



TFA's Legislative Blast and News & Notes

Friday, December 20, 2019

Volume 15, Issue 34

MEET THE TFA STAFF

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Do you have any News & Notes Comments or Suggestions? Please email Lisa Lynn at llynn@tnforestry.com

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US-China Trade Announcement *(provided by the Hardwood Federation)*

US Trade Ambassador Robert Lighthizer appeared on Fox News on December 17 and mentioned that hardwoods are part of the trade deal with China. The clip may be viewed [here](https://video.foxbusiness.com/v/6116444117001/#sp=show-clips). (<https://video.foxbusiness.com/v/6116444117001/#sp=show-clips>) Hardwood and forest products are mentioned at 1:56 of this clip addressing how other areas of agriculture also classified as manufacturing will be used by the to get to the \$50B/year of agricultural purchases that the President and Administration were pushing for.

Ensuring that hardwoods, and the impact the trade war with China has had on the industry, were considered by the Trump Administration during trade negotiations was a combined effort of many in the industry, including the many individual hardwood company leaders that came to Washington to speak directly with members of the Administration and Congress, during Hardwood Federation events like the Fly-In and on their own, hardwood company employees who wrote, called and e-mailed their Congressional representatives and the Hardwood Federation Member Association Executives who shared information, encouraged engagement and supported Federation outreach and activity.

It is important to remember that there is still much to be done..the final deal still needs to be formally signed and details about how Chinese purchases of hardwoods will be facilitated need to be determined. This could come as early as January, but there is no firm date. There is also the question about when orders will start to flow and when shipments will begin. This is a tremendous first step, but we still will need to stay alert and focused on making sure this continues in a positive direction.

TFA is working with the Hardwood Federation and other organizations on this important issue and will keep our members informed on progress regarding the tariff issues.



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Tree Felling Safety

(by Jess Yahnke, TDA Water Quality Forester)

It's holiday season! It's a great time of year to evaluate how 2019 went and what to look forward to in 2020. The great part is that you made it home safely everyday after working in such a dangerous industry. However, every day brings about a set of hazards that must be faced to continue to return home safely each night. Safety is the most important part of any operation and any misstep or distraction can cause serious bodily harm, even proving fatal at times. To work in the forest industry means to cut trees. Machinery in themselves have inherent safety concerns, but for those tough trees (and even the not so tough looking trees), below are some safety measures to consider during felling operations.

5 Step Faller Safety Plan

1. Assess the area
2. Assess the tree
3. Establish a safe work area
4. Fall the tree
5. Get in the clear

Merry Christmas

From the TFA Staff!

