Market and Resource Dynamics Affecting Wood Utilization Strategies in the Eastern United States Impact Statement

SUMMARY
The Ohio State University’s Forest Operations and Products Extension program strives to effectively engage clientele in forest-to-market topics through conducting applied studies and developing a research-based educational curriculum.

SITUATION
Each man, woman, and child in the United States consumes an average of seven pounds of wood daily. This statistic illustrates the important role production forestry plays in society. Additionally, rising costs, cheaper imports, and the Great Recession have unfortunately caused production cuts and plant closures in various sectors. Evaluating the impacts of Ohio’s forest economy will assist industry participants- landowners, loggers, and wood-using mills- as well as the communities in which they reside when promoting forest stewardship activities. It will also serve as a benchmark for policymakers who may not have fully recognized the impacts of the forest industry in their local areas.
RESPONSE
The Forest Operations and Products Extension program conducted applied studies on 1) forest inventory and forest products economic impacts and 2) timber price trends. Educational efforts were directed to three signature areas, with the curriculum augmented through research efforts.

- Family Forest Management
- Forest Industry Production, Markets, and Economics
- Wood Identification and Utilization

IMPACT
Research and outreach efforts in 2013 reached private forest landowners as well as individuals representing industry, government, and non-governmental organizations. Four scientific articles were published in peer reviewed journals representing the fields of forestry, wood science, agricultural engineering, and Extension outreach. Nineteen OSU Extension fact sheets were disseminated, eighteen of which pertained to the economic contributions Forestry provides to local economies. Eleven articles were also published in trade journals and newsletters. The 2013 Spring and Fall timber price surveys were published. A new product, the Ohio Timber Price Indices, was developed and published using timber price data dating to 1978. The timber price indices will be published alongside the biannual timber price reports and distributed to clientele. The program presented five presentations at academic conferences. Twenty-three classes and workshops were conducted, with 747 attending. Fifteen outreach presentations were given to over 3,200 people from multiple states. Feedback from participants was overly positive, stating the information provided would be usefully incorporated into their professional and personal endeavors.

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