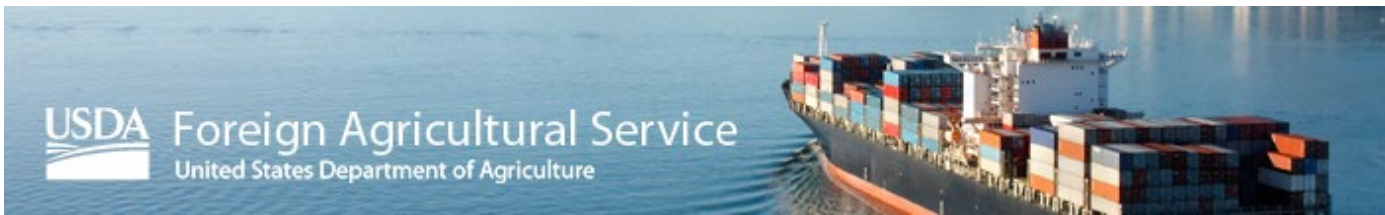


SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP



The following Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) reports were released on Friday, April 9, 2021.

[Belgium: Belgium To Ban Palm and Soya Oil for Use in Biofuels from 2022](#)

On March 22, 2021, the Belgian government notified the European Commission of a draft national decree transposing the EU Renewable Energy Directive. This draft decree creates a ban on biofuels and biogases from palm oil and soya oil on the Belgian market starting from January 1, 2022.

[Bosnia and Herzegovina: Wood Products Report](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) wood industry has historically been one of the strongest sectors of its economy. It includes forestry, primary wood processing, and value-added production such as furniture, joinery, and cabinetry. Wood exports grew over the last ten years, reaching \$760 million in 2020 and keeping a substantially positive overall trade balance. The United States is not currently among significant wood suppliers to BiH. Still, the demand for U.S. hardwood, especially walnut, is expected to grow with rising production and export of quality furniture.

[Japan: Japan Grants Equivalence Recognition to US-Graded Norway Spruce Lumber](#)

On March 31, 2021, Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism expanded its recognition of American Lumber Standard Committee's (ALSC) grading of the Spruce-Pine-Fir South (SPFs) grouping to include U.S.-grown Norway spruce lumber. Now, U.S.-grown Norway spruce dimension lumber certified as SPFs by a U.S. grading agency no longer requires further approval prior to use in 2x4 construction in Japan. ALSC added U.S.-grown Norway spruce to its SPFs grouping in 2016.

Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D.

Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor of Forest Sector Business Development

Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center

Room 227, School of Renewable Natural Resources

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone (office): (225) 578-4527; Mobile Phone: (225) 223-1931

Web Site: www.LFPDC.lsu.edu