TIMBER TALK

Nebraska Forest Industry Newsletter

Lumber Market Reports

Northern

Primary and secondary manufacturers continue to face challenges. Sawmill operators are contending with high-cost timber and logs relative to lumber sales prices. Cabinet, furniture, moulding/millwork, and flooring producers are dealing with slower demand for finished goods. For area mills, there is a closer balance between supply and demand for some species, grades, and thicknesses that is easing price pressures. For end users, excessive finished goods supplies are working down, and some buyers are more assertive with raw material purchases. Yet, markets are not settled for all items. Hard and Soft Maple remain oversupplied, with prices continuing to retreat. Other whitewoods are facing similar circumstances, such as Basswood, Aspen, and Birch. On the other hand, Red Oak prices hit bottom and are rebounding, driven in part by solid sales to China in November and December, which reduced kiln dried inventories. Concentration yards and secondary manufacturers are working to build #1C&Btr inventories amid low sawmill output of Red Oak.

Southern

Most area mills report log decks are unusually low even for this time of year, and total production is down. Too, more sawmill operators are processing a high percentage of industrial timbers because of weak low grade lumber prices and extremely soft framestock markets. The volume of grade lumber entering the supply stream is marginally sufficient to satisfy concentration yards' needs, though most residential flooring factories have adequate raw material supplies. Meanwhile, demand for kiln dried lumber has not improved much. However, inventories have decreased, and replacement quantities may be delayed because of the lower rate of mill production and the extended time needed to dry lumber during the winter season. Therefore, purchasing, not necessarily consumption, of kiln dried lumber has improved.

Appalachian

The axiom that supply inevitably adjusts to demand is certainly true for the hardwood lumber industry. Production has trended down since late last summer, and the decline has accelerated more recently. This process has been uneven, with gaps between supply and demand closing faster for some species than others. At this point, markets for Hard and Soft Maple are still struggling to absorb current production, and prices are unsettled. Conversely, supplies of many green Red Oak, Walnut, and White Oak items are now lagging demand. The same is true for kiln dried Cherry and Red Oak. Prices are responding accordingly.

(*Source: Condensed from Hardwood Market Report, February 3, 2023. For more information or to subscribe to Hardwood Market Report, call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com,* website)

Hardwood Lumber Prices

Hardwood Lumber Prices - Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22
Ash	1095	1210	1315	1315	580	695	805	805	365	450	525	525
Basswood	1105	1200	1280	1265	600	650	700	700	330	330	340	340
Cottonwood	780	780	780	780	575	575	575	575	260	260	260	260
Cherry	935	980	1250	1355	510	510	665	750	365	365	420	420
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	1060	1060	1205	1225	785	785	895	895	665	665	775	775
Soft Maple	1380	1800	2275	2250	850	1115	1425	1435	360	610	750	735
Red Oak	825	830	1085	1215	610	635	800	875	475	530	670	690
White Oak	1660	2100	2900	2925	810	970	1310	1310	545	620	770	780
Walnut	2360	2225	3445	3900	1510	1450	2375	***	835	730	1380	1435

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 identifed month. To subscribe to HMR, call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.

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Hardwood Lumber Prices - Kiln Dried												
	FAS				#1C				#2A			
Species	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22
Ash	1930	1930	2050	2000	1225	1225	1365	1365	955	955	1045	990
Basswood	2050	2050	2280	2155	1115	1115	1330	1265	685	685	710	710
Cottonwood	1075	1075	1075	1075	800	800	800	800	----	----	----	----
Cherry	1520	1620	2050	2200	1000	1075	1335	1450	680	655	835	875
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1985	2000	2220	2180	1425	1475	1700	1670	1225	1275	1480	1440
Soft Maple	2665	2665	3505	3430	1800	1800	2185	2115	1295	1295	1395	1375
Red Oak	1485	1485	1825	1900	1120	1120	1415	1535	1000	1000	1180	1190
White Oak	3030	3030	4450	4615	1715	1715	2300	2255	1280	1280	1510	1495
Walnut	3960	4360	5580	6160	2630	3220	4250	4300	1815	2030	2770	2755

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	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22
4/4 x RW	385	415	450	460
5/4 x RW	450	475	485	485
6/4 x RW	510	510	510	510
4/4 x SW	495	505	505	505
5/4 x SW	515	515	515	515
6/4 x SW	545	545	545	545

Ties (7x9) - Green				
Region	2/23	11/22	8/22	5/22
Crossties	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	34-38.75	33.5-37.5	33.5-37.5	33.5-37.5
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	37.50-42.75	37.25-41.75	37.25-41.75	37.25-41.75
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	37.5-42.5	37-41.25	37-41.25	37-41.25
Southern (West) - 9'	37.5-42.5	37.5-42.5	37.5-42.5	37.5-42.5
Southern (East) - 8.5'	37.5-42.5	37.5-42.5	37.5-42.5	37.5-42.5

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.)

Meet Kim Slezak, New NFS Forest Products Specialist

There's no such thing as wood waste. And there certainly should not be any wood wasted. The best place for a tree is upright, green and growing, but when it's time for the tree to come down for any variety of reasons, it can live a second life as a wood product – or several.

Kim Slezak has a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Northern Arizona

University in Flagstaff, and a Masters in GIS from University of Colorado – Denver. A member of the Society of American Foresters for 37 years, and Certified Forester for 23, she has forestry experience in four other states prior to marrying a fourth generation Nebraska farmer. After 14 years of private consulting based in Fillmore County, she joined the Nebraska Forest Service as a Conservation/Rural Forester located in Hastings. At the end of January 2023, she transitioned to be the Forest Products Specialist.

Just before leaving New Mexico State Forestry in 2008, she helped modify the Forest Conservation Regulations to include juniper species and piñon pine as commercial species and increase utilization of all commercial species down to a 4” top. Utilization is her passion.

Tired of seeing trees removed in towns and from agricultural land just go up in smoke, Kim’s husband found her a Wood-Mizer sawmill on Craigslist. They then had a way to use the logs they had been rescuing and provided custom milling. When Nebraska Forest Service began talking about biochar, it was an aha moment. Anything too small to be milled and the flitches would thereafter be made into biochar.

Kim feels utilization is all about the best use and highest value for each tree. Working with fellow Nebraskans, she hopes to grow the capacity in the state to get more everyday tree removals, cedar clearing, and those from forest management and hazardous fuels reduction into the supply chain and out of the tree dumps and slash piles. Wood is good.
Let's chat! kslezak2@unl.edu 402-429-6931

USDA Forest Service Accepting Grant Applications for Wood Innovations Projects, Community Wood Energy Facilities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service today announced it will offer $41 million through the 2023 Wood Innovations Grant and 2023 Community Wood Grant programs to spark innovation and create new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy.

“These grant programs provide opportunities for communities and businesses to develop innovative uses and markets for wood, a renewable and economical resource," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "Previous Wood Innovations Grants are making a difference across the country, and we are pleased to continue supporting wood use ingenuity that helps our communities and forests."

The application deadline for both grant programs is Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 5 p.m. local time. Applications may be submitted via email to the Forest Service Regional Wood Innovations coordinator listed in the application instructions.
If you have questions about a potential project or would like to discuss these funding opportunities, please contact Kim Slezak.

To view the full press release visit this link.
More information on the available funding, visit the Wood Innovations webpage.

Penn State Extension Webinar Highlighting Carbon Incentives for Forest Owners

Carbon Incentives for Forest Owners will prepare educators to answer three critical questions forest owners have about carbon markets: (1) how do I manage forest carbon? (2) what is a fair price for forest carbon? and (3) what do I need to consider before signing a carbon contract? The course includes four modules delivered over four weeks. Activities include assigned readings and live discussions with experts in forest carbon each week.

Click here to register.

Timber Sales

Black Walnut, 12 trees	Forester: Karloff	**Contact:**
Lumber 2 - 196 bf	Appraisal Date: 1/2023	Duane Weber
Lumber 3 - 856 bf		P.O. Box 557
TOTAL 1,052 bf		Humboldt, NE 68376

		Ph: (402) 862-5364 Location: Richardson Co.

Questions? Contact us

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