

December 17, 1997

**Missouri Eastern Redcedar Industry Review Notes**

August 25-29, 1996

Notes Taken By Larry Swan, U.S. Forest Service

**Oregon Industry Representatives**

Bill Breedlove, Western Juniper Industry Facilitator (Klamath Falls)

Kevin Caldwell, Caldwell Cascade (Salem)

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Pryor Novelty Co.  
P.O. Box 4  
Tuscumbia, Missouri 65082-0004  
1-800-325-0270  
573-369-2354  
FAX 573-369-2356

Contact: Tim Pryor

Tim was visited in September, 1994, by Oregon Western Juniper Industry representatives during an industry review trip organized by Shelby Jones, Missouri Department of Conservation. Notes and observations were recorded and put together in an unpublished report by Swan and Leavengood (1994).

Tim offered to try some western juniper and make KD 7/16" slats, if a manufacturer would send him 3 ½" - 4 ¼" by random width cants, probably 4 ft. long).

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Mike Jenkins  
RR 1 Box 1685  
California, MO. 65018  
573/584-3522

Mike owns and operates an integrated operation involving primary and secondary processing, and a shavings mill (dual action). He employs 6 people including himself. The primary value-added product is slats which go into closet lining. He makes both pine and cedar shavings for the poultry industry.

Products:

Shavings - Both pine and redcedar. Mike sales to turkey producers who want thin shavings, in a 50/50 mix of shavings and sawdust. Shavings are used in "brooder houses".

Turkeys stay in brooder houses 8 weeks. There are about 12,000 polts per brooder house. Each brooder house has 2½"-3" of shavings, which means about 105 cu. yds./brooder house. Some replace shavings every 8 wks. and others simply take the "cake" out and "top dress". Competing product is rice hulls, which killed the poultry bedding market a few years ago. However, rice hulls are now going to power generation (Jonesboro, Arkansas and one other place?) and the market has come back.

Closet Lining - The closet lining is sold under the AFCO Red Cedar Closet Lining brand; 8 pieces/box, each piece 3 5/8" by 3/8" by 48", for a total of 9.66 sq. ft.; air-dried to approximately 14% MC; wholesale price \$4.80. Market is depressed. He is only shipping one truck every other month.

Raw Material: Pays approximately \$70-75/cord (delivered to mill) for ERC shavings logs and \$100+/cord for sawlogs (5 ½" minimum small end diameter). Mike figures a pickup load, which is usually how the material comes in, takes about 6 hrs. to cut and transport. He also pays other manufacturers about \$12.50/4 ft. bundle of slabs for shavings material, which comes out to \$40-\$45/cord.

Processing: Scragg and bandsaw for primary breakdown and trim to cants (photos taken). Dual shavings mills - 2 planer heads each, mounted opposite; 4 blades each planer head (takes about 15 min. to change blades; change them every 1-2 days).

Production:

Shavings Mill - Each(?) shavings mill makes 110 cu yds/day of shavings (weighs 250 lbs/cu yd at about 14% MC). Raw material needs are about 6 ½ cords/day/shavings mill. Mix slabs and logs in the shavings mill to maintain consistent color.

Closet Lining - Only shipping one truckload every other month. Way below capacity. Experience about 25% "cull" in manufacture of closet lining (not sure if this refers to fall down or culled slats).

Transportation: Shavings - Pays about \$9/cu yd.(?) for hauling within a 35-50 mi. radius.

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Scott Jurengmeyer  
(w)816/298-3322  
(h)816/337-6339  
Telephone Interview

Scott raises turkeys on a contract basis for Hudson Foods and has seven "barns". Based on info. from other producers, this means he could be raising from 50,000 to 80,000 turkeys at any one

time. Get polts in every 5 ½ wks. and keeps them for 2 months(?). Have to clean-out and wash the barns afterwards. Move polts from brooder barns to finish/grow-out barns.

Chicken operations are different. Keep chickens 40-50 days. Clean-out cake and top dress with about 1" of shavings each time. Each chicken barn is also a "starter house".

Bedding - Main issue is availability. Uses alot of pine. Wants about 3" of litter in brooder barns and 8-10" in grow-out barns. Does not use oak because of mold. Aspergila mold not good for poultry. Walnut does not work either. Too many toxins. Brooder barns are about 20,000 sq. ft. Takes 4 loads of shavings (to 3" depth).

Alot of people "top dress" in grow-out barns, when turkeys are older. Gives turkeys something to dig into. Old litter gets dusty, so put coarse shavings down to hold-down dust. Especially important in winter because cannot open curtains for ventilation. Want some sawdust. Looking for absorbency.

Used Bedding Disposal - Spread used bedding on fescue pastures. Know where did it because can see dark green stripes in field.

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Gerald Rush  
Box 116  
Tuscumbia, MO. 65082  
573/369-2717

Has \_\_\_\_\_ barns. Barns are 40' by 500', for a total of 20,000 sq. ft. Each barn holds about 8,000 turkeys. Barns have computerized "curtains" on sides of barn, which raise and lower depending on temperature. Sells turkeys to Hudson. Son sells hogs to Cargill.

Bedding - Issue is availability. Supplies of shavings are limited. Uses rice hulls in "finish" barns. Rice hulls are shipped in 45' "walking floor" vans from Jonesboro, AK. Cost about \$700/load for about 40,000 lbs. Had trouble getting rice hulls beginning last fall - heard they were beginning to burn them.

Buys ERC planer shavings from Pryor Novelties for \$0.02/lb. (FOB mill). Does not want sander dust. Puts down shavings in barns for polts about 2" deep. Each barn takes about 6 loads of a 10 yd. dump truck, for a total of 7,000 lbs. Do not want too many fines because litter cakes around water stations and the birds' feet get sore. Also, fines become problem in winter when barn curtains are down more. Do not have much of a cedar smell after about 2 wks. Small black beetle gets into litter. Will crawl into holes in the foundation and into barn insulation.

Operation - Keep polts in one barn for 6 wks. Then move to "finish barn" for 12 wks. Re-use polt shavings in finish barn. Can use rice hulls after move turkeys to finish barns - before that they tend to eat them. Have 5-6% loss overall; 2-3% are from eye problems - more so in winter than in summer. Use 700 tons of feed/batch of turkeys. Get about 25,000 turkeys every 8 wks. and receives \$20,000/flock (produced at 8 wk. intervals).

Used Shavings Disposal - Spread used shavings on fields. Usually in early Spring before thaw (Feb. - March), then again in late August or early September, so will have winter feed for cattle. Get 50% better forage where spread used turkey litter. Also add 1"/ac of hog lagoon water (about 200 lbs nitrogen/ac). Run about 100 head of heifers on 25 ac pasture for 6 months. Then take them off so get 1 cutting in fall. Have gotten 180 bales @ 1,000 lbs./bale from 25 acres. Average 3-4 tons of hay/acre. Had field tested and grass is actually using up all of nitrogen.

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Smithton Industries  
P.O. Box 158  
Smithton, MO. 65350  
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(h)816/568-3598  
FAX 816/343-5696

Contact: Dennis Klenke, Part-Owner and Marketing Director. Wife's name is Janice.

Smithton Industries produces ERC and pine shavings. Have about a \$0.5 million investment in property, plant, and equipment. Company has 12-16 employees. Wages begin at \$5/hr. Average wage is probably about \$5.50/hr. After 90 days employees get some type of medical plan. Dennis was in the trucking business and was a Safety/Sales Manager for a "hard quarry". Dennis was interviewed in exchange for help in unloading a live floor trailer for a horse show at the State Fairgrounds.

Production Equipment - 4 Jackson Shavers; 2 heads with 4 blades each(?) Uses an old alfalfa dryer, which is fueled by screenings. There is a bin for the fines which go into the dryer. Shavings go direct from shavers into dryer. Have Vervelle (Canadian) baler. Top feed. Produces about 180- 5 cu. ft. bales/hr.(?) Also have horizontal baler. Produces 90-120 - 8 cu. ft. bales/hr.(?) Freezing hurts production - probably only 1/3 of normal, and shavings tend to crumble. "Best of all possible worlds" would be automatic balers, 2 more shavers, and bulk storage. Pay about 10¢/bag for printing.

Raw Material - Uses about 20 cords/day. Pays about \$70/cord for ERC and \$55/cord for "softwoods". Want as green a log as possible. Loggers or woodcutters are paying landowners about \$5/cord and are supposed to clean-up (stack and burn piles).

Product - Baled shavings marketed under "Nature's Best" brand. Each bale compresses 8 cu. ft. to 3.2-3.5 cu. ft., which weighs 35-38 lbs. ERC bale is \$7.95 wholesale. Truckload quantity goes for \$4.95/bale. "Fair Contract Price" was \$6/bale. Some cattle producers like fines. Pay \$2/bag FOB plant.

Customers - Poultry industry? According to Dennis, rice hulls get into guts of chicken and dull knives during processing.

Trucking - 48 ft. van; floor loaded; will take 940-960 - 8 cu. ft. bales. Truckload price FOB mill is \$3.70/bale for white wood and \$4.95/bale for ERC.

Miscellaneous Comments - Caldwell was going to contact Klenke, but probably never did.