



## NEBRASKA'S FOREST PRODUCTS BULLETIN

# TIMBER TALK

## LUMBER MARKET REPORTS

### **Northern**

Some sawmill operations and logging contractors are feeling the pinch from road bans put into place this spring. The effects are no more than usual and much less severe than in certain years, though are disruptive to businesses, nonetheless. In a recent HMR survey, 37.5% of respondents stated that log receipts were up; 50% said log decks had declined, and 12.5% claimed log decks had not substantially changed. The percentages were slightly different for production since many area mills built log inventories ahead of spring breakup and road bans. Equal numbers indicated production is the same as those who report lower output. 25% state that sawmill production has increased. As usually happens, mill output will likely taper off more into summer. The demand side of business has not markedly changed this week from the past several weeks. Domestic secondary manufacturers are buying green and kiln-dried lumber for replacement needs but are not speculating on future activity. International sales are decent to Europe and Vietnam but slow to China. At the same time, industrial markets are booming. Rail tie treaters, wooden pallet and container manufacturers, and board road/road mat timber buyers are all competing for similar quality material and cannot get enough product to satisfy needs.

### **Southern**

Several industry challenges were highlighted in recent conversations with buyers and sellers. For area sawmill owners, low log decks are constricting production and negatively impacting operating efficiencies, and raw material costs continue to escalate. For secondary manufacturers, lumber availability has been a persistent problem throughout winter and spring. Too, concentration yards have experienced tightening margins between green and kiln-dried prices. For most all contacts, labor and truck shortages are pressing issues.

### **Appalachian**

A high percentage of Appalachian sawmills entered May with larger log decks than 30 days ago, as the weather in much of the region was drier in April than March. While most mills are not flush with logs, many have been able to expand operating hours the last few weeks. Larger volumes of green lumber are entering the marketplace. As a result, prices for slower selling items like Cherry, Red Oak, Walnut, and 4/4 #1C and #2A Ash are showing signs of increased pressure. Additionally, prices have leveled off for many items experiencing decent to good demand, such as Poplar, Hard Maple, frame stock, pallet cants, and crossties. Converging input costs and selling prices are challenging profitability for businesses in several sectors of the hardwood industry, including sawmills, concentration yards, and residential flooring manufacturers, among others.

## Hardwood Lumber Prices - Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/18
Ash	1075	1090	1090	1230	695	695	700	845	420	420	420	445
Basswood	810	810	790	790	440	445	440	440	225	225	225	225
Cottonwood	780	780	780	780	575	575	575	575	260	260	260	260
Cherry	1235	1330	1420	1740	725	800	855	1120	385	420	445	595
Elm	670	670	670	670	420	420	420	420	290	290	290	290
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	295	295	295	295
Hickory	865	865	865	950	560	560	560	620	425	415	415	440
Soft Maple	1140	1100	1100	1180	760	760	760	790	470	470	470	480
Red Oak	960	980	945	1130	635	680	690	815	535	545	545	565
White Oak	1745	1685	1665	1705	1000	1000	1020	1055	560	560	560	565
Walnut	2510	2800	2800	2900	1545	1775	1775	1875	720	1050	1075	1150

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](mailto:hmr@hmr.com); or go to [www.hmr.com](http://www.hmr.com).)

## Hardwood Lumber Prices - Kiln Dried

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/18
Ash	1490	1510	1490	1630	1035	1095	1105	1225	775	790	835	860
Basswood	1220	1220	1200	1200	740	740	725	725	485	485	485	515
Cottonwood	1025	1025	1025	1025	760	760	770	770	----	----	----	----
Cherry	1950	1975	2370	2320	1250	1260	1565	1600	835	870	1000	1040
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1460	1475	1520	1560	1060	1095	1160	1180	935	930	945	990
Soft Maple	1565	1520	1520	1540	1140	1155	1155	1175	800	800	800	800
Red Oak	1490	1505	1530	1695	1010	1030	1070	1270	895	910	940	1030
White Oak	2350	2300	2250	2325	1550	1030	1590	1630	1075	910	1110	1125
Walnut	3825	3980	4200	4380	2550	2725	2875	2975	1625	1765	1925	2040

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](mailto:hmr@hmr.com); or go to [www.hmr.com](http://www.hmr.com).)

## Ties (7x9) - Green

Region	5/19	2/19	1/18	8/18
Crossties	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	27.75-30.5	27.5-29.75	27.5-29.75	26.85-29.8
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	30-35	30-34.5	30-34	28.5-32.5
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	30-34	30-34	30-34	28.5-32
Southern (West) - 9'	31-36	30-34	30-34	28-33

Southern (East) - 8.5'

31-36

30-34

30-34

28-33

## Pallet Lumber - Green

Dimension	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/18
4/4 x RW	405	395	395	375
5/4 x RW	420	410	410	390
6/4 x RW	445	435	435	415
4/4 x SW	440	430	430	420
5/4 x SW	450	440	440	430
6/4 x SW	480	470	470	460

*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](mailto:hmr@hmr.com); or go to [www.hmr.com](http://www.hmr.com).*

## Forest News

### **Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership Available to Assist Wood Products Businesses**

#### **Mission**

Transforming Nebraska manufacturers through continuous improvement, innovation, sustainable practice and technology acceleration services.

#### **Who we are**

The Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is the state's lead resource for manufacturing support and assistance. We are housed within the Institute for Agricultural and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska MEP is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. Residing within the U.S. Department of Commerce, MEP was created in 1988 with the intent of enhancing the productivity and technological performance of U.S. manufacturers. Today, the MEP program consists of 51 centers in every state and Puerto Rico with over 400 service locations and 1,300 technical experts working together to advance and strengthen U.S. manufacturing.

#### **What we offer to help manufacturers**

Leveraging relationships with technical specialists at the University of Nebraska and a network of external providers, Nebraska MEP offers an assortment of services to help manufacturers grow, compete, and excel in the global marketplace. Our services revolve around six major categories that we continue to customize to what we observe as the greatest needs we are seeing throughout our State's manufacturing sector. The major categories are Strategy, Continuous Improvement, Quality Management, Marketing & Sales, Sustainability & Compliance, and Workforce Development.

So for instance, we can go into a manufacturer with proven methodologies that help the business assess its strengths and weaknesses, and then development a plan to improve the operation with strategic goal setting and the plan of how to get there. If there is ever a need for quality system utilization, we have the resources available to implement and or maintain your certification. Perhaps your wish is to bring new products to market to increase growth as part of your strategy; we are able to look at the new product

and process development for your idea and how to easily sell it. With respect to sustainability, we have partners in the university that can do energy assessments for your facility's equipment or even place an engineering student that will go much deeper in a waste reduction project to find out what will improve your bottom line.

Often times when we in the MEP talk to manufacturers, in most cases their biggest challenge is in the area of workforce. That is why we offer TWI (Training Within Industry) so that management can train current personal to meet opening roles in their organization and promote from within. This helps ease finding qualified individuals to meet their day to day management needs. Think of it as front line supervisor training. At the very least it can help your field personnel be better at the task of managing people with respect to job instruction, job relations, or job methods.

Whether the manufacturer is large or smaller in size, we are here to help. It can be on the order of rescuing the company, but usually it is to come along side to be an extra set of eyes and hands that help overcome that one thing that keeps leadership up at night.

## **LIST OF SERVICES**

### **Strategy**

- Competitive Assessment
- Development & Deployment
- EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System)

### **Quality Management**

- ISO 9001
- ISO Training
- ISO Audits

### **Continuous Improvement**

- Value Stream Mapping
- DMAIC (Define-Measure-Analyze-Improve-Control)
- 8D Problem Solving
- Kazan 3 Day
- Lean Six Sigma
- 5S-Visual

### **Marketing & Sales**

- New Product & Process Development
- Distributed Channel Development
- Natural Selling Process

### **Sustainability & Compliance**

- Process Control Safety
- Food Safety Compliance
- Industrial Assessment Center
- Partners in Pollution Prevention

### **Workforce**

- Lean 101
- Front Line Supervisor Training (Job Instruction, Job Relations, Job Methods)

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## **NMEP Names New Director**



Matt Allmand, a recognized expert in industrial manufacturing, has been named director of the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). He started in the role on May 1. Allmand brings over 25 years of experience to the position. His career in industrial manufacturing has progressed through production, purchasing, project management, lean manufacturing and company leadership. "I am passionate about efficient manufacturing processes and I look forward to working with manufacturers across the state to identify opportunities for increased productivity and growth using resources from the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership," Allmand said. Allmand's interest in manufacturing started at a young age while working at the Holdrege-based family business, Allmand Bros., Inc., which was a leading designer and manufacturer of high-quality, portable job site equipment. Serving as president of the company, Allmand implemented numerous strategies to stabilize the company and increase profits. Allmand Bros. was acquired by Briggs & Stratton in 2014. Allmand earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and currently serves on the advisory council for the UNK School of Business and Technology.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## ***National Walnut Council Meeting comes to Kansas***

*Field tours, golf tournament and educational sessions are part of four-day event*

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The 2019 National Walnut Council Meeting is scheduled for June 16-19 at the Prairie Band Casino and Resort just north of Topeka.

The theme of the four-day event is Walnuts in Indian Country and features educational field tours of woodland management on Kickapoo Tribal lands along with in-door sessions from nationally recognized experts in natural resource management.

Hosted by the Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council, Kansas Forestry Association and Kansas Forest Service, the meeting offers landowners, natural resource professionals, scientists, foresters and other forest industry professionals an opportunity to network and discuss the most pertinent issues associated with the successful growth and management of American black walnut and other fine-quality hardwoods.

The meeting begins with the inaugural Walnut Masters golf tournament hosted by State Forester Larry Biles on June 16 followed by an evening reception at the Kansas History Museum.

In addition to Kickapoo Tribal lands, field tours will be held at the Barrow Ranch and Copperhead Hill Ranch. Field tours will include sessions on agroforestry, tree and songbird identification, wildlife and woodland management, sawmill and harvesting demonstrations and more. Indoor sessions will include discussions about fire and oak regeneration, tick-borne diseases, and a variety of woodland owners' "show-and-tell" sessions.

The deadline for early registration is June 5. Registration for the full event is \$175 with single-day registration options. Registrations can be submitted [online](#) or by mail.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE EVENT](#)

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## ***NFS Receives Biochar Grant***

The Nebraska Forest Service was awarded \$250,000 by the U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations Program to continue work on biochar's use as a cattle feed additive. Preliminary trials completed by UNL's department of animal science indicated that methane reductions of approximately 10% can be expected when cattle are fed <1% biochar by dry matter intake. The grant will allow UNL Animal Science researchers to expand trials to include weight gain, feed intake, and feed conversion efficiency along with methane and other greenhouse gas emissions measurements. Biochar inclusion in both growing and finishing diets will be tested.

Presently, biochar is not an approved feed additive per the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These feeding trials will be completed under Food Use Authorization from the FDA which allows for feeding investigational feed additives under specific conditions.

The new project will characterize biochar from a variety of producers and woody feedstocks for its suitability as a cattle feed additive. While most wood based biochar does not contain compounds of concern, it is important to test biochar for potentially problematic components in order for biochar to gain credibility in the marketplace. The results of these tests will be compared to the European Biochar Certificate program guidelines for sustainable and safe biochar.

The final component of the project will determine whether the eastern redcedar and ponderosa pine resources in Nebraska can be sustainably managed to meet the potential demand for biochar as a cattle feed additive for the over 6.5 million cattle in the state. Assuming a 3:1 conversion rate of woody biomass to biochar and 90 grams of biochar intake per cow per day, nearly half a million dry tons of woody biomass would be required to fulfill the demand at 100% market saturation.

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# Nebraska Forest Industry Spotlight

## Jessen Pasture Renovation

Tim Jessen and his son Jake have a long history of cutting cedar trees. Growing up on a family ranch in north Knox County by Lindy, Tim remembers his dad in the 1980s cutting cedar trees out of the pastures with a tree shear. This would be followed up with burning every 3 – 4 years to keep the grazing units open from unwanted cedar volunteers. Once the larger trees were controlled, today Tim tries to burn every 5 – 10 years to have open grassed pastures with hardwoods in the draws and very few unwanted cedar trees growing. This is a stark contrast to the many pastures in the north Knox county area where the eastern redcedar is considered a considerable nuisance for pasture management and whole hillsides have become cedar infested.



With the cedar cutting being needed and done on their own ranch, the Jessen's' have had some type of a cedar cutting machine for many years. Two years ago, Tim was outrunning his own cows and as he says "to keep busy", they decided to upgrade with new equipment and started to offer contract work. They purchased a JCB skid steer on tracks with a 60-inch DiamondHead tree mulching head. This allows them to "mulch" the cedar trees without having to cut, pile, and burn. Since they have the cedar trees out of their own pastures now, it gave them

time to go into contractor work and help others.

As the name of the business implies, much of the work has been with clearing cedar trees out of pastures. Lately, the Jessen's have extended the cedar cutting into oak woodlands. They are currently helping with two projects up in the Devils Nest area northeast of Lindy that involves fire fuels reduction work. With cost-share provided through the Nebraska Forest Service and direction from NFS forester, Jordan Smith, the Jessen's have been clearing and thinning cedar trees adjacent to and within deciduous woodlands. One project is with a private landowner to reduce the risk of wildfire and potential damage to oak woodlands. This work also restores the ridgetops for native grasses and wildflowers on the oak woodland edges. It also improves wildlife habitat. The other project is with the LCNRD Rural Water District to reduce the risk of wildfire damage along their water main leading out from the water treatment plant. On these types of projects, where possible, Jake de-limbs the larger cedar trees and pulls them aside to be sent to the cedar shavings mill at Clarks, NE. Jake figures about 20% of their work this way

involves time with a chainsaw. In addition, the Jessen's are thinking of checking into a post peeler to utilize the post and pole-sized cedars that are cut.

In January and February, they travel to warmer country and take the mulching unit down to Oklahoma where Tim's brother lives and ranches. Besides cutting cedars there, Jake makes staves (2" X 2" X 5.5 feet long) for fencing projects. In addition to the cedar cutting and utilization work, the Jessen's provide dirt work for trails for access for property management. This includes a small dirt scrapper. Tim does like to keep busy and looking across the rural pasture landscape of north Knox, Cedar and Dixon counties, there is plenty of potential work for the mulching unit.

*The Jessen's can be reached at:*  
86480 537th Ave, Niobrara, NE 68760  
Tim - 402-841-1861 or Jake - 402-841-0136  
jessenranch@hotmailcom

## 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, 17 trees	Karloff	Robert Wilson
Veneer 3 -99 bf	5/2019	1102 E. 38th St.
Lumber 1 - 186 bf		Scottsbluff, NE, 69361
Lumber 2 - 561 bf		Ph: 308-635-2640
Lumber 3 - 908 bf		Otoe County
<b>Total - 1754 bf</b>		

## Trading Post

### For Sale

#### Mulch

- Nebraska City has approx. 60 semi loads of single grind mulch \$200/ semi load or \$50/dump truckload. Shipping not included. Arrangements will be made to load. *Contact: Marty Stovall 402-873-5515 or email [mstovall@nebraskacity.com](mailto:mstovall@nebraskacity.com).*

#### 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 an 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](mailto:fisher@bbcwb.net).*

#### **Walnut Lumber**

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

#### **Biochar Production Unit**

- Biochar production unit mounted on 24 ft gooseneck trailer. Burns 8 - 10 cubic yards of biomass per day producing up to 2 yards of high-grade biochar and 1 Million BTU/hr of hot air. \$50,000. *Contact: High Plains Biochar for more information 307-761-5508.*

### **Services and Miscellaneous**

#### **Portable Sawmilling Service**

- Offering portable sawmilling service, turning your logs into valuable lumber. *Contact: Doug Patton, D&S Sawmill Services, Palmyra, NE. Phone: 402-269-4866 or email [dssawmillservices@gmail.com](mailto:dssawmillservices@gmail.com).*

#### **Woodshop Services**

- Millwork made from your lumber on my planer/molder. *Contact: Chris Marlowe, Butte, NE 402-775-5000, [Marlowepasture@nntc.net](mailto: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](http://www.sawmillexchange.com).*

### **Wanted**

#### **Wood Residue**

- Slab wood, cutoffs, sawdust, mulch, bales, etc. Lincoln, NE. *Contact: Scott Hofeling at 402-432-0806 or email [scott@hofelingenterprises.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bj@barcelmill.com).*

*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.*



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