

Rural Development Through Forestry

Log, Lumber, and Tree Grading Workshops

The Challenge

Indiana's forest products industry faces increasingly shrinking profit margins between what is paid for logs and what is received for the final product. Many landowners and forest managers have little experience with the actual processing of wood into logs. Few have knowledge of how particular external defects affect lumber grade and methods that could be used to produce larger quantities of high-quality lumber. Landowners and forest industry professionals needed to become more knowledgeable about the raw resource to keep it economically viable.

The Solution

With funding provided by the Northeastern Area's Rural Development Through Forestry program, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Purdue University cosponsored a 2-day workshop on log, lumber, and tree grading. Participants were given a brief introduction to both log and lumber grading along with information on the benefits of using yield tables available from the USDA Forest Service. Hands-on experience was provided in the field on how to estimate the volume and grade of both standing trees and logs using USDA Forest Service rules. Participants were shown how logs were marked for external defects and how those defects affect the processed lumber.

Resulting Benefits

- Landowners learned how logs are processed into lumber and how external defects affect lumber quality and value.

Log, lumber, and tree grading workshops provide landowners and forest managers with much-needed instruction in the field.



Workshop participants are introduced to log and lumber grading.

- Forest industry professionals learned how to estimate log yield in terms of both volume and grade.
- The training gave participants an understanding of the type of lumber that will come from a log, which will help them evaluate the value of the sawlog.
- All participants received instruction on USDA Forest Service log and tree grade rules.

Sharing Success

- Six Log and Tree Grade Workshops were held throughout the State.
- Similar workshops have been offered in Wisconsin as well.
- As the benefits of the workshops become known, interest among both landowners and forest industry professionals is growing.



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