

Woodpecker News

by Gene Wengert

EXPERT SUGGESTS MINIMIZING INVENTORIES

Homebuilding has remained weak even as mortgage rates have dropped sharply from last year's high levels. Spending on residential construction has contracted for six straight quarters, the longest such stretch since the Great Recession. The U.S. Commerce Department just provided us the number of single family housing starts January to August in 2018 (615,000) versus January to August 2019 (598,000 starts)...a 3% drop this year. Multi-unit starts are the same (253,000) for both years.

At the same time, southern pine prices are at record high prices, reflecting the 50% or more

decrease in Canadian lumber coming into the U.S. Canadian construction lumber has been about 1/3 of the lumber used in the U.S. This decrease is due to decreased log availability in Canada. In the U.S. Pacific NW, many mills are closing due to low volumes of logs available for sawmills.

Add to this the increased price of wood sheet goods, and we see a continuing trend for less and less U.S.-made furniture, cabinets, and flooring. Until this all settles down, it is suggested that any standing timber inventories, log inventories, and unsold lumber inventories should be minimized. ■

Gene Wengert, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, is President of The Wood Doctor's Rx, LLC, in Bishop, Georgia.

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE



A Subscription To *Sawmill & Woodlot* magazine!

Choose from subscription options: • Printed Copies • Apple App Store
• Google Play Store • Desktop Edition.

Back Issues Entire back issue collection of *Sawmill & Woodlot* magazines. 1997 thru 2019. Single printed issues available too. Now on flashdrive!

Caps High-quality, official *Sawmill & Woodlot* logo cap

Tree Species Collection

All 62 Tree Species I.D. Cards published in *Sawmill & Woodlot* magazine.



Call 207/338-0300 or Online:
www.sawmillmag.com

We offer an extensive variety of Uniforest products right here in the USA

UNIFOREST

HUD-SON
FOREST EQUIPMENT



Turn your tractor into a skidder. Whether you're a novice or commercial forester, we have a skidding winch to fit your needs! Increasingly popular due to the need for low impact logging and effective forest management.

- Economical Manual Control (M)
- Efficient Wireless Control (H)
- Extra Length Cable • Lower Snatch Blocks
- Removable Trailer Hitch • Full Protective Screen
- Chainsaw Holder • Chain Boxes
- PV and AX Carrier



UNIFOREST TITAN 40/20 FIREWOOD PROCESSOR

- Compact Bi-Directional Conveyor Feed
 - Splitting Length 9.8, 13, 15.7 or 19.7 Inches
 - Recommended Tractor Power: 40HP
 - Mechanical or Hydraulic Joystick
 - Circular Saw Cut Off • Hydraulic Drive Conveyor
 - Log Stabilizer
-
-



UNIFOREST SCORPION BOOM, ROTATOR & GRAPPLE

- Complete With Boom, Rotator and Grapple
- Mount on the Front of a Skid Steer, Tractor or 3 Pt Hitch
- Designed to Work with 3Pt Hitch Set Ups or Universal Quick Connects
- Move Logs, Brush and More with Ease
- Optional Solenoid Valve and Toggle Switch
- Robust Construction • Made from High Quality Materials • Quality Anti-corrosion Protection
- Min. Opening - 2 3/4" • Universal Quick Connect
- Category 1&2 - 3 Pt • Requires 12 Volts

8201 State Rte 12 Barneveld NY 13304 • 800.765.SAWS • WWW.HUD-SON.COM