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Lumber Market Reports

Northern Sawmills in areas having predominantly whitewood growing stocks are plotting production strategies for winter. The concern is too much whitewood output could severely oversupply end users' needs. In fact, reported prices for many whitewoods have declined despite steady demand for several species, grades, and thicknesses. Mills in areas with a more diverse mix of species are having their own issues. Markets for Red Oak, Ash, Cherry, and White Oak have softened the past several months, and lumber prices have tumbled. On a more positive note, the Northern region continues to experience robust demand for industrial timber products, led by the wooden pallet and container industry. The Railway Tie Association's annual meeting wrapped up last week, with the majority of railroads and treaters concerned about low tie inventories and low log inventories at sawmills throughout hardwood producing regions. Projections are for over 20 million insertions in 2019, though in process inventories are well below 15 million.

Southern There is a mix of both optimism and pessimism within the hardwood industry. Optimism is based on the good market results that account for the majority of sawmill production. Too, the US housing industry continues to grow a consecutive year over year streak that has extended well beyond historical norms and is projected to expand further next year. A favorable housing market provides opportunities for hardwood product manufacturers. Pessimism about business lies in the US hardwood industry's dependence on China to drive demand for Red Oak, Ash, White Oak, Cottonwood, and other species. The question that is difficult to answer is how long will Chinese markets be off. Since this is the first economic downturn in recent history, there is no point of reference, and good answers are hard to come by. However, it is clear there will be a lag in sales to China until effects from higher tariffs are known and can be managed one way or the other.

Appalachian Container loadings for China slowed this week. The shipping window for arrival prior to January 1 has more or less closed, and uncertainty about impending higher tariff rates has sidelined a great deal of business. Barring an agreement between the two countries beforehand, US tariffs on a host of Chinese wood and other products will rise as high as 25% on January 1. At that time, China is set to immediately raise tariffs as high as 25% on a host of US products, including hardwood lumber and logs. Importantly, the Chinese New Year occurs shortly thereafter, on February 5, and will also impact shipments. In North America, demand is generally flat for hardwood grade lumber but is trending higher for many industrial products. Amid these mixed domestic and international market conditions, # 1 C&Btr lumber is abundant in most species, while crossties, pallet cants, and framestock are scarce relative to demand. Producers are having little to no difficulty generating orders for #2A and #3A Red Oak, White Oak, and Hard Maple as well as #2A and #2B Poplar.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report*, November 2, 2018. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report*, call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

Hardwood Lumber Prices - Green												
Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18
Ash	1090	1230	1210	1100	700	845	810	750	420	455	445	420
Basswood	790	790	790	790	440	440	440	440	225	225	225	225
Cottonwood	780	780	780	780	575	575	575	575	260	260	260	260
Cherry	1420	1740	1700	1490	855	1120	1105	965	445	595	590	525
Elm	670	670	650	650	420	420	420	420	290	290	290	290
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	295	295	295	295
Hickory	865	950	960	920	560	620	630	610	415	440	450	450
Soft Maple	1100	1180	1200	1200	760	790	790	790	470	480	480	480
Red Oak	945	1130	1225	1205	690	815	910	865	545	565	555	545
White Oak	1665	1705	1685	1605	1020	1055	1040	950	560	565	560	530
Walnut	2800	2900	3100	3050	1775	1875	1960	1750	1075	1150	1235	1060

Note: Lumber prices quoted in \$/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, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak and white oak from Northern Hardwoods list. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods list. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods list. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report (HMR)* , above prices are from the first issue of the identified month. To subscribe to HMR, call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

Hardwood Lumber Prices - Kiln Dried												
Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18
Ash	1490	1630	1635	1530	1105	1225	1205	1170	835	860	860	825
Basswood	1200	1200	1180	1180	725	725	725	725	485	515	485	485
Cottonwood	1025	1025	1025	1025	760	770	770	770	----	----	----	----
Cherry	1975	2370	2320	2050	1260	1565	1600	1415	870	1000	1040	920
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1520	1560	1540	1520	1160	1180	1180	1120	945	990	990	940
Soft Maple	1520	1540	1570	1570	1155	1175	1175	1175	800	800	800	800
Red Oak	1530	1695	1715	1695	1070	1270	1370	1350	940	1030	1030	1000
White Oak	2250	2325	2250	2200	1590	1630	1615	1575	1110	1125	1110	1085
Walnut	4200	4380	4330	4300	2875	2975	2950	2725	1925	2040	1990	1820

Note: Kiln dried prices in \$/MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 4/4 lumber measured after kiln drying. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods list. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak, and white oak from Northern Hardwood list. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods list. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report (HMR)*, above prices are from the first issue of the identified month. To subscribe to HMR, call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

Pallet Lumber - Green				
Dimension	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18
4/4 x RW	395	375	325	265
5/4 x RW	410	390	340	290
6/4 x RW	435	415	375	315
4/4 x SW	430	420	400	360
5/4 x SW	440	430	420	390
6/4 x SW	470	460	450	400

Ties (7x9) - Green				
Region	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/18
<i>Crossties</i>	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	27.5-29.75	26.85-29.75	26.25-29.25	24.5-27.75
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	30-34	28.5-32.5	27.25-31.25	25.75-29.5
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	30-34	28.5-32	27-30.5	25.5-28.5
Southern (West) - 9'	30-34	28-33	27-31.5	25-30
Southern (East) - 8.5'	30-34	28-33	27-31.5	24-29.50

Note: Pallet lumber prices quoted in \$/MBF, average market prices FOB mill, truckload and greater quantities, rough, green, random widths and lengths graded in accordance with NHLA rules. Tie prices quoted in \$/piece, average market prices FOB mill. Prices for pallet lumber from Northern Hardwood list. Prices for ties from the respective regional lists. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report (HMR)*, above prices are from the first issue of the identified month. To subscribe to HMR, call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Transitioning to Electronic Delivery Only

With this issue of Timber Talk, we wrap up the 56th year publishing Nebraska's Forest Industry Newsletter... and we look forward to another 56 years! For the past several years, Timber Talk has been offered electronically via email or hard copy via traditional mail (requiring printing, folding, envelope stuffing and postage). Due to rising publishing costs, beginning with the March 2019 issue, we will no longer be able to provide Timber Talk as a hard copy mailing.

In addition to shifting to email delivery only, we will transition to a emailing program called "MailChimp" as opposed to the current 8-page pdf format. This shift to a new electronic delivery platform will allow us to provide more interactive content and provide links to more information than we can currently.

If you currently receive Timber Talk via email...

- There is no need to do anything in order to ensure that you continue receiving the newsletter. The email address that we currently use to send Timber Talk will be uploaded into the new program and you will receive the next issue in March 2019.
- If you would like to be removed from the Timber Talk email list or change your receiving email address, please let me know before December 31, 2018. In early January, we will be uploading the current email list to MailChimp. To make any changes, please email me at asmith11@unl.edu or call my office at 402-472-1276.

If you currently receive Timber Talk as a hardcopy via traditional mail, you have a couple of options if you would like to begin receiving Timber Talk via email...

- You can reach me via email at asmith11@unl.edu or call my office at 402-472-1276 and I can sign you up for the new email delivery system. I will need your first and last name and an email address.
- You can also sign up by simply going to nfs.unl.edu/subscribe and providing your first name, last name, an email address, and selecting "Timber Talk, wood products, utilization" from the selection options. Also, if there are additional topics of interest in the selection list, you can select multiple options. Select the HTML option for email delivery and click the "SUBSCRIBE" button.

While it is unfortunate that this transition might be difficult for some subscribers, rest assured that the features of Timber Talk (lumber prices, market reports, timber sales, industry spotlights and Trading Post) will all remain key components of the newsletter, along with high-quality and information articles. In fact, this transition will allow us to enhance features such as the timber sales and Trading Post to make them more visible, providing more opportunities.

Additionally, this new digital format will allow us to develop new information and resources to better meet the needs of newsletter subscribers and the forest products industry, as a whole.

Thank you for your continued readership and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas for expanded features as we shift towards the new platform.

Adam Smith
Editor, "Timber Talk"
Forest Products Utilization Program Leader

NDA EXTENDS QUARANTINE TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF EAB

(From Nebraska Department of Agriculture)

In an effort to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB), the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), is adding three more counties to an existing quarantine on ash tree products. Otoe, Lancaster and Saunders join the counties of Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Dodge, for a total of eight Nebraska counties regulated under the Nebraska EAB Quarantine. The revisions to the quarantine went into effect Nov. 1.

“While we can’t completely eliminate EAB, quarantines can help slow the spread of this destructive insect into non-infested areas,” said NDA Director Steve Wellman. “That gives homeowners and municipalities across the state additional time to consider their options and make decisions about the future of their ash trees.”

The additional quarantines come after EAB was discovered in a tree in Lincoln and after a tree exhibiting signs and symptoms of EAB was discovered in Fremont in August. EAB is an invasive metallic-green beetle that attacks ash trees by disrupting the flow of water and nutrients causing the tree to die. The insect was first discovered in Nebraska in June, 2016.

The quarantine order prohibits distribution of ash nursery stock from within or out of the quarantine area, and regulates the movement of hardwood firewood and mulch, ash timber products and green waste material out of quarantined areas. NDA staff, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, work with the public and impacted industries to ensure compliance of the quarantines.

Each summer, NDA and USDA staff set and monitor EAB traps across the state to look for additional infestations. They also monitor and inspect trees, nursery stock and firewood checking for EAB.

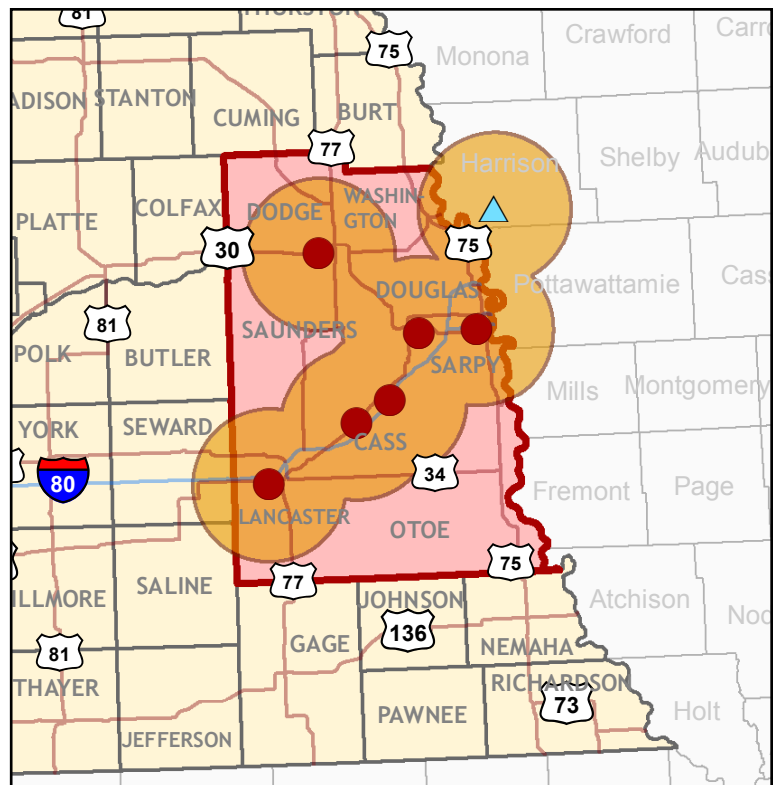
The Nebraska EAB Working Group, which includes NDA, USDA, Nebraska Game and Parks, and the Nebraska Forest Service encourage the use of locally-sourced firewood. EAB can easily travel in firewood, so burning it in the same county where it is purchased or purchasing heat-treated firewood is recommended.

If you feel you have located an EAB infestation, please report it to the...

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture (402) 471-2351
- Nebraska Forest Service (402) 472-2944
- your local USDA office (402) 434-2345

Additional information on EAB and the quarantine, can be found on NDA’s website at: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/>. Additional information on EAB and Nebraska-specific recommendations for homeowners and municipalities can be found on the Nebraska Forest Services’ website at www.eabne.info.

UPDATED EAB QUARANTINE MAP



EAB Location Information	
● Initial County Infestations	○ Treatment Consideration Zone
▲ Infestation in Neighboring State	- The area within 15 miles of a known EAB location.
■ NDA Quarantine	- Ash trees located in these zones are at higher risk for infestation. High value trees in good condition may be worth protecting with treatments.

Great Plains Biochar Initiative Grants Available

The Great Plains Biochar Initiative is a cooperative effort of the Nebraska Forest Service, Kansas Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service, Wilson Biochar Associates, and High Plains Biochar. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage and enable Nebraskans and Kansans to use and produce biochar from the states' wood resources. To help accomplish this goal and provide the resources necessary to better understand how biochar works, grants up to \$5,000 per project are available to assist with biochar projects implemented in 2019.

Anyone is eligible to apply for funds including, but not limited to, public and private land managers, state and local government agencies, agricultural producers, horticultural producers, environmental groups, schools, private businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Projects which have been funded in the past include:

- Using biochar to enhance soil for speciality crop production
- Evaluating the use of biochar in soils to improve soil health and crop yields
- Improving upon biochar production processes



For information about biochar or available grants, please visit nfs.unl.edu/great-plains-biochar-initiative or contact Heather Nobert with the Nebraska Forest Service at hnobert2@unl.edu or (402) 472-2941.

USDA - Wood Innovation Grants Available

The U.S. Forest Service requests proposals to substantially expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.

This Request for Proposals focuses on the following priorities to:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands.
- Reduce costs of forest management on all land types.
- Promote economic and environmental health of communities.

The intent of the Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity is to stimulate, expand, and support wood products markets and wood energy markets. Projects funded by the Wood Innovation Grant program must be focused on wood utilization efforts related to managing forests to reduce wildfire threats. As the program funding is aimed at wildfire risk management, urban wood utilization projects and initiatives will not be competitive.

In Nebraska, there are a number of forestry/forest products opportunities which could be eligible for grant funding:

- Identifying and developing wood products or markets for redcedar or ponderosa pine material generated from forest management
- Contracting for a feasibility study to evaluate the potential for developing a new wood products business or wood energy system in regions of Nebraska with wildfire risk
- Conducting workshops related to increasing the utilization of Nebraska wood products

For more information about the grant program, search for "2019 Wood Innovation Grants" in Google or another search engine. If you have questions or ideas about possible grant projects in Nebraska, feel free to reach out to Adam Smith, Nebraska Forest Service, at 402-472-1276 or asmith11@unl.edu.

Wildfires and Communities: It Can't Happen Here, Right?

We've all seen the tragic news coverage of recent wildfires in California that have destroyed entire communities and cost many lives. It's sad and it's scary.

However, we live in Nebraska, a prairie state. We sympathize with the many Californians who have lost their homes and their loved ones, but at the same time we breathe a sigh of relief that Nebraska is a much safer place to live.

But is it really safer?

2018 has been wetter and greener than most years, which makes it easy to forget the drought years of 2006 and 2012, when hundreds of thousands of acres burned in Nebraska's Pine Ridge and Niobrara Valley. It's easy to forget that lots of rain helps vegetation grow tall and lush. When the great faucet in the sky shuts off, that vegetation dries quickly and becomes tinder.

That tinder puts many Nebraska locales at risk: The "Black Forest" area west of Kearney, the Wildcat Hills, Long Pine, Devil's Nest in northeast Nebraska, recreational and residential areas along the Calamus Reservoir and Lake McConaughy . . . the list goes on. No matter where in the state you live, there is likely a nearby location that is at risk from wildfire.

The Nebraska Forest Service is working with communities across the state to prepare Community Wildfire Protection Plans to help local officials, fire departments, and residents prepare for wildfires. These plans are tools for addressing the challenges and responsibilities that arise from living in a wildfire-prone environment. Local residents and a planning team define wildfire risk areas within and adjacent to communities, the measures necessary to mitigate those risks, and create a plan of action to implement those measures. The plans coordinate with local emergency plans and allow local landowners to apply for federal and state cost-share funds for vegetative fuels reduction.



Homes like these in the Devil's Nest region of Northeast Nebraska should take necessary precautions to avoid potential loss in a wildfire.

Fuels reduction projects help property owners thin woody areas and create fuel breaks to protect emergency access routes, homes, and other structures. Thinning dense trees helps make forests healthy and less susceptible to both wildfire damage and disease.

Residential communities can become "Firewise®," by taking proactive steps to protect homes and people. Fire resistant building materials and smart landscaping can be both effective AND attractive.

Take a look around you. Are you and your neighbors at risk in the event of a wildfire? Are there areas of dense trees or brush? Tall, dried grasses near buildings? Does your home have an unscreened chimney or a deck with dried leaves, firewood, or other flammable material beneath it? Is your driveway choked with vegetation that would impede access by emergency responders? Let's get started!

You can help emergency responders do their job if you take steps to make your home more resistant to fire. Here are a couple of websites to get you started:

- The national Ready Set Go program <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/Resident>
- Firewise USA – Residents reducing wildfire risks <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>.

For more information about Nebraska fuels management cost-share programs, contact your NFS district forester or visit nfs.unl.edu.

Forest Industry Spotlight: “Good Neighbor Authority” Provides Opportunity for Forest Industry

The wildfires of 2006 and 2012 in Nebraska’s Pine Ridge have had an incredible impact on the Nebraska National Forest–Pine Ridge Ranger District (NNF) near Chadron, Nebraska with approximately 5,000 acres of green pine timber remaining. As a result, the US Forest Service (USFS) has been managing the remaining forests and removing dead timber to reduce the potential for future wildfire impacts. Through a new program called the “Good Neighbor Authority”, and a partnership with the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), management of the NNF will be completed quicker, with more acres managed.

Good Neighbor Authority

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the USFS to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States and Puerto Rico to allow the States to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System land. This contract with a partnering state agency authorizes the State the responsibility for preparation, contracting and administration of specific management activities on USFS lands. This program is especially important and beneficial in regions which may lack the USFS staff availability to implement and oversee crucial forest management activities even though the work has been approved and environmental impact assessments have been completed.

GNA in Nebraska

In 2018, the NFS signed a Master Agreement with the NNF providing NFS the authority to administer forest management activities on USFS land in Nebraska, the first ever agreement of its kind in Nebraska. Funding for both the administration and the forest management activities is federal funding, however the Master Agreement approves the use of state contracting processes rather than federal processes which will allow for projects to be completed quicker than before.



In October 2018, following some very competitive bidding, the NFS awarded a contract to Munoz Forestry LLC for 243 acres of fuels reduction work in the 2012 West Ash Fire footprint. This contract, “GNA – Case 1”, will treat fire and beetle killed ponderosa pine, southwest of Chadron.

The ability to use the State’s bidding and contracting model vs the federal model facilitated very competitive bidding from local contractors. The bids were considerably less than with similar prescriptions on Pine Ridge projects using the federal model.

Outcomes and Future

The ability to use State processes, rather than federal, provide more opportunities for local contractors who may have been intimidated by the federal contracting process. This simpler process has, and will likely continue to, led to decreased per acre management costs, meaning that more acres can be treated with the available funding. Additionally, there is a greater opportunity for Nebraska contractors to bid on projects on the NNF, leading to greater impacts in the forest and more business opportunities for forest businesses.

Funding is in place for “GNA Case – 2”, a project in the West Ash Fire footprint. Planning for Case - 2 is presently underway. Preparation, pre bid tours and contracting will take place in early 2019. For information on the GNA program, contact Fred McCartney, NFS, at 308-432-8158 or fmccartney2@unl.edu.

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

Sawmill. Mighty Mite bandsaw. 20 HP electric motor, tandem axles w/ brakes on one axle, 36" x 24' log capacity, (have cut 46" beams) hydraulic operation includes winch, knees, taper, near arm, dogging arms, far arm, dogging spike, log loading arms, and electric clutch and blade lift. Includes automatic blade sharpener, setting machine, 12 used blades and 4 new blades. Excellent condition. Never been used commercially. \$17,500. Contact: Gary Fisher, Crawford, NE. Phone: 308-665-1580; email: fisher@bbcwb.net.

Walnut Lumber. All dimensions. \$3.00 per board foot. Falls City, NE. Contact: Bruce Walker at 402-245-2031.

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. Contact: Tim Schram, Schram Saw and Machine, PO Box 718, 204 E. 3rd St., Ponca, NE 68770, 402-755-4294.

Used Portable Sawmills. North America's largest source of used portable sawmills and equipment. Contact: Sawmill Exchange, 800-459-2148, website: www.sawmillexchange.com.

Wanted

Wood Residue. Slab wood, cutoffs, sawdust, mulch, bales, etc. Lincoln, NE. Call Scott Hofeling at 402-432-0806 or email scott@hofelingenterprises.com.

Logs and Slabwood. Cottonwood, cedar and pine. 4-26" 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

Cottonwood Logs. Veneer-quality cottonwood logs, 16-36" diameter, 7' and longer. Pick up service available. Contact: Barcel Mill & Lumber, Bellwood, NE 68624. Ask for Barton or Megan. Phone: 800-201-4780; email: bj@barcelmill.com.

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 the 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 marked by a forester and the listing is included only as a marketing service to the owner. Listings are prepared according to the information at the time of publication.

Timber Information	Forester/Date	Seller Information
Black Walnut, 37 tress Veneer 2 - 197 bf Veneer 3 - 579 bf Lumber 1 - 1,220 bf Lumber 2 - 2,591 bf Lumber 3 - 1,621 bf	Karloff 10/2018	James Davey 9214 County Road 28 Fort Calhoun, NE 68023 Ph: 402-533-8028 Location: Washington County