

The Kentucky LogJam

 University of
Kentucky
Forestry and Natural Resources Extension
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Providing Environmental, Safety, and Professional
Information to Kentucky's Timber Harvesting Operators



4 Celebrating
Kentucky
Wood Expo
Years

Kentucky Wood Expo September 15 & 16

The Kentucky Wood Expo returns to Lexington, KY, on September 15th and 16th at Masterson Station Park. This year marks the 35th Kentucky Wood Expo, ranked as one of the top 10 events in Kentucky by the Tourism Council. We are celebrating 40 years of the Kentucky Wood Expo, also known as the Kentucky Logging Show, which began in 1983 in Morehead, KY. An expected 3,000-5,000 visitors from around the region will be on hand to see the latest wood processing equipment for the forest products industry and enjoy all educational events and demonstrations.

For those needing six hours of continuing education, Kentucky Master Logger will be providing several opportunities to get additional continuing education hours for free, just pay the price of admission to the show. Please

contact Michael Ammerman or Beth Williams for questions or concerns.

The Kentucky Wood Expo will feature over 100 inside and outside exhibits and demonstrations for everyone to enjoy. Sawmills,

pallets, logging, secondary, and all types of wood processing machinery will be displayed along with a wide range of support services. Inside and outside exhibit space is still available, and there is still time to get signed up to participate. Educational displays will also be present, and several groups will be available to talk about forest management and the promising future of the wood industry in Kentucky. Landowner and Logger education classes will be

conducted during the show on both days, providing plenty of advice on managing forests properly and the many benefits they provide to everyone.

Along with the industry exhibits, several activities will be taking place for the entire family to enjoy. Activities will include chain saw carving demonstrations, collegiate lumberjack competitions, knuckleboom loader and log skidding contests, monster log weight guess, craft displays, and a silent auction to benefit Log a Load for Kids and the Kentucky Children's Hospital. An educational program open to all students will take place on Friday, September 15th, and a woodworking class on both days will offer a chance for attendees to make their free cutting board.

Show your support for the wood industry, one of the largest manufacturing industries in Kentucky, and enjoy the Kentucky Wood Expo. The show offers something for everyone. Advanced tickets can be purchased for only \$5 by calling the KFIA office at 502-695-3979. Parking is free, and entry to the show costs only \$7.00 at the gate and \$5 for children ages 6-12 (children under 6 are free). The grounds will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Don't miss all the fun and excitement at the Kentucky Wood Expo in Lexington, KY, on September 15 & 16.



Participate in the skidder contest at the Wood Expo.
Photo courtesy: Renee' Williams

Paper Decline Impacts Loggers

The paper and packaging industries in Appalachia are reducing hours and demand for wood chips with one facility set to close.

Pactiv Evergreen announced in March the closing of its mill in Canton, NC, as part of its efforts to restructure its beverage merchandising operations. Company officials say the mill and its converting facility in Olmsted Falls, OH, are expected to cease operating in the second quarter of 2023.

Approximately 1,300 positions will be eliminated, officials said. "As we continue to confront a challenging market environment, we are faced with these difficult decisions that directly impact our employees," a company press release states. "We assess all changes to the business with considerable thought for our employees, customers, shareholders and communities, and do not take these decisions lightly."

There are reports that Domtar has reduced incoming purchases at the Hawesville, KY, facility. The company recently resumed operations at its mill in Kingsport, TN, after completing the two-year conversion of the facility from an uncoated freesheet paper mill into the company's first 100-percent recycled packaging plant.

The project totaled \$350 million and makes the site home to the second-largest recycled containerboard machine in North America. The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) January 2023 Monthly report showed printing-writing paper shipments decreased 9% in January compared to January 2022. Shipments were down in 3 of the 4 major P-W grades.

AHMI has invited WestRock Fiber Procurement Manager John Hancock to speak at the 2023 Summer Conference in July. The facility is located in Covington, VA. AHMI has contacted Virginia Tech to research the wood pulp production in the region and new markets.

-- by permission by Tom Inman,
Appalachian Hardwoods Manufacturing Corporation, Inc.

Logger of the Year

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) took place in late March in Lexington, KY. The state tree farm committee presented a number of awards for outstanding work related to forest management including the 2022 Kentucky Logger of the Year.

It was presented to TNT Logging, which is a third-generation logging business located in Vanceburg, KY. The company is owned and operated by Tom Fetters, Jr., who works with his two sons, Jacob and John, who do outstanding work in properly harvesting and removing timber for landowners. TNT Logging operates a wide range of equipment, including dozers, skidders, trucks, knuckleboom loaders, and a cutoff saw to move the trees from the woods to the mill.



KFIA Executive Director presented Tom Fetters, Jr., the Kentucky Logger of the Year award.

Loggers Key to Kentucky's Economy

A significant percentage of the economic contribution of the forest sector is generated from timber harvested in Kentucky, the majority from family owned woodlands. Loggers are the link between the woodland owners and the downstream industries that produce a wide range of forest products. Therefore the health of the logging sector is vital to maintaining a robust forest industry in Kentucky. Figure 1 shows the concentration of Kentucky Master Loggers (required on logging operations) by county and the distribution of wood using industries across the state. In total, 2,272 Kentucky Master Loggers, located in 117 counties, work to harvest timber and deliver it to the 674 wood, paper, and paper-converting industries located in 114 counties throughout Kentucky.

KML's By County

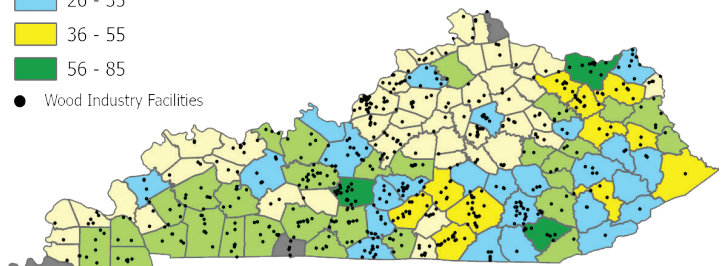
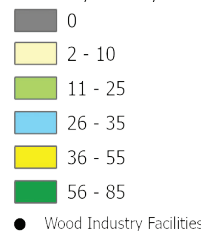


Figure 1. Kentucky Wood Industries and Master Loggers

Source: Kentucky Master Logger Database and Kentucky Forest Products Industry Directory

Legislative Update

April 20, 2023



Robert Bauer, Executive Director

106 Progress Drive, Frankfort KY 40601

Tel: 502/695-3979, Email: bob@kfia.org

The 2023 Legislative Session came to a close in late March without any major wood industry or forestry specific legislation moving through the process. Some business related legislation was passed that was supported by the Association and a number of bills were introduced that would have been detrimental to small business which were opposed and kept from passage by KFIA and our many business partners. Some general legislative issues that had been under consideration for a number of years were passed during the 2023 session. Below is a summary of legislation that was passed.

House Bill 1 - Amend KRS 141.020 to reduce the individual income tax to 4.5% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, and to 4% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2024. This is a result of increased revenue flow from an improved economy and some new sales taxes enacted last year on some services. **Passed and signed into law.**

House Bill 146 - Concerning unemployment benefits and determining benefits available and changes the minimum state average unemployment rate from less than or equal to 4.5% to 6.5% and the minimum weeks of benefits available from 12 weeks to 16 weeks; remove claimants from the classification system if a definite return to work date is set within a period of 16 weeks from the date of filing the initial or reopened claim. Also provides workers shall not be denied shared work benefits if otherwise eligible when participating in training funded by the Workforce Innovation Act. **Passed and signed into law.**

House Bill 264 - Establish the General Regulatory Sandbox Advisory Committee and Kentucky Office of Regulatory Relief; create a Regulatory Sandbox Program to allow an applicant that is accepted into the sandbox 12 months to demonstrate improved methods to meet regulatory requirements and take into account the fiscal impact of requirements on the regulated entity. This would create an opportunity for industry to potentially meet costly regulatory requirements through innovative methods that would benefit the regulated community. **Passed and signed into law.**

A number of general statewide issues were addressed this session which included the following bills which were passed and also signed into law:

House Bill 5 - Provides Funding for Juvenile Justice System reform.

Bill 551 - Legalized sports betting,

House Bill 594 - Outlaws Gray Machines that have shown up in a wide range of businesses that are similar to slot machines.

Senate Bill 47 - Legalized medical marijuana

Senate Bill 126 - Allows legal challenges to be heard in randomly selected circuit courts instead of just Franklin County Circuit court.

The Association appreciates the support of our members who have spoken to their legislators to help make this session successful.

Tailgate Safety - Hard Hat

by **Pat Donnelly**, Field Researcher, West Virginia Safety and Health Extension

I stop and visit many logging sites as part of my job. As you can imagine, the things I see are wide-ranging from a safety standpoint. One of the easiest and least expensive ways to comply with OSHA is using hard hats. When a job is running, a hard hat must be worn when outside the cab of a machine. Timber cutters must do the same while they are felling trees. Sounds simple, right? Well, one of the biggest battles I face is getting crews to wear them, and with the number of accidents I have seen, investigated, and read about, it amazes me how this simple act gets so much pushback!

Several years ago, I visited a job, and the crew first ran over to me with their phones. They wanted to show me the pictures of the timber faller hit the day before by a large dead limb that came down while felling another tree. How he survived

showed me the value of well-made and up-to-date PPE, especially hard hats! The fellow was hit solidly on his hard hat hard enough to shatter it and drive him into the ground face first. Luckily the skidder operator saw it happen and rushed over to help him. He was knocked out but came to with no broken bones and only cuts to the head where the suspension of his hard hat was driven into his scalp. How different the outcome could have been!

As we work in one of the most dangerous industries in the world, let us do it safely. Take the time to review all your PPE before the start of each day; never think that broken or torn PPE is good enough. Replace when necessary. There is only one you, so take the time to protect yourself and the crew you work with!

Forestry Works Kentucky Initiative

A new effort is underway in Kentucky to provide information on logging, forestry, and wood industry career opportunities and the essential benefits these jobs offer. This program started in Alabama and has been successful in other states in the South. For more information on this program go to the ForestryWorks website www.Forestryworks.com. Kentucky-specific materials are being developed for this project with a focus on hardwoods. A Kentucky ForestryWorks website will also be developed to provide students, and prospective employees, highlights into career opportunities and how to find more information about them. resources. The Kentucky ForestryWorks initiative is a partnership between the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the Kentucky Forest Industries Association. The University of Kentucky will lead teacher workshops with the ForestryWorks curriculum, which will help teachers to discuss these careers in high school classrooms around the state. The University will also hold a 2-week summer camp for high school-age students interested in Forestry, Logging, and Wood Industry careers. They will be introduced to training and learning opportunities

at Robinson Forest and the Wood Utilization Center in eastern Kentucky. They will also tour wood industries in the region. The camps are open to 20 students per year at no cost to the attendees due to scholarship funding provided through the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the US Forest Service (Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program). The summer camps will take place in 2024, 2025, and 2026 with lodging at the Robinson Forest camp. If you want to learn more about using ForestryWorks materials for educational programs or career days in your community, contact Bob Bauer or Michele Brewer with Kentucky Forest Industries Association at www.kfia.org or by phone at 1-502-695-3979.



Loggers Educate UK Students

During the week of April 20 – 13, students learned firsthand from loggers and forestry professionals about logging in Kentucky. This included felling, skidding, and bucking, the use of BMPs, and ing safety. The week started with the students visiting Bobby Gary Logging and going over the BMP inspection process (the job passed!). Chance Coates and Rachel Christopher, both Forest Ranger Technicians with KDF's Madisonville office, running the students through the BMP inspection process. Justin Sutton on Sutton Logging provided a display of their cut-to-length system. To round out the week, the students got a great lesson in directional felling with Soto Logging outside of Fordsville. They worked on Sotot's log deck on bucking and Mike Ladd (consulting forester) and John Williams (forester for Dunaway Timber) provided them with real world instruction on selling and procuring timber. To finish Mike Ladd (consulting forester) and John Williams (forester for Dunaway Timber) provided. Mike Ladd (consulting forester) and John Williams (forester for Dunaway Timber) provided. Mike Ladd (consulting forester) and John Williams (forester for Dunaway Timber) provided a week, students got to tour Dunaway Timber and Domtar's paper mill in Hawesville, KY, helping them to see the supply chain from the woods to the finished product at a mill.



Students learned a great lesson in directional felling with Soto Logging outside of Fordsville, KY.



Enroll your woodland property in a forest certification system.

Most private landowners are probably not aware of the forest certification process and its' benefits, while other landowners may have heard and don't know where to begin.



Take advantage of forest certification and choose to enroll today.

To enroll, please contact the Center for Forest & Wood Certification (CFWC) or the Kentucky SFI Implementation Committee for assistance in developing a plan to become certified.

There are many benefits for getting your property certified which include but are not limited to:

1. Potentially increasing the value of your property and giving you a competitive advantage in the marketplace.
2. Ensuring a sustainable forest ecosystem for future generations.
3. Improving biodiversity, water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.
4. Allows you to gain a deeper knowledge of your property and the resources you own.
5. Provides access to certified professionals in the wood industry, wildlife biologists, and state foresters.



Students toured Dunaway Timber and Domtar's paper mill in Hawesville, KY, helping them to see the supply chain from the woods to the finished product at a mill.

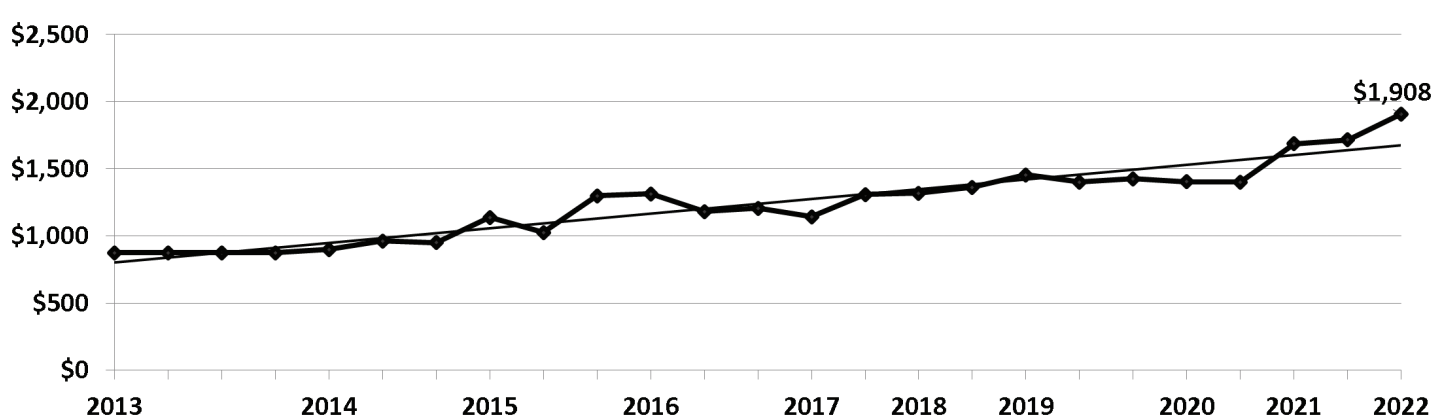


Toll-Free: (855) 579-2690
www.forestcertificationcenter.org

Stave Log Prices

Strong competition for stave logs continues, in response to the ever increasing demand driven by the "bourbon boom." New log yards, stave drying yards, and equipment and technology upgrades to increase production of barrels have all been important investments to help meet the growing demand for bourbon. Markets are averaging over \$1.91 per board foot (Figure 2) statewide with logs ranging from \$1 to \$2.87/bdft. Unlike most other commodities, stave logs experienced a 10% increase throughout 2022. The market for stave logs is expected to remain strong in 2023 due to intense competition for high-quality white oak logs for a variety of products and uses. The strong market for white oak continues to be an opportunity for both loggers and landowners.

Figure 2: Delivered Stave Log Prices in Kentucky 2013-2022 by Quarter (\$MBF) Doyle



For more information on commodities, visit <http://forestry.ca.uky.edu/economic-report>

Railroad Tie Log Prices

Railroad tie logs remain an important timber product in Kentucky. The market for hardwood railroad tie logs has remained strong in terms of purchasing, although we have seen statewide price decreases in 2022 compared to 2021. Oak railway ties experienced a 29% decrease in year to year in 2022, while non-oak tie logs decreased by only 6% statewide during the last year. The statewide average for non-oak railroad tie logs is \$423/MBF while oak tie log average \$457/MBF. Normal maintenance and replacement of railway ties are ongoing, which is anticipated to keep pricing steady into 2023.

Figure 3: Delivered Tie Log Prices in Kentucky 2009-2022 (\$/MBF) Doyle

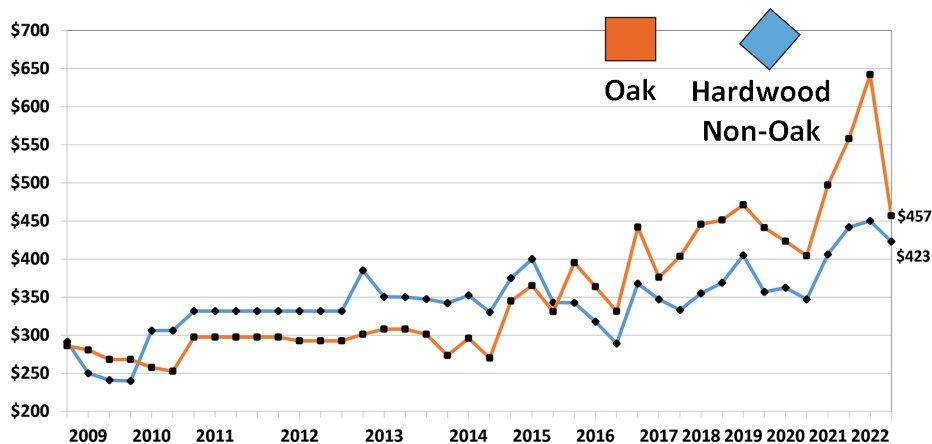
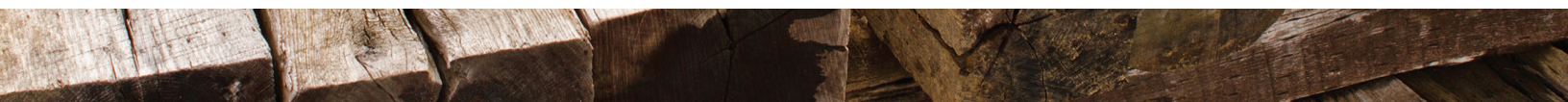


Figure 2 and 3 sources: Kentucky Division of Forestry's Delivered Log Price Data (MBF = 1,000 board feet)





Kentucky Master Logger Continuing Education Programs

If you would like to register for one of these programs and complete the six-hour CE requirement, mail this registration form and fee to the

KML Office at the address listed below or call 1.800.859.6006 or 859.257.6230. If time permits you will be sent a return letter verifying your registration along with class information. All Continuing Education Credits have a \$50 registration fee. See classes offered in the table below.

2023 3-Day Program Dates/Locations:

- **July 18, 19, and 20** - Owen County - Owenton - Cooperative Extension Service Office
- **September 19, 20 and 21** - Metcalfe County - Edmonton - Cooperative Extension Service Office
- **October 17, 18 and 19** - Marshall County - Benton - Cooperative Extension Service Office
- **November 14, 15 and 16** - Elliott County - Sandy Hook - Cooperative Extension Service Office

2023 Continuing Education Programs:

CE Courses are 6 CE Credits - 9 am - 4 pm, \$50 fee

- **September 7:** BMP Refresher - KDF Pineville Office | Bell County
- **September 27:** White Oak Production & Harvesting - Grayson County Extension Office
- **October 25:** Timber Tips - UK Wood Utilization Center - Jackson
- **November 8:** Principles of Forestry - Shelby County Extension Office



Call Before You Cross

Heavy equipment can cause damage to pipelines. Please call 811 at least 48 hours prior to crossing a right-of-way.

TransCanada* can also be contacted directly at 1.877.287.1782 or us_crossings@TransCanada.com.

*TransCanada is the parent company of Columbia Gas and Gulf Transmission and ANR Pipeline.



Know what's below. Call 811 before you dig.



3-Day Registration Form

REGISTRATION FEE: \$85 per person
Make check payable to: Kentucky Master Logger

Program Date & Location _____

Name (First and Last) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Have you attended the KML 3-day program in the past? _____



CEU Registration Form

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50 per person

Program Date & Location _____

Name (First and Last) _____

Designation Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Visa/MasterCard accepted by phone or mail.
Circle one: Visa or Mastercard

Expiration date: _____ month / _____ year

or checks payable to: Kentucky Master Logger

Mail checks to: **Kentucky Master Logger Program**

222 T.P. Cooper Building,
Lexington, KY 40546



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CEU Renewals

The Kentucky Master Logger Continuing Education classes for six CE credits have a \$50 fee. Please note that this fee is for the six hour class only.

If your card is expiring soon after, there is also a \$25 Renewal Fee to renew your Kentucky Master Logger designation card for the next three year period. If you have any questions regarding this please contact Beth Williams, KML program coordinator at 859.257.6230.

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