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Timber Tales

No. 154 News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent 4th Quarter 2015

Third Quarter 2015 Louisiana Timber Market Reportⁱ

By Dr. Shaun Tanger, LSU AgCenter Forest Economist

Product	3 rd quarter price (\$/Ton)	Change from prior quarter	Change from One year ago
Pine sawtimber	29.00	0.52%	13.34%
Hardwood sawtimber	34.00	-0.12%	-11.06%
Pine CNS	18.00	4.65%	11.45%
Pine pulpwood	10.00	-5.89%	-3.79%
Hardwood pulpwood	12.50	5.86%	-10.92%

Lumber market forecast though the next year

Unfortunately, 2016 doesn't look like a banner year in lumber markets. Nearer term, a multitude of headwinds must be overcome to get prices out of the doldrums. There are hopeful signs though in the longer term (feel like a broken record saying that these days). Demographics trends in the U.S. and Canadians looking for lumber to fill orders will also benefit the southeast favorably. However, the restarted and retooled mill production in 2014 and 2015 in Canada, the South, and the West has driven up output, while housing starts in 2015 have been below forecasts.

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

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

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It's a good news bad news on housing, as multifamily has rebounded but single family is still stubbornly behind schedule. China and Europe's economic woes only exacerbate the problem.

Sobered by news of China's long climb back, the outlook for 2016 will remain *flat* amid a strong U.S. dollar, slow domestic consumption, weak exports to China, and the expiring Soft wood Lumber Agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

However, according to FEA analysts, there isn't much downside left in lumber prices, as North American output is starting to be curtailed. Russia has limited ability to supply China, mills in British Columbia are rubbing up against supply limitations in the wake of the Pine beetle infestation, and annual allowable cuts are dropping in Eastern Canada. U.S. consumption is expected to remain on a growth track.

The real driver is simply people. By 2020, the largest two age groups in the U.S. will be the 25- 29- and 30-34-years-olds, generating strong longer-term demand. In addition, the aging U.S. owner-occupied housing stock — now at a median of 37 years — will push home improvement spending back up to pre-recession levels by 2020.

Louisiana Forest Industry Website Gets Update

The LSU AgCenter recently updated an online directory with current information about forest products companies in Louisiana. The site allows users to search more than 600 companies by product, parish or company name, said Richard Vlosky, director of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center in the AgCenter.

Company locations are identified on a Louisiana map, and company contact information appears when a map icon is clicked.

Designed primarily to promote economic development in Louisiana's forest sector, the website was initially developed by Vlosky and Fred Piazza, AgCenter chief information officer, and was funded by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Louisiana Economic Development. The 2015 update was funded by Crosby Land & Resources LLC, of New Orleans.

"This is an example of how collaboration between the LSU AgCenter, state government agencies and industry can facilitate development of an innovative tool to power economic development," Vlosky said.

"In addition to being a valuable business and promotional tool for the industry, the website information will identify spatial company clustering, which is a useful tool for economic development planners, as clusters tend to have efficiencies and scale economies that attract additional industry," he added.

The forest sector is the largest segment of Louisiana agriculture with a nearly \$3 billion contribution to the state's economy in 2014. Forest products manufacturers employed nearly 13,000 people, while timber sales generated \$12.7 million in severance taxes that year.

The website can be accessed at www.lsuagcenter.com/forestindustries.

The Longleaf Alliance's Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101

The Longleaf Alliance offers a three day short-course called Longleaf 101, an in-depth classroom and field instruction in "all things longleaf". The intent is to better prepare landowners and natural resource professionals to address management problems specific to longleaf forests and to create a uniformly well-informed network of longleaf managers to extend the reach of The Longleaf Alliance.

Topics Include:

- History of Longleaf Pine
- Use of Fire in Longleaf Ecosystems
- Stand Management
- Cost-Share Opportunities
- Disease and Insect ID
- Available Resources
- Growth, Yield and Stand Dynamics
- Artificial and Natural Regeneration
- Wildlife Management
- Understory Restoration
- Economics

Date: Jan 12 (0800) - Jan 14 (1200), 2016

Location: The Wesley Center,
2350 Methodist Parkway, Woodworth, LA 71485

Total Cost: \$200 per participant and includes registration fee, materials, lodging and meals. Minimum of 20 attendees required to hold the course.

Who should attend? Private landowners, federal and state agency personnel, nursery representatives, and private natural resource professionals such as consultants, industry employees, TIMO's, REITs, and NGO's throughout the longleaf natural range.

Preference will be given to Louisiana residents first.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE. SAF-CFE's will be provided.

For more information or to register, call Casey White at 334-427-1029 or email: Office@longleafalliance.org

It is sponsored by West-Central Louisiana Ecosystem Conservation Partnership, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and The Dobbs Foundation.

2014 Parish Timber Severance Tax

Here's a look at the timber severance taxes for 2014 in the northwest Louisiana parishes. Remember, 75% of this money comes back to the parish.

Bienville	\$617,763	Natchitoches	\$501,856
Bossier	\$237,122	Red River	\$114,312
Caddo	\$128,074	Sabine	\$733,945
Claiborne	\$594,139	Webster	\$289,582
DeSoto	\$383,070	Winn	\$723,488
Jackson	\$665,964		

AgExpo Forestry Forum Scheduled in West Monroe

You are cordially invited to the 2016 AgExpo Forestry Forum, set for Friday, January 15, 2016, from 8 a.m. till 12 p.m., at the West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Ave., West Monroe, LA. This year's program will provide an in-depth look at timber markets and taxes, UAV's applicability in forest management, Drax Biomass and their use of forest products, and the benefits of using a consulting forester. The latest issues concerning Louisiana forestry will also be discussed as well as Agritourism potential for Louisiana forest landowners. The \$15 registration fee also includes an admission ticket for AgExpo.

The deadline for registration is January 8, 2016. For more details, contact Luke Stamper, 318-744-5442, lstamper@agcenter.lsu.edu

LSU AgCenter to Host Three Irrigation Management Workshops

The LSU AgCenter will hold workshops in Bossier City, Winnsboro and Marksville to educate farmers, crop consultants and other agriculture industry professionals about sustainable row crop irrigation practices.

The workshops will focus on growers' questions and concerns about making better use of Louisiana's water resources. Presentations will feature information on irrigation scheduling, technologies, water quality, agronomy and economics. An advanced training session also will be offered.

Speakers include experts from the LSU AgCenter, the Southern University Ag Center, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

"Trainees will become well versed with the benefits of sustainable irrigation management practices," said AgCenter irrigation engineer Stacia Davis. "One goal is to give industry professionals the tools they need to educate others and promote the benefits of sustainable practices across the Southern region."

Attendees will be given access to slideshow presentations they can use later in educational programs of their own.

Each workshop is a day and a half long, with a full first day and the morning of the second day. The first day will include a general session for producers during the morning, and the professional training will follow in the afternoon and the next morning.

Dates and locations are as follows:

- Dec. 8-9, 2015, Red River Research Station, Bossier City
- Jan. 21-22, 2016, Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro
- Feb. 16-17, 2016, Paragon Casino Resort, Marksville

Advance registration is requested for planning purposes. To register, visit lsuagcenterwater.eventbrite.com.

Lunch the first day is provided, and hotel expenses for out-of-towners will be reimbursed.

The workshops are made possible by a grant from Southern SARE.

For more information, contact Davis at SDavis@agcenter.lsu.edu or 318-741-7430 ext. 1105.

Events, Thoughts and Tidbits

*****Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2015 Tax Year** is now available at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/taxtips2015.pdf>

***The Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum is set for Thursday, March 3, 2016 once again at the Holiday Inn Financial Plaza in Shreveport. Register by February 29 for \$20 (see details on last page).

***If you have a private pesticide applicator's card that is about to expire, check with your parish Extension office. We will have several recertification meetings coming up in February and March.

*** During the Louisiana State Fair, school children from across the region came to the Ag Building for AgMagic. They attended sessions on various aspects of agriculture, including row crops, farm animals, vegetables, insects, forestry, wildlife and others. This year in the forestry/wildlife sections, school kids got to have fun learning about some of the creatures that live in Louisiana's forests and the different sounds they make. They learned about a frog that sounds like he's saying "eat dirt, eat dirt", another that says "pink lip" and many more!

***An excellent, positive article for Louisiana forestry and cypress management was recently posted in the Baton Rouge Advocate and can be found at:

<http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/13907065-123/our-views-wise-use-of>. The Louisiana Society of American Foresters Forested Wetlands Management Committee, chaired by Steve Templin, worked diligently for several years to develop the report, "Recommendations for Sustainable Management of Cypress Forests in Coastal Areas of Louisiana." The report is endorsed by the Louisiana and National Society of American Foresters and was recently distributed at the National SAF Convention in Baton Rouge. This is a great example of the use of sound science and forest management principles being used as a guideline for decision making. Congratulations and thanks to the committee for completing this huge task! The full report can be viewed at:
[http://lasaf.homestead.com/LASAF Cypress Report FINAL 08-13-2015.pdf](http://lasaf.homestead.com/LASAF_Cypress_Report_FINAL_08-13-2015.pdf)

***This time of the year, queens of yellow jackets, bumble bees, paper wasps and other wasps overwinter, often in walls and attics of houses and other buildings. They need a protected place to survive the cold weather. However, they may react to the warmth and light and emerge in the building and can certainly sting someone! When the sun is out, they are attracted to windows or lights. Securing the outside of the building and closing potential entrances is important for controlling this problem. Hunting camps are prime real estate for overwintering yellow jackets, due to the deer and other wild game being cleaned nearby. In these situations, traps can be set out to reduce yellow jacket numbers and the potential for stinging.

***A very large complex of insects live in wood once it has been cut. When firewood is cut and stacked, it becomes an ideal host and home for several insects. Although they are secondary infesters, finding them in the house can be aggravating and scary. Long horned beetles, flat headed borers, ants, termites, some bees and wasps and many other small insects may hide in the firewood. Firewood should not be stored in the house, but kept outdoors where it is cool. Indoor warmth will activate and energize many of these insects. Only bring in what will be used immediately. Thanks to retired LSU AgCenter entomologist, Dr. Dale Pollet, for both of these timely insect tips!

***Here's another firewood tip that is very important!! I know folks often burn lumber scraps in the fireplace. However, if you have scraps of treated wood from a project, DO NOT burn them in the fireplace. You should NEVER burn treated wood in the fireplace. The fumes can be toxic!! This includes CCA, penta and creosote treated wood. Many deaths have resulted from this.

*** Remember that landowners can obtain hunting lease and/or fire insurance for timberland through the Louisiana Forestry Association.

***Louisiana recently hosted two national forestry events....A National Extension Forestry Conference for about 75 extension forestry/wood products professionals from around the country and The National Society of American Foresters Convention for about 1400 professional foresters. Both were very productive with educational events, and it was great to see several colleagues for the first time in many years!!

***You have all probably heard by now that Weyerhaeuser and Plum Creek are merging to create a \$23 billion REIT with more than 13 million acres of productive, diverse timberland in the U.S.

***With the detection of the Emerald Ash Borer now in our area of the state, many folks have called, worried that the EAB is in their tree(s). There are other borers that get in ash trees that may be mistaken for the EAB. There are distinct signs and characteristics that separate the EAB from other insects. One key difference are the exit holes. Native ash borers produce a round or oval shaped exit hole of about a ¼-inch diameter. The EAB produces a hole shaped like a capital "D" that is about 1/8-inch in diameter. There are lots of information on EAB identification on the Internet. I also have plenty of identification and other EAB information. If you would like this information, give me a call at 318-965-2326 or email me at rkilpatrick@agcenter.lsu.edu.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Ricky Kilpatrick
Area Forestry Agent

This project is partially supported with funding provided by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, through the Renewable Resources Extension Act, a McIntire-Stennis project.

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.

**32nd ANNUAL ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016
8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

**HOLIDAY INN FINANCIAL PLAZA
5555 FINANCIAL PLAZA
SHREVEPORT, LA**

The program is currently being planned and speakers are being contacted. Planned topics include:

- Latest research and information on feral hog control
- Emerald Ash Borer and other pests
- Drones for forestry
- State, regional and national forestry issues
- And others

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
Benton, LA 71006-0370**

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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**

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