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The Nebraska Forest Service publishes **Timber Talk** four times annually (February 1, June 1, September 1, and November 1). The purpose of the newsletter is to serve and promote the forest industry of Nebraska. All questions and correspondence concerning **Timber Talk** should be directed to: Dennis M. Adams, **Timber Talk** Editor, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska, 109 Entomology Hall, P.O. Box 830815, Lincoln, NE 68583-0815. Phone (402) 472-5822, FAX (402) 472-2964. E-mail: dadams2@unl.edu. **Timber Talk** is partially supported by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension funding.

Lumber Market

HARDWOODS

U.S. industrial production decreased 1.4% in February for the fourth consecutive monthly decline. Industrial production dropped 11.2% from last year. Existing home sales increased 5.1% in February over January numbers to an adjusted annual rate of 4,720,000 units. Tax incentives for first time home buyers and moderating prices are credited for increasing existing home sales.

Northern. The economy is at its weakest point in history for today’s business leaders. In fact, this is the first time that all industrialized nations have experienced recessionary economic conditions simultaneously. For the North American hardwood industry, business is still adjusting to structural shifts in markets as well as species demands. The market climate for hardwood producers, sale organizations, and secondary manufacturers is more volatile than ever. The protracted downturn has pushed companies into a survival mode.

Southern. While log supplies are always a topic of interest for sawmill operators, most are more concerned about having adequate outlets for developing lumber production. Many mills have made substantial cuts to output. However, supplies continue to outpace demand for most items, despite the adjustments. Slow new home construction and remodeling have negatively impacted sales of cabinets, furniture, flooring, molding, millwork, and other hardwood construction materials. And because this is a global downturn in business, total export shipments have decline as well (-36.4% YTD).

Appalachian. Through history, the woods products industry, including hardwoods, has experienced periods of major market downturns. Around 1974 and 1980 were especially hard on hardwood businesses. Ultimately most primary and secondary manufacturers survived and went to enjoy one of the most prosperous periods in the 1990s. Most that are committed to working through this current economic and market event will also survive. That is not to say companies have not, or will not, close their doors. Unfortunately, limited demand for finished goods and raw materials has forced some businesses to idle operations.

International. Global markets have contracted for U.S. hardwoods. Activity began to slow in the U.S. with lower new home construction in 2006. In September 2008, the economic meltdown resulting from subprime mortgages impacted countries across the world. With growing unemployment and lack of confidence by consumers and business owners, home purchases, remodeling, and spending for durable goods has declined.



(continued on page 3)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09
Ash	625	655	655	640	430	450	450	435	325	325	325	305
Basswood	685	685	685	685	355	350	350	350	205	205	205	205
Cottonwood	600	615	615	605	400	415	415	405	220	220	220	220
Cherry	2090	2020	1895	1710	985	895	790	655	510	475	425	340
Elm (soft grey)	635	635	635	635	420	420	420	420	235	235	235	235
Hackberry	475	475	475	475	455	455	455	455	265	265	265	265
Hickory	690	690	650	630	550	525	490	490	390	370	350	350
Soft Maple (UNSD)	1100	1100	1100	960	585	585	545	515	310	295	280	270
Red Oak	945	945	930	785	630	630	585	520	500	500	490	430
White Oak	1105	1105	1065	940	620	620	570	500	400	400	400	360
Walnut	2135	2110	2010	1870	1225	1180	1065	830	595	580	520	395

Note: Hardwood 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, elm, 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 Lumber News Letter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call (901) 767-9126, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com.)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Kiln Dried

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09
Ash	890	905	905	905	680	680	680	680	580	560	560	580
Basswood	975	950	950	915	575	575	575	550	395	395	395	395
Cottonwood	755	755	755	755	520	500	520	520	—	—	—	—
Cherry	2790	2720	2625	2415	1170	1095	990	905	845	755	700	580
Elm (soft grey)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackberry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hickory	1100	1100	1100	1055	900	880	870	860	790	760	745	735
Soft Maple (UNSD)	1620	1600	1600	1475	800	800	750	750	540	540	540	540
Red Oak	1375	1335	1310	1145	975	975	945	820	760	760	730	645
White Oak	1700	1700	1660	1490	950	950	895	760	715	715	700	610
Walnut	2905	2905	2905	1790	1800	1785	1685	1450	1165	1140	1060	835

Note: Kiln dried prices in dollars per MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 4/4 lumber inspected and graded before kiln drying. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for ash, basswood, elm, 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 Lumber News Letter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call (901) 767-9126, website: www.hmr.com.)

Softwood Lumber Price Trends

Species	Selects ¹				Shop ²				Common ³				Dimension ⁴			
	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09	6/08	9/08	12/08	3/09
Ponderosa Pine*	874	745	541	491	394	NA	217	229	455	382	382	397	313	322	262	208

*Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine

¹Selects = D and Btr Selects, Stained Select, Mld and Btr.

²Shop = 4/4 Factory Select - #2 Shop.

³Common = #2 and Btr Common.

⁴Dimension, Timbers and studs = Std and Btr, #2 and BTR Dimension and Timbers.

Note: Average Softwood prices quoted per MBF rounded to nearest dollar, FOB mill, KD. This information is presented to indicate trends in the softwood lumber market. Actual prices may vary significantly from prices quoted.

(Source: Excerpt from *Inland Grade Price Averages*, Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) for the month indicated. To subscribe contact WWPA, phone: (402) 224-3930, website: www.wwpa.org).

Lumber Market News *(continued from page 1)*

Since industrial globalization began to expand, individual countries have certainly experienced cyclic economic events. Yet, the world has never encountered this magnitude of economic turmoil. Nor has there been economic contraction simultaneously in all industrialized, and many developing countries, as there is today.

The volume of most species exported from the U.S. in January 2009 decreased from the same period in 2008, i.e. Hickory (-61.1%), Cherry (-49.2%), Red Oak (-49.0%), Birch (-41.4%), Maple (-39.7%), Walnut (-36.8%), Ash (-32.6%), Poplar (-30.8%), and White Oak (-26.2%). However, shipments of U.S. hardwoods totalled more than 53 MMBF in January, underscoring the vital importance of international markets to American sawmills, yards, and resellers.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report*, March 28, 2009. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report*, call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

Nebraska's Fourth Forest Inventory

The USDA Forest Service periodically conducts forest inventories of each state in the United States. Nebraska's forest inventories are conducted by the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest service, Northern Research Station, St. Paul, MN.

The three previous forest inventories of Nebraska were conducted in 1955, 1985, and 1994. In 1999, the FIA changed inventory paradigms to a continuous forest inventory system which involved collecting data on 1/5 of the total fixed sample plots each year during a 5-year rotation. The fourth forest inventory of Nebraska was conducted over a 5-year period from 2001 to 2005, in which data was collected and analyzed from a total of 274 forest plots located across the state.

The final report entitled "Nebraska's Forests-2005" is now available. Highlights from the 2005 report include:

- Nebraska had 1.24 million acres of forest land, an increase of nearly 300,000 acres since 1994.

- Nebraska's forest lands contain a total wood volume of 1.8 billion cubic feet, including approximately 352 million live trees or an average of 203 trees per acre.
- Elm-ash-cottonwood timber type occupies the most area (27%), followed by Ponderosa pine (21%), juniper (15%), oak-hickory (14%), elm-ash-locust (8%), non-stocked (7%) eastern redcedar/hardwood (6%) and miscellaneous (2 %).
- 88 % of Nebraska's forest land is privately owned. 12% is owned by public agencies.
- 74% of family forest owners hold fewer than 10 acres of forest land.
- In addition to the 1.24 million acres of forest land there is an estimated 480,000 acres of "treed lands" that do not meet FIA's definition of forest land, e.g. pasture/rangeland with trees, narrow wooded strips, narrow shelterbelts, etc.
- The forest land area dominated by eastern redcedar/Rocky Mountain juniper has more than tripled since 1994, increasing from 57,000 acres (5% of forest land) to 172,200 (14%) in 2005. In addition there are 86,500 acres of eastern redcedar/hardwood forest type.
- Total sawtimber volume in timber land has increased significantly, from approximately 3.3 billion board feet (bf) in 1994 to more than 5 billion bf in 2005. Hardwoods make up 75% (3.8 billion bf) of the total sawtimber volume. Softwood sawtimber volume exceeds 1.2 billion bf.
- The top 5 species in sawtimber volume on timberland are :

Cottonwood	47.4%	1549 million bf
Ponderosa Pine	31.4%	1027 million bf
Bur Oak	10.2%	333 million bf
Eastern Redcedar	6.3%	205 million bf
American Basswood	4.7%	153 million bf
- Growing stock volume increased 30% since 1994 from 854 million cubic feet to 1,112 million cubic feet in 2005. This increase was due to growth on existing timberland and increases in acres of timberlands. Cottonwood accounts for 38% of the growing stock volume with nearly 500 million cubic feet.

Editor's note: This 94 page report contains extensive inventory data and information concerning the extent, ownership, composition and causes of change. A free copy of "Nebraska Forests 2005" is available from the *Timber Talk Editor* or online at: <http://www.nfs.unl.edu/documents/impactreports/NFSFIAReport.pdf>.

Logger Safety Training Workshop

Logging ranks as one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S. Every year many loggers are injured or killed in logging accidents, many of which could be prevented by proper training.

In this effort the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) will host a “Logger’s Safety Training Workshop” in Valentine, Nebraska on September 30, 2009. The workshop is designed to help everyone from the inexperienced chainsaw operator to the most experienced logger become more safe and efficient in their logging operations. No matter what your logging experience level, this workshop offers something for everyone.

The workshop will be conducted by Lee Schauman, an experienced logger and Lead Safety Trainer for the Forest Industry Training Alliance (FISTA), Inc. based in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Mr. Schauman is also a certified Game of Logging Instructor.

The all-day workshop includes a morning indoor session to address OSHA regulations, personal protective equipment, and chainsaw safety/maintenance. The afternoon will be spent in the woods with tree felling demonstrations and hands-on participation. Participants should plan to bring their own personal protection equipment, including hard hats, ear and eye protection, chainsaw chaps, and work boots.

The workshop fee is \$20, which includes lunch and handout materials. Pre-registration, payable to NFS, is required by September 23, 2009. To insure one-on-one instruction, workshop attendance is limited to the first 15 paid registrants. So, submit your workshop payment and contact information (name, address, phone, email) early. Confirmation will be sent to the first 15 registrants.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Rich Woolen, NC District Forester, Lower Loup NRD, POB 210, Ord, NE 68862. Phone: 308-728-3221, email: rwoollen1@unl.edu.

Chainsawing: The Chain’s the Thing

If you buy a good chainsaw and avoid felling a tree on it or backing over it with your pickup, it should give you long service with few problems. As long as you do the routine things like cleaning the air filter and scraping the oil and sawdust from around the clutch, you can pretty much forget about any other maintenance. When it comes to chainsaws, “repair” generally means “replace” — there’s not much you can do at home or in your own shop.

This rule of thumb, however, does *not* hold true when it comes to the saw’s chain. In fact, most of the time that you spend working on (rather than “with”) your saw will be spent on its chain. For this reason, it’s good to know how to choose the right chain for your saw and, perhaps more importantly, how to sharpen and maintain it.

The relationship that you have with your chain begins when you first select which style of chain you need. Be wary: There are all sorts of ways that you can go wrong here. Choose the wrong chain and you can sharpen away forever and still not get it right.

Choosing chain and teeth

First, some basics: Every cutter has two distinct parts—the cutting tooth and the raker, or depth gauge. The raker sits just ahead of the tooth, limiting the depth that the tooth will cut into the wood. If the raker is high, the tooth will cut little; if it’s too high, the saw won’t cut at all. If the raker is low, the tooth will take a big bite; if it is too low, however, the teeth will jam in and kill the saw (and, possibly, you).

The rakers are rounded to produce a smooth transition from tooth to tooth. In addition, most chain that’s sold to consumers has ramp-type piece in the space between the teeth to more gently guide the wood up and over the raker and into the tooth. It is the shape and size of this piece that determine if the chain qualifies as “safety chain.”

As chain passes around the nose of a bar, the cutter’s tip and the relationship between the raker and the tooth changes, making the raker less effective in holding the tooth out of the wood. This can cause a tooth to dig in, throwing the saw back at you with lightning speed, too fast for any reaction on your part. This is known as “rotational kickback,” or just “kickback” — it’s the very reason we have chain brakes, tip guards and safety chains.

Most chain that’s sold on cards in stores and the chain furnished on cheap, small saws, is safety chain. A higher-quality safety chain is also sold by dealers. In fact, most chain is “safety chain” to some extent, even if it’s not classified as such. If your chain comes in a box, the box will have either a blue, green or yellow sticker on it; blue or green signifies safety chain, while yellow indicated regular chain.

I suppose the appropriate thing to do in an article such as this, is to recommend that everyone use safety chain. In this case, however, I will also tell you that safety comes at the expense of efficiency — safety chain just doesn’t cut very well. You’ll have to decide how important safety chain is to your sawing.

Another aspect to consider when choosing chain is its teeth. Several styles are available:

- Chipper chain, which most cheap safety chain is, has teeth with rounded points. Because the points are not sharp, this type of chain tends to stay “sharp” longer than other types. The tradeoff, however: It is never very sharp to begin with.
- Chisel chain has teeth that end in sharp points; this results in fast cutting, but the chain requires frequent sharpening.
- “Semi chisel” is a compromise between the two aforementioned chain types.
- High-end and specialty chains also are available — skip link chain, for instance, is used in sawmills employing chainsaws. And there is “chisel bit,” square filed chain, which cuts fast but requires special files and techniques to maintain.

For the sake of this article, I'll discuss regular, chisel chain. I believe that this variety of chain offers the best efficiency, even though it also requires the most sharpening – a task that shouldn't intimidate you.

The simple task of sharpening

My first two rules of chain sharpening are: One, always sharpen your chain yourself with a handheld file; two, sharpen your chain every time you re-fuel your saw.

There's really a lot of hocus pocus out there when it comes to information about sharpening. This is a pity because sharpening is, essentially, a simple task. All the talk about various angles and degrees, however, can scare anyone off from just doing the obvious. Let me help you cut through some of the misinformation you'll find.

On most chain carried by dealers, you'll find a mark on the top late of every tooth at an angle of about 30 degrees. If you can maintain the tooth angle somewhere near that mark, you have a winner. Forget about changing the angle from 30 to 35 degrees for winter, and /or tilting the file 5 or 10 degrees for some other reason. These actions don't make enough difference for you to notice, and you really can't do it anyway. If you can push the file along the tooth in an approximately level, straight line, you'll do just fine.

I have to admit, though, that pushing the file in the aforementioned level, straight line is not quite as simple as it sounds. You need to position the saw so that you can maintain the proper angle.

If you're working on a bench, this task is relatively easy. Just place the saw with the bar to your right. Sharpen all the teeth on this side, counting as you go. Now, turn the saw so that the bar is facing to your left. Move around until you are comfortable holding the file at the correct angle and — backhanded now — file the teeth on that side. I do this with one hand on the file, holding the tooth with the other hand. Some people use both hands on the file – one on the handle, the other on the tip; either way is okay. That's really all there is to it.

The task becomes a little less easy, however, when you are out in the woods sitting on a log. If you turn the saw after sharpening the right side, the engine is in your way and you can't get the proper angle. The solution is to flip the saw upside down without changing it around. Now, you can easily file the teeth you normally file from the left side with the same backhanded strokes.

Your dealer will give you the correct file for your chain. Always put a handle on it. When you lay the file in the tooth, about 20 percent of it should stick up over the cutting edge. As you file, don't press the file down – instead, push it straight ahead with a slight upward pressure. You should be filing the bottom of the cutting edge, not down into the rivets.

If you have damaged teeth, file them back to shape. Don't worry that this may shorten them, and don't make any attempt to file the other teeth back to the short ones. Once you get them all repaired, you can gradually bring them all into play by easing up on sharpening the short ones or sharpening the long ones twice. When I sharpen my chains, I natu-

rally put more pressure on the right-handed teeth than I do the left teeth, which I have backhand filed. When this starts to show, I simply use two strokes to one to get things back into line.

Frequently, guys will wait and wait before they first sharpen a new chain; they fear that anything they do will make it worse. "It seems like the more I sharpen it, the duller it gets," they say. Well, if they don't take the rakers down, they're right (keep it up, I want to tell them, and it won't cut at all!).

The rakers don't "wear down," as the guy in my local hardware store says. If you want them right, you have got to file them. The hardware guy doesn't do that when he sharpens chains; it's too much work, so he simply tells people it's not necessary. To execute this task, you'll need a raker gauge — a small, flat piece of metal with one or more slots in it (tip: If you bought your saw in a discount or hardware store, you've probably never seen one).

You lay the gauge over a tooth and, using a flat file, file off the minute portion of the raker that sticks up through the slot. Do this every three or four sharpenings and your troubles are over. Of note: some gauges have different slots for winter and summer and/or hardwood and softwood. Use these if your gauge has them, but if it doesn't, don't worry — there's not enough difference to matter. (There is also a gadget on the market that holds both a flat and a round file; it's supposed to file the rakers when you sharpen the cutter.)

The problem with filing rakers is that the process flattens them. As a result, it's a good idea to just round them off occasionally, which should make for smoother cutting. To be honest, I never notice much of a difference, but it's still a good idea.

Chain cost

Considering the work they do, chains are cheap. Oddly enough, however, people don't act that way. They seem to think they are made of gold, and they live in fear of sharpening them too often or taking too much off. They will take a busted up old chain into a dealer for sharpenings and link removals until the teeth break off — and they then have no choice but to throw it away.

This is foolish economy. It doesn't take too many of these trips before you have more money invested in the chain than what it originally cost. Additionally, by pushing a chain like this, they have probably worn out the bar — which costs more than the chain. Finally, they have also worn themselves out, and taken the fun out of woods work. That's a poor bargain.

If you sharpen often, it only takes a stroke or two to keep the chain razor sharp. Then, and only then, can you begin to discover why some people truly love the hard work of logging.

(Source: *Independent Sawmill & Woodlot Management* magazine, June/July 2002. Article written by Dave Johnson, author of *The Good Woodcutters Guide* manual. For more information or to subscribe to IS & WM, phone: 1-888-762-8476 or website: www.sawmillmag.com)

Nebraska Forestry Industry Spotlight



BIG RED SAWMILL & FIREWOOD, INC.



For several years in the mid 1990's, Brian Schwaninger produced some firewood for residential customers in the Lincoln and surrounding Palmyra area. It was always difficult for him to see some of the larger, nicer logs processed for firewood instead of boards. Big Red Sawmill & Firewood, Inc. started in July, 1998 with the purchase of a Timberking B20 band sawmill. Purchasing a sawmill was an answer to a couple of issues; how to keep lawn care employees over the winter, and how to start the process of working closer to home. In April of 2001 Brian added a Cord King firewood processor to speed up the firewood processing operation. One year later the lawn care part of the business was sold to finish the process of being full-time at home.

Soon after purchasing the sawmill, a 19 X 50 shed was converted into a dry kiln for lumber. Brian learned the intricacies of kiln drying by talking to others, consulting online sources, and trial and error. Brian said, "After each kiln load, I still think I learn something new about drying process". Each of the two rooms in the kiln holds between 3000 & 5000 board feet of lumber depending on the length of the stack. There has also been lots of custom kiln drying in this kiln.

Big Red produces kiln dried grade lumber for hobbyists and cabinet makers. It also does a fair amount of custom sawmilling for those who want their logs cut up.

Firewood processing comprises approximately 60% of the business, a portion of which is supplying restaurants in the Lincoln and Omaha area with smoking wood. Mixed

hardwood is sold retail to residential customers and some firewood is sold wholesale directly off the firewood processor to those who resell. Also, several times per year the machine is moved to someone else's site to process firewood for them. The firewood processor takes logs up to 24 inches in diameter, which are cut into 16 inch chunks with a 60 inch carbide tipped circular saw. The chunks drop into a pan where a hydraulic cylinder pushes them through a 12-way knife. A conveyor carries the firewood chunks to the waiting truck. This happens in 4-7 seconds per cut. All firewood except hickory comes from the great state of Nebraska. Early on, loads of firewood were hauled to Colorado, with boulders, flagstone and landscape rock back hauled. This system ended when fuel got too high and they stopped paying.

One venture that was tried and failed was making pellets out of the sawmill waste. It

didn't work because there is very, very little waste. Most of the sawmill wastewood is either sold as firewood, animal bedding, or is ground and sold as landscape mulch.

Big Red Sawmill & Firewood, Inc., has employed several employees at a time over the years. Currently, the business is operated by Brian, his wife, 4 sons, and one full-time employee. Brian says he has always liked working with wood and is very thankful that this has been able to be a full-time business.

Big Red Sawmill & Firewood, Inc. may be contacted at: 542 N. 8th Road, Palmyra, NE 68418. (402) 780-5678.



Brian with sawmill.



Brian with firewood processor.

Little Known Nebraska Facts!

Nebraska has more miles of rivers than any other state.

The Trading Post

The *Trading Post* is provided as a free marketing service for forestry industry. Only forestry-related advertisements will be accepted. 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

Reeve Circular Sawmill. Includes power unit and two 48-inch insert tooth blades. Contact: R&R Sawmill at (308) 569-2345.

Wanted

Belsaw Woodworking Planer, Model 9103. 12¼". **Bandsaw Lumber Mill.** Push type. Contact: Charles Cressman, 231 Walnut St., Butte, NE 68722-3518. Phone: (402) 775-2468.

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

Hardwood Cross Ties and Switch Ties. Size 7" x 9" – 8' only.

Mixed Hardwood Timbers. All sizes. **Logs.** C4S, Veneer and C1S, C2S; and C3S logs. Must be able to load 40' containers. Cherry, Walnut, Red Oak, White Oak, Ash, Hard Maple and Poplar logs.

Timbers for Log Homes, Car Decking. Oak or mixed hardwoods.

3"x6"x10'. **Switch Ties.** Oak and mixed hardwood, 7" x 9" – 15', 16', 21', 22', 23'. **White Pine Plank.** #2C, 5 T/LS per month, Rough, green, 1 5/8" x 7 3/8" or 2 1/2" x 9 3/8", up to 1/3 – 8', bal. 10' - 16' lengths. 6 1/4" x 12" - 10 to 16'. 4" x 12" rough KD. **Walnut Sawlogs.**

Woods run, #1, #2, #3 grades. **Log Inspector** to inspect logs before shipment. **Cross Tie Buyers.** Good incentive arrangements.

Man to Inspect Logs Before Shipment. Various locations. **Mills to Produce Oak Car Decking.** Surface, drill – oak or mixed

hardwoods. Contact: W. Preston Germain, Germain Lumber Co., Inc., Pittsburgh, PA 15251; (412) 782-3240; FAX: (412) 781-2551; e-mail: germainlumber@verizon.net.

Services and Miscellaneous

Woodshop Services. Millwork made from your lumber on my planer/molder. Chris Marlowe, Butte, NE (402) 775-5000. Marlowepasture@nntc.net.

Sawmill Service and Supplies. Saw hammering and welding. Precision knife and saw grinding. Certified Stihl chainsaw sales and service. Contact: Tim Schram, Schram Saw and Machine, PO Box 718, 204 E. 3rd St., Ponca, NE 68770, (402) 755-4294.

Used Portable Sawmills. Buy/Sell. Contact: Sawmill Exchange (800) 459-2148, (205) 661-9821.

Forest Products Equipment Magazine. FREE monthly trade publication for the forest products industry. For a sample magazine or free subscription call (800) 422-7147, email: jfostera@mrpllc or visit the website: www.mrpllc.com and click on Forest Products Equipment Magazine.

Wood Products Web-based Service. WoodIndustryNetwork.com offers services that allow buyers and sellers to communicate through our web-based system to buy and sell their products direct. Most services are free. Contact: (Website) WoodIndustryNetwork.com; or phone: (904) 821-8080.

Wood Pellet Supply, Demand On The Rise

These days, the markets for fuel pellets are very vigorous, said John Crouch, director of public affairs for the Fuel Pellet Institute. Homeowners and businesses alike are seeking lower-cost options to fuel oil and natural gas for residential heating and industrial fuel.

"This institutional portion of the market (e.g., colleges and businesses) is growing very quickly, almost in real time," Crouch said. "Any number I could give you today might be out of date tomorrow." The residential market is also booming. This growth is reflected in the intense demand for wood pellet stoves, which Crouch said retailers witnessed in April. "Consumers realized early on that this could be another expensive year to heat their homes," he said. "Home heating stoves had an exceptional May and June and started moving into backorder status. If you walked into your local hearth store (today) it would be happy to set you up with a residential pellet stove, but it wouldn't schedule delivery because the stove wouldn't arrive until next April or maybe May."

Even with the rapid growth of the domestic market, most North American wood pellets are exported to Europe. "The bulk export market was set up for long-term contacts to Western Europe," Crouch said. "That is where countries have moved more aggressively to low-carbon fuel incentives." The

bulk delivery of pellets to U.S. customers is an emerging market. Most recently, for example, a pellet-fired heating facility was installed in graduate student housing at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

On the production side, Indeck Energy Service Inc. and Midwest Forest Products Company recently broke ground on Indeck Ladysmith LLC, a 90,000-ton-per-year wood pellet plant in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. The facility, which is scheduled to be operational in July, will take wood waste from sawmills, paper mills and furniture manufacturers to form wood pellets for both residential and industrial applications.

The paid growth in the U.S. pellet market has spawned marketing solutions that bring buyers and sellers together. PelletSales.com LLC, a national distributor of biomass specializing in wood pellets, has developed proprietary software that gauges biomass demand and locates supply throughout the United States. It can then coordinate the transportation of biomass in order to meet demand. The company currently focuses on serving residential consumers, but it's also working to move into the bulk market, where it will be able to provide pellets to consumers along with systems designed to move the pellets from storage into appliances.

(Source: *Biomass Magazine*, November 2008. Article written by Jerry W. Kram)

Timber Sales

The 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 appraised or 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
1. Black Walnut (37 trees) 4,055 bf	Karloff 5/09	Joe Ingersoll 63992 731 Rd Auburn, NE 68305 (402) 414-1957 Location: Nemaha County
Veneer 3 192 bf		
Lumber 1 - 716 bf		
Lumber 2 - 1,651 bf		
Lumber 3 - 1,496 bf		

*You know you're
from Nebraska if...*

someone in the hardware
store offers you assistance
and they don't work there.

Coming Events

- June 23** **Forest Fuels Management Workshop.** Chadron, NE. Cost: Free. Contact: Doak Nickerson at (308) 432-6190, email: hnickerson1@unl.edu.
- June 26-27** **Nebraska Christmas Tree Growers Association Summer Meeting.** Bennington, NE. Cost: TBA. Contact: Kermit Engh at (402) 342-3491, email: <http://info.benningtonpines.com/>.
- Aug. 2-5** **National Walnut Council Annual Conference.** Clarksville, IN. Cost: TBA. Contact: Liz Jackson at (765) 503-3501; email: jackson@purdue.edu
- Aug. 3-5** **32nd Annual Kiln Drying Short Course.** St. Paul, MN. Cost: TBA. Contact: Harlan Peterson at (612) 624-3407, email: harlan@umn.edu, Website: <http://www.bbe.umn.edu/kdse>
- Sept. 30** **Logger Safety Training Workshop.** Valentine, NE. Cost: \$20. Contact: Rick Woollen at (308) 728-3221, email: rwoollen1@unl.edu.