

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber ◇ Wildlife ◇ Water ◇ Soil ◇ Best Management Practices ◇ Forest Health ◇ Recreation ◇ Aesthetics

## FOREST PRODUCTS GLOBAL ASSESSMENT

*from Texas Forestry Association website article dated June 28, 2021*

For more information:

- <https://bit.ly/ForestProductsAssessment>

The Texas A&M University Center for North American Studies recently completed a global market assessment for the Texas forest products industry at the request of the Texas Department of Agriculture. The intention of this work is to give the forest products industry and allied partners a benchmark for U.S. and Texas exports while highlighting, when and where possible, opportunities for future efforts.

The global export market for forest products was valued at \$244 billion during 2019. This market consists of hardwoods and softwoods, and includes roundwood, wood used as fuel, lumber, panels, pulp, and paper products.

U.S. wood products exports play a significant role in the global forest products market. While down the last two years, U.S. wood products exports of 15.2 million cubic meters (mcm) measured by

weight totaled \$7.4 billion during 2020, with softwood logs, softwood lumber, pellets, and chips composing \$3.0 billion of that amount.

The Texas forest products industry was valued at \$18.9 billion during 2019. This includes the value of sales by 104 mills located within Texas, of which 49 are sawmills; 14 are post and pole treatment plants; 13 are biomass plants producing products like pellets; and 9 produce plywood, veneer, or oriented-strand board. Softwoods dominate forest products production, and as such, softwood products are the focus of this report.

China is the largest market for softwood lumber, importing 26.6 mcm during 2019; U.S. imports were 24.6 mcm. Thus, while the United States participates in the global softwood lumber market, they do so as a net importer.

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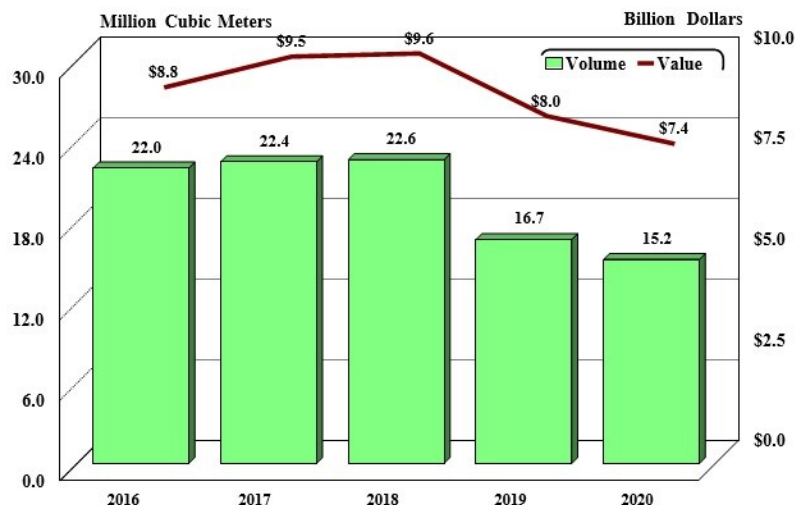
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### U.S. Wood Products Exports, 2016-2020



Source: GATS, FAS/USDA. Note, Volume does not include product measured in MT, Square Meters, or Pieces

## PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

*from Press Release on Texas A&M Forest Service website*

*For more information:*

- [www.farmers.gov/pathh](http://www.farmers.gov/pathh)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to \$200 million to provide **relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have experienced losses due to COVID-19.**

The new program, Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH), is part of the USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

To be eligible for payments, individuals or legal entities must be a timber harvesting or timber hauling business where 50% or more of its gross revenue is derived from one or more of the following:

- Cutting timber
- Transporting timber
- Processing of wood on-site on the forest land (chipping, grinding, converting to biochar, cutting to smaller lengths, etc.)

Timber harvesting and hauling businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of at least 10% during the period of January 1 through December 1, 2020 - compared to the period of January 1 and December 1, 2019 - are encouraged to apply. If a logger, must have a 2017 North American Industry Classification System

(NAICS) code of 113310 for tax purposes, or other supporting documentation. If a trucker, must have a NAICS code of 484220 or 484230 and must have filed an IRS Form 2290, or must provide other supporting documentation.

PATHH payments will be based on the applicant's gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 1, 2019, minus their gross revenue received during those same dates in 2020, then multiplied by 0.8; equaling to 80% of the difference between the two years' income.

An initial amount will be issued as applications are approved, but a second payment will be made after the signup period has ended, which will be based upon remaining PATHH funds – with no individual or entity receiving more than \$125,000.

Eligible loggers and truckers can submit their application through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) by **Oct. 15, 2021.**

To find a local FSA office, visit **farmers.gov/service-locator**, or call **877-508-8364** to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. Applications can be submitted by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means.

## KUDOS AND SHOUT OUTS

*from Texas Forestry Association website*

*For more information:*

- [www.texasforestry.org](http://www.texasforestry.org)

The Texas Forestry Association will host a walking tour to highlight the selection of **Bill and Fonda Snow's 90-acre tree farm**, in Rusk County as the 2021 **Texas Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year** on Friday, September 17, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Snows manage their Tree Farm, located near Henderson, Texas, for timber income, wildlife habitat, and recreation. There is space carved out for their home and office.

The walking tour will highlight sustainable management practices with stops and presentations at a mature timber stand, a young plantation, special sites and more. The Tree Farmers will explain the

importance of water quality run off as all creeks and drains are protected to whatever extent possible to keep sediment and silt out of the creeks. Other professional foresters will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Participants are asked to wear outside attire and comfortable shoes/boots for walking to the stations. The event is free and lunch will be provided. Because this is a walking tour, space is limited to 60 participants and registration is required to reserve your spot.

Register online at [texasforestry.org](http://texasforestry.org) or call 1-866-TXTREES, 936-632-8733 or email [tfa@texasforestry.org](mailto:tfa@texasforestry.org) with your name, mailing address and the number attending.

## DO I NEED A WETLAND PERMIT?

In general, wetlands are found where water naturally flows and accumulates: floodplains, stream headwaters, low lying spots, landscape depressions, and the fringe of ponds, streams, rivers, and coastlines. Even where wetlands are known, determining where the boundaries lie can be complex. Some wetlands exist due to saturation of the soil by groundwater and are difficult to identify. Others are dry part of the year so the extent of the visible wetland boundary can vary during high and low water volumes.

For preliminary evaluation of wetland presence, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory/Wetlands Mapper can give a map-like view of America's wetland resources. You can upload geospatial data or shapefiles; or put in an address to see what is in your area of interest. Click on colored areas to get information on that specific wet area.

The final determination whether a property has "jurisdictional wetlands" or other "waters of the US" can ONLY be made by the US Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE). Development in waters of the US, including wetlands, is regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. When there is a question whether wetlands or any other waters of the US exist on a property that the landowner plans to fill, dredge, or drain, the landowner should request a jurisdictional determination from USACE.

*Jurisdictional Determination definition:* A written USACE determination that a wetland and/or waterbody is subject to regulatory jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), or a written determination that a waterbody is subject to regulatory jurisdiction under Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

It should be noted that there are specific permit exemptions for agriculture and silviculture (forestry) operations if the operation meets certain requirements.

Go to [www.usace.army.mil/Locations/](http://www.usace.army.mil/Locations/) to find the USACE District Office in your area.

*from Texas A&M AgriLife website article by Jordan Cooley dated April 5, 2015*

*For more information:*

- <https://valuwetlands.tamu.edu/2015/04/15/wetland-permitting/>
- <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/policy-and-guidance-documents-under-cwa-section-404>
- <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html>

## DEFINING WETLANDS

Wetlands are areas where the frequent and prolonged presence of water at or near the soil surface determines the kind of soils that form, the plants that grow, and the fish and/or wildlife communities that use the habitat. When the upper part of the soil is saturated with water at growing season temperatures, soil organisms consume the oxygen in the soil and cause conditions unsuitable for most plants. Such conditions also cause the development of soil characteristics (such as color and texture) of so-called "hydric soils." The plants that can grow in such conditions, such as marsh grasses, are called "hydrophytes." Together, hydric soils and hydrophytes give clues that a wetland area is present.

The presence of water by ponding, flooding, or soil saturation is not always a good

indicator of wetlands. Except for wetlands flooded by ocean tides, the amount of water present in wetlands fluctuates as a result of rainfall patterns, snow melt, dry seasons, and longer droughts.

The 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, along with Regional Supplements, organize characteristics of a potential wetland into three categories - soils, vegetation, and hydrology - and contain criteria for each category. With this approach, an area that meets all three criteria is considered a wetland by the EPA and the Corps.

Jurisdictional Determinations are issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, and determine whether a water will be regulated under CWA 404. These are often determined by performing a jurisdictional delineation of waters on a property.

*from U.S. EPA website*

*For more information:*

- [www.epa.gov/cwa-404/how-wetlands-are-defined-and-identified-under-cwa-section-404](http://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/how-wetlands-are-defined-and-identified-under-cwa-section-404)
- <https://bit.ly/WetlandsBrochure>
- [www.epa.gov/cwa-404/what-jurisdictional-delineation-under-cwa-section-404](http://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/what-jurisdictional-delineation-under-cwa-section-404)

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## HEALTHY TREES, HEALTHY LIVES

There's something remarkably simple that anyone can do to improve their well-being: **Spend time near trees.**

Learn how healthy trees and forests benefit you and your community: <https://healthytreeshealthylives.org>. Here are just a few:

- Shade from urban trees cut down on exposure to harmful UV rays, reducing your chances of developing skin cancer.
- Green spaces and tree-lined streets encourage walking, outdoor activities and generally healthier lifestyles.
- Studies show that kids who play in nature are more relaxed and attentive, thus improving learning and performance in school.
- Being able to see trees while recovering from surgery – as through a hospital window – increases a patient's pain thresholds, requiring less pain relievers and shortening recovery time.
- Trees absorb pollutants so you can breathe clean, fresh air, helping your brain release serotonin to boost your energy and mood.



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