

EDITORIAL

GAIN PEACE OF MIND

Graham Hinch, Director, Forestry Sales - U.S. and Canada

There are many reasons you may want to add a machine to your logging operation, including keeping up with changing mill quotas or diversifying services. Or maybe you have a sudden need to meet a surge in production. Sometimes a used machine makes sense because the price is right or you don't need all the latest bells and whistles. Through John Deere Certified Used, your dealer can provide you with high-quality, well-maintained forestry equipment, including popular John Deere L-Series Skidders and Feller Bunchers.

To be certified, L-Series Skidders and Feller Bunchers must be five years old or newer, and under 8,000 hours. John Deere G-Series Forwarders, G-Series Wheeled Harvesters, and M-Series Tracked Feller Bunchers/Harvesters must be five years old or newer, and under 10,000 hours. Prior models can also be certified if they meet these guidelines. Each Certified Used machine must pass a strict 150-point inspection, including performance checks and fluid analysis. The inspections are performed by experienced technicians and thoroughly reviewed by specialists at your local John Deere dealer and from the factory.



In addition to being certified as high-quality machines, John Deere Certified Used machines are covered by a factory warranty. Up to 12-month unlimited-hour powertrain and hydraulic warranty is available on wheeled feller bunchers and skidders. Sixmonth warranties are available on forwarders, wheeled harvesters, tracked feller bunchers, and tracked harvesters. Certified Used machines are also eligible for low-rate financing from John Deere Financial.

To find a John Deere Certified Used machine, visit machinefinder.com to do a search. By creating a new account, you can specify the model you are looking for and get a notification when one becomes available. Machine Finder represents only a portion of all the John Deere Certified Used machines that are available. There may be used machines on your local dealer's lot that haven't been listed yet or that may be eligible for certification. Many Deere equipment dealers are qualified to certify used machines.

John Deere Certified Used machines give you the quality and value you expect from John Deere at used equipment prices. Plus they're warrantied and backed by our Deere dealer network, so you'll have peace of mind. Ask your dealer for more information.





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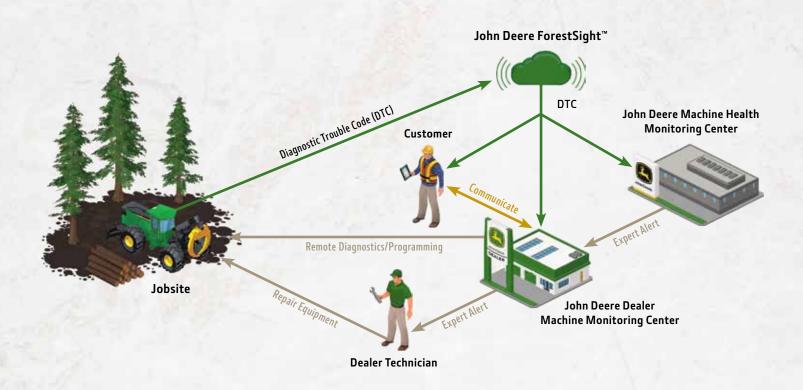
You know you're a logger when...

Cover image:

Logger Paul Burton and his father Tuffy are partners up in the Upper Peninsula.

JOHN DEERE CONNECTED SUPPORT™

WE'RE IN YOUR CORNER



Battling tough forest conditions in oftentimes remote locations, a logger's most valued commodity is uptime. To help you defeat downtime, John Deere Connected Support delivers fast, accurate diagnosis of machine issues and rapid service response while keeping close tabs on equipment and operators. Here's how it works.

PROACTIVE MACHINE MONITORING

Enabled through the JDLink™ telematics connection, John Deere Connected Support helps your local dealer monitor your machine or fleet's health and react faster and smarter to problems. Often they can take action before you or your operator even knows there is an issue. This proactive approach keeps your Deere machines in peak operating condition, helping improve uptime and productivity.

REMOTE DIAGNOSIS

Your dealer can remotely diagnose and sometimes solve a problem using

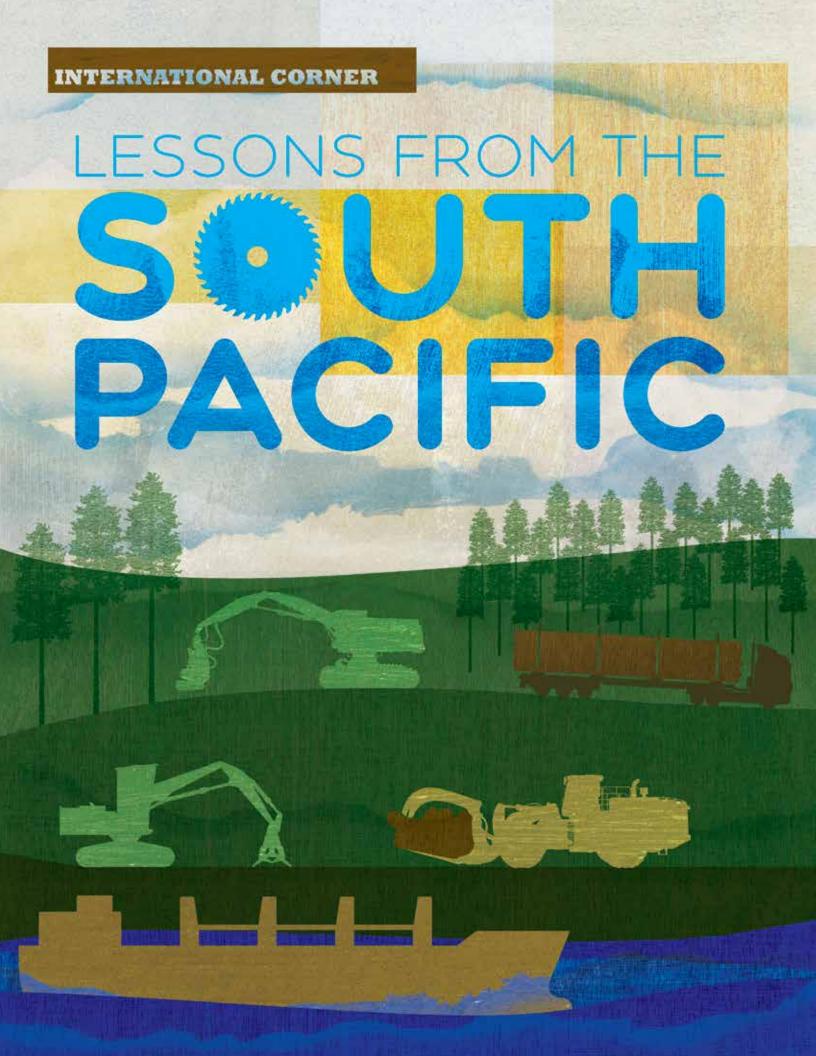
remote diagnostics and programming. If technicians need to visit the machine, they arrive with the right parts and plans to solve the problem quickly — saving the time and expense of an extra trip to diagnose the machine. In some cases, machine software can be updated remotely, eliminating a visit by the tech and the need to take a machine out of service.

DATA-BASED EXPERT ALERTS

A team of John Deere machine monitoring specialists analyzes the telematics data from the entire fleet of connected machines to identify common problem

patterns and validate potential solutions, called Expert Alerts. If your machine data shows similar patterns, an Expert Alert is immediately sent to your dealer so they can proactively engage you and discuss a plan to prevent probable future downtime — often before your machine shows any sign of trouble.

Combining machine monitoring, remote diagnostics, and predictive analytics, John Deere Connected Support can help you decrease downtime. Contact your local dealer today to learn more about John Deere Connected Support.



PERFORMANCE-BASED LONG-TERM CONTRACTS CAN WORK TO EVERYONE'S MUTUAL BENEFIT, PROPOSES THE DIRECTOR OF AN AUSTRALIAN HARVESTING COMPANY TO A NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRY GROUP

Wherever loggers work – from North America to the South Pacific – they face the same challenges, including high capital investment in the latest machines and technology, training and retaining employees, filling mill quotas, and meeting landowner expectations. Ian Reid, director and general manager of Austimber Harvesting Gippsland, Victoria, Australia, proposes performance-based long-term contracts may be an effective solution.

THE BENEFITS OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS

Mechanization and rapid technological advances have changed the dynamics of the forestry industry around the globe. Although these advances have made loggers more productive and efficient, long-term contracts help everyone within the supply chain reap the maximum benefits of technology, according to a presentation Reid made to the New Zealand Institute of Forestry.

Loggers in both Australia and New Zealand harvest mostly pine on large plantations, although most Australian contractors use primarily cut-to-length systems while New Zealanders employ full-tree methods. Logging in both countries is almost entirely mechanized. In fact, in New Zealand, the country's largest landowners mandate that all ground-based harvesting and 80 percent of steep-slope harvesting must be mechanized.

Most plantations are owned either by the government or large corporations, which have long-term contracts with sawmills and processing industries but short-term contracts with contractors. When contractors have short-term contracts, equipment and technology investments and employee training commitments may suffer.

Currently most contractors are required to regularly rebid for work. On paper, accepting the lowest harvesting rate would seem to achieve the best return for the landowner. But Reid proposes that long-term contracts would actually be more efficient and cost effective.

The bidding process causes delays and disruptions in work, which come at a cost. Long-term planning is put on hold or abandoned. Contractors put off buying newer, more productive equipment, relying instead on older, less reliable machines. Operator training is postponed. Landowners meanwhile bear the cost of lost opportunities, inconsistent quality and production, and environmental damage due to poorly trained operators.

PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACTING

Contract renewal based on meeting reasonable key performance indicators (KPIs). Simply put, if a logger meets KPIs related to production goals and other quality standards, the contract is renewed.

This approach allows loggers to implement planned equipment-replacement programs, giving them more immediate access to the latest technology. Negotiated performance-based contracts also create a stable work environment, which encourages regular training programs. Trained operators will enable contractors to exploit new technology to the fullest. The cumulative effect of higher-quality equipment and well-trained operators is more efficient, productive logging.

These benefits flow straight through to the landowner's bottom line, as the cost of harvesting and hauling wood is the single most costly process in the plantation cycle. There will still be a use for the bidding process, for example, for new work or for contractors who fail to meet KPI benchmarks. But through long-term performance-based contracts, landowners have more opportunity to clearly communicate their vision and future requirements. Contractors in turn can develop long-term plans for their equipment, training, management, and financial needs.

Data is key to making such an approach work. Today's machines are capable of collecting a vast amount of data about the wood being harvested. Data is very beneficial to harvest planning and tracking production, but it can also be used by landowners to monitor and audit contractor performance. Renewable contracts should clearly spell out KPIs, time frames, and the review method. They should also be explicit about data exchange, for example, whereby landowners receive data about production, but data about machines would only be available to the contractor.

Ultimately, long-term performance-based contracts benefit all parties involved. Landowners maximize the value recovered from their forests. Contractors have the advantage of the latest equipment and trained operators. And mills, exporters, and other wood products producers benefit from more bountiful, higher-quality product.

SOURCE: lan Reid. "The power of collaboration in the forestry industry — a harvesting contractor's perspective." New Zealand Journal of Forestry, 63(4), 3—6.



THIRD-GENERATION LOGGER THOMAS JOHNSON BRINGS NEW IDEAS TO A REGION WITH A LONG TRADITION OF LOGGING

Money really does grow on trees, at least according to a sign that once read, "Welcome to DeRidder, Louisiana, where money grows on trees."

"Back in the late '70s and early '80s, my family were stump loggers in Mississippi," recalls Thomas Johnson, owner of Thomas Johnson Logging in DeRidder. "They'd push up oldgrowth stumps that would be used to make turpentine. They were headed to East Texas looking for work when they were passing through DeRidder and came across the sign. My grandpa and two of his brothers thought, well, let's see what this is all about. They stopped in at a café and the man who owned the local stump plant happened to be there. So they went back to Mississippi and got all their belongings, and here we are today."

Over time, Johnson's grandfather graduated from stump logging to pulp logging. His father started his own logging business in 1999. From a very early age, Johnson would accompany his father out in the woods on weekends. "I'd just sit and watch, or I'd ride around with him in the logging truck. I learned a lot. As I got older, I started running the chain saw and the skidder. I also learned how to be a mechanic and started doing repairs."

He remembers his first full day on a skidder. "I was working a watermelon field for my grandpa and my mother told me the skidder operator was sick. So I filled in. No air conditioner and, boy, was it loud. Skidders have come a long way."

In 2006, Johnson began logging full-time. About 14 months ago, he started a company with his dad, and he's working toward making it his own company within the next year.

"I'm proud to be a third-generation logger," Johnson says. "It's a good way to make a living, and we're all about sustainable logging. For every tree we're cutting, they're planting three. We're never going to run out of trees as long as we're managing the land."

Tall trees and long leaves

Logging arrived in DeRidder around the time it was founded at the turn of the 20th century as a railroad town. The first timbermen who worked the area claimed the area had the tallest pine in the world. Not surprisingly, DeRidder's first house was made of logs. By the time it was

incorporated in 1903, DeRidder boasted 300 residents and a sawmill, and harvesting longleaf pine was the largest industry.*

Johnson encountered the area's rich history firsthand when he came across an unmarked cemetery on a logging site. "It was for Civil War soldiers who were on their way from Alabama to Texas. That's not something you see every day, especially in an office job.

"That's what I like about logging — no two days are ever the same. I don't like routine. I like being pushed and I love challenges. That includes working in wet ground where a lot of people struggle. I'm always the person who says, well, if he can't do it, I can."

Today, DeRidder's population exceeds 10,000 and logging is still the main industry. "The market is pretty good right now," says Johnson. "It's picked up a bunch in the past four years, and quotas can be pretty tight."

The company handles mainly first and second thinnings, typically producing about 60 loads a week. "Because we're not high production, we focus on being more efficient with our operation and doing a neat job. We can take extra time to look at





the trees. The end product is much better for landowners and foresters."

To keep up with quotas, Johnson's company currently runs two skidders, two feller bunchers, and two log loaders, including a John Deere 748L Skidder and an 853M Tracked Feller Buncher. "We're really impressed with the 853M. The high-accumulation FR50 felling head on it has made a big difference."

New logging "tech" niques

Johnson has been one of the early adopters of technology in his region. "I'm a big proponent of technology because it saves you time and money. A lot of loggers around here are still old school, using methods that haven't changed much since the 1980s. But even my dad is starting to come around. He has John Deere JDLink™

telematics on his tablet, which has allowed us to track machine hours and location, fuel consumption, and maintenance intervals."

JDLink also provides alerts if there's a problem with a machine. "You used to have to manually check the machine — oftentimes an operator wouldn't even know there was a problem. With JDLink, we'll get an alert about, say, a blocked air filter. That saves money because blocked air filters burn more fuel. Plus our local John Deere dealer can remotely diagnose issues and send a technician out to the logging site with the right part the first time. Not that the machines go down that much. I've run the 853M over 2,000 hours and haven't blown one hose."

Johnson's 748L Skidder and 853M Tracked Feller Buncher are both equipped with John Deere TimberMatic™ Maps and the TimberManager™ map-based production-planning and -tracking system. "This technology really makes planning a lot easier."

TimberMatic Maps displays a live, up-to-the-minute status of the logging site onboard the machine. Live production and location data is shared wirelessly between the skidder and feller buncher. "We can map out SMZs (streamline management zones), points of interest, skid roads, hazards, and slopes," says Johnson. "The skidder and feller buncher operator can see where each other is and work together. I don't have to holler on the CB to tell a skidder to grab a load — he already knows it's there. And the buncher can see how far ahead he is of the skidder to determine whether he needs to cut harder or shut down early and do





service intervals. Operators know where the wood is right now — there's no guesswork. It's right there on the screen."

TimberMatic Maps accommodates all common map formats. Standard satellite or topographical imagery can be loaded directly to the machine. "You can create the map right on the screen. You don't have to hassle with making your own maps in an office or at home at night, which saves a lot of time."

In addition to TimberMatic maps onboard the machines, TimberManager allows Johnson to monitor live progress from anywhere, anytime, through his phone or tablet. "I can be at another location or a meeting and see in real time where my machines are located and what progress they're making. It makes my life easier

because I don't have to constantly call the crew to see where they're at."

If Johnson is on-site, he can track progress safely from his truck or at the roadside. "I don't have to walk around so much anymore. Loggers used to depend on boots on the ground. Now I can look at my phone and see what bunches are left in the woods and what's at the landing, so it really helps us plan ahead."

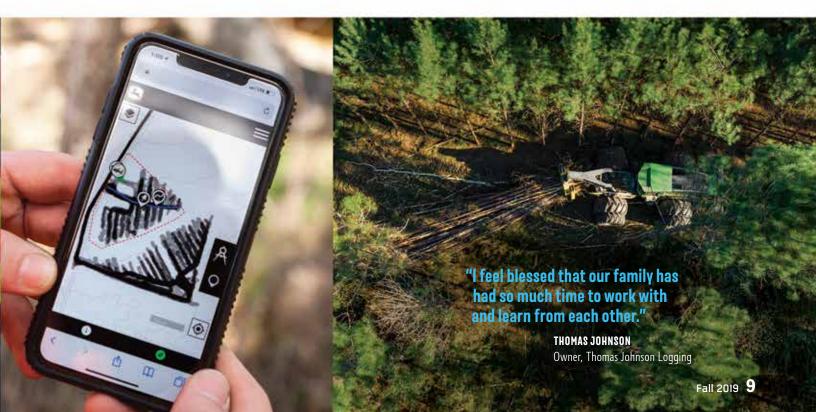
Johnson appreciates John Deere's effort to keep one step ahead of what loggers need. "Deere really has the mindset of working with the logger. With other competitors I've worked with, the attitude has been, 'Here's our machine, take it or leave it.' Deere really talks with loggers and considers their ideas to make their machines and technology better and easier to use."

Logging has changed a lot since Johnson's grandfather and father started in the business. But what hasn't changed are the bonds that have tied the family to each other and to the land. "I'm grateful to continue the logging tradition and teach my kids and other people in the community about logging. It's something to be proud about. Like a lot of fathers and sons, my father and I butt heads from time to time. But I've been able to spend more time with my dad than most people. I feel blessed that our family has had so much time to work with and learn from each other."

Thomas Johnson Logging is serviced by Doggett Machinery Services, Alexandria, Louisiana.



To see more of the story, visit JohnDeere.com/TheLanding

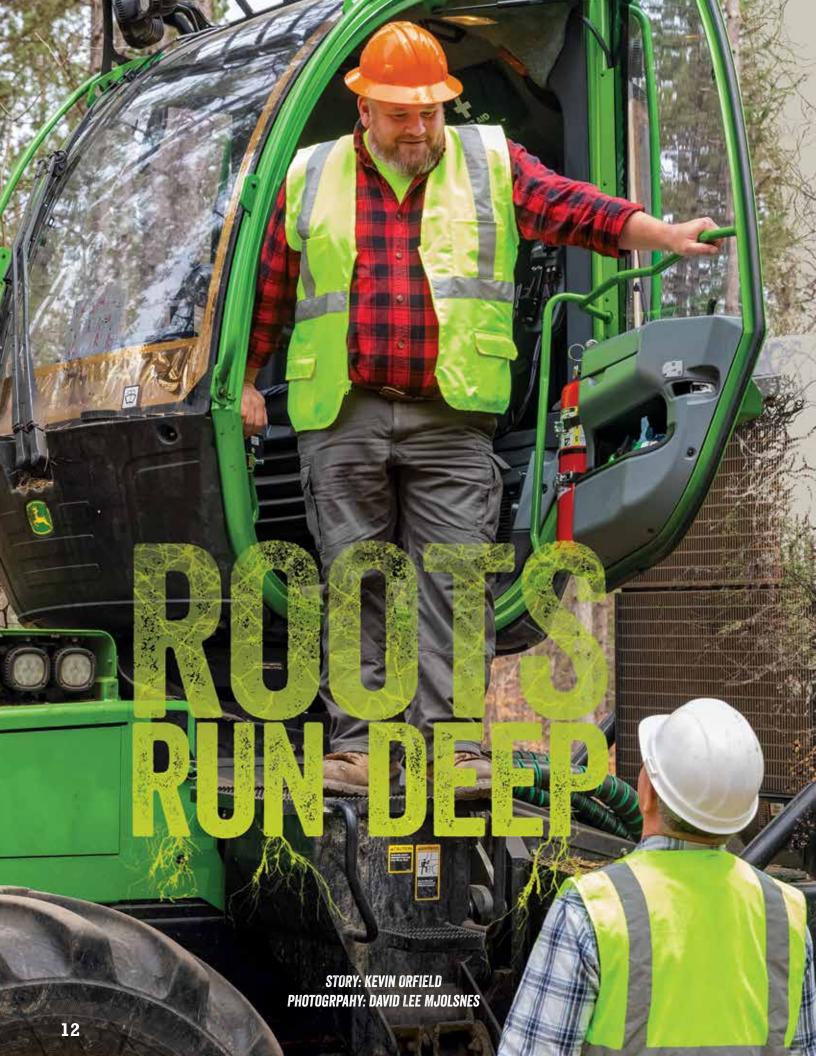


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To learn more, visit JohnDeere.com/FellingHeads.

"What a difference the FR50 makes. I really like the size —
it's crazy how much wood it holds. And I really need something
that holds a lot of wood, because every time I stop cutting to drop
a bundle, I'm losing production. I can create fewer, larger bundles
for our skidders, so they're able to get wood to the landing more
quickly. It's my favorite head, and I've run many of them."

THOMAS JOHNSON, owner, Thomas Johnson Logging, DeRidder, Louisiana



FATHER AND SON PARTNER UP IN THE UPPER PENINSULA

Fathers and sons share a deep-rooted but often complicated relationship. Fathers are their sons' heroes, but sons test limits and learn boundaries as fathers teach them to become men. "When Paul was young, we kept him busy working, hunting, and fishing to keep him out of trouble," says logger Tuffy Burton, father of Paul Burton. "I never had to worry about him showing up for work on time, but you know young guys. They think their work is good enough, but it's not good enough. Even his pickup was a mess (laughs). But not anymore. He does what he needs to do and works so hard. He makes me proud every day."

"My father kept me in line," acknowledges Paul, owner of Paul Burton Forestry, Newberry, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula. "Kids in small towns can have too much time on their hands, but I was either working or doing outdoor activities. My father taught me how to work. He told me, 'Yes, you can run my machines, but you can't just mess around in them. You need to run them right.' He was hard on me but in a good way. He pushed me hard and made me the operator I am today, which I am grateful for."

Paul gives his father a sidelong glance.

"He can outdo me in the truck, but he doesn't even know how to start my harvester (laughs). But to be honest, he's run trucks for 45 years and never had any interest in running the woods machinery. And I've never had any interest in driving trucks, so we make good partners."

SMALL TOWN, BIG ASPIRATIONS

Tuffy grew up in Germfask, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula. "The population was maybe 200 at most. Just one little gas station, two bars, and a restaurant. Everybody knew everyone else. Good old-fashioned living."

At an early age, Tuffy made money mowing lawns and working at a resort. "I'd ride that mower five miles to mow grass."

After high school, he drove a logging truck for Louisiana Pacific Corporation, transferring to a sawmill in Newberry. When the sawmill shut down, he bought an old John Deere 450 Dozer with an arch and winch, and started cable-skidding saw logs. "Things were tough and I needed a job," Tuffy remembers. "My wife and I were broke. We literally started from nothing, but God has been good to us."

Tuffy started his logging business in the early 1980s, with a small John Deere 70 Feller Buncher with a shear head on it and four or five guys running chain saws, adding another 10 hand fellers over the first few years. "We were a tree-length operation, but it causes too much damage to the residual, so we switched to cut-to-length, and we've been that way ever since."

Logging has always been in the son's blood, but like many young men, Paul had to find his own way. "I think he got tired of being Tuffy Burton's son," says Tuffy. "He wanted to try something different."

After high school and a short stint working for his father's logging business, Paul attended college, taking courses in business management and criminal justice. He worked for a short time at a local mill before returning to logging full-time in 1995.

"When I got out of high school, one of my father's operators quit, so I jumped at the

chance," remembers Paul. "Equipment has been a passion ever since. After a year I decided to go to college. I went long enough to know I could never work in an office."

"I had him write me a letter of the pros and cons of why he wanted to go into logging," recalls Tuffy. "He wanted to be outside. He wanted to be his own boss. So I had him sign a contract, and it grew from there. We have a very good relationship — I've never even looked at that contract."

It really helped Tuffy when Paul decided that logging was what he wanted to do and he came back to work full-time. "He's very self-motivated," says Tuffy. "He gets up in the morning and goes to work. I knew I had someone I could count on, and for the last 20 years, he's been in charge of production and I manage the trucks. For a long, long time, he's been the key. We're more partners than we are father and son."

Over the years, Paul became an excellent operator. While still in high school, he ran the 70 Feller Buncher with the shear on it. By the time he graduated from high school, he ran a John Deere 290 Harvester. The company also ran a few small Deere forwarders. The march toward mechanization had begun.

"In the late '80s, early '90s, we had grown to about 25 hand fellers when we started running a John Deere 294 Harvester," says Paul. "Then around 2000, we made the jump to a Deere 1270D, which was a great leap forward."

"I DECIDED TO GO TO COLLEGE. I WENT LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW I COULD NEVER WORK IN AN OFFICE."

PAUL BURTON
OWNER, PAUL BURTON FORESTRY



A FATHER'S DREAM FULFILLED

Five years ago, Paul bought his father out. Tuffy still drives a truck and loads logs for Paul's company. "That was my goal, and it was great for me," says Tuffy. "I just want to haul wood. I have two trucks now and a really good driver who works for me it's just me and him. We haul all of Paul's wood and do some contracting. Most of the time it's 100 to 150 miles one way, so it's a long day. I've been a 'two o'clock in the morning guy' for as long as I can remember." Today Paul Burton Forestry runs an eightwheeled John Deere 1270G Harvester and a 1210G Forwarder. "Technology has come so far," says Paul. "We do double the production with just two guys over the old days when we had 25. We hardly ever start up a chain saw anymore."

Paul is impressed with the power and speed of the 1270G Harvester, which is equipped with a H415 head. "It can easily handle 30-inch pine now, where 10 or 15 years ago,

that was a handful. It's considerably faster than anything I've ever owned. Plus the cab on the harvester is pressurized, so it's quiet and keeps dust out. You used to get covered in sawdust, but now you can practically wear your dress clothes in the woods. And with the rotating, leveling cab, you have a lot less stress from looking over your shoulder. The work zone is right in front of you."

Intelligent Boom Control (IBC) on the 1210G Forwarder helps improve productivity by

providing simple, precise control. "IBC is far and away the best feature on the forwarder," says Paul. "You just steer the grapple, and IBC takes over. It handles all the functions for you, which means the machine is always running at full capacity. On older machines, if you started to run two functions, the boom would bog down. Now you never run out of hydraulic power."

Today the company typically harvests 100 to 125 cords in a day. Ninety percent of the pine is used to make studs, with the rest used for pulp. Most of the land is state managed. Tracts of land are large and hauling distances are long. "To keep fuel and other costs down, we have to be very efficient," says Paul. "That's why I run the harvester. I have a lot of experience, so there is very little waste. I have 40,000 hours of seat time, and it takes six months to really train someone. The hard part is finding young operators, because we can't compete with what the

local prison and mill will pay. It's hard to find the time and money to train them."

The reliability of John Deere machines also helps improve efficiency and uptime. "John Deere machines rarely break down," says Paul. "Just fuel it, grease it, and do scheduled maintenance, and it just runs."

If the machines do have any issues, the company's local John Deere dealer, McCoy Construction & Forestry, provides support. "They've been great. They're right here in Newberry, so that's pretty convenient. Their technicians are very knowledgeable and quick to answer. They can sometimes help us resolve a problem over the phone. Or with JDLink™ telematics, they can diagnose the problem remotely and bring out the right part the first time. McCoy has done a great job keeping me up and running, even when we are in remote locations."

PARTNERS INTO THE FUTURE

Loggers often get a bad rap for harming the landscape, but residents of the Upper Peninsula understand that loggers are stewards of the forest. "Logging is a big part of our community — people up here are great and really supportive. Loggers don't want to run out of wood, so we're mindful of how we care for and leave the land. I love the way the land looks, and I'm very proud of the quality of work I do."

Paul is optimistic about the future.
"Everybody needs two-by-fours, whether
they are remodeling or building homes,
a business, or a treehouse in the backyard.
State and federal foresters do a great job of
managing the forests. We actually have more
cords per acre than when my dad started."

Tuffy isn't ready to leave his partner any time soon. "I've got another new truck on order," he says. "I'll wear that out before I decide to retire. Paul will have to put up with me for a long time."

Paul doesn't seem to mind. "My father and I have been a very good team for a lot of years and hopefully many more to come."

Paul Burton Forestry is serviced by McCoy Construction & Forestry, Escanaba, Michigan.



To see more of the story, visit JohnDeere.com/TheLanding

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PAUL BURTON
OWNER, PAUL BURTON FORESTRY





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