

# NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE



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The Nebraska Forest Service publishes *Timber Talk* four times annually (September 1, November 1, February 1, and June 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 Plant Industry Building, 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

**Northern.** Reductions in sawmill production have helped ease supply-related pressures for green stocks in several species and grades. Accordingly, prices for green stocks have stabilized. However, on-hand inventories of KD stocks are running well ahead of demand, which is fueling stiff sales competition and corresponding downward price pressure.

**Southern.** Competitive market conditions prevail for species and grades key to the southern territory. Industry conversations are dominated by challenges surrounding KD 4/4 FAS and 1F Red Oak. Inventories have grown and price incentives has done little to solidify new business. Even at lower prices, salability can be a challenge. In contrast, cutbacks in sawmill production this year has reduced supplies of green FAS and 1F. Prices have stabilized as a result. Most sawmills have sufficient log supplies to maintain current production rates.

**Appalachian.** It cannot be overstated how important the U.S. housing market is to the hardwood industry. Primary and secondary manufacturers have worked to balance changing customer needs since new home construction began its slowdown. Excess KD inventories are available and continue to pressure prices.

**International.** The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service data for U.S. hardwood lumber exports for the first six months of 2007 show a total of 615 mmbf, down 11.21% from the same period last year. The decline in shipments to China and Hong Kong accounted for over one half the down turn. Much of the North American hardwood lumber shipped to China and Hong Kong is destined to be manufactured into goods resold to the U.S. marketplace. Because of sluggish furniture sales and a slower housing market, U.S. demand for wood products is off. The situation with Mexico reflects a similar scenario. Manufacturing plants have curtailed production, and thus, demand for U.S. lumber. Volumes from the first six months of 2007 to Mexico dropped 20.04 percent. Hardwood lumber shipments for Canada also dropped 11.14%. Increasingly, Vietnam is recognized as a preferred location for wood products manufacturers to operate because of favorable tax laws and a willing and capable labor force. U.S. hardwood exports to Vietnam increased 68.57%, a bright spot in an otherwise lackluster export market.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report*, August 25, 2007. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report*, call 901-767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)



## Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	9/06	12/06	3/07	6/07	9/06	12/06	3/07	6/07	9/06	12/06	3/07	6/07
Ash	640	620	600	600	485	470	440	440	345	335	315	315
Basswood	785	750	705	705	425	415	375	375	225	225	210	210
Cottonwood	600	600	600	600	400	400	400	400	220	220	220	220
Cherry	2350	2350	2350	2290	1305	1305	1335	1230	585	630	655	640
Elm (soft grey)	635	635	635	635	420	420	420	420	235	235	235	210
Hackberry	475	475	475	475	455	455	455	455	265	265	265	265
Hickory	770	770	755	745	650	660	660	660	435	450	450	450
Soft Maple (UNSD)	1185	1185	1185	1170	750	750	750	675	380	380	380	380
Red Oak	1080	1020	945	945	700	675	640	630	500	500	500	500
White Oak	970	1015	1070	1090	590	600	610	610	400	400	400	400
Walnut	2055	2080	2100	2180	1100	1155	1210	1300	745	850	885	940

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			
	9/06	12/06	3/07	6/07	9/06	12/06	3/07	6/07	9/06	12/06	3/07	6/07
Ash	970	910	900	900	735	675	665	665	615	595	580	560
Basswood	1045	1000	990	990	630	615	605	605	410	410	395	395
Cottonwood	755	755	755	755	520	500	520	520	—	—	—	—
Cherry	3000	3000	3000	3000	1710	1700	1700	1625	1010	1010	1010	1000
Elm (soft grey)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackberry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hickory	1260	1260	1260	1230	965	965	965	965	830	830	830	880
Soft Maple (UNSD)	1650	1650	1650	1635	990	950	950	900	570	570	570	540
Red Oak	1675	1590	1540	1540	1040	1040	990	990	760	760	760	760
White Oak	1480	1600	1670	1695	910	920	935	945	670	715	725	725
Walnut	2665	2715	2765	2885	1625	1740	1785	1860	1400	1460	1475	1540

Note: Kiln dried prices in dollars per MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 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.)

# Timber Stumpage Prices

The Nebraska Forest Service does not have a reliable system of collecting data on timber stumpage prices paid for Nebraska timber. Since current timber stumpage price information would be useful to landowners, loggers, sawmills and forester's in Nebraska, timber stumpage price information will be summarized from selected states and periodically presented in Timber Talk. Although this data is not collected from Nebraska timber sales, it may serve as a general guide in tracking stumpage trends. Prices quoted in \$/MBF.

Species	(1) Illinois (Nov. 2006 - Feb. 2007)		(2) Missouri (April - June, 2007)	
	Sawtimber	Veneer	Sawtimber	Veneer
Ash	80-300 (135)		115-115 (115)	
Basswood	50-250 (110)			
Cherry	90-800 (440)	300-2000 (1165)		
Cottonwood	20-90 (70)		85-85 (85)	
Elm	(80)			
Hackberry	(80)			
Hickory	20-200 (140)		110-110 (110)	
Soft Maple	100-250 (140)		210-210 (210)	
Red Oak	200-500 (230)	500-700 (670)	85-195 (150)	
White Oak	250-450 (320)	500-2000 (1125)	120-195 (180)	1040-1040 (1040)
Sycamore	20-80 (80)		100-100 (100)	
Black Walnut	450-1000 (635)	500-3000 (2075)	585-835 (810)	985-2085 (1275)
Redcedar				

- (1) Source: *Illinois Timber Prices*. Stumpage price range for Sawtimber reported from the Prairie Unit (Zone 3). Sawtimber price average, in parentheses, and veneer price range and average reported from Statewide statistics. Doyle Scale.
- (2) Source: *Missouri Timber Price Trends*. Stumpage price range and average, in parentheses, reported from Statewide statistics. International 1/4" Rule.

## Firewood Pests?

*Editors Note: The following article appeared in Missouri Timber Price Trends Newsletter, April-June 2007, but it is applicable to all Midwestern states. The last paragraph was changed to reflect contact information for Nebraska.*

Most of us wouldn't pick up hitchhikers along the road, but many of us unwittingly take them camping with us. Tree-killing pests such as emerald ash borers, Asian longhorned beetles and gypsy moths can hide in the wood we bring for campfires. It's easy to reduce the spread of these hitchhiking pests. Here's how.

Missouri has always had its share of forest pests. Historically, these native insects and diseases posed little threat to our healthy forests because for thousands of years our native trees and other plants have evolved alongside them. Whenever a native pest developed a new method to attack, our forests responded by evolving new defense mechanisms. Non-native pests throw off this natural balance by bring with them new methods of attack unfamiliar to our native trees and plants. Because our forests have not had time to evolve adequate defenses, they can become easy prey for exotic invaders. Take for instance the emerald ash borer. This metallic green beetle

probably entered southeast Michigan as an unwanted hitchhiker in wooden packing materials used to ship goods from its native home in China and eastern Asia. The wormlike larvae of this tiny but destructive insect tunnel through native ash trees, eventually killing each tree they infest. To date, emerald ash borers have killed more than 15 million ash trees in Michigan and hundreds of thousands more in Indiana, Ohio and Canada. They haven't made their way to Missouri, yet, but they appeared near Chicago in June of 2006.

One way to keep emerald ash borers and other destructive pests out of Missouri's healthy forests is to avoid transporting firewood long distances. How far is too far? There isn't an easy answer. Moving firewood a few miles from your farm to your home should never be a problem. And at this time, if you avoid transporting firewood across state lines, you should be okay. However, as economies and trade routes become more globalized, opportunities for exotic pests to hitchhike to Missouri increase. If these pests gain a toe hold in Missouri, simply moving firewood from one end of the state to the other could cause problems. In all instances, the best policy is to obtain firewood from a local source. If you

brought firewood in from out of state, burn all of it as soon as possible. This will kill any pests that could be hiding in the wood.

Another thing we can do to keep Missouri's forests healthy is to watch out for exotic hitchhikers. Keep in mind that Missouri has its share of native pests, so finding a bug tunneling through your firewood isn't necessarily cause for alarm. Learning to separate the benign native bugs from the destructive exotic bugs is key to early detection of a potential problem.

Early detection is useful only when the problem is contained and eradicated. If you find a suspect insect, collect a sample by trapping the insect in a zippered plastic bag. Place the bag in the freezer for several days to kill the insects then mail the sample in a sturdy container (35 mm film canisters work well) to the address below. Be sure to include your contact information and the date and location where you captured the sample.

Nebraska Forest Service  
Attn: Mark Herrell or Lauri Stepanek  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
104 Plant Industry Bldg.  
P.O. Box 830815  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0815  
(402) 472-2944

## Will Lumber Stain In The Winter Months?

The answer to this question can be a very expensive "yes." The author's experience is limited to blue stain in eastern white pine, but the same basics of humidity and temperature apply to stains and molds affecting other species. The spores which cause blue stain are in the air everywhere. When they land on the surface of green lumber they will start to grow, given the proper conditions of temperature and humidity. Under ideal growth conditions (high humidity and 70 to 80 degree F) stain can penetrate the full thickness of 1-inch lumber overnight! The method of control is either drying the surface very rapidly to prevent the growth or sterilizing the surface with a fungicide by dipping or spraying. Generally, lumber sawn during the winter in the northeast and stickered for drying will dry bright and stain-free. Periodic thaws where the ambient temperature may rise into the

40's or 50's for several days or more may occur several times during the winter in some areas. With average temperatures as indicated, it is apparently possible for small areas to warm to the point where blue stain will start to grow to the extent that it becomes a problem. This condition was found in a yard with the piles aligned east and west so that one side of the piles was shaded all day. Air circulation in the yard was restricted by nearby buildings. Sufficient blue stain growth was found to cause a problem as the stock had to be stain-free. The humidity of the ambient air was high and the stock was thick, with moisture condensing on the surface at some time during the day. Subsequently, the yard layout was oriented north and south, and piling foundations and practices improved, thus apparently eliminating the stain growing conditions.

In investigating the problem, stain in the winter was found to be more than an occasional occurrence. In another case, a mill in Northeastern Maine had a major problem with several hundred thousand board feet of select pine. This was sawn in November, solid piled, and out in the yard for stickered at a later date. Most of the lumber in the interior of the piles was found to be badly blue stained when it was finally stickered. The author had a similar problem on a single pile in his own yard years ago. We can only theorize as to the reason for this phenomenon. In all probability, the logs were not frozen when sawn, but wood temperature was probably 30 to 40 degrees F – well under the growth optimum temperatures for blue stain. The most logical explanation for the temperature to rise to the point that stain could grow is spontaneous heating within the package. When sawdust or chips are piled, there is a considerable amount of heat generated internally due to a combination of the continuation of life processes with the wood and other biological action. Temperatures within a chip pile may go to 160 degrees F or higher. With little chance for the heat to dissipate from within the package, a moderate amount of temperature rise could take place and allow stain to grow.

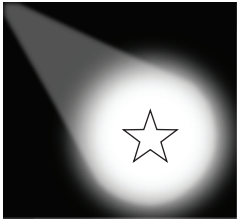
Although the two cases may be anomalies, they do illustrate one basic rule: Stain problems do not disappear with the onset of cold weather. Stain will grow, given the slightest chance. Many customers today will not accept any stain in lumber, even when grade rules allow it. It is not a matter of degrading a Select board down to Common by a factor of 5; it is degrading it all the way down to a Reject.

(Source: *Wood Drying News Digest*, May 1993. Author: Richard A. Hale, Forest Products Consultant, Wood Technologist, 17 Peters St., Orono, ME 04473 )

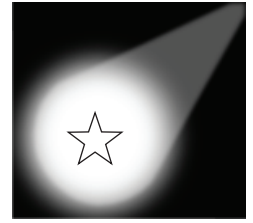
## Coming Events

- Oct. 2-3**      **Great Plains Society of American Foresters Meeting.** Manhattan, KS. Contact: Charles Barden, phone: 785-532-1744; email: cbarnden@ksu.edu.
- Oct. 6**        **Wild Fruit and Nut Jam.** Nebraska City, NE. Contact: Becky Erdkamp, phone: 402-472-9869; email: rerdkamp2@unl.edu.
- Oct. 16-18**    **Making Wood Work.** Missoula, MT. A national workshop on implementing biomass energy systems. Contact: Bitter Root RC&U at 406-363-1444 X 5.

# Nebraska Forestry Industry Spotlight



## BARTELS POST & BOW



LaVerne Bartels of Tecumseh has been a carpenter and homebuilder for many years. In 1989 he cut his first osage orange tree to make posts to sell at \$1.25 per post. Since then, working only in the winter months, he estimated he has cut more than 55,000 hedge posts. Most landowners welcome someone removing osage orange trees invading their pastures. He has no trouble finding places to cut. Bartels has cut two quarter-mile hedgerows, but prefers cutting pasture trees because they are easier to get to and yield straighter posts than the tangle of branches in old hedgerows.

LaVerne cuts posts in an many lengths and diameters to meet the needs of his clientele. Line posts in farm country are typically seven-footers, three to five inches in diameter on the top. In the Sandhills, line posts are smaller, what Bartels calls "ranch posts." They are 6 ½ feet in length and as small as 1 ½ inch in diameter on top, although some ranchers prefer 6 ½-foot or seven-foot posts to three inches in diameter on top, and want an eight-foot post five to six inches in diameter for corner posts.

The cost of Bartels' posts varies with the size and volume purchased. A customer buying a semi-load (2,000 or more ranch posts) gets a better price than someone buying only a few. He sells ranch posts for a little over \$1 per post. His largest posts sell for \$12 to \$15 per post depending on diameter and straightness.

After years of cutting primarily hedge posts, LaVerne has shifted his focus to producing bow staves. He uses hickory, black locust, hackberry, black walnut, ash and even mulberry, but the wood of choice is still osage orange. Because of its

strength, it produces a great deal of poundage pull for a bow. Osage orange is the wood that Native Americans used for most of their bows. The most sought after stave is one that is 68 to 72 inches long with wide growth rings. He will also sell staves from 45 to 80 inches in length and pairs of billets, 24 to 40 inches long. Billets are used for making two piece bows.

Bartels started selling bow staves on Ebay about five years ago. At first he sold about one per week, but now he sells one to three per day depending on the market. The majority of his customers are from the U.S., but LaVerne also has good customers from Japan, China, Australia, Canada, Germany, and even Iceland.

LaVerne says good bow logs are rare. When he finds a good one, it makes his day!

LaVerne Bartels can be contacted at: 286 N. 9th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450-2185. Phone: 402-335-2194.



LaVerne displays two staves



Bartel's hedge posts

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

*You have driven your  
car on the lake.*

# 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

**Hedge Corner Posts.** Some hedge logs for hobby lumber. Contact: Joe Straube, Tecumseh, NE. (402) 335-2400.

**Electric Bandsaw Mills.** One M-324 (\$1200) and one M-267 (\$2195). Contact: 4M Lumber, Ravenna, NE. Phone: 308-452-4032; e-mail: fourm57@Charter.net

## Wanted

**Logs.** Cottonwood, cedar and pine. 4" to 26" diameter, 90"-100" lengths. Below saw grade logs acceptable. Contact: American Wood Fibers, Clarks, NE at (800) 967-4789; email: mvanskike@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 3/8" 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; 402-782-3240; FAX: 412-781-2551; e-mail: germainlumber@verizon.net.

## Services and Miscellaneous

**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 1-800-422-7147, email: jfoatera@mrpllc or visit the website: www.mrpllc.com and click on Forest Products Equipment Magazine.

# 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 or forester 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. <b>Black Walnut</b> (117 trees)	8,709 bf	7/07	Tom Pesek
Veneer 3 -	319 bf	Lodes	(Gib Horacek)
Lumber 1 -	1,247 bf		2021 30 Road
Lumber 2 -	2,000 bf		Brainard, NE 68626
Lumber 3 -	5,143 bf		(402) 545-4381 evenings
Sealed Bids. Bid opening October 26, 3:00 p.m.			Location: Butler County
Trees can be viewed after October 1.			
2. <b>Black Walnut</b> (15 trees)	960 bf	7/07	Eugene Germus
Lumber 1 -	238 bf	Karloff	762 County Road 900
Lumber 2 -	416 bf		Friend, NE 68359
Lumber 3 -	306 bf		(402) 947-2171
<b>Bur Oak</b> (122 trees)	18,690 bf		Location: Saline County
<b>Elm</b> (1 tree)	130 bf		
<b>Hackberry</b> (1 tree)	300 bf		
3. <b>Black Walnut</b> (12 trees)	1,475 bf	3/07	Kent Antes
Lumber 1 -	210 bf	Jones	154 Midland Street
Lumber 2 -	375 bf		Syracuse, NE 68446
Lumber 3 -	890 bf		(402) 269-2469
			Location: Otoe County
4. <b>Mixed Hardwoods</b>			Joan Dawson
12 acres of native timber			223 N. 16th St.
			Nebraska City, NE 68410
			(402) 873-7600
			Location: Otoe County