



**TIMBER MARKETING**

According to an article by ResourceWise (April 7, 2025), the value of an acre of timber is dependent upon four major factors:

**Location and Proximity to Mills** – The closer the timber is to the mill the lower the transportation cost.

**Timber Type and Age** – Managed pine plantations, typically clearcut at age 25-35, may yield 80-105 tons per acre, with sawtimber (12”+ DBH) yielding the highest returns. Natural mixed stands are often denser with 90-110 tons per acre.

**Harvest Methods** – Clearcuts maximize the per acre revenue, but thinnings provide earlier cash flows with lower yields. Thinnings of young pine plantations (16-20 years old) with 30-50 tons per acre of mostly pulpwood and chip’n’saw typically command less than 21-25 year old stands with more, and larger, sawtimber and chip’n’saw. Natural pine thinnings may yield 40-60 tons per acre.

**Market Trends** – Demand for timber products fluctuates with construction cycles and paper production.

Based on 2022-2024 stumpage prices, the article states that a 100-acre pine plantation in the U.S. South at 26+ years old, might yield \$211,100 - \$227,500 from a clearcut. Thinned at 21-25 years, it would typically bring \$53,800 - \$90,400.

A 100-acre natural stand might yield \$196,000 - \$216,800 with thinnings at \$66,400 - \$75,700. Soil quality, accessibility, mill proximity, etc. could significantly adjust these dollar amounts.

**BEARS IN EAST TEXAS**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists (TPWD) have confirmed several sightings of black bear in Cherokee, Anderson, Panola, and Rusk Counties. While black bears are native to Texas, there are no resident populations in East Texas. Neighbor states, however, have established breeding populations of bears, and young bears leaving their mothers may end up in Texas. The black bear is designated as a threatened species in Texas and it is illegal to kill, injure, take, possess, capture, or transport them.

Black bears have an excellent sense of smell and they are driven by appetite to food sources. According to TPWD bears are not normally aggressive, but humans should stay far away from them and should remain calm and not run. They will typically move on if given space.



TP&W - Rusk Cty



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### BOBWHITE QUAIL & TREE CANOPIES

Prescribed burning has long been recognized as a valuable resource for maintaining bobwhite quail populations, but a recent study of northern bobwhite quail in Texas revealed that tree canopy cover is more important to quail populations than prescribed burning is. Researchers found that these quail populations were 19 times higher in areas with lower canopy cover. Forest thinning, along with prescribed burning, is an essential prerequisite for good quail management.



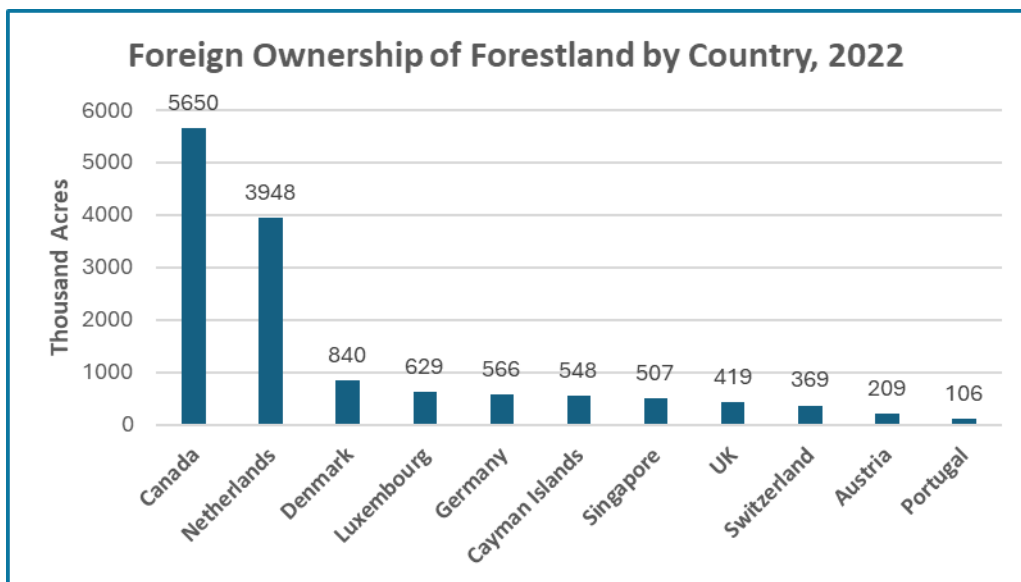
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### FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

According to the Forestry Source (February 2025) as of December 2022, foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural and forestland was estimated at 43.4 million acres. Forests made up 48.3% of this acreage or 21.4 million acres. Cropland was 28.3% and the remainder was pasture and rangeland. The total land area under foreign ownership was 3.4%, the most of which was in Maine at 3.4 million acres. Canada leads in foreign ownership of U.S. forestland to avoid tariffs on imported lumber. The Netherlands come in second. Some states have passed measures to restrict foreign ownership of farmland.



### **Emerald Ash Borer**

The emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to spread south in Texas and is now in Jack, Navarro, Somervell, Rockwall and Bell (the southernmost) counties. First confirmed in Texas in Harrison County in 2016, EAB has now spread to 31 counties. While it does not typically fly far distances, it is transported on wood products. All species of ash are susceptible to EAB and infected trees may show no symptoms in early stages. Larval EAB feed on the phloem of branches and trunks preventing the transportation of nutrients. Symptoms may include dead branches near the top of the tree, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk, bark splits exposing s-shaped larval galleries and d-shaped exit holes. There may also be extensive woodpecker activity. Tree mortality may occur within 5-6 years after the beetle attack.

EAB is a non-native wood-borer native to Asia that has spread to more than half of the states in America. Adult EABs are dark green, one-half inch long and one-eighth inch wide. They can be seen especially in May and June in Texas when they are more likely to fly. We can minimize the spread of EAB following the 10-20-30 rule; plant no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus or 30% of any one family.



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### **NEEDLE BLIGHT**

Brown Spot Needle Blight, a fungus that causes needle lesions similar to Needle Cast, has been located in two counties in Texas. Severe infestations already exist in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. The disease has historically been found on the seedling stage of longleaf pine and attacks all ages of loblolly, especially stressed trees that are then attacked by secondary insects. The blight appears to be related to wet springs followed by mild winters. It spreads from the bottom of the tree to the top, the spots merging together.

#### **Notes:**

- West Fraser Timber Company has entered the final stages of its \$255 million brownfield modernization project in its Henerson, Texas softwood sawmill.
- The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved an additional \$5 million to be added to the nearly \$80 million previously allotted to for the construction of the Stephen F. Austin University's forestry and agriculture buildings. The supplemental funds are for the addition of an Agricultural Engineering and Technology Building next to the Forestry Building's construction site.
- The newly constructed Piney woods Dining Hall at Stephen F. Austin State University is built with southern pine mass timber: cross-laminated boards glued at right angles.

### **TAHC Reminds Hunters of Chronic Wasting Disease Requirements for Exotic Susceptible Species in Texas**

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) reminds Texans of statewide exotic chronic wasting disease (CWD) susceptible species requirements for hunter harvested exotic susceptible species.

Exotic CWD susceptible species include North American elk or wapiti, black tailed deer, red deer, reindeer, caribou, sika deer, moose, muntjac deer, and any associated subspecies and hybrids.

TAHC requirements for exotic CWD susceptible species are in place to help protect cervids in Texas from the disease. It is important to stay current on TAHC regulations for surveillance, movement reporting, identification, and record keeping for harvested, captured, or bred exotic susceptible species.

### **Properties where Exotic CWD Susceptible Species are Hunter Harvested**

Landowners must have all eligible mortalities CWD tested within seven days using the official Immunohistochemistry (IHC) CWD test. An eligible mortality is a death from any cause, including hunter harvest, herd culling, natural mortalities on the premises, and animals moved directly to slaughter, of an exotic CWD susceptible species that is 12 months of age or older. The owner of the premises shall ensure that the CWD samples are properly collected and submitted for testing. The owner must report to the TAHC within 14 days of receiving the valid test results.

Additionally, landowners are required to keep mortality records of all exotic CWD susceptible species, 12 months of age or older, and submit the records to the TAHC on or before April 1 of each year.

All testing and record reporting shall be submitted by writing to the Texas Animal Health Commission, CWD Susceptible Species Reporting, P.O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966; by fax to (512) 719-0729; or by email to [CWD\\_reports@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:CWD_reports@tahc.texas.gov).

### **Hunters Harvesting Exotic CWD Susceptible Species Within a Containment or Surveillance Zone**

Prior to harvesting, hunters should be aware of CWD Containment and Surveillance Zone locations in Texas. Within these zones, all hunter harvested exotic CWD susceptible species, 12 months of age or older, must be tested for CWD via IHC test. In addition, no part of a CWD susceptible species carcass may be removed from the property, unless all additional carcass movement requirements are met. Before movement, carcasses must be properly processed or accompanied by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) issued check-station receipt. Please see the TAHC Rule [40.6\(e\)](#) for complete details.

### **Owners Moving or Transporting Live Exotic CWD Susceptible Species**

All live exotic CWD susceptible species moved or transported within the state must have official identification (ID). The movement of live exotic CWD susceptible species between premises, requires both owners to obtain a Premises Identification Number (PIN) or Location Identification Number (LID) from the TAHC or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For more information on PINs, LIDs, and official ID, contact the TAHC Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Department at 512-719-0733 or [animal\\_id@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:animal_id@tahc.texas.gov).

310 North Fifth Street  
Crockett, TX 75835  
936-544-3622  
936-544-7334



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