



---

## NEBRASKA'S FOREST PRODUCTS BULLETIN

# TIMBER TALK

---

### Lumber Market Reports

#### **Northern**

In the past, the domestic hardwood industry was reliant on growth in residential construction to drive business. That is still the case to some extent. However, painted finishes on cabinets, molding, millwork, and furniture have allowed a variety of imported species and non-wood products to take market share from valuable North American species. Too, imported finished goods continue to make headway in the US market. Therefore, the US hardwood industry is more dependent than ever on foreign markets. Vulnerability from that dependence has been exposed during China's economic downturn. Yet, the Northern region is more insulated from soft Southeast Asian markets than suppliers in the Southern and Appalachian regions. In much of the North Country, Maples are more prominent growing stocks than Red Oak and Ash. In areas where Red Oak, Ash, Cherry, and even Walnut are more plentiful, sales organizations are facing difficult times. Prices have eroded, and lack of profitability is a pressing issue. For some sales companies, industrial products are carrying the load. Demand for pallet lumber/cants, railroad ties, board road, and mat timbers is solid.

#### **Southern**

Sawmill production often increases enough during summer to strain buyers' handling capabilities for green lumber, which leads to tighter controls on receipts. But, concerns over lack of demand for Red Oak, Ash and White Oak from China are prompting even more cautiousness from yards involved with exports. Also, having confidence supplies are abundant allows kiln-dried lumber buyers to wait until materials are needed before purchasing. This circumstance increases competition for orders and drives down prices all the more. Sawmill operators cannot reduce log and timber prices fast enough to compensate for lower green and kiln-dried lumber prices. Profit margins are thin to nonexistent throughout the supply chain.

#### **Appalachian**

Log supplies vary across the region but are still generally low. Whereas log shortages in 2018 and the first half of 2019 resulted almost entirely from wet weather, current low supplies result as much from sawmills reducing log and timber prices as other factors. Sawmill production is down relative to last year and earlier this year. Moreover, a higher percentage of the cut is going into industrial products like railroad ties, pallet material, crane mats, and board road, all of which are in good to strong demand. Even

so, most grade lumber items are in abundant supply relative to demand. Supply push back is especially prevalent with Red Oak and Cherry because sales are highly dependent on China. For most species, upper grades are moving better than the commons.

(Source: Condensed from Hardwood Market Report, August 1, 2019. For more information or to subscribe to Hardwood Market Report, call (901) 767-9216, email: [hmr@hmr.com](mailto:hmr@hmr.com), website: [www.hmr.com](http://www.hmr.com))

## Hardwood Lumber Prices - Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	8/19	15/19	2/19	11/18	8/19	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/19	5/19	2/19	11/18
Ash	980	1075	1090	1090	625	695	695	700	400	420	420	420
Basswood	795	810	810	790	430	440	445	440	225	225	225	225
Cottonwood	780	780	780	780	575	575	575	575	260	260	260	260
Cherry	1110	1235	1330	1420	590	725	800	885	335	385	420	445
Elm	670	670	670	650	420	420	420	420	290	290	290	290
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	295	295	295	295
Hickory	850	865	865	965	545	560	560	560	415	425	415	415
Soft Maple	1180	1140	1100	1100	760	760	760	760	460	470	470	470
Red Oak	825	960	980	945	560	635	680	690	515	535	545	545
White Oak	1725	1745	1685	1665	970	1000	1000	1020	550	560	560	560
Walnut	2315	2510	2800	2800	1300	1545	1775	1775	510	720	1050	1075

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), the 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			
	8/19	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/19	5/19	2/19	11/18	8/19	5/19	2/19	11/18
Ash	1400	1490	1510	1490	935	1035	1095	1105	720	775	790	835
Basswood	1200	1220	1220	1200	730	740	740	725	485	485	485	485
Cottonwood	1025	1025	1025	1025	760	760	760	760	----	----	----	----
Cherry	1800	1950	1950	1975	1140	1275	1250	1260	680	760	835	870
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1460	1460	1475	1520	1080	1060	1095	1160	940	935	930	945
Soft Maple	1630	1565	1520	1520	1105	1140	1155	1155	800	800	800	800
Red Oak	1355	1490	1505	1530	935	1010	1030	1070	805	895	910	940
White Oak	2350	2350	2300	2250	1510	1550	1030	1590	1025	1075	910	1110
Walnut	3725	3825	3980	4200	2375	2550	2725	2875	1450	1625	1765	1925

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	8/19	5/19	2/19	11/18
Crossties	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	27.9 - 31.5	27.75 - 30.5	27.5 - 29.75	27.5 - 29.75
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	30.5 - 35.5	30 - 35	30 - 34.5	30 - 34
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	30.25 - 34.25	30 - 34	30 - 34	28.5 - 32
Southern (West) - 9'	31.5 - 37	31 - 36	30 - 34	30 - 34

Southern (East) - 8.5'

31.5 - 37

31 - 36

30 - 34

30 - 34

## Pallet Lumber - Green

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

*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

### Wet Weather, Other Hurdles Continue to Slow Nebraska's Forest Industry

Does anyone need some water? Nebraska's forest products industry sure doesn't.

Nebraska has a relatively unique timber harvest season, especially in the east where cottonwood logging runs the show. In the fall when crops come out of the field, chainsaws and skidders go into the bordering riparian forests or forested draws in search of mature cottonwood trees and logs to produce pallet lumber and shipping material. They have until the fields get planted again in the spring to harvest the timber.

In good years, a significant portion of cottonwood harvests occur within a 5-7 month period (October/November to April/May). Working in both dry or frozen fall/winter/spring conditions makes for productive harvests, busy sawmills, and good cash flow.

In bad years, contractors and loggers are left standing at the edges of wet fields, flooded river bottoms, and tall snowdrifts. In other words, the 2018/2019 winter timber harvest season was a bad one.

Long wet seasons not only impact the cottonwood harvests, but also the forestry work happening in Nebraska's panhandle and north-central pine forests. Local snowfall reports for Winter 2018/2019 totaled more than 80 inches in some areas. That amount of snow, sprinkled in with some significant thawing and refreezing days, made getting into the woods nearly impossible at times.

When an exceptionally snowy winter is bookended by a wet fall and spring, it doesn't leave much opportunity for the crucial work being done to manage Nebraska's remaining pine forests. From a humanitarian point of view, it doesn't leave much opportunity for businesses to generate revenue and employees to collect a paycheck.

Nebraska's weather is just one hurdle faced by the forestry and forest products industry. The struggling

agriculture economy has had a significant impact on forestry. To get a better feel for the status of Nebraska's forest products industry, simply talk to farmers and ranchers.

When farmers can't get into their wet fields, eastern Nebraska loggers are struggling.

When farmers and ranchers are not buying new tractors, implements or pivots, sawmills who produce pallets and blocking for shipping equipment are struggling.

When farming and ranch income is low and there is little money to pay for forest management and improvement, forest contractors are struggling.

When outside, uncontrollable pressures restrict opportunities for any industry, the discussion often shifts to easing the regulatory pressures faced by the industry. Insurance costs, restrictive road weight limits and overly cautious threatened and endangered species policies all contribute to increased business stress, reduced market opportunities, and shorter operating windows. Ultimately, these pressures lead to reduced forest management, decreased forest health and missed economic opportunities for rural, small businesses.

If the industry continues to struggle into the future, it might be time to take a long look at what can be done to make Nebraska a "business-friendly" state for the forest businesses and the forest products industry.



## NFS Hiring Foresters

### **Forester – Community/Rural Forestry (Northeast Nebraska)**

NFS is seeking enthusiastic, qualified applicants to join our team of dedicated staff working towards improving the health, resiliency and sustainability of Nebraska's trees and forests. Providing direct, technical assistance to stakeholders, the Forester (focused on providing rural forestry and community forestry technical assistance) will play a key role in providing the resources necessary for clients to achieve their tree and forest goals. For more information, click on the link below.

[Northeast Nebraska](#)

### **Forester – Forest Management/Forest Products (Valentine, Nebraska)**

NFS is seeking enthusiastic, qualified applicants to join our team of dedicated staff working towards improving the health, resiliency, and sustainability of Nebraska's trees and forests. Providing direct, technical assistance to stakeholders, the Forester (focused on providing forestry/fuels management and

wood utilization technical assistance) will play a key role in providing the resources necessary for clients to achieve their tree and forest goals. For more information, click on the link below

[Valentine, Nebraska](#)

## Great Plains Biochar Initiative

As the Nebraska Forest Service and GPBI partners continue to build a network of biochar enthusiasts and entrepreneurs throughout the Great Plains, we will be providing updates of project activities, outreach materials, events and biochar news articles.

This month, we are excited to release a new informational video discussing biochar as a product and some of the potential applications in the Great Plains. Visit the link below to view the video.

[Biochar](#)

### Regional Biochar News

“Iowa State researchers studying slow-release fertilizer to feed crops, improve water quality”

[Article](#)

## Upcoming Events

### NFS Forest Festival Family Fun Night

Mark your fall calendar for fresh air and fun. It's the Forest Festival Family Fun Night on September 13th in Plattsmouth, Nebraska! Get outdoors and reconnect with nature through FREE activities for all ages. Activities include:

- Campfire Building & S'mores
- Face Painting & Kids Games
- Barn Photo Booth
- Moonlight Hike
- Trolley Property Tours
- Lumberjack Games
- Makerspace
- Tree Climbing
- Insect Collecting & Display
- Archery
- Free Giveaways
- Picnic Areas

\*Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

For more information, click on the link below.

[Forest Festival Family Fun Night](#)

## Burr Oak Canyon Symposium

Calling all tree enthusiasts! Plan to join the fun of the Burr Oak Canyon Tree Symposium in McCook, Nebraska Oct. 17-18. For all tree stewards and general public, with a pre-conference workshop on tree planting and care, a variety of outstanding speakers covering several topics and wrapping up with a tour of a relict stand of oaks in nearby Burr Oak Canyon. To register, type "Burr Oak" under courses or call 308-345-8122

[Register](#)

For more information click the link below to contact Justin Evertson

[Justin Evertson](#)

## Nebraska Forest Industry Spotlight



Afrank Acres Urban Forestry Services located near Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, specializes in supplying kiln dried dimension lumber and live edged slabs random length and thickness, to local and out-state woodworkers. Custom sawing may be done as time allows.

Interest in forestry and logging led owner Sam Afrank to states like Wisconsin where he could put his natural talents to work, developing forestry skills as he went. Other opportunities included supplying Reese Wood and Sole in Columbus with American elm for boot soles used in the steel industry, a landscaping business in Columbus, and part interest in the original Clarks fiber mill. Upon deciding to purchase and return to the family farm his focus changed, but something inside would not let him forget his passion for forestry.

Upon discovering his Son and Grandson were interested in pursuing a sawmilling business, Afrank Acres

Urban Forestry Services became a reality. The trio uses all local wood saved from the burn pile. Sam explains that he just could not stand by and see all of that wood going to waste. A Norwood HD36 Lumber Pro bandmill with hydraulics and computer networks allows the Afrank's to make precise cuts according to requested specifications. Coupled with a custom-built 4,000 bd.ft. capacity dry kiln chamber and Nyle L200M dehumidification unit, a quality product may be produced. The business keeps materials locally sourced with the majority of the wood milled and sold coming from within 30 miles of their location. For more information, contact Afrank Acres Urban Forestry Services at 308-358-0432 or through their Facebook page.



## Trading Post

### FOR SALE

#### Post Peeler

- Morbark PS8 Post Peeler. Comes with 2 engines, 1 diesel and 1 electric. 8ft in-feed table with short return system. 33 ft of dead rolls with markers for trimming with a hydraulic bar saw. Markers for 6½, 7, 8 and 10ft posts. Several bunks and banding equipment included. 24ft triple axle trailer for hauling also included. In excellent condition. Video available. Call John Hahn. 308-430-0630(c); 308-638-7531(h) Hay Springs, Nebraska.

#### Mulch

- The city of 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 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 MISC.**

### **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. 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. Call 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.*





---

**Copyright © 2019 \*|Nebraska Forest Service|\*, All rights reserved.**

**Want to change how you receive these emails?**  
**You can** update your preferences **or** unsubscribe from this list