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Timber Tales

No. 157 News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent 3rd Quarter 2016

Second Quarter 2016 Louisiana Timber Market Report¹

By Dr. Shaun Tanger, LSU AgCenter Forest Economist

Louisiana Stumpage Prices	1 st Quarter 2016	Change from prior Quarter
Timber Class	Price Per Ton	% Change
Pine Sawtimber	28.50	5.56
Pine Chip-N-Saw	19.00	11.76
Pine Pulpwood	11.00	-8.33
Oak Sawtimber	41.50	-2.35
Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber	33.50	-1.47
Hardwood Pulpwood	9.00	-18.18

Price Conversions:

Pine Sawtimber/ MBF= Tons * 8

Hardwood Sawtimber/ MBF = Tons * 9.5

CNS and Pine Pulpwood Cords = Tons * 2.7

Hardwood Pulpwood = Tons * 2.8

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 are therefore rounded per agreements to disseminate to the general public. The prices I report are also state averages and the LDAF numbers are by specific regions. I recommend using both to aid in decisions about purchases, sales, and determining harvesting schedules. As always communicate with a consultant forester on prices before executing contracted agreements with wood buyers.

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

What is in a Price?

By Dr. Shaun Tanger, LSU AgCenter Forest Economist

I get asked all the time, “Why are the prices being reported not the prices I see on the ground, or the prices offered to me by wood buyers?” This is a complicated question, but I’ll do my best to unpack it. First, there are two main factors affecting timber prices (credit Steve Templin for this phrasing) quoted to you as a landowner. 1. Factors specific to your property and 2. Factors specific to your marketplace. Let’s take a look at property/owner specific factors for now and I’ll address the marketplace forces at a later time. This list is not exhaustive, but will give you a good idea of what attributes the logger is looking at when he/she is appraising your property and determining what to bid for the timber.

- a. Quality of your stand – When you plant trees, that’s not the end of it until you decide to harvest and reap the financial gains. When you planted the stand (or when it was planted), how did you decide to space the seedlings, what kind of seedlings were planted, attention paid to genetic quality and silvicultural treatments (prescribed fire, herbicide, pre-commercial thinning) throughout the life of the stand until final harvest? The lower the stand quality, the lower the price that will be offered by loggers/wood buyers.
- b. Access – How easy is it to get to your stand or tract? Is there are a parish or state road adjoining it (gravel or blacktop)? Do the paths on your property have well scraped roads or better? Or will the logger have to clear paths ahead of time. Are there several entry points to the property? Are the culverts able to hold up to heavy trucking, Do the roads on the property get plenty of sun, are there low areas that can be rained out and prevent access (will loggers have to do temporary construction)? Further, there needs to be clear right-of-way definitions with respect to neighbors and, if not, do you have a good enough relationship with your neighbor to secure one without a lot of hassle?
- c. Logging costs – Site conditions, skidding distances, number of loading sets, type of harvest; select cut or clear cut.
- d. Contract Provisions – Length of contract, how long does the logger have to complete the harvest on your property? This certainly cuts both ways, allowing the logger more time may be an enticement, but it could also affect your market price (if you’ve agreed to pay as cut harvesting).
- e. Well marked boundaries – Streamside management zones, property lines, sale boundaries.
- f. Wide entrances and gates set back from the road – These both allow the logger and their equipment to more easily go about the business of getting to and from the property.
- g. Road and bridge weight limits – lower limits mean it takes longer to get the same amount of wood from your property to the mill.
- h. Hire a consultant– Last and certainly not least, get as much professional help as you can. A consultant is basically your timber agent and typically receives a percentage of the timber sale. This means it’s in their best interest to get you the highest price possible. In a prior issue, I noted the research that points to a marked increase in timber revenue (25% to 50%), when hiring a professional to assist you in the sale. They also will know how to set your property up for the next sale down the road to maximize the future returns on your property. That means if you decide to sell completely, you can command a higher price or if you pass the property on to kin, they are in the best shape you can put them in. If you don’t have a management plan, don’t know what your inventory looks like, or if you haven’t established basis for tax purposes, consultants can address those needs too.

DeSoto Parish Tree Farm Tour Scheduled

A field day/tour is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2016 at Franklin Farms Tree Farm in DeSoto Parish. Mr. Billy Franklin was the 2014 Louisiana Tree Farmer of the Year. Franklin Farms has a rich family heritage, dating back to 1945, when the first property was purchased. In fact, Billy's father, Bernard Franklin was the 1992 Louisiana Tree Farmer of the Year.

The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and include a lunch at noon sponsored by Superior Forestry Services and Red River Specialties. We will conclude around 1:30 p.m. We will see a variety of forestry and wildlife practices, including:

- 3-year old plantation of containerized seedlings planted on a ripped and bedded site that was formerly a 35-year old plantation
- 30-year old loblolly plantation with burning and mid-rotation herbicide treatments
- 22-year old loblolly plantation with burning, mid-rotation herbicide and fertilization treatments

Pre-registration is requested by Monday, October 10, so we will have a head count for lunch.

What: Franklin Farms Tree Farm Tour
When: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, October 13, 2016
Where: Franklin Farms, Grand Cane

Directions:

1. Coming from the north--From Kickapoo going south on U. S. 171, go 4.0 miles and turn left (to the east) on Fire Tower Road.---go to step 3
2. Coming from the south--From Grand Cane going north on U.S. 171 go 3.9 miles and turn right (to the east) on Fire Tower Road.---go to step 3
3. Follow Fire Tower Road 1.7 miles to Hazelwood Lane and turn left on Hazelwood Lane.
4. Follow Hazelwood Lane and the signs 1.2 miles to the camp.

If you are using a GPS, here are the coordinates for the front gate:

Lat. 032d 08' 5.9430" N
Long. 093d 48' 08.9441" W

To register, call or email, 318-965-2326, rkilpatrick@aqcenter.lsu.edu by October 10.

We would like the following information:

<p><i>Your Name</i> <i>Your email</i> <i>Names of others attending with you</i></p>

Louisiana Forest Productivity Program Continues to Put Trees in the Ground

The Louisiana Forest Productivity Program (FPP) continues to provide for the establishment of thousands of acres of forests in Louisiana. If you are scheduled to do some site prep and planting through FPP during the upcoming planting season, keep this in mind. It is imperative that you get your paperwork and receipts in to the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) on time. You should already know who the LDAF forester you are working with is, but if you don't, make sure to give him/her a call and visit with them about your project. If you are working with a consulting forester, he or she will help you take care of this, but you still need to know the LDAF person, as you will have to sign and complete paperwork. All practices have to be completed before you submit your paperwork and

receipts, HOWEVER, don't wait till then to start the process. Go ahead and contact the LDAF forester when the site prep work, planting, or other practice begins. That way, the LDAF forester can come on out and make an inspection and handle your project in a more timely fashion. If everyone waits till the job is finished, then many folks may be contacting LDAF around the same time and it may be hard to get everyone's paperwork completed on time

If you are considering using FPP funds for planting or some other practice next year, LDAF takes applications beginning on April 1 and thru May 31. Again, don't wait till April 1 to start the process. Go ahead and visit with the LDAF forester ahead of time so that you can have everything already lined up and ready for April 1. Landowners and consultants should get their applications to the LDAF foresters as soon as possible; that way their applications can be processed and approved before the last minute rush. If you don't know who to contact about FPP, following is a list of the LDAF foresters, the parishes they cover and their phone numbers:

Forester	Parishes	Phone Number
Jeff Anders	Webster, Claiborne and Union	318-371-3007
Winston Gable	Ouachita, Richland, Morehouse, East & West Carroll, Madison	318-345-7595
Chris McCarthy	Bienville, Jackson	318-949-3225
Andy Parrish	Sabine, Natchitoches	318-357-3127
Josh Price	Winn, Grant	318-992-1400
Trent Tuma	Franklin, Tensas, Catahoula, Concordia	318-992-1400
Troy Turner	DeSoto, Red River	318-949-3225
Justin Whittington	Bossier, Caddo, Lincoln	318-965-9380

The LDAF foresters are out in the field much of the time, so if you can't reach anyone at a particular field office, you can always get someone at the district office in Haughton, at 318-949-3225.

Interplanting Skips in Pine Plantations Is Questionable

Who knows what to expect with our weather?? We think we can usually expect some degree of drought in the summer, and it's not unusual to have flooding rains in the winter or spring....but mid-summer, when water levels are usually low, and we are having major evacuations due to flooding in south Louisiana!! Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been impacted with this wild weather.

As for trees, this wild weather also impacts them. We have recently seen droughts so severe that not only killed newly planted, susceptible seedlings, but also caused significant mortality in mature plantations and natural stands of both pines and hardwood. Last year, wet spring and early summer weather led us to believe it would be a great year for newly planted seedlings. However, this overly sufficient early moisture promoted shallow-rooted seedlings that could not handle the severe drought of the second half of the summer. In many cases, we often end up with lots of skips, or poorly stocked pine plantations. The big question is, "How much is enough?"

Here are a few factors to consider when trying to answer this question.

- What are your overall management objectives...Is timber production for financial gain your first objective, with wildlife management as a secondary objective, or is wildlife number one, and timber production secondary. The answer to this question will be a major factor.
- Area forest product markets. We speculate, but who knows what's ahead for forest product markets. We hope that we will continue to have pulpwood or other small tree markets to promote fully stocked stands that will need early marketable thinnings leading to a good stand of crop trees. And even if we don't have great small tree markets, we still need the self-pruning and growth form that a fully stocked stand provides. We don't want a bunch of scattered limby, bull pines.

- Are the skips dispersed throughout the stand, or are there pockets of high mortality, such as ridges, hill tops, low spots, etc.?

As for individual skips in the stand, here's some helpful information. USDA Forest Service researchers conducted a study many decades ago to look at this. They hand planted old agricultural fields in slash pine seedlings at spacing of 15' X 15' and 12' X 12'. They interplanted the centers in one direction a year later, to mimic replacing seedlings that had died, resulting in 15' X 7 1/2' and 12' X 6' spacings. The same seedling source was used for the original and year two plantings, and weather conditions were very similar for both years. Nothing was done to the stands for 26 years (25 years for the interplants), and the following table gives you a picture of the trees at that point. However the picture following the table shows it best...the one year advantage resulted in a huge growth difference!

TREE DATA AT 26 (25) YEARS OF AGE

	<u>Original trees</u>	<u>Interplanted trees</u>
Avg. diameter breast height (4 1/2 feet above ground)	8.9"	5.2"
Merchantable cubic foot volume	2351	21



At age 25, the banded interplanted tree (center) is 3.2 inches d.b.h., and the 1-year older original plants are 10.7 inches (left) and 6.1 inches (right).

Although this study involved slash pine, a similar study by *Wakeley* reported that trees one year younger fail spots in plantings of slash pine, as well as loblolly and longleaf did not survive or grow well enough to justify the cost of planting them.

Jones, Earle P., Jr. 1975. Interplanting is futile in slash pine plantations.

[Tree Planters' Notes – Volume 26, Number 1 \(1975\)](#)

<http://www.rngr.net/publications/tpn/26-1/PDF.2003-09-22.2858>

Dennington, Roger W. 1986. Interplanting Southern Pines is Questionable. Technology Update – Forestry Bulletin R8-FB/M5

Wakeley, Philip C. 1968. Replacement Planting of Southern Pines Unsuccessful. U.S. Dep. Agric. For. Serv. Res. Note SO-85, 4 p. South. For. Exp. Stn., New Orleans, La.

Louisiana 4-H'ers Compete Well at National Forestry and Wildlife Contests

Forestry

The Louisiana 4-H Forestry Team recently returned from Weston, West Virginia, where they placed 5th at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational. Seventeen states participated in the event. The Louisiana Team included Kate Dickson from Natchitoches, Hayley Farmer from Converse, Cameron Russell from Crowley, and Christopher Wiltz from Breaux Bridge. The team was coached and chaperoned by area forestry agent, Robbie Hutchins, and Sabine Parish 4-H agent, Nan Arthur.

While at the Invitational, 4-H members competed for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, forest evaluation, the forestry bowl and a written forestry exam.

The top eight teams were:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Arkansas | 4. Georgia | 7. North Carolina |
| 2. Tennessee | 5. Louisiana | 8. Pennsylvania |
| 3. Florida | 6. Idaho | |

Louisiana has participated in more National 4-H Forestry Invitationals than any other state in the U.S. Tom Prince was an observer for LA in 1981, and we have been sending a team every year since then. So this year was the 35th team we have sent to the Invitational. Tom was the area extension forester in the Cenla area before Barry Crain. After Tom went to the 1981 Invitational as an observer, he was asked to serve on the Invitational committee and was very active in planning and conducting the event for several years. When Tom “retired” from the national committee, Brian Chandler took his place and served on the committee from 1993-2005.

Wildlife

This year's National 4-H Wildlife Contest was just down the road from the forestry event, in Cannan Valley, West Virginia. The LA 4-H Wildlife Team placed 4th out of 14 teams at the 2016 National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) Contest held on July 23 - July 27, 2016. Amelia Broussard (Vermilion Parish), Hannah Keller (Calcasieu Parish), Ty Price (Beauregard Parish) and Trevor Leger (Beauregard Parish) represented Louisiana at the contest. The 4-H youths that represented Louisiana had a fabulous attitude towards learning and working together.

WHEP is a 4-H youth natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to junior and senior level youth. The interactive WHEP program provides participants an opportunity to test their wildlife and fisheries knowledge in a friendly, hands-on educational competition. Participants learn wildlife terms and concepts, wildlife habitat, how to judge the quality of wildlife habitat, wildlife habitat management practices, and wildlife damage management techniques.

At the National WHEP Contest in West Virginia, the contestants are required to identify the needs of wildlife species in the Eastern Deciduous Forest, wetlands and urban region and make recommendations on wildlife management practices that will improve the habitat for wildlife in the selected region. Contestants are given a written knowledge-based test dealing with species habitat needs and general species information from the study area. The contestants participate in a wildlife challenge to identify wildlife species using specimens, parts of specimens or calls. Participants are then tested on their knowledge of topics ranging from wildlife habitat for select species to management practices that benefit the wildlife. The youths are taken to an outdoor site with defined boundaries and must give on-site recommendations for various wildlife management practices, prepare a written two-page wildlife management plan with a drawing of a map of the area, and give an oral defense of this written plan for given species based on the study area, field conditions of the site and landowner's objectives.

Through WHEP's interactive program, youths increase knowledge, motivation, and skills to manage wildlife, habitat and its ecosystem and are more likely to practice responsible use and stewardship of the land's natural resources. WHEP also teaches the youths life skills such as team work, public speaking, observation, and critical thinking. Impacts of youth programs show an appreciation for environmental stewardship and build a diverse pool of students interested in professional opportunities in the sciences. The long term goal is creating stewards of the natural environment.

Agritourism Workshop scheduled for Northwest Louisiana

A workshop focusing on the financial issues and legal liabilities of running an agritourism business is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2016 at the LSU AgCenter Red River Research Station in Bossier City. Discussions will address the laws and liabilities, insurance, and the costs and benefits relative to agritourism. There will be a brief overview of what's going on with the agritourism industry in our state, and a discussion on the steps to become a certified agritourism operation. The meeting will run from 9:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. **Pre-registration is needed, as a lunch will be served.**

What: Agritourism Financial and Legal Liabilities Workshop
When: 9:00 a.m – 2:30 p.m. Thursday, November 10, 2016
Where: LSU AgCenter Red River Research Station
262 Research Station Drive, Bossier City, LA

How to register: Send \$15 with your name, address, e-mail address and phone number to Dr. Maria Bamposidou, LSU AgCenter, 234 Martin Woodin Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Make checks out to LSU AgCenter. For more information contact: Dora Ann Hatch at (318) 927-9654x229 or e-mail her dhatch@agcenter.lsu.edu An agenda and more information are available at www.lsuagcenter.com/agritourism

Incidentally, we do have some active agritourism operations in our area. You may be asking, "What is an agritourism operation?" Agritourism is a business venture located on a working farm, ranch, or agricultural enterprise that provides an "experience" for visitors while generating supplemental income for the owner. Here are some examples of agritourism ventures:

farm tours	bed and breakfasts	roadside stands
u-pick operations	on-farm sales	festivals or fairs
farmers markets	ag-related crafts/gifts	guided crop tours
garden/nursery tours	winery tours	exotic animal farm
farm visits and stays	canoeing, paddling	corn/hay mazes
holiday visits/tours	hay rides	barn dances
petting zoo	photography/painting	bird watching

camping/picnicking
hunting dog training/events
fee hunting
Christmas tree farm

habitat improvement projects
trap/skeet shooting
farm skills/farm work
historical agricultural exhibits

wildlife viewing
fee fishing
beekeeping

Forestry BMP Workshop Scheduled in Ruston



- Mudd-Holland Consulting Foresters
- La. Forestry Assoc.
- Harmon Wood Co.
- Progressive Bank
- Timberland Services LLC



Forestry Best Management Practices Workshop

September 16

6 CLE credits with field tour

8:30 to 2 pm (lunch served)

Location: Origin Bank Hwy 167 N
Ruston

Pre Register 318.255-3554



The workshop has been approved for 6 hours of CLE and CFE hours. For more information and to RSVP, contact Ellzey Simmons at 318-255-3554 or pesimmons@suddenlink.net

10th Annual Louisiana Prescribed Fire Council Meeting Set

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Prescribed Fire Council will be held on September 28, 2016 at the DeWitt Livestock Facility at 100 Greg Marshall Drive in Alexandria. This is on the south end of the LSU-Alexandria campus. The meeting is from 8:30 a.m. till noon, and there will be an optional prescribed marsh burning workshop from 1:00 till 4:30 p.m. for those who wish to stay. Topics to be discussed include:

- LDAF Update-Ongoing Activities
- Prescribed Fire in Shortleaf Forests
- State of Forestry & Wildlife in Louisiana
- Quail Management & Prescribed Fire
- Private Landowner's Perspective of Prescribed Fire
- A discussion of Mississippi's Prescribed Fire Council
- A brief business meeting of the Louisiana Fire Council

For more information and to preregister, contact area forestry agent, Keith Hawkins at 337-463-7006 or khawkins@agcenter.lsu.edu

Events, Thoughts and Tidbits

***The Emerald Ash Borer was recently confirmed in Lincoln Parish, making it the fifth Louisiana EAB confirmation, joining Webster, Bossier, Claiborne and Union. EAB was also recently confirmed in East Texas.

*****Family Forest Leaf Collections** - If you have forest land and a 4-H'er in the family (child, grandchild, niece or nephew, cousin or good friend), here's an idea. See if you can interest your 4-H'er in making a leaf collection from your forestland. He or she can collect leaves from your property, make a collection, enter it in the Louisiana State Fair in October (yes, there is still time), and also enter it in the Louisiana Forestry Festival, next spring in Winnfield. After that, you'll have a collection of native trees on your property. It will be a special collection because it represents the tree from your land, but also because your family/friend/4-H member made the collection. For the last two years we have added a new category for this event. The 4-H'er can have a collection of actual pressed leaves, or he/she can make a digital collection, using photos. All the rules, entry dates, etc. can be found on the state fair website at:

[http://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&f=leaf_collection_rules -](http://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&f=leaf_collection_rules_-_2016_state_fair.pdf&rid=LAStateFair)

[_2016_state_fair.pdf&rid=LAStateFair](http://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&f=leaf_collection_rules_-_2016_state_fair.pdf&rid=LAStateFair). This is a long web address, but it's under Competitive Exhibits, then Junior Division, then Forestry, under the state fair website: <http://www.statefairoflouisiana.com/>. If you have any questions, you can call me at 318-965-2326, or email me at rkilpatrick@agcenter.lsu.edu

***Speaking of the Louisiana State Fair, the dates are October 27 – November 13, 2016. Come check out AgMagic at the LSU AgCenter building, the livestock shows, the rodeo and the 80th Annual Junior Livestock Sale.

***Thanks to Paul Spillers for a new forestry term to add to our vocabulary - **Etiolate**: gradual weakening of a stand of trees deprived of adequate light. You've seen the thick, beanpole looking stands of pines. A stand can get to a point to where a thinning won't even help it. After all, the needles, or leaves, are making the food for the tree, so if the tree self-prunes to a point of a very small area of live crown, the needles cannot make enough food to support growth or new needle development. In forestry, we use the term live crown ratio (LCR), describing the percentage of the tree that still has live foliage. We like to see an LCR of 30% or about 1/3 of the total tree height in pines ideally. They can tolerate a lower LCR, but this is why timely thinning is important. According to research from the Crossett Experiment Station, a pine tree needs at least an LCR of 20%, plus a minimum of two inches in diameter at the base of the live crown to function as a somewhat healthy and growing tree.

Sincerely,



Ricky Kilpatrick
Area Forestry Agent

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability. If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in a meeting, please contact the Bossier Parish Extension Office at (318) 965-2326 three days prior to the meeting.

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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.