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Timber Tales

No. 154 News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent 1st Quarter 2016

Fourth Quarter 2015 Louisiana Timber Market Report¹

By Dr. Shaun Tanger, LSU AgCenter Forest Economist

Timber Class	Price Per Ton	Q3 2015	2015 Averages
Pine Sawtimber	\$27.50	\$29.00	\$28.50
Hardwood Sawtimber – Mixed Grade	\$33.00	\$34.00	\$22.50
Oak Sawtimber	\$42.00	\$40.00	N/A ²
Pine Chip-N-Saw	\$19.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Pine Pulpwood	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$11.50	\$12.50	\$12.00

¹ The following document is intended for use by owners of forested land in Louisiana. The source of these prices is proprietary in nature and is therefore rounded per agreements to disseminate to the general public. The prices reported are also state averages. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry prices are reported by regions within the state, and that report can be found at: <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/forestry/>. It is recommended to use both and additional price reports to aid in decisions about purchases, sales, and determining harvesting schedules. As always, communicate with a consulting forester on prices before executing contracted agreements with wood buyers.

****Price Conversions: Pine Sawtimber: MBF = Tons X 8; Hardwood Sawtimber: MBF = Tons X 9.5; CNS and Pine Pulpwood: Cord = Tons X 2.7; Hardwood Pulpwood: Cord = Tons X 2.85

²Only started reporting, this quarter (4th Quarter 2015).

For additional information, call Area Code 318 and . . .					
BIENVILLE	263-7400	BOSSIER	965-2326	CADDO	226-6805
CLAIBORNE	927-3110	DESOTO	872-0533	NATCHITOCHEs	357-2224
RED RIVER	932-4342	SABINE	256-3406	WEBSTER	371-1317

News:

Molpus Woodlands Group sold 8,755 acres in northern Louisiana to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries included in the Wildlife Management System of North Louisiana. Georgia-Pacific announced plans to upgrade its Alabama River complex and Graphic Packaging plans upgrades at West Monroe, Louisiana.

Molpus Woodlands Group acquired 192,000 acres of timberland and a timber lease in southwest Louisiana, for an undisclosed client, from CalPERS through Campbell Global. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Graphic Packaging plans to invest \$40 million in a machine upgrade at its paperboard mill in West Monroe, Louisiana (TMS LA1). Plans called for an increase of solid unbleached sulfate (SUS) inventories starting this quarter, followed by downtime in mid-2016 for the new construction. The upgrade will increase mill capacity by about 4%. Georgia-Pacific announced plans to upgrade its Alabama River complex and Graphic Packaging plans upgrades at West Monroe, Louisiana.

In December, Boise Cascade announced plans to expand the Chester mill with a \$23.5 million project that includes the installation of new equipment and a warehouse expansion. This expansion will increase employment by 52 new jobs. Downtime at the Oakdale, Louisiana (TMS LA1) mill lasted five days over Thanksgiving week. During the downtime, the company implemented a \$43 million upgrade to increase capacity at the Florien plant and scheduled extra maintenance at the other two mills.

Hood Industries added a pulp mill this quarter and two southern pine sawmills. Hood Container, a division of Hood Industries, purchased the KPAQ Industries pulp mill in St. Francisville, Louisiana (TMS LA2) from Amzak Capital Management.

Hood Industries purchased Joe N. Miles & Sons which operates two southern yellow pine sawmills in the South: Bogalusa, Louisiana (TMS LA2), with annual lumber capacity of 150 mmbf and Silver Creek, Mississippi (TMS MS2), with 160 mmbf per year. The addition of the two sawmills ranks Hood with about 555 mmbf of capacity at 7th in the South, after Weyerhaeuser, West Fraser, Georgia Pacific, Interfor, Canfor, and Gilman Building Products.

Ten Timely Timber Tips

Over the years of working with forest landowners in the region, there are some items that seem to “pop up” time and time again. Some are commonly encountered problems, some are unfavorable situations that could have been avoided with better planning, many are simply due to the economy and current market situations and some are just ideas that might be helpful. Maybe the following list will give you some helpful ideas.

1. **Timber Basis** – Many landowners do not know what this is, or, do not know how and when their timber basis can be established or updated. In many cases, the timber basis can save LOTS of tax dollars for landowners. Landowners certainly need to visit with their tax professional and consulting forester about their timber basis.
2. **Hogs, Beavers and Other Pests** – This is an ongoing battle for many landowners. With spring coming, you’ll want to make sure beavers aren’t damming up and flooding creek bottoms or other areas. A little flooding during the dormant season may not be too bad on your trees, but it doesn’t take long beginning in March, for trees in standing water, to start dying. And feral hogs continue to be a huge problem. If you have a hunting club, maybe they could be of help.
3. **Boundaries** – Knowing your boundaries and having them marked will ALWAYS be in your best interest!
4. **Access** – Obviously, this is very important. But even if you have good access to a road or highway, there are still things you can do to make this good access more attractive to timber buyers. When markets are slow, as they are now, this can be very important when you are trying to sell timber. Your consulting forester can help you with the project of making your access more attractive to prospective timber buyers.

5. **Know Your Neighbors** – Numbers 3, 4 and 5 are very closely connected. Knowing your neighbors and developing a good relationship with them will be helpful in maintaining boundaries and good access. If you don't already know your neighboring landowners, you can easily obtain this information from the tax assessor's office.
6. **Premark Sales** – With a good management plan, you will know what is next in line to be harvested. If your next scheduled area is marked and ready to cut ahead of time, it might prove helpful, and certainly can't hurt. Whether it's a first thinning, selective cut, or even a final harvest, if the area is delineated, and trees are marked as needed for a selective cut, you'll be ready if there is a sudden upswing in the market. Your scheduled harvest may be a couple of years away, but if the market has a jump, or you have the chance to get a better price along with some neighbors who are selling, the premarked area would save time and may make a difference in taking advantage of the timing.
7. **Property Radius** – With GoogleEarth this is an easy task. Create an aerial photo of your property and delineate areas centered around your property. Draw a 25-mile radius, a 50-mile radius and a 100-mile radius circle centered on your property. Add any mills, woodyards or other prospective buyers to the photo. Knowing what products are being produced in your area will be helpful in management decisions. Doing this periodically will keep you informed of market and production changes, should mills close down or new ones come on line. Your consulting forester can easily do this for you or help you do it.
8. **Site Prep/Planting** – A good start is always important!
9. **Keep a Forest Journal** - This comes in very handy for tax purposes, and will be helpful in updating your management plan.
10. **Involve Your Children and Grandchildren** – Build a positive legacy with your family and your land by involving your family on the land. Hunting, fishing, birdwatching, identifying trees and plants, marking lines, building a bridge, camping, telling stories around a campfire, planting trees, cutting firewood, training or walking a dog.....the list of opportunities is endless! There are so many ways to involve your children and grandchildren and to share your knowledge and wisdom concerning your land and the stewardship and management of it.

Two key factors will be very important and helpful in dealing with these ten tips....**A Consulting Forester and A Management Plan.** Your consulting forester will sit down with you to visit about your goals and objectives for your land. Based on this visit, your past records and some on ground work, the consultant will develop a management plan directed toward achieving your objectives. This plan will include information about some of these ten items and much more. This article may give you some additional items you'd like to include with your management plan or add to it the next time it is revised.

Carpenter Bee Control

With spring right around the corner, it won't be long till carpenter bees will be flying around and drilling holes in exposed wood. Fence posts, beams, picnic tables, swings, rake handles, lawn chairs and even a few plants with dead branches will become victims of these living drills. The problem with them is not a stinging problem but, over time, a structural one.

They drill nice, neat 3/4-inch round holes and tunnel 6 to 8 inches in all these wooden structures and set up housekeeping. They're collecting pollen, laying an egg on the pollen and then walling off the cell. They work their way to the entrance, creating a series of cells as they go. Next year is when the structural damage begins as another carpenter bee will locate that hole and instead of using the same tunnel, it will extend the tunnel another 6 to 8 inches deeper and, over time, severely damage the structural integrity.

To manage this pest, it needs to be sprayed with either a pyrethroid and soap or Sevin and soap. Spray the solution into the holes late in the afternoon and then fill them with a caulking after the bees are killed. A second method is to use Timbor or Bora-Cur and treat the unpainted wood by wetting it and spraying a 50-50 mixture of the material and water twice on successive days. Each time as the wood dries, it sucks the borate crystals into the wood and creates a barrier. Then, if the bees drill into it, the crystals cut their derm, and they die.

Forested Land by Parish

Back in 1990, I put together a forestry profile of the parishes in northwest Louisiana. After recently receiving parish data from the 2013 Forest Inventory and Analysis work, I thought it would be interesting to compare the amount of forested land 23 years later for these parishes. With the capabilities today, GIS, digitized data, etc., I suspect data collection is much more accurate than it was in 1990, but it is interesting to see if forestland is staying about the same, increasing or decreasing throughout the region.

Parish	% of total parish area in forest	
	in 1990	in 2013
Bienville	88	87
Bossier	66	70
Caddo	45	48
Claiborne	75	82
DeSoto	81	75
Natchitoches	66	74
Red River	47	67
Sabine	72	73
Webster	56	70



Upcoming Pesticide Recertification Meetings for Private Applicators

These meetings are for private pesticide applicators whose cards will expire on March 31, 2016. Louisiana Department of Agriculture representatives will be present to recertify those in attendance. Attendees must arrive on time and be present for the full 90 minutes of the program. There is a \$25 fee with check or money order payable to LDAF. No cash will be accepted.

Bossier Parish Courthouse Annex Building, Benton, LA (Ricky Kilpatrick @ 965-2326)
Monday, March 7, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Community Trust Bank, N. Trenton St, Ruston, LA (Gary Stockton @ 251-5134)
Monday, March 7, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.

Claiborne Parish Extension Office, 507 W. Main St. Homer, LA (Lee Faulk @ 927-3110)
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Webster Parish Extension Office, 1202 Homer Rd, Minden, LA (Lee Faulk @ 927-3110)
Thursday, March 10, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Winn Parish Extension Office, 119 W. Main St, Room 4, Winnfield, LA (Donny Moon @ 628-4528)
Thursday, March 10, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.

Bienville Parish Extension Office, 2710 Maple St, Arcadia, LA (Gary Stockton @ 251-5134)
Monday, March 14, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.

Caddo Parish Extension Office, 2408 E. 70th St, Shreveport, LA (John Terrell @ 226-6805)
Thursday, March 17, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Charles Garrett Community Center, 182 Industrial Dr, Jonesboro, LA (Robert Austin @ 259-5690)
Thursday, March 17, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.

U.S. Wood Pellet Export Market No Threat to U.S. Southern Forests³

The U.S. export of industrial wood pellets to meet renewable energy goals in the European Union is not a threat to the sustainability of U.S. Southern forests, according to a new report by independent forest analysts and economists using U.S. government and marketplace data. The report was commissioned by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) and the U.S. Industrial Pellet Association (USIPA).

“This report puts to rest concerns that wood pellet export markets pose threats to the sustainability of U.S. Southern forests or the viability of other forest products manufacturers,” said Carlton Owen, President and CEO, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. “Markets are vital to keeping working forests as forests. At the Endowment we are committed to retaining our nation’s rich forest cover for the full range of ecological benefits they provide from clean water to recreational opportunities while at the same time supporting family-wage jobs that communities so desperately need. Whether those jobs are from traditional lumber and paper products or from renewable energy options such as those provided by wood pellets, each is vitally important to America’s heavily challenged rural communities.”

The report reveals that industrial pellet exports represent a very small part of forest harvests in the U.S. South and will continue to do so into the future.

- Total removal of wood in the U.S. South for *all markets* is 3.3% of the total forest inventory.
- Pellet exports represent 0.08% of the total inventory.
 - In 2014, pine removals for industrial pellet production totaled 3.7 million tons or 0.3% of the pine pulpwood inventory and 0.09% of the total pine inventory.
 - In 2014, hardwood removals for industrial pellet production totaled approximately 2.4 million tons or 0.2% of the hardwood pulpwood and 0.06% of the total hardwood inventory.
- In 2014, pellet exports from the U.S. South to Europe, which represent the vast majority of U.S. pellet exports, were 3.6 million metric tons, or 40% of Europe’s 9 million metric ton industrial pellet consumption.
- Future industrial demand for U.S. pellets overseas represents 0.3% of total forest inventory in the U.S. South.
 - Realistic demand and market share outlooks show that U.S. industrial exports of biomass pellets to Europe could eventually rise to 10.8 million metric tons.
 - Annual removals to meet this demand would total 25 million tons, which represents 1.0% of pulpwood inventory and 0.3% of total forest inventory in the South.

“The value society has placed on goods and services from our forests are the reason the volume of growing trees in our forests has increased by 50% since the early 1950s. The strong, positive relationship between markets and tree growth is why our forests remove 13% of our nation’s carbon emissions from the air each year,” said Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO. “This report should put any concerns about the fate of our Southern forests to rest and allow landowners to continue doing what they do best – stewarding our forests to provide forest products and renewable energy while contributing to cleaner air and water and more abundant wildlife habitat.”

“This study demonstrates in an independent, data driven manner that the industrial wood pellet industry is using an extremely small portion of the available inventory of sustainable low grade wood fiber in the U.S. Southeast,” said Seth Ginther, Executive Director, U.S. Industrial Pellet Association. “It also demonstrates that the industrial wood pellet industry is taking the lowest value sustainable wood fiber for use as feedstock and that the industry is a complement to some of the more traditional forest product industries. Accordingly, we hope that it will be helpful to policy makers when considering the positive role the industry can play in supplying secure, sustainable base load renewable power to the grid in Europe – which ultimately will enable Europe to meet its renewable energy goals.”

³Carlton N. Owen, 864-233-7646, carlton@usendowment.org
Gretchen Schaefer, 202-747-0756, gschaefer@nafoalliance.org
Christopher Hughes, 804-775-5896, chughes@hf-consulting.net

The report, Wood Supply Market Trends in the US South: 1995 – 2015, is available at http://www.nafoalliance.org/images/issues/pellets/Forest2Market_USSouthWoodSupplyTrends.pdf

Events, Thoughts and Tidbits

***Congratulations to the recent award winners at Louisiana’s Society of American Foresters Awards Banquet. They include:

- Blaine Brister, Outstanding Student (Louisiana Tech)
- Christian Rossi, Outstanding Student (LSU)
- Ray Newbold, Spark Plug Award
- Shaun Tanger, Spark Plug Award
- Rodney McKay, Young Forester Leadership Award
- Tim Holland, Outstanding Leadership Award
- Brian Chandler, Distinguished Service to Forestry Award

***Speaking of the Louisiana Society of American Foresters, 2015 was a very busy year for the society. A Multi-State SAF Conference was held in Texarkana in January 2015 and the National SAF Convention was hosted by Louisiana, and held in Baton Rouge in November 2015. This was a huge event with over 1,500 professional foresters from around the country and world in attendance. Another great feat was the completion of the comprehensive Cypress Management Report, by the Louisiana SAF Cypress Committee. This was a huge undertaking by this group who worked diligently for several years on the project. The report will be used nationwide. It can be viewed at:

http://lasaf.homestead.com/LASAF_Cypress_Report_FINAL_08-13-2015.pdf

There is also a good article about the report on the Baton Rouge Advocate website at:

<http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/13907065-123/our-views-wise-use-of>

***Pond Management Workshop, Claiborne Parish Library, 909 Edgewood Drive, Homer, Thursday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. The speaker is Evan Thames, Biologist, Pro Pond LLC. Mr. Thames will discuss managing weeds, stocking and maintaining fish populations, pond structures, water quality issues, pond supplies, cycle of pond life and more! Contact the Claiborne Parish Library at 318-927-3845 to register.

Sincerely,



Ricky Kilpatrick
Area Forestry Agent



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

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**31ST ANNUAL ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016
8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

**RAMADA SHREVEPORT AIRPORT
(formerly Holiday Inn Shreveport Airport West)
5555 FINANCIAL PLAZA
SHREVEPORT, LA**

Topics include

- Latest Research and Information on Feral Hog Control
- Tax Tips for Timberland Owners
- Drones for Forestry
- Wood Pellets....Is There a Market for our Area?
- Forestry Market Outlook for the Ark-La-Tex

Door prizes will be given by several exhibitors.

Come and enjoy an excellent forestry meeting, great lunch and the fellowship of others interested in forestry. If you pre-register by February 29, the fee is \$20. After that date or at the door, registration will be \$30. Your fee includes lunch and a copy of program proceedings.

**ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM
MARCH 3, 2016**

Name _____ Phone _____

Company/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

This form may be duplicated. If more than one person shall be registered, please include names and addresses of the additional people.

_____ Number of people registered @ \$20 per person (\$30 after February 29)

_____ Amount enclosed

Make check payable and mail to: **ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM
P O Box 370
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128 KNAPP HALL
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**News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent, serving:
Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster Parishes**

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.