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# Timber Tales

No. 153 News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2015

**Second Quarter 2015 Louisiana Timber Market Report<sup>1</sup>**  
 By Dr. Shaun Tanger, LSU AgCenter Forest Economist

Louisiana Stumpage Prices (\$/ton)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015	Change from Prior Quarter
Timber Class	Price per ton	% Change
Pine Sawtimber	\$29.00	-2%
Pine Chip-n-Saw	\$17.00	-3%
Pine Pulpwood	\$10.50	7%
Hardwood Sawtimber –Mixed grade	\$34.00	1%
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$12.00	1%

For additional information, call Area Code 318 and . . .

BIENVILLE	263-7400	BOSSIER	965-2326	CADDO	226-6805
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<sup>1</sup> 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 I report are also state averages and the LDAF numbers are by specific regions. The LDAF Price Report: <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/forestry/>. 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.

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

On the tax front, the Louisiana Tax Commission has approved new timberland assessments for ad valorem tax purposes for the 2016-2019 tax years. The timber valuation increased in each of the first three timberland classes and class four remained flat. Please contact your local parish tax assessor for more details.

**2016-2019 USE VALUE ASSESSMENT FORESTLAND**

Use Value	2016-2019	2012-2015	% Change
Class I	39.77	38.67	+2.8%
Class II	28.28	27.47	+2.9%
Class III	12.39	12.05	+2.8%
Class IV	7.53	7.53	- 0 -

For the entire report, go to <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/MCMS/RelatedFiles/%7B458DFE45-F304-4BA2-84AF-6FEE6E6A8B5A%7D/2nd-Quarter-Stumpage-Speak-2015.pdf>.

**Short-Rotation Trees Hold Promise for Louisiana Landowners**

A movement in Europe from coal to wood-fired electric generation has created a worldwide market for wood pellets, according to experts at a recent symposium.

Planting and managing short-rotation stands of fast-growing hardwood tree species can help meet demands for wood pellets and similar products made from small diameter, pulpwood-sized trees in some regions, said AgCenter forestry researcher Mike Blazier.

The wood pellet industry in Europe is growing in an effort to reduce greenhouse gasses, said Rich Vlosky, director of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center in the LSU AgCenter.

Drax Biomass has a facility in Bastrop and German Pellets is building facilities in Urania, Louisiana. Both are customers for Louisiana wood products, Vlosky said. “The South is where the industry is clustered,” he said.

The symposium featured information on how forest landowners can take advantage of the emerging biobased fuel industry, said program organizer Todd Shupe with the AgCenter Forest Products Development Center. The biennial event was sponsored by the LSU AgCenter, southern Regional Extension Foresters, the Louisiana Forestry Association and the Louisiana Society of American Foresters.

Short-rotation trees are harvested in 10 to 12 years rather than the 25 to 30 years required to grow hardwood trees for saw lumber. “But we have to manage a forest to get that fast growth,” Blazier said. “We’re operating fiber farms.” Growers need to start with species with good genetic potential, then use intensive management to produce a profitable crop. “With short-rotation hardwoods, we’re talking about pumping out a lot of biomass,” Blazier said.

Growing trees in this manner requires starting with a cleared landscape and treating it as if it were being planted to agricultural crops. Site preparation is key, he said. “Growing short-rotation hardwood trees is more like farming,” he said. “You need good site preparation to manage vegetation, and most of these species are susceptible to weed competition.”

The most frequent management need in the first three years is weed control, Blazier said. “First- and second-year weed control has long-term benefits.” Herbicide selection includes choosing those tolerated by the crop tree, timely application and minimum contact to the tree seedlings. “You have to know the tree

species and read the label carefully,” he said. In addition to weed control, most hardwood species require phosphorus fertilizer early and nitrogen fertilizer after three to five years, he said.

Short-rotation crops and tree spacing are related, said AgCenter researcher Tom Dean. Although spacing affects growth, “there’s no ‘correct’ spacing,” Dean said. Narrow rows create high density that encourages trees to grow higher and produce a full canopy sooner than wider spacing used with trees grown for saw timber.

“Growing 400 to 1,000 trees per acre provides flexibility in 8 to 12 years,” Dean said. “We’re growing wood on a per-acre basis and not a per-tree basis.”

Trees should be planted close enough so the canopy closes more quickly to get early accumulations of biomass, he said. Earlier canopy closure promotes faster shading of the ground cover and smaller branches so total biomass production increases.

“Insects and diseases become problems when they start to affect the landowner’s objective,” said Lori Eckhardt, an entomologist with Auburn University. “It comes down to how much you’re willing to accept” regarding damage. “You’re always going to have something that will kill trees,” Eckhardt said. “You have to decide what loss level is important for you.”

Dealing with pest and disease problems will continue to be problems, she said. “Our whole ecosystems are changing because of invasive species, especially from Asia.”

### **Dr. Joseph and Charlotte Barron named Outstanding Tree Farmers**

Dr. Joseph Barron and his wife Charlotte were presented the 2015 Louisiana Outstanding Tree Farmer for his 667-acre tree farm located in Union Parish. The award was made during the annual convention of the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) August 26 in Lake Charles.

Dr. Barron is an ophthalmologist in Monroe during the week but he and his wife take off for Spearsville on Fridays to his childhood home that he has turned into a Tree Farm.

“I think this place is unique because Dr. Barron is dedicated to trying to keep his family heritage alive,” said Toby Hammons, who works with the Barrons through the Landowner Assistance Program for Weyerhaeuser.

The tree farm property consists of five tracts of land that were passed down from both sides of Barron’s family. Farming was the occupation of his father although he planted loblolly pines as well. Today timber management is his main goal but he is interested in protection of soil, water, wildlife and unique sites as well.

The activities on the property are diverse: he had selective log thinning and pole removal on 100 acres this year and fuel chipping of 100 acres last year. Two tracts cleared in 2004 and 2006 were reforested and a small area near the farmhouse is being transformed into a native grass/wildflower meadow.

Though he is not a hunter, he has good habitat for wildlife and watershed management. He leases out a small part of the farm for hunting and extended family also use it.

Barron said it is the sentimental value of his homeplace that ties him to the land. He labors during the day on his various projects and marvels at the dark sky out in his forest at night.

Accolades for the Barrons came from C.A. “Buck” Vandersteen, executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association. “Landowners like the Barrons keep the \$11 billion forestry industry in the state alive and vibrant,” he said.

### **Malcolm Sibley Named Outstanding Logger of the Year**

The Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) and the Louisiana Logging Council named Malcolm Sibley as the 2015 Louisiana Outstanding Logger. The award was presented August 26 at the annual convention in Lake Charles.

Sibley is a Louisiana Master Logger who has more than 50 years' experience in forestry, first as a timber buyer and company logging supervisor and later as a logging contractor. He graduated from Southeastern University with an ag business degree.

He has four crews of his own and two other crews working under him. He has 23 woods employees and five in the office for Triple S Logging and KS Timber.

"I like what I'm doing," said Sibley. "I have no plans to retire."

The judging team included Dr. Mark Gibson and Dr. Clyde Vidrine of Louisiana Tech University School of Forestry, Chad Knight with the U.S. Forest Service and Eddie Jarreau, the 2014 Outstanding Logger.

"Malcolm's harvesting operation was impressive and well organized," said Dr. Gibson. "He harvests timber in both Louisiana and Mississippi and he takes good care of his employees as evidenced by a loader operator and skidder operator who have been with his business for 20-plus years."

Forester Bill Jenkins nominated Sibley for the award. "He is just a natural," said Jenkins. He recalled how Sibley was a land manager for Crown Zellerbach and later supervised the company logging crews.

Sibley and his wife Johnice have two daughters, a son and several grandchildren. His son, Kendall, is a crew foreman as well as his grandson Kody Sibley. His wife is the office manager and she is assisted by their two daughters, Leann and JoLynn, and two granddaughters, Erin and Lyndsey.

Sibley is also a longtime member of the Livingston Parish School Board where he currently serves as president.

### **Return of the American Chestnut**

While at the International Project Learning Tree Conference in June 2015, I heard a very interesting presentation on the work being done to reintroduce and reestablish the American Chestnut. Of course, Chestnut Blight wiped out American Chestnuts in the U.S. in the early to mid 1900's. There has been a lot of work done over the past several years with hybrids, direct crossing with Chinese Chestnut, radiation treatments and other breeding treatments. Most of these programs haven't been very successful. One program to back-cross American Chestnut with Chinese Chestnut with a goal of developing a tree that is 15/16 American Chestnut is working and has some promise.

The program that is really promising involves transgenics and selective breeding. A gene found in wheat is being used through genetic engineering to help the American Chestnut fight off the blight. This gene does not kill the blight organism, but changes it from a killing enzyme to a saprophytic enzyme. A saprophytic enzyme only feeds on dead organic matter, not affecting living material. By changing the organism, instead of killing it, there is little chance of the blight organism building resistance.

These first transgenic trees were planted in 2006 and are being outcrossed with native chestnuts to prevent a monoculture situation and regain genetic diversity. This whole process is being highly regulated and is still a few years and several million dollars from the point to which trees will be available for the general public.

Incidentally, a few years ago I had read about a couple of stands of American Chestnuts that were found in Georgia and had not been affected by the blight. I asked about this, and as it turns out, those stands of trees were relatively young (8" or less in diameter) and had just not been infected yet, due to their young age. These trees will resprout from the roots for a few years until finally, the roots are depleted. The same thing happens with chinquapin trees here in Louisiana.

### **Feral Hog Damage to Louisiana Farms Now Estimated at \$74 Million**

Feral hogs cost Louisiana farmers more than \$74 million in crop losses and other damage in 2013, according to an LSU AgCenter study. The hogs caused about \$53 million in damage to Louisiana crops and an additional \$21 million

in non-production losses, said AgCenter economist Shaun Tanger, who for more than a year has been gathering data from farmers about feral hog activity and damage.

Louisiana's feral hog population is estimated at 500,000, with heavier concentrations in the south-central and northeastern regions of the state, Tanger said. They can root up and eat crops, damage farm equipment and spread diseases to livestock and wildlife.

In July Tanger estimated hog damage to Louisiana farms at \$30 million, but that figure did not include damage to timber, pastures, farm infrastructure and equipment. It also did not include costs associated with tilling and replanting cropland.

The 2013 crop losses included \$14.6 million in damage to soybeans. Hay producers lost \$9.9 million, and other crop losses included corn at \$8.5 million and rice at \$6.8 million.

Tanger estimates non-production losses at more than \$21 million, including about \$6.3 million farmers spent replanting and more than \$2 million in damage to both pastures and levees. While those numbers may seem high, it's worth noting that only about 5 percent of Louisiana soybean acreage saw hog damage in 2013, for example. "It's a problem now, but there's plenty of room for it to get worse" given the small percentages of acres damaged in 2013, Tanger said.

About 31 percent of farmers in the study said they have feral hogs on their land. As hog populations grow, there not only could be more crop losses but also more costs like those involved with replanting or replacing damaged equipment, Tanger said. Tanger's study is based on a survey of Louisiana farmers, so it also does not account for damage to state and federal lands or rural and suburban properties such as yards and golf courses.

Feral hogs reproduce extremely quickly, and some sows can have two litters of six piglets every year. They are a growing nuisance nationwide, with about 6 million hogs living in at least 41 states, according to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

The most effective way to control feral hogs is trapping and killing them. AgCenter scientists are studying alternatives, such as a sodium nitrite-based bait.

## **Feral Hog Workshop Scheduled for the Delta Region**

If you hunt, trap, manage land, farm or just have an interest in the current status and management of feral hogs, then you are invited to join us on September 22nd. We will hear from leading professionals in Wildlife, Forestry, and Agricultural Economics. The details are as follows:

Location: Concordia Parish Community Center, 26356 Hwy 15, Ferriday, LA

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 – 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### **Agenda**

Welcome/Introductions	Luke Stamper, ANR Agent, LSU AgCenter
Economic Losses Associated with Feral Hog Activity in LA	Dr. Shaun Tanger, Forest Economist, LSU AgCenter
Feral Hog Damage Management	Walter Cotton, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
The Development of a Toxicant for Controlling Feral Hogs	Dr. Don Reed, Professor, Forestry and Wildlife, LSU AgCenter

**Please RSVP at 318-744-5442 or email [lstamper@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:lstamper@agcenter.lsu.edu) if you plan to attend.**

<b>SPONSORS</b> ↓ ↓ ↓	<b>FORESTRY BMP WORKSHOP</b>
<p><b>Community Trust Bank</b> Enable-Boardwalk Pipeline Partnership</p> <p><b>Gibbsland Trust Bank</b> Harmon Wood Company</p> <p><b>Louisiana Land Bank</b></p> <p><b>Mudd &amp; Holland Consulting Foresters</b></p> <p><b>National Wild Turkey Federation</b> Progressive Bank</p> <p><b>Timberland Services</b></p> <p><b>Walsh Timber Company</b> Weyerhaeuser</p>	<p><b>Trailblazer Resource Conservation &amp; Development</b> <i>501(c)3 Non-Profit-Serving Our Communities Since 1988!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please join us for a Forestry Best Management Practices Workshop!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.</b> [registration begins at 8:00 a.m.]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Claiborne Parish Library, 909 Edgewood Dr, Homer, LA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Workshop is FREE; Lunch Provided</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EARN 6 Continuing Logger Education Credits!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY! Call or email Olivia at 318-255-3554 or olivia@trailblazer.org ASAP. Space is limited!!</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">* BMPs for Water Quality * NRCS Cost Share Programs* Soil Health * Ten Timely Timber Tips * State BMP's Update * Wildlife Component* Current BMP Issues *Tree Farm Certification System * <b>FIELD TOUR</b> (state personal vehicle to alternate sites)*</p>
<b>Partners &gt;</b>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Claiborne Parish Police Jury, Claiborne Parish Library, Darbonne Soil &amp; Water Conservation District, LSU AG Center, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Forestry Association, and USDA-NRCS.</p>

### FORESTRY BMP WORKSHOP

September 18, 2015  
Claiborne PARISH

**PURPOSE:** To increase the knowledge level of landowners, loggers, and foresters regarding Best Management Practices resulting in better managed and potentially more profitable timber tracts and improved water quality.

#### Meeting Agenda

*Facilitated by Ellzey Simmons, CEO, Trailblazer RC&D*

<b>8:00</b> Registration		
<b>8:30</b> Welcome & Introductions (Recognize Sponsors)	(10 min)	Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer RC&D
<b>8:40</b> Best Management Practices for Water Quality (water bars, dips, wing ditches, water control measures)	(30 min)	Rick Williams, NRCS
<b>9:10</b> NRCS Cost Share Programs	(15 min)	Sarah Trichel, NRCS
<b>9:35</b> Current BMP Issues, Tree Farm Certification, La Master Logger Program, Looking Forward	(15 min)	Buck Vandersteen, LFA
<b>9:50</b> BREAK	(10 min)	
<b>10:00</b> Ten Timely Timber Tips	(20 min)	Ricky Kilpatrick, LSU Ag
<b>10:20</b> Wildlife Component	(15 min)	Luke Lewis, NWTF
<b>10:35</b> State BMP's Update	(20 min)	Jeff Anders, LDAF
<b>10:55</b> Soil Health + Demonstration	(40 min)	Mike Lindsey, NRCS
<b>11:35</b> LUNCH	(35 min)	@ Claiborne Parish Library
<b>12:10</b> Travel to Field Tour Site	(20 min)	
<b>12:30</b> Forestry Practices Tour	(90 min)	
Landowner perspective BMP's		
<b>2:00</b> Q & A Session	(30 min)	Expert Panel
<b>2:30</b> TAKE UP EVALUATIONS & DISMISS		

## **Travis Taylor Forestry Scholarship Endowed**

A new forestry scholarship in honor of the late Travis Taylor of Brewton's Mill in Winn Parish has been endowed to the Louisiana Forestry Foundation by friends and family.

This year the Travis Taylor Scholarship will award \$1,000 to the Timber Harvesting Equipment Operator Class in Many.

Taylor was a forester, logger and entrepreneur in the forestry field. He graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a forestry degree in 1966. He owned his own contracting business and was awarded the Louisiana Logger of the Year award in 1997. He went on to serve as president of the Louisiana Logging Council and as head of the American Loggers Council (2013).

"Taylor was a leader in the forest industry who strived to move the industry forward," said C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen, executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association.

Taylor joined with a group to help found the Southern Loggers Cooperative and was in the forefront of alternative uses for wood fiber. He was also instrumental in helping to start the Timber Harvesting Equipment Operator (THEO) program that was offered through the technical school system.

Taylor died Dec. 27, 2014 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, two daughters, five grandchildren and other family and close friends.

The Louisiana Forestry Foundation is dedicated to advance, promote, develop and extend education in the field of forestry.

The Foundation has awarded more than \$740,000 in scholarships since it began in 1969.

### **Events, Thoughts and Tidbits**

\*\*\*Don't forget the Forestry BMP meeting scheduled for September 18 at the Claiborne Parish Library in Homer from 8:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. More detailed information in the newsletter article.

\*\*\*A Feral Hog Workshop is scheduled for the Delta Region on September 22, 5:30 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. at the Concordia Parish Community Center in Ferriday. See details in the newsletter article.

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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# *Timber Tales*

**News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent, serving:  
Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster Parishes**

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