

# CLEMSON®

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

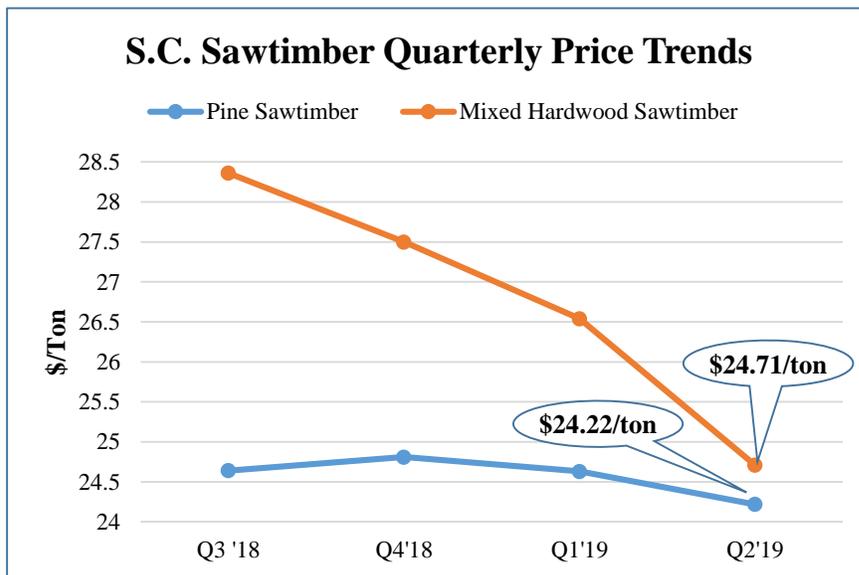
### SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY MARKET NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER, 2019



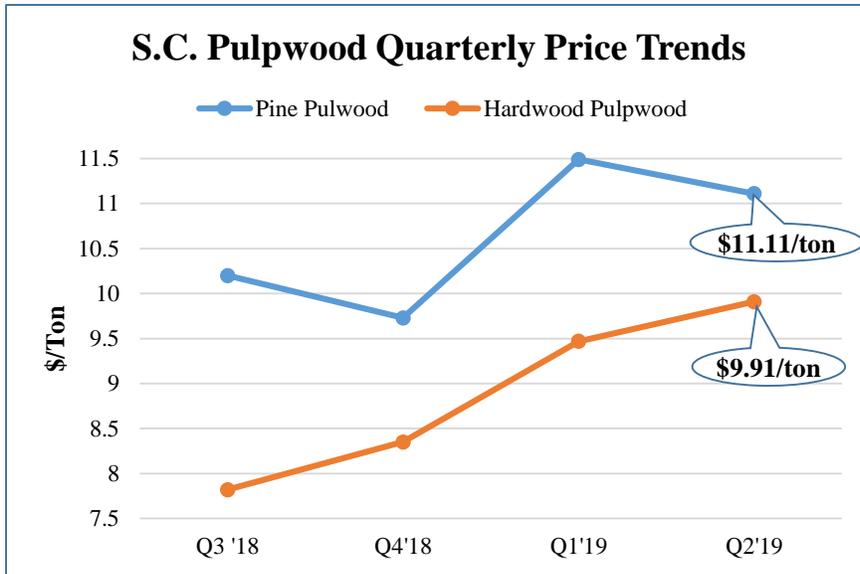
#### 1. S.C. Statewide Stumpage Price Trends<sup>1</sup>

South Carolina statewide (state as a whole) pine sawtimber stumpage (standing timber) prices, on average, were \$24.22/ton in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019. It is a decline of about 2% as compared to the prices for pine sawtimber in the last quarter (Q1 2019).



For mixed hardwood sawtimber, statewide prices, on average, were \$24.71/ton. It is a decline of about 7% as compared to the prices for mixed hardwood sawtimber in the last quarter. In general, the sawtimber prices for both pine and hardwood receive higher rates in the lower part of the state (Area 2) than closer to the mountains (Area 1).

<sup>1</sup> The sawtimber and pulpwood price data included in this newsletter are published with permission from TimberMart-South, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602. Email, [tmart@uga.edu](mailto:tmart@uga.edu).



South Carolina statewide pine pulpwood prices, on average, were \$11.11/ton in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019. It is a decline of over 3% as compared to the prices in the last quarter (Q1 2019).

For hardwood pulpwood, the statewide stumpage prices, on average were \$9.91/ton in this quarter. It is an increase of about 5% as compared to the prices in the last quarter.

However, prices for both sawtimber and pulpwood in your local markets could vary significantly as compared to the above statewide averages depending on:

- Size and species composition
- Quality of timber
- Total acres and volume
- Logging operability
- Distance from nearby mills
- Current market condition

Conversion Factors	
➤ Pine sawtimber,	7.5 tons/MBF
➤ Hardwood sawtimber,	8.75 tons/MBF
➤ Pine pulpwood,	2.68 tons/st. cord
➤ Hardwood pulpwood,	2.90 tons/st. cord

Timber as a Commodity
➤ <b>Pulpwood:</b> 6-9” DBH. Pulpwood trees are chipped into small pieces, chemically treated, and made into paper. DBH means diameter at breast height.
➤ <b>Chip-n-saw:</b> 10-13” DBH. By using a combination of techniques, these mid-sized trees produce chips for pulpwood as well as small dimension lumber.
➤ <b>Sawtimber:</b> 14”+ DBH. Trees are cut into lumber. Waste material is converted into chips for fuel or paper production.
➤ <b>Veneer:</b> 16”+ DBH. By means of a large lathe, the tree is converted into continuous sheets of thin wood. This is used in the manufacture of plywood and furniture, depending on the type of tree. (Source: South Carolina Forestry Commission ( <a href="https://www.state.sc.us/forest/lecom.htm">https://www.state.sc.us/forest/lecom.htm</a> ))

## 2. Upcomign Events

- **Pine straw workshop and field tour.** Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Sandhill REC, 900 Clemson Road, Columbia. Contact: Ryan Bean, (803) 840-6124, [rbean@clemson.edu](mailto:rbean@clemson.edu)
- **SC Tree Farm Field Tour and Award Ceremony.** Thursday, October 3, 2019. Johnson Experimental Forest. Contact: SC Tree Farm, [treefarm@scforestry.org](mailto:treefarm@scforestry.org)
- **The Annual Tree Farm Forest Owners Program.** Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms, SC. Contact: SC Tree Farm, [treefarm@scforestry.org](mailto:treefarm@scforestry.org)

### 3. S.C. Snakes

By: T.J. Savereno, [ASAVERE@clemson.edu](mailto:ASAVERE@clemson.edu)

One of the most common requests that I get as an Extension Agent is to identify photos of a snake (or parts thereof) that the person making the request is sure is venomous. Much more often than not, the living (or deceased) snake is a non-venomous look-alike, and many times the snake has no similarity to a venomous snake at all, other than it is legless and has scales. Of the 38 species of snakes in South Carolina, only six are venomous: Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, Canebrake/Timber Rattlesnake, Pygmy Rattlesnake, Cottonmouth/Water Moccasin, Copperhead, and Coral Snake. Of these six species, the Pygmy Rattlesnake and Coral Snake are secretive in nature and rarely encountered. Snakes play a role in the environment, and many benefit man by helping control rodents and other pests. Several snake species even eat other snakes! Our native snakes have no interest in humans as food, and therefore avoid encounters with us whenever possible. Your chances of getting bitten by a snake are greater if you try to approach the snake to kill or capture it. If you encounter a venomous snake in the woods, carefully back up and give it wide berth. Help with identifying snakes and advice on snake safety can be found at <http://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/index.htm>. Of course your local Cooperative Extension agent will be glad to answer your questions and provide information.



Figure: Venomous Canebrake Rattlesnake (left) and non-venomous Eastern Hognose Snake (right). All photos by T.J. Savereno.

### 4. Annual Woodland Clinic Program Held in April

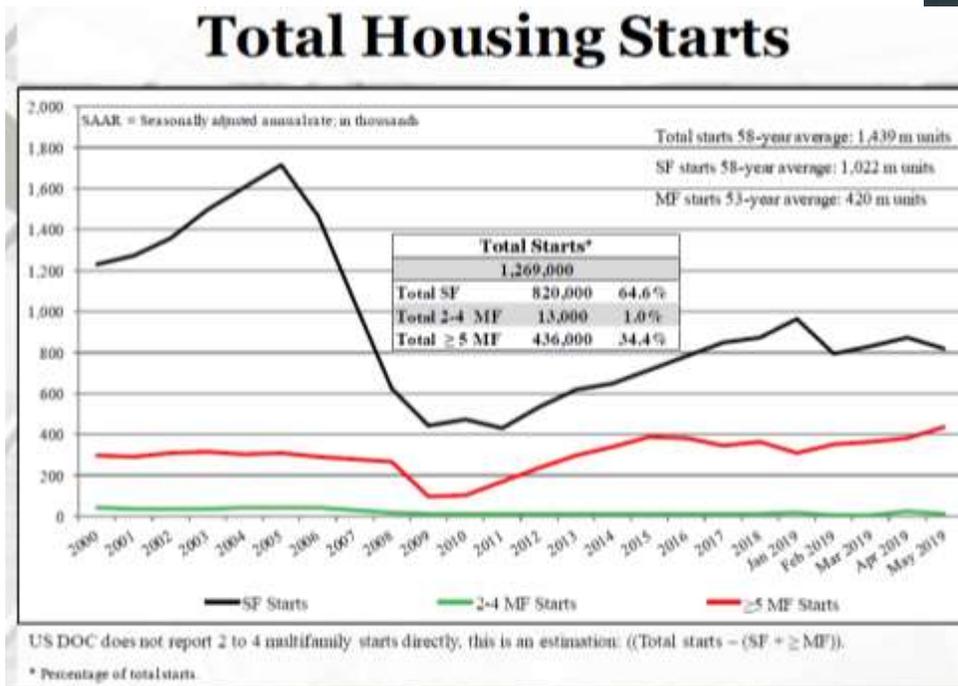
By: Tom Brant, [JBRANT@clemson.edu](mailto:JBRANT@clemson.edu)

The 37<sup>th</sup> Woodland Clinic annual forestry competition and career day for high school students was held in late April. The Woodland Clinic Inc. board members with the assistance of other public and private organizations with interests in forestry and natural resources worked together to organize the event. A total of thirty students from six schools or youth programs in the upstate of South Carolina comprised the competing teams in the Clinic this year. The event was hosted by and held on the grounds of the Oasis Farm at Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood. Over thirty-five volunteers from private, state or federal forestry or natural resources entities participated in the operation of this popular event. The competition includes individual components on tree measurement, tree identification, tree insects and diseases identification, a compass and pace course, a forestry tools, and equipment identification and use section, and a

team lumberjack race. The event also serves a career day for the student participants who have access to and can meet a wide variety of natural resource professionals to learn about their jobs and the activities they perform has a possible career. Clemson Extension is represented on the Woodland Clinic Board and organized and assisted with pre-event training for teams and in setting up the event the day before and coordinating activities the day of the event. .



## 5. U.S. Housing Starts



U.S. total housing starts slipped slightly in May, falling 0.9% from the last month and by 4.7% from a year earlier to a rate of 1.269 million total units. It is well below the long-term historical average of 1.5 million annual starts since 1970. Recently, southern yellow pine lumber prices in June dropped to their lowest level in more than 3 years. Figure Source: The Virginia Tech –

U.S. Forest Service housing market commentaries for May 2019.

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