

Logging Lingo

- **\$/BF** – price per board foot; multiply \$/BF by 1000 to convert to \$/MBF. Ex: \$0.50/BF is equivalent to \$500/MBF.
- **\$/MBF** – price per 1000 board feet; divide \$/MBF by 1000 to convert to \$/BF. Ex: \$300/MBF is equivalent to \$0.30/BF.
- **Appraisal (timber)** – the valuation of the timber resource on a wooded parcel of land.
- **Blocking logs** – a general category of lower quality logs, due to diameter or defect, and low-value species, used in the manufacture of blocking; synonymous with *pallet logs*.

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- **Board foot (BF)** - a standard unit of measurement used to estimate wood volume in trees, logs, and lumber; equivalent to a board measuring 12" long, by 12" wide, and by 1" thick; 144 cubic inches; plural = board feet.
- **Butt log** – the first 8 to 16-ft sawlog located directly above the stump; sawlogs located above the butt log are often referred to as “uppers.”
- **Butts and Uppers (logs)** – refers to the location on the bole from where the sawlogs were bucked; see also *Uppers*.

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- **DBH (dbh)** – diameter at breast height; standard forestry measurement taken on the main stem, measured 4.5 feet above ground level, on the uphill side of the tree.
- **Defect** – any irregularity that occurs on the surface of a tree, log, or piece of lumber that adversely affects its appearance, strength, durability, grade, value, or net volume.
- **F.O.B.** – the value of logs delivered to a mill or yard; accounts for logger profit, logging costs, and hauling costs.
- **Grade** – a measure of the overall quality of a standing tree, individual log, or an individual board of lumber.
- **Grade logs** – logs that meet the desired specifications for the manufacture of grade lumber; grade logs can include both butts and uppers.

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- **Logger** – an individual whose occupation is to harvest trees; may or may not be a licensed timber buyer.
- **Merchantable height** – the commercial portion, or length of trunk above stump height, of a sawtimber-size tree up to a point which a particular product may be obtained; number of useable 16-ft sawlogs contained in a standing tree.
- **Pallet logs** – a general category of low quality logs, due to diameter or defect, and low-value species used in the manufacture of pallets; synonymous with the term *blocking logs*.
- **Sawlog** – logs suitable in diameter, length, and grade for the production of lumber, dimensional products, or veneer.
- **Skidder** – forestry-specific logging equipment used to winch or grapple logs from the active felling operation to the landing. Skidders can be wheeled with rubber tires, or tracked with metal or rubber tracks.

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- **Stumpage** – the value of standing timber; value to the landowner.
- **Timber/Log Broker** - an individual, who may or may not be a licensed timber buyer, who offers to sell your standing timber or logs to prospective timber buyers or sawmills for a fee or commission; DO NOT confuse timber/log brokers with independent professional consulting foresters.
- **Timber buyer** – an individual who is licensed and bonded, by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, to buy standing timber and logs in the state of Illinois.
- **Veneer logs** – logs that meet the desired specifications for the manufacture of sliced or rotary veneer; veneer logs generally come from the the first 8-24 ft. of the tree.
- **Volume** - the quantity of useable wood in a tree, log, board, forest stand, or stack of wood; commonly expressed in terms of board feet, cubic feet, tons, and cords.