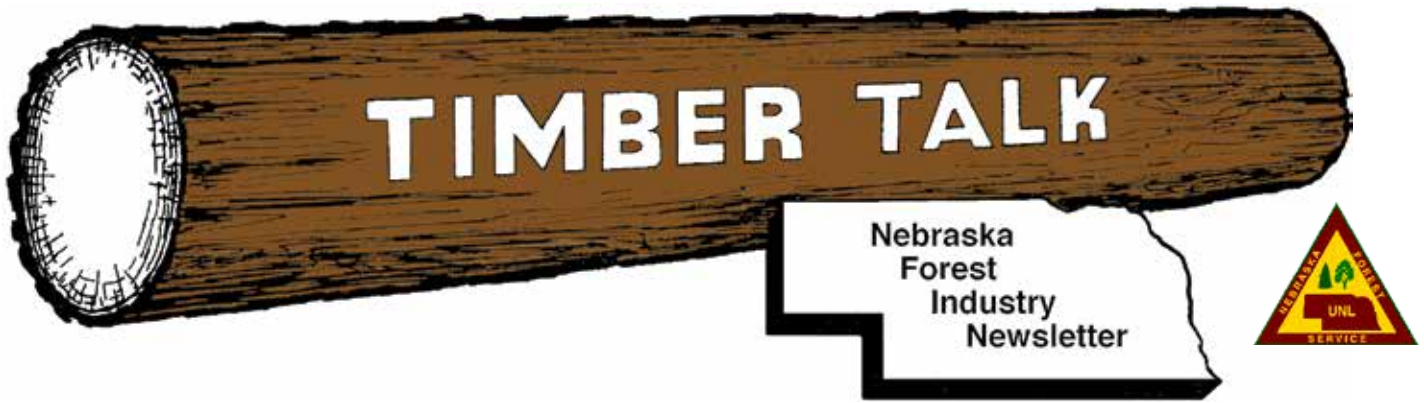
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# NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE



Nebraska Forest Service

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

September 2015

Vol. 53, No. 3

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Editor: Adam Smith  
Graphic/Layout: Karma Larsen

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: Adam Smith, *Timber Talk* Editor, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska, 201B Forestry Hall, P.O. Box 830815, Lincoln, NE 68583-0815. Phone 402-472-1276, FAX 402-472-2964.

E-mail:  
asmith11@unl.edu  
Website:  
nfs.unl.edu



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## Lumber Market Reports

A small icon consisting of a stack of papers with the word 'NEWS' written on the top sheet.

**Northern.** Area contacts report improved logging from earlier this summer. Unusually wet conditions have given way to a typical, warm, dry weather pattern. Having more logs available has fostered some additional green lumber production. However, the bigger difference for area mills is increased efficiency of production runs on individual species. Green lumber markets have benefitted from uniform sawmill output, too – especially when labor and equipment must be dedicated for expected whitewood receipts. Whatever difference in total volume there might be, the market has accepted it without noticeable resistance. The dog days of summer are winding down for kiln dried business. Europe will be wrapping up vacation season soon. Domestic secondary manufacturing should gain momentum in the fall, as consumer spending shifts to the home interior. There continues to be positive news on the US residential construction that should have an equally positive influence on demand for grade hardwood lumber. Business is also expected to pick up this fall in China. Domestic industrial markets are somewhat mixed. Demand for crossties remains very strong, whereas supply/demand imbalances have surfaced for pallet cants.

**Appalachian.** Markets for hardwood lumber are mixed in this and other regions. Domestic business has posted some gains alongside improving residential construction. On the other hand, international business is well off of the historically high pace of last year. At the same time, sawmill production was high the second half of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015. That production has been processed and is available for sale now. Kiln dried inventories of most items are more than adequate to satisfy short and possibly longer term needs, depending on when international demand picks up. Prices are being affected. Meanwhile, sawmill output is regaining traction. In parts of the region, wet weather conditions earlier this year slowed logging and lumber production. Now, conditions are drier. Log supplies and green lumber production are increasing and surpassing buyers' needs for some species, grades, and thicknesses. Pricewise, hardest hit are Ash, Cherry, and Walnut.

**Southern.** This year has been non-typical in many ways, if there are such things as typical years in the hardwood industry. Sawmill operators had large log decks and high production during winter and early spring, more so than during summer months. High sawmill output surpassed demand, which reduced lumber pricing, which, eventually, lowered production. The entire supply stream continues to adjust to changing and, frankly, unknown demand circumstances. Each segment is working to correct inventory imbalances and determine the direction of business for the coming months.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report*, May 15, 2015. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report*, call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

Hardwood Lumber Prices - Green												
Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14
Ash	1160	1155	1100	1075	800	775	710	710	530	500	475	475
Basswood	885	885	885	885	565	565	565	565	310	310	310	310
Cottonwood	745	725	705	685	535	515	500	480	260	260	260	260
Cherry	1310	1310	1355	1355	920	955	955	955	590	600	620	620
Elm	650	650	650	650	420	420	420	420	300	300	300	300
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	305	305	305	305
Hickory	905	980	1000	1000	705	820	835	835	545	615	615	615
Soft Maple	1275	1295	1295	1295	780	830	845	880	520	535	550	565
Red Oak	1015	1185	1200	1275	605	785	885	940	500	625	750	770
White Oak	1310	1385	1430	1430	660	900	900	900	490	620	685	700
Walnut	2635	3015	3040	2990	1350	1620	1645	1645	775	1015	1035	1015

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*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

Hardwood Lumber Prices - Kiln Dried												
Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14
Ash	1640	1640	1570	1515	1160	1150	1075	1060	800	800	785	770
Basswood	1210	1210	1190	1170	815	815	785	765	510	510	495	480
Cottonwood	960	940	900	855	715	695	660	625	----	----	----	----
Cherry	1880	1880	2145	1905	1330	1330	1515	1370	905	905	1010	920
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1555	1575	1575	1575	1255	1335	1335	1335	1055	1105	1105	1105
Soft Maple	1800	1735	1780	1780	1175	1120	1140	1155	870	820	835	835
Red Oak	1575	1675	1765	1765	950	1220	1350	1465	795	1030	1080	1180
White Oak	1955	2015	2040	2040	1200	1440	1500	1520	855	1100	1180	1200
Walnut	4140	4255	4090	4090	2165	2300	2320	2300	1435	1580	1595	1520

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*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

Pallet Lumber - Green				
Dimension	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14
4/4 x RW	295	----	----	----
5/4 x RW	315	----	----	----
6/4 x RW	325	----	----	----
4/4 x SW	410	----	----	----
5/4 x SW	410	----	----	----
6/4 x SW	425	----	----	----

Ties (7x9) - Green				
Region	6/15	3/15	12/14	9/14
<i>Crossties</i>	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	26-28.5	----	----	----
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	25.5-31	----	----	----
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	25.5-30.5	----	----	----
Southern (West) - 9'	26-32.5	----	----	----
Southern (East) - 8.5'	26-32.5	----	----	----

Note: Pallet lumber prices quoted in dollars per MBF, average market prices FOB mill, truckload and greater quantities, rough, green, random widths and lengths graded in accordance with NHLA rules. Tie prices quoted in dollars per piece, average market prices FOB mill. Prices for pallet lumber from Northern Hardwood listings. Prices for ties from the respective regional listings. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

# Open for Business

## Nebraska's Pine Ridge

**Adam Smith, Nebraska Forest Service**

Driving west across Nebraska on Interstate 80, it is easy to understand the importance of agriculture and livestock to Nebraska's economy. Dotted with small cities and towns and paralleled by the Platte River's narrow cottonwood forests, the hundreds of thousands of acres of crop fields and pastures along this route provide little evidence of western Nebraska's forest products production potential. However, driving west across Nebraska on Highway 20, one hundred or so miles to the North of Interstate 80, provides a different view of Nebraska's potential as a viable forest products state. A few miles west of Hay Springs in Sheridan County you'll begin to see one of the unexpected gems in Northwest Nebraska on the horizon, approximately 130,000 acres of pure ponderosa pine forest spanning Sheridan, Dawes, and Sioux counties. Welcome to the Pine Ridge.

### History

The Pine Ridge is a rocky precipice rising several hundred feet from the surrounding plains, composed of sandstone, siltstone and volcanic ash. This pine-dominated escarpment was formed during the same geological timeframe as the southern edges of the Black Hills of South Dakota.



**Figure 1: Bolts being prepared for use as fence posts.**

Since European settlement, the Pine Ridge has always supported some form of a forest products industry. Many of the older homes and outbuildings in the area were built with locally milled lumber. Opportunities to market raw forest products from the Pine Ridge have been sporadic at best. These markets have been driven by shortages (physical and political) of similar raw products in other areas. For instance, there was a pulp wood market in the 1960's where pulp wood was hauled via rail to the Lake States due to a temporary local shortage. The sawlog market, which lasted from the late 1980's until about 2008, evolved as a result of the Black Hills National Forest reducing their allowable sale quantity. This



**Figure 2: Forest residue being generated through fuels reduction.**

forced sawmills to increase the size of their wood basket in order to take in enough raw material to survive. During the 20 year period ending in 2008, it is said that 1 out of every 5 logs running through the Pope and Talbot sawmill in Spearfish, SD was a Nebraska log.

However a number of factors led to the decline in the logging and forest products industry in the Pine Ridge. The impacts of the Great Recession in 2008 and 2009 on the housing market and the increasing availability of sawlogs in the Black Hills due to the effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic in the southern Black Hills both played significant roles in the decline.

### Existing Forests

According to the U.S. Forest Service - Forest Inventory and Analysis program, the Pine Ridge forests consist of an estimated 130,000 acres of ponderosa pine, containing over 630 million board feet of net volume on sawtimber trees.

*(continued on page 4)*



(continued from page 3)

Growing stock volume of ponderosa pine in this area consists 150 million cubic feet of sawtimber-size trees and 12 million cubic feet of poletimber-size trees.

These forests are becoming increasingly impacted by wildland fire, with large fires occurring in both 2006 and 2012. As a result of the increasing fire risk, there has been an emphasis over the past decade to complete hazardous fuel reduction efforts on private, state and Federal lands (including the Nebraska National Forest). These forest management efforts are estimated to generate between 10 and 20 tons of small diameter residue per acre. While there are numerous programs available for hazardous fuels reduction cost-share in the Pine Ridge, forest growth is likely outpacing removals.

### Existing Markets

The largest market being served by the Pine Ridge forests is likely the fence post market. The small diameter material removed through hazardous fuels reduction is being peeled by a handful of processors in the area. These products are then sold into the Black Hills forest products markets. While these operations represent several jobs and provide economic return into the communities, they do not produce at a large enough scale to significantly impact regional wood availability.

A bright spot for the forest products industry in the Pine Ridge is the woody biomass energy system at Chadron State College. This system provides both steam and chilled water to heat and cool over 1 million square feet of campus space. Fueled by 8,000-9,000 tons of chipped ponderosa pine residue generated from hazardous fuels reduction in the area, this boiler system has been a regional icon for woody biomass utilization since its installation in 1991. In 2015, the Nebraska Forest Service, in partnership with Chadron State College, Chadron Public Schools, Chadron Community Hospital, and the City of Chadron, received a Wood Innovation Grant through the U.S. Forest Service – Forest Products Laboratory to complete feasibility and design to expand the existing energy system to include 5 nearby public facilities. This effort is expected to be completed by late 2015 or early 2016.

### Business Resources Available

The Nebraska Forest Service is working with the state department of economic development to develop larger forest products industries across Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development successfully recruited Bell Lumber and Pole to construct a utility pole treatment plant in Sidney, Nebraska in 2013. Department of Economic Development provides incentives for new business development across Nebraska. The Nebraska Forest Service also continues to work with existing forest products businesses as well as new operations to expand their current business models to include new products, as well as facilitating connections between producers and new markets.

In early 2016, the Nebraska Forest Service will be contracting for the completion of a forest resource growth and drain study to quantify the expansion and growth of the forest resource. This study is being tailored to provide information to potential businesses interested in sourcing products or



Figure 3. Wood fuel storage site for the Chadron State College biomass boilers.

their business in the area. This study will play a key role in the development of markets for Pine Ridge forest products industry.

### Summary

The Pine Ridge serves as an iconic and unique region of Nebraska. Surrounded by pastures and agriculture, this forested region has the potential to supply a large amount of forest products to a regional or local businesses. The forests are in increasing need for management in order to reduce the impacts from potential future wildfires. With active management, the forests can provide abundant wood resources to new business ventures and facilitate economic development throughout the area. In short, the Pine Ridge forests are open for business. Is your business ready?

## U.S. Pumps out More Pellets

Exportation of wood pellets from North America to Europe and Asia reached an all-time high rising 22% in 2014 from the previous year, according to the North American Wood Fiber Review (NAWFR). Shipments from the US were up 40% year-over-year, while Canada exported 6% less in 2014 than in 2013.

US exports to Europe increased for the twelfth consecutive quarter, reaching a new high of just over 1.1 Mt in the December quarter last year. Minor volumes of pellets to Asia, shipped by containers from the US West Coast, fell as manufacturers concentrated on seasonal local demand. By far the largest consumer of US pellets that past year has been the United Kingdom, which in the last quarter was the destination of 73% of US export volumes. However, the UK market has not always been in such a dominant position. In 2013, the share was 55% and in 2012 only a modest 31%.

With over 20 new export-oriented pellet plants being built or having credible plans to operate in the next two years in the Southern States, further significant growth in North American pellet exports can be expected.

British Columbia's overseas pellet exports in the last quarter last year fell by 15% from the previous quarter. While exports to Europe rose, shipments to Asia were substantially

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# Should I Buy a Saw Mill?

There's a saying among wood producers: "Take your wood as far as you can." That's an appealing idea, especially when you see the numbers involved. Here is an example of red pine pulpwood values in my part of Wisconsin: \$32 per cord on the stump; \$64 stacked in the woods; \$80 piled along the road; and \$105 delivered to the mill. Here's another for white pine sawlog values: \$160 per thousand board feet on the stump; \$190 felled and bucked; \$220 piled along the road; \$300 delivered to a sawmill; \$560 rough-sawn and green; \$650 air-dried; \$850 kiln-dried; \$1,100 planed.

These are rough estimates, subject to change over time, but they illustrate why there's a temptation to keep moving through the process. The problem is that each step costs money for equipment. Each step also involves a different type of work, and thus determines how you spend your time. If you want to spend time in the woods, you won't be happy running a sawmill.

The largest value increase for the least outlay lies in felling, bucking, and stacking pulpwood. With just a chain saw and some safety equipment, you can significantly increase the value of your trees. That's an investment of less than \$1,000.

Taking the wood out to the road and piling it adds another eight dollars per cord. This requires a forwarder, which, if bought new, will cost in excess of \$100,000.

Regardless of the numbers, there are some steps in these processes that have a strong appeal to woodland owners, and others that have little, if any, appeal. Cutting and stacking pulpwood is an unappealing prospect to most people I talk to, but operating a small sawmill is a dream shared by many.

Unfortunately, woodland owners almost always approach the sawmill idea backwards: They envision their sawmill producing something they would like to produce, rather than something someone might like to buy.

The prospect of increasing the value of their wood attracts many people. I can make two 2 x 4s that sell for \$2.50 each out of a pulpstick that is worth about a dollar in the pulp pile. Not a bad markup: One dollar to \$5.00; this 500 percent increase sounds pretty good. Stroll through your woods thinking like that and it looks like Fat City. Wouldn't it be a shame to see all those nice logs ground up for pulpwood?

Is it a good idea, then, to buy a small sawmill? Maybe. A lot of mills are available. Pick up any country living magazine and you see ads for all kinds of them, mostly band mills. Prices start as low as several thousand dollars. That's not much of an investment to produce a 500 percent increase in profits.

The place to start when deciding whether to buy a sawmill is not in your woodlot, but in the city. What markets are there? Can you break into them without cutting your prices so low that you work for nothing?

The fact that you own your own trees is almost irrelevant. Most successful sawmills buy all their logs, and you could too. In some instances, I don't bother to sort my logs. I put them all in the pulp pile and then buy almost identical logs for my sawmill. I have only so much time and energy and I have to use it efficiently. Sometimes that involves hiring someone else to do work, like sorting out pulpwood, that I'm capable of doing myself.

When I bought my mill a few years ago, I thought that I could simply saw some lumber, run ads in the local papers, and sell my products to farmers, who always need lumber. I still do that, but sales are small and have actually fallen off in the years I've been here. Very few people today build things with boards. Pole buildings go up cheaply and quickly and are free of many of the problems of wooden structures. Even sawmills use metal buildings. And anybody (including me) who builds anything with wood that will be exposed to the elements uses treated lumber.

The farm market is gone. "Roof boards" are actually plywood, and so is most sheathing on wooden structures. If you watch for sales, and builders do, it's pretty easy to pick up eight-foot studs for \$1.99 each and often as low as \$1.50. True, these are economy studs. By definition, they contain knots, splits, and dry rot. But the studs you produce are, by definition, rough and green. People fear green lumber and don't like the look and feel of rough surfaces.

Even if a lot of these economy studs aren't much good, enough are so that it's a pretty good deal for most people. They are kiln-dried, planed and cut to exact length. Rough studs are none of the above.

Discount houses often stock rough fencing boards. I thought there might be a market there, but when I actually examined these boards, every one of them had some little quirk I couldn't produce. Sometimes this was as small a thing as rounded edges on their tops. I couldn't do that, so

I couldn't supply that market.

What market there is for local sales consists mainly of odd sizes, which you can't afford to stock. Eighteen-foot oak 3 X 8s are popular for hay wagons, but I can't afford to saw up 18-foot oak logs in hopes that someone may want them before they warp and twist their way into the wood stove.

If you try to stock many different sizes, you'll need a lot of space just to store logs and lumber. People say of my local competitor, "Fred has 40 acres of lumber, two feet deep."

You need a steady demand so that you can plan your work. The problem with this is not so much in finding this kind of market, but in finding a portion of it that you can supply. I know a market for red pine eight-foot 3 X 3s that sounds perfect. I have lots of pulpsticks that make good 3 x 3s. But I can't sell to this market. I tried it, and it didn't work out.

In many instances, the reason you can't take orders is sheer volume. You simply can't produce enough to even consider bidding. In this case, I was able to produce enough, but still couldn't make it. I had to deliver every Friday to the buyer's plant. I could do that. My one-ton flatbed truck seemed ideal.

Then the problems started. The lumber had to be bundled and banded. Banders cost almost \$1,000, and even if I got a bander, I had no way to put the bundles on the truck. I had a loader with forks on my tractor, but it wouldn't pick up the size bundle the customer wanted. The bundles had to be loaded so that he could pick them off with his forklift, so I couldn't band them on the truck, which is what I thought of next. So I needed a forklift, and a big one.

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I tried taking the 3 x 3s right off the saw and bundling them immediately. This was in the summer, and by the time I got a load, the wood in the first bundles was black and green and dripping foul juices. I needed to sticker and stack my output to keep it from staining while I finished the load. That involved an extra big step, plus stopping and cutting and air drying a lot of one-inch stickers for piling.

I met my first month's quota, returned all my borrowed equipment, and went back to pulp cutting, telling myself that that's really what I wanted to do: lead a simple life and work in my woods. Sawmilling seemed to rule out both of these.

Even though small sawmills vary considerably, they have many things in common. Let's concentrate on these rather than dwell on band saw versus circular saw debate. To produce a 2 x 4 from my pine plantation, I need to have the following equipment:

- A chain saw to cut the timber.
- A truck to carry my equipment into the woods and the logs to the mill.
- A forwarder to move the logs out of the woods, load them onto the truck, take them to the mill, and load them onto the mill.
- The sawmill itself.
- A tractor with a loader to move sawdust and slabwood and plow snow.

I need about ten acres of flat, clear land for the sawmill, log deck, slab pile, sawdust pile, and lumber stacks. There also have to be large turnaround areas for big trucks and open areas for log sorting. This is all taxable as commercial property, a far cry from the minimal amount we pay for forestland under Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law.

If you can't or choose not to supply your mill with your own timber, or need extra work, custom sawing is always an option, either at your site or as a portable operation. If you set up permanently and have people bring their logs to you, your main problems have to do with the logs.

In my case, the typical sawmill customers are local farmers, not loggers or builders. Farmers don't own forwarders, so they drag logs out with their tractors, resulting in logs caked with dirt and with embedded stones and sand. This is especially bad if you have a band saw, but it isn't good with a circular saw either. Farmers don't have pulp piles, so the whole tree comes to your mill, as well as any other trees that they can find to make up a load. I've had farmers load 20- and 30-foot oak logs on hay racks with bumper jacks and then roll them off in my yard expecting me to somehow-lift them onto my mill.

Thus, you may cut several nice butt logs, but for every one of those, you will cut five or six skinny, twisted sticks. Even though the logs may come from a blown-down tree in a backyard, the owner will swear that they contain no metal. They do, though, and so you risk serious damage to your mill on every pass.

If you take your mill to the customer's site, you have the problems already mentioned and more. The farmer is responsible for loading my deck with logs and removing slabwood, sawdust, and cut lumber. It's not uncommon to find that, while he could drag big logs out of the woods, he can't pick them up and put them on the mill. It doesn't work to pick up one end at a time. The log has to go on straight or the mill may be damaged.

The customer is also supposed to furnish help, but do you really want his 12-year-old kid scrambling around your running sawmill? What does your liability insurance say about that?

Quite often, the farmer gets more lumber than he wants, or can pay for, and asks if you'll take part or all of your fee in lumber or logs. If that fails, he has you stop sawing, and you pull out having earned a lot less than you had been promised.

Finally, a word about production. Most ads for sawmills will say you can cut up to so many board feet per day. I don't know what my mill is rated at, but I would guess that it could produce up to 4,000 board feet a day. My goal is 1,200 board feet per day, and I can maintain that pretty consistently. This is one man sawing, loading logs, removing slab and sawdust, sticking and stacking the lumber, and maintaining the mill and equipment.

I saw one-inch boards out of eight-foot white pine logs. If, instead, I cut 2 X 12s out of large 16-foot logs, I could probably cut 4,000 feet in a day. Twelve hundred board feet of eight-foot boards is about two standard-sized pickup loads, and it requires slightly more than two cords of logs. The mill actually cuts about 250 board feet per hour with these sizes of logs and lumber. The rest of the time is spent on other tasks.

My customer prefers eight-foot lumber, and so that is what I cut. Eight-foot logs are easy to come by and handle. Even so, large mills prefer 16-foot logs. This obviously cuts the handling in half, but it also makes each log harder to handle. That's not a good tradeoff for me.

In addition, you get better lumber yield out of short logs. This is because the diameter of the small end of the log being sawed determines the width of boards you can saw off the entire log. If you have a 16-foot log, this diameter limits the width for the entire 16 feet. If, on the other hand, you saw this as two eight-foot logs, the limit on the width of the boards from the butt log is determined not from the top of the upper log, but from the point halfway, where you cut the 16-foot log in half. This can make quite a difference if your logs have a lot of taper to them.

Remember that the determining factor in deciding the lumber size you can cut out of a given log is not the width of the piece, but the diagonal between the furthest corners of the piece. (This is the hypotenuse of the right triangle formed by the long and short sides).

There's another saying: "If you are a hammer, the whole world looks like nails." Similarly, if you have a sawmill, the whole forest begins to look like 2 X 4s.

Running a sawmill is not a way of enjoying your woods. It is simply tending a machine, similar to running a machine in a factory-and a demanding machine at that. If you enjoy mechanical work, and I do, you'll probably enjoy a sawmill. If your goal is more forest- and nature-oriented, you may resent the time spent tied to a machine, and I do that, too. Good luck.

**Source: National Woodlands, Summer 2015, Article by Dave Johnson, Adapted from the author's 1998 book, *The Good Woodcutter's Guide*, published by Chelsea Green Publishing Co. For more information, visit [www.woodlandowners.org](http://www.woodlandowners.org).**

# Nebraska Forest Industry Spotlight



## AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS RE-OPENING UPDATE



On March 16, 2015 American Wood Fibers located in Clarks, NE experienced a devastating fire. Many people may remember that Monday because of the unique weather scenario of a 90 degree day in mid March that changed to near freezing that night with winds gusting to near 50 mph. The production building, warehouse, office and storage garage were all destroyed along with finished goods inventory. Due to the nature of the wood shavings product and the wind that day, the fire progressed rapidly and even with the valiant efforts of our employees, the Clarks and neighboring Fire Departments, the fire could not be quickly controlled. Thankfully, there were no injuries.

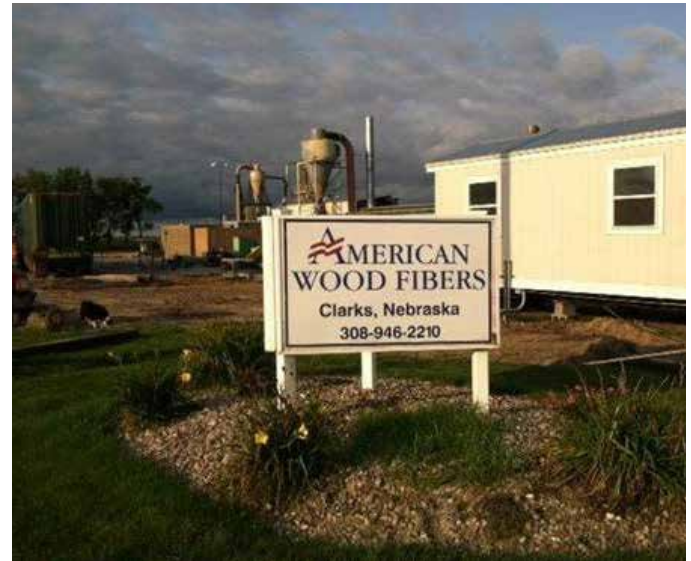
The loss of this market for the state's eastern redcedar and cottonwood log resources dealt a significant blow to the state's forest industry, and forest resource. This facility served as one of the largest, if not the largest, redcedar log buyer in eastern Nebraska. The permanent loss of the American Wood Fibers plant would have dramatically crippled the industry.

Jump forward to late August 2015. A lot of reconstruction activity is under way. With a multi-million dollar investment, the facility is expected to be producing products in September. "We are excited that we have continued to purchase logs," says Pat Krish vice president of central operations for American Wood Fibers. "We are in immediate need for 8 foot eastern redcedar logs. We also plan to buy all species of pine logs and will begin again to purchase cottonwood logs."

American Wood Fibers is currently hiring employees and planning a 6 day – 3 shift operation producing packaged and bulk wood shavings.

The resurgence of the wood shavings mill in Clarks has been much anticipated by the state's forest industry. With the addition of a pine-based product line, American Wood Fibers is situated to once again make a significant impact on the industry, and forest resource as a whole.

Please contact American Wood Fibers at 800-662-5459, Eddie Buckman or Patrick Krish for log inquiries.



## American Wood Fibers Saw Mill

Eddie Buckman or Patrick Krish  
2015 Prairie Island Rd.  
Clarks, NE

**308-946-2210**

*(continued from page 4)*

lower than in the third quarter of 2014. The slowdown from a labor dispute at the port of Vancouver, together with rail transportation challenges in the Interior of BC, contributed to the reduced export activities during the quarter. The major destinations for Canadian pellets in 2014 were in ranking order, the United Kingdom, the US, Italy and South Korea. Total export volumes from both Western and Eastern Canada trended downward for most of 2014 and in the fourth quarter last year reached their lowest levels since mid-2012.

Notwithstanding the 4Q/14 slump in BC pellet shipments to Asia, pellet exports from Western Canada will likely continue to flow steadily until new production capacity is added in late 2015. The potential for increased pellet exports to Japan and South Korea remains strong, though specific agreements have yet to materialize.

**Source: International Forest Industries, June/July 2015. For more information, visit the International Forest Industries website: [internationalforestindustries.com](http://internationalforestindustries.com)**



# 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.** Sanborn Minimax band sawmill, new 80 hp Deutz motor with 232 hours, 36" log capacity, hydraulic-operated belt on/off table, hydraulic log cleaner, digital levels, new track system, straight angled pressure guides. Also includes 60 extra 6" blades, Armstrong filing room equipment, box of new grinding stones. \$30,000. Contact George Hawley, Home 620-473-3468 or Cell 620-365-9744, email: hawleylumber@gmail.com.

**Sawmill.** TimberKing portable sawmill, 34" x 20' log capacity, 50+ extra blades (some new). \$16,000. Contact: David Champlin. Phone: 785-275-2181.

**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.

**Edger.** Corley SN E536-054, chromed in-feeds and out-feeds with no visible wear, 6 cylinder Deutz engine, and laser lights. \$20,000. Contact George Hawley, Home 620-473-3468 or Cell 620-365-9744, email: hawleylumber@gmail.com.

**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

**Wood Residue.** Slab wood, cutoff's sawdust, mulch, bales, etc. Lincoln, NE. Call Scott Hofeling at 402-432-0806 or e-mail scott@hofelingenterprises.com.

**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@nmtc.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.

## Timber Sales

**T**he 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
<b>1. Red Oak</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38-40 cords</li> <li>• Firewood (Already marked)</li> </ul>	Seaton 5/2015	Jay Seaton 3125 Portia Street Lincoln, NE 68501 Ph: (402) 476-2729 Location: Cass County
<b>2. Ponderosa Pine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green sawtimber (not burned)</li> <li>• Commercial sawtimber harvest - light entry cut (15-20 years ago)</li> <li>• Good forest road network 800 timber acres (estimate)</li> </ul>	Nickerson 5/2015	Robert ("Bob") Bentley 1200 Island Way Winter Haven, FL 33884 Off. (863) 324-2100 Res. (863) 324-7453 Cell. (863) 287-8564 Rch. (308) 862-4242 Email bobwbentley@mac.com Location: Sheridan Co. Approx. 16 m. N & 3 m. E of Rushville