

MLEP TREELINE

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www.mlep.org

Summer 2012



Did You Know:

- There are more trees in the Lake States (MN/WI/MI) today than there were 50 years ago.
- Almost 100% of a tree can be used in the manufacturing process for wood and paper products.



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

Minnesota Logging Business Owners Survey

Thank you to the more than 240 loggers who responded to the MN Logging Business Owners Survey. That's a response rate of 57%! The findings will help us better understand the status of the timber harvesting industry in Minnesota.

A comprehensive analysis of the responses is currently being conducted and should be available by September.

Here is a snapshot of what we have learned so far:

The average logging business:

- Has been in the business 28 years
- Employs 3.9 full-time and 1.6 part-time workers
- Harvests timber with a feller buncher
- Is likely to replace old equipment with used
- Most frequently reported their profitability being "much worse" in 2011 than 2008
- Biggest issues were stumpage prices, market prices, and rising cost of business
- Anticipates being in business the next 5 years
- Is unlikely to transfer the business to a relative

Other observations

- 27% of the respondents do not expect to be in business in the next five years (these 27% reported harvesting capacity of 367,000 cords)
- Mechanized felling equipment - age of newest piece:
 - CTL - 7.6 yrs.
 - Feller buncher - 14.8 yrs.
- Little interest in purchasing chippers or grinders
- Used 7.8 million gallons of diesel fuel

Railroad Crossing Safety

MLEP has been contacted by the Federal Railroad Administration regarding their observations of log trucks failing to stop as required at railroad crossings. Remind drivers of the following:

(continued on page 3)



Minnesota's Forest Resources Report

This report is compiled annually by Minnesota DNR - Forestry Division, Resource Assessment and Utilization & Marketing Program staff. The report is intended to answer frequently asked questions about Minnesota's forest resources such as: current conditions and trends in forest resources, and forest resource industrial use.

Highlights:

- Mill Changes: Mill shutdowns, slowdowns and curtailments continue to have a large impact on timber markets in Minnesota. Harvest levels of 2009 are down by nearly 1 million cords compared to 2005 levels, resulting in opportunities (and need) for additional utilization and management of Minnesota's forest resources.
- Timber imports of pulpwood into the state as well exports out of the state saw decreases in 2009. This is in contrast with the previous year for both imports and exports. It is likely that Minnesota is still a net importer of raw wood as of December 2011, but by a greatly reduced margin as compared to levels of seven years ago.
- Overall net growth for all species continued to outpace harvest levels. According to 2010 FIA figures, annual net growth of growing stock on timberland was approximately 5.6 million cords, with mortality of approximately 4.0 million cords. According to Draft 2009 mill and fuelwood survey data, the volume of wood harvested and utilized by industry and fuelwood users was approximately 2.73 million cords. Hence, there are significant volumes of wood above current harvest levels potentially available for additional harvest.
- Woody biomass use for energy markets and forest carbon credits are significant emerging issues that will have an impact on forest management in the future. Updates pertaining to woody biomass use for energy are included in this report.
- Harvest levels: Total wood harvested and utilized from timberland by industry and fuelwood users in Minnesota was 2.73 million cords in 2009. Readers will also want to be aware that while actual survey figures will not be available until later, based on analysis of mill consumption, it appears that harvest levels are within the 2.6 to 2.9 million cord range in 2010 and 2011.

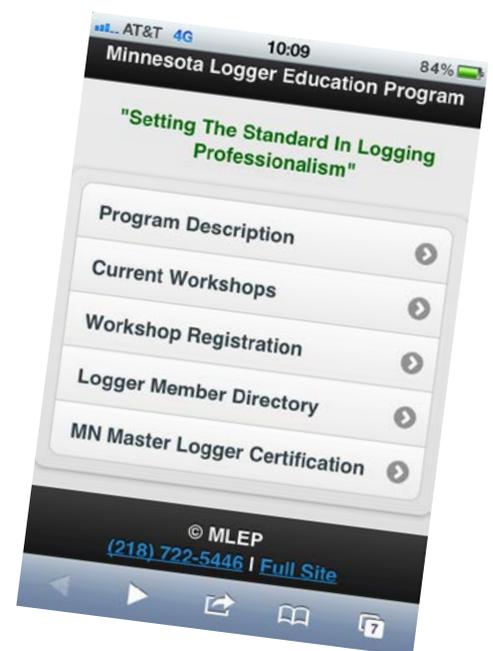
A copy of the report in its entirety can be found at

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/um/forestresourcesreport_11.pdf

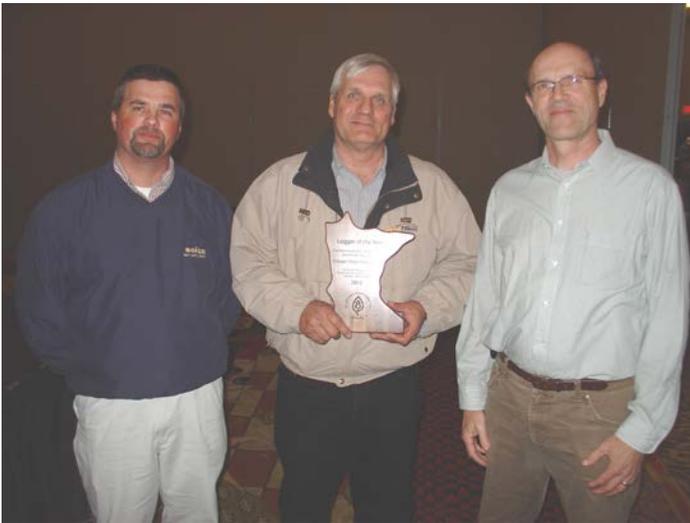
MLEP Mobile Website Coming Soon

With the increasing number of visitors accessing the MLEP website from a smartphone or tablet - it's clear we need to retool our website to better accommodate those visitors. Chris DeRosier is working on the new site now and it should be "live" by the end of summer.

The anticipated changes will make it easier to view workshop offerings and register for training. Other enhanced features will also be added. If you have a specific request or suggestion - please share them via an email to Chris.DeRosier@mlep.org.



Erickson Timber Products, Inc. – Dale Erickson Named Logger of Year



Caption: MLEP Board Member Jim Marshall; Blandin Paper (right) and Dan Toivonen; Boise (left) congratulate Dale Erickson.

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC) named Dale Erickson of Erickson Timber Products (Birchdale, MN) as its 2012 Logger of the Year on April 11, during the Minnesota Logger Education Program conference at Northern Lights Convention Center in Walker, MN.

Dale Erickson serves on the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, was President of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association from 2003-2006 and is active in his local community.

Erickson advances sustainable forest management through his business and harvest practices, outreach with landowners and advocacy with policy makers.

Congratulations Erickson Timber Products!

Railroad Crossing Safety *(continued from page 1)*

- Always expect a train. Trains can run on any track, at any time, in either direction.
- Never ignore flashing lights, whistles, closing gates, or stop signs.
- Slow down, look in both directions, and test your brakes.
- Be certain you don't see a train. Roll down windows; turn off fans and radios; listen for warning whistles.
- If a stop is needed, stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the tracks.

SIX HIGHWAY - RAIL INTERSECTION VIOLATIONS

1. Failing to slow down
2. Failing to stop
3. Failing to check for clear track
4. Failing to obey traffic control devices or law enforcement officials
5. Crossing without having sufficient undercarriage clearance
6. Crossing without having sufficient space on the other side to clear the tracks without stopping

DISQUALIFICATION PERIODS FOR CDL DRIVERS

Violating any of six (6) railroad crossing rules

1st violation Minimum of 60 days

2nd violation Minimum of 120 days

3rd violation Minimum of 1 year

If proven that the employer knowingly allowed, required, permitted, or authorized a driver to violate the law or regulation, the employer could be fined \$10,000.





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*Setting the Standard in
Logging Professionalism*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.mlep.org

Upcoming Events

August

8 – Tablets & Smartphones – I Falls
9 – Tablets & Smartphones – Brainerd
16 – DNR Logger Select – Orr
20 – MNDOT Trucking Regs – Arden Hills

September

14 – Lubricants – Grand Rapids (FULL)
26 – QuickBooks – Grand Rapids

October

2 – LogSafe – I Falls (OSHA & CPR-1st Aid)
3 – LogSafe – Bemidji (OSHA & CPR-1st Aid)
5 – LogSafe – Hibbing (OSHA & CPR-1st Aid)
9 – LogSafe – Cloquet (OSHA & CPR-1st Aid)
17 – DOT Audit – Brainerd
18 – DOT Audit – Cloquet
23 – Road Bldg Layout/Maint – Bemidji

December

6 – Open Lab/Online Training – Cloquet

- 2012 MLEP Board of Directors -

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