



between the BRANCHES

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INSIDE

HOT AND HEAVY

Dalfey's hot logging operations are all about big timber and soft landings.

— Paul Iarocci

Uruguay is a country of gently rolling indigenous grasslands, grazed by 12 million head of cattle. Luis Achugar, director of Rivera, Uruguay based harvesting company Dalfey S.A., observes that his country moves in an opposite direction to many others. While many countries are removing native and plantation forests in favour of pasture and farmland, in Uruguay, pastures are being converted to extremely efficient pine and eucalyptus forests.

Dalfey contracts to the family-owned forestry company, COFUSA, also based in Rivera. COFUSA has been engaged in planting and forest management in the sandy soils of the Rivera-Tacuarembó region of northern Uruguay since 1988. The growing season is long and annual rainfall can exceed 2 000 mm (80 in). COFUSA's forest landholdings total 40 000 ha (nearly 100,000 acres) of mainly the species *Eucalyptus grandis*. URUFOR is the sister

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One of the new 1075B forwarders with approximately 22 tonnes of pruned logs in the bunks.

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company that processes logs from COFUSA's plantations at a truly state-of-the-art sawmill, producing high quality lumber and engineered products. Strategically situated, average haul distance to the mill is only 30 km (20 mi). The two companies employ more than 600 people.

Luis studied agriculture in Montevideo, and in his final years, decided to specialize in forestry, a



The H845C processing in-stand in a second thinning operation.

seemingly strange decision in the late nineties, when the Uruguayan forest industry was in its infancy and nowhere near the current 13 million cubic metre annual cut. “This was before there was even a pulp mill in Uruguay,” says Luis. But the decision proved prescient. He began working at COFUSA in 2000 and stayed seven years, making the rounds in various departments where he learned about planting, pruning, road engineering and harvesting operations.

In 2007, COFUSA suggested that he become a harvesting contractor. It was a perfect partnership. Luis understood the complexities of silviculture, road infrastructure and harvesting procedures and had already demonstrated the required management skills. For COFUSA, retaining a contractor who was a former company insider was a big advantage – it

helped with quality control of the final product mix while ensuring the crucial raw material supply.

COFUSA had mechanized its harvesting operations in 2005. In 2008, during the research phase for new equipment, Luis and Andres Gómez, COFUSA forestry manager, visited the Tigercat factory facilities and became convinced that Tigercat offered an acceptable solution to their unique harvesting system requirements. In 2009, Luis purchased two 1075B forwarders, a custom-built 855C feller buncher and an H855C harvester. Over the past five years, he has added three more 1075B forwarders, another H855C, an H845C, a used 822C buncher and a 220D loader. Contracting to COFUSA, Dalfey harvests the vast majority of wood that flows through the sawmill as well as pulpwood.

Part of the success of COFUSA and URUFOR can be explained by a homogeneous raw material and strict quality control throughout the entire process. Very few companies in the world produce high value lumber from eucalyptus and COFUSA exerts exacting control over the supply chain from seedling to mill yard. For its part, Dalfey ensures URUFOR's log supply and quality.

The COFUSA story is an inspiring one. The company began in 1988. The original plan was to grow eucalyptus and export pulp to Scandinavia. In 1992, the family decided to enter the business of manufacturing lumber for export. At the time, this was a radical idea. Other companies were sawing eucalyptus for pallets but no one was trying to make high quality FSC certified lumber meant to compete against tropical hardwoods. Considerable research, development and investment followed on the sawmill side of the business to determine a method to manufacture boards and engineered products that would be able to compete with the best known traditional hardwoods.

COFUSA began harvesting legacy plantations in 1992 and started thinning its own plantations in 2002. The sawmill expanded rapidly over the last decade, adding advanced German and Italian mill equipment.

The product offering and daily throughput also grew. URUFOR exports boards, laminated beams and finger joint products for diverse uses such as joinery, window frames, flooring, furniture and pallets to markets in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, the Middle East and North America. The annual mill input is 300 000 cubic metres (approximately 300,000 tons).

The problem with eucalyptus is that it dries out rapidly, causing splitting. So from the moment the feller buncher drops a tree, an imaginary stopwatch starts ticking. The saw logs cut from that tree must arrive at the mill yard within 24 hours of the tree hitting the forest floor. This is the epitome of hot logging and the operation showcases the importance of machine availability and system balance.

The harvesting operations

There are a few somewhat unique aspects to Dalfey's harvesting operations. In order to understand it all, one must have an appreciation for COFUSA's underlying silviculture process, which is intensive. In



Supervisor, Marcos de Oliveira with Luis (centre) and H855C operator, Rolando.

the first years after planting, a number of herbicide and fertilizer treatments are applied. Prunings occur in the first five years to 10 m (33 ft) in height. The first commercial thinning occurs at seven to nine years and at thirteen to fifteen years, a second thinning yields pulp logs and saw logs.

We visited a 15-year-old second thinning. Since the majority of the wood is destined for the pulp mill, the operation is not hot and the feller buncher had already moved on to another site. (The wood is already too large to be effectively and efficiently felled with a harvester.) A Tigercat H845C tracked harvester carrier equipped with a Log Max 7000 is processing in-stand and one of the original 20,000 hour 1075B forwarders extracts 7 m (23 ft) pulp logs and 5 m (16 ft) saw logs to roadside.

After this thinning, only 150 trees per hectare remain on the stand. The intensive pruning and thinning is supported by reams of studies that take more into account than the total volume yield of the final fell. As Luis explains, it is more important to apply real dollars to the end products sawn out of the larger timber. "Some people ask why we leave so few trees in the stand," says Luis conceding that the overall volume is reduced. "But the value of the trees in

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One of Dalfey's new 1075B forwarders. The new Tigercat crane is improving productivity, in this case, picking up three logs compared to the Loglift which could only handle two.



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dollar terms based on the products that are sawn from them is optimized.” In this case, less is more.

COFUSA benefits from the fact that Luis understands the logic behind the decisions and the end game. Sure it isn't optimal for Tigercat 855C sized carriers to fell and process three and four tonne trees all day long but those massive saw logs whizzing through the mill as scanners and saws work their magic is what differentiates COFUSA - URUFOR from every other forest products company on the planet.

The final fell occurs at 20 years. By this point the trees are 45 m (150 ft) in height and average piece size is 3 tonnes (3.3 tons). Pruned to 10 m, the trees yield two 5 m clear logs and three unpruned saw logs. The remainder of the trees are merchandised into pulpwood.

To further mitigate costly damage from splitting, the monsters must be controlled

Because the operation is so hot, the buncher cannot be any further than one shift ahead of the rest of the crew. In total, the 855C has worked 6,600 hours in just under five years in this very extreme application. Incredibly, structural issues have been limited to the 30 degree wrist assembly which required a reinforcement plate, and one cracked saw blade; Luis isn't complaining.



Some of the trees at the edge of the stand are quite large. Although this stem is around seven tonnes, Rolando processed it without issue.

and laid down softly during the felling process. This eliminates the possibility of using a directional felling saw which would avoid all the double cutting and be far easier on the carrier. Instead, Luis must use a feller buncher and hot saw to control-fell and lay the trees. The 855C feller buncher works one shift per day.

The buncher lays the trees out in a spaced fan pattern so that the limbs – the larger of which can be 12-20 cm (5-8 in) in diameter – are removed manually. Then the H855C tracked harvester equipped with a Log Max 10000 processes the massive trees. While watching harvester operator, Rolando, wrestling with the trees at the edge of the stand, Luis calculates the volume of a tree that Rolando has just processed. The five saw logs weigh in at nearly six tonnes and this does not take into account the

two pulp logs. Two harvesters work two shifts per day producing 450-650 tonnes (500-720 tn) per machine per day.

Two 1075B forwarders – purchased in late 2013 – also work double shifts to move the wood to roadside for

monthly production of 24 000-26 000 tonnes (26,500-28,660 tn). The night shift forwarder operators also load trucks because the Tigercat 220D loader only works a single day shift. In total, the forwarders and harvesters are piling on 5,000 hours per year. The original 1075B machines, purchased in late 2008 and early 2009 and now deployed in the thinning operations, have acquired over 20,000 hours apiece. Luis considers the forwarders integral to his operation and asserts that no other brand could perform this task nearly as efficiently, noting that the load capacity is higher and the fuel efficiency more favourable than any other machine he has run.

Prototype crane and grapple

When Luis purchased the second set of forwarders, both machines came equipped with Tigercat's prototype crane. The high capacity F195F85 takes the machines to another level.

"I have not done the time studies yet but even with the rotator problems, productivity is higher," says Luis. (Tigercat is also testing a prototype rotator on the two machines.) Rough observation by Tigercat engineering observing one machine for one shift showed average production of 58 m³ per hour, compared with Luis's long term average for the original machines of 45 m³ per hour. Fuel consumption on the older machines averages 14 L/hr compared with 16-17 L/hr with the new machines, although Luis says that some of that difference is attributable to the fact the new forwarders do less truck loading – a relatively easy job.

The clear logs weigh 0,75-1 tonne. Luis says that the old forwarder could only lift one log at a time. If the log was further from the machine or especially heavy, the operator would have to drag it toward the machine before lifting it or manoeuvre the machine closer to the logs. The new machines can easily handle a single log and often pick up two logs at once, effectively doubling production per lift cycle. Factor in the larger grapple (one of the machines is also equipped with Tigercat's prototype FG430 grapple) and the increased productivity in the pulp logs is equally significant. "One machine has done 535 truckloads in 23 days. That is close to 700 tonnes per day in addition to loading 70 trucks," says



The prototype Tigercat FG430 grapple.



Luis Achugar with forwarder operator Hugo de Canto.

Luis. It seems that if there was ever an application custom tailored to the 1075B, this is it.

Luis keeps track of all the numbers and can easily calculate production per person, per machine, per shift and per litre of fuel consumed. He also carefully tracks downtime and fuel consumption. Operators are paid bonuses based on the criteria of productivity and machine uptime. All operators are trained from scratch. While new hires may have experience running agricultural equipment, Luis does not hire anyone with previous logging equipment experience and looks more at personality as opposed to experience and qualifications. Luis constantly compliments his operators as we observe the operations. Watching forwarder operator Hugo de Canto silently picking a load of saw logs, Luis comments, "If you don't hear any iron noises, the operators are working well on the forwarders."

Clear fell crew supervisor, Marcos de Oliveira, worked with Luis at COFUSA. "When I told him I was leaving the company, he said he was coming with me," says Luis. Dalfey employs 40 people split into three crews for first thinning, second thinning and clear felling. Employee turnover is extremely low and it is obvious from the well maintained machines and spotless cab interiors that the operators value their work and equipment.

See the Dalfey operation in action. Visit www.tigercat.com and click 'Tigercat TV'. ■



E&R LANGILLE BELIEVES IN TIGERCAT TH575

One of the new H855C harvesters. E&R Langille now operates four TH575 heads.

BTB reported on the operations of Nova Scotia based E&R Langille Contracting Ltd. back in 2008, not long after the company purchased, sight unseen, the third ever TH575 harvesting head to be produced by Tigercat. Six years later BTB checks in with the Langille family once again.

The Nova Scotia government announced in July, 2013 that it would ban full-tree harvesting province-wide. Harvesting company, E&R Langille was well positioned for this inevitable outcome, having years of experience with the cut-to-length model. The company, established in 1981, is owned by brothers, Ron, Darren and Craig Langille. Ron is responsible for the harvesting operations. Craig runs the company's two wood yards and Darren is in charge of equipment fleet service. Shop facilities and service capabilities are top notch, allowing the company to run its fleet of predominantly Tigercat branded machines productively at very high hours. All new Tigercat machines are sold and serviced by Wajax.

The Langilles have been quite proactive in their attempts to ensure the viability of the chipping operations. The company has developed two wood yards to centralize the chipping function. One is located at Mt William near New Glasgow where the

Craig, Darren and Ron Langille out front of the shop in New Glasgow.



company is headquartered and the second at the Strait of Canso, the gateway to Cape Breton Island.

Ron explains that they used to do infield chipping but “We went to the yard model because the block sizes got too small and also because of poor roads, trucking bottlenecks and too much moving from site to site. On bigger cut blocks, we were even moving too much within the blocks.” Ron goes on to say that the yards improve chipper productivity and utilization while reducing costs.

Everything except stud wood, which is transported directly to the sawmill, flows through the Mt William yard. At Port Hawkesbury, 300 000 tonnes of biomass logs are inventoried and dried at the yard, chipped and finally transported to the local co-gen facility owned by Nova Scotia Power.

The harvesting systems

The Langilles have had excellent results with their first Tigercat TH575 head, citing strength and durability as well as multi-stemming capability as the primary advantages. “It has been very reliable,” says Ron. The first unit has over 21,000 operating hours.

The brothers have experience with other brands, having run the Waratah 622C and the Log Max 750.

Ron and Darren say that the TH575 has higher uptime than the others and longer life. On the strength of this experience, the Langilles purchased two new H855C carriers equipped with TH575 heads in June 2013. These machines are currently working in mixed hardwood forests in Cape Breton cutting eight



Operator, Brett Smith, ran the H860 for most of its life. Now he is operating one of the new H855C units.



The 60,000 hour plus H860 harvester still produces reliably every day.

foot logs and random length pulp and fuel wood for the Port Hawkesbury paper mill and the neighbouring power generation plant.

The processors achieve average production of 16 tonnes per hour in challenging timber. (The trees are typically crooked and limby and average piece size is at the low end of the scale.) The machines are double shifted, working about 90 hours per week. The Port Hawkesbury system is comprised of one Tigercat feller buncher, two Tigercat H855C processors and an 18-tonne forwarder along with two 14-tonne back-up forwarders.

Ron comments that the company is fortunate to have many highly experienced processor operators, although he laments that most of them are in their mid-fifties. “There is a crisis situation for the forest industry in general. There is just not enough young people [coming into the industry].”

Aside from the H855C/TH575 combination, the company also operates aging Tigercat H860 carriers with Hornet attachments following Tigercat feller bunchers to supply the Mt William yard for a Northern Pulp chip contract. The oldest machine, purchased in January 1999, had 62,000 hours on the clock as of December, 2013. Incredibly, the Tigercat-Hornet package still achieves 80-85% availability including servicing and operator breaks and achieves 10-12 tonnes per hour, again in very small timber. The current operator, Todd Hillier replaced Brett Smith

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who ran the machine for most of its life. (Brett is now operating one of the new H855C units in Cape Breton.) The Langilles also added an H855C/TH575 to the Northern Pulp operation, purchasing the machine in December 2013. In addition, they purchased a Tigercat 845C with a 5400 saw and high rotation wrist in October, choosing the R7-150-2 undercarriage for the extra durability of the FH400 components and the longer track frames.

There are two chippers in the Mt William yard working two ten-hour shifts per day producing pulp chips, and one in Port Hawkesbury producing fuel chips for the power plant. Clean chip production is around 50 tonnes per hour per chipper and 100 tonnes per hour for fuel chips. The fuel chipper works seven days a week, one ten-hour shift per day.

To improve trucking efficiency, the company is using a new Hitachi 210F loader – purchased from Wajax – at roadside to load softwood logs on four-axle trailers with a 35 tonne payload versus the 24 tonne payload of a conventional trailer equipped with a centre-mount crane.

See the H855C harvester and TH575 harvesting head in action. Go to www.tigercat.com and click 'Tigercat TV'. ■



The Langille brothers cite multi-stemming ability and overall durability as major advantages of the TH575.



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STEEP SLOPE HARVESTING, NEW ZEALAND STYLE

Forestland owned by the Municipality of Dunedin. Look closely and you can see Dave Paul's 880 on the deck.

In just a couple of years, with AB Equipment at the helm, the Tigercat machine population in New Zealand has exploded from a handful of units to over 120. It seems that a confluence of factors is behind the

exponential growth. A country with especially severe boom and bust forestry industry cycles, New Zealand has of late been enjoying robust demand for pine logs in India, China and Korea. Lower currency valuation in comparison to neighbouring Australia has made the country especially attractive to Asian markets. The strong local economy and the massive rebuild effort following the Christchurch earthquake in 2011 has resulted in a decidedly firmer domestic market for higher grade logs marketed to local sawmills for domestic consumption.

The supply is there as well. With rotations ranging from 25-30 years and producing average piece sizes ranging from one to four tonnes, it is evident that Radiata pine grows very well in New Zealand. Many plantations are coming on stream with a current overall sustainable capacity of around 30 million tonnes annually. Fly into any forestry region and it is easy to see from the air that every single bump on the landscape seems to be planted with Radiata. Future Forests Research Limited (FFR), a partnership forged in 2007 between the New Zealand forest industry and Scion, a forest research organization, indicates that the proportion of the national forest harvest from steep hill country (which is defined as exceeding twenty degrees of slope) is currently 44% of the total harvest. This number is forecast to rise to 53% by 2016 and to over 60% by 2025.

The combination of steep slopes and big timber just



Dave Paul's LH855C carrier can fell and delimb.

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screams for purpose-built steep terrain harvesting systems which just happens to be a Tigercat specialty. Sales specialists at AB Equipment along with the Tigercat people on the ground in New Zealand have done a great job explaining the merits of purpose-built track carriers and high capacity skidders for tackling the slopes and oversize wood and most recently, the 880 logger as the go-to machine for roadside processing.

Dave Paul Logging

Dave Paul, based in Dunedin, in the southeastern corner of the South Island has a 75 000 tonne contract with the Municipality of Dunedin. Interestingly, the municipality itself owns a vast chunk of mountainous forest land surrounding the city and markets the logs to Asia. Dave personally operates a relatively new Tigercat LH855C harvester equipped with a 3 400 kg Satco 424 fall and delimb head. Dave says that the combination is comfortably handling fairly big trees, averaging around 1,5 cubic metres (1.65 tn) on slopes up to 36 degrees. He likes the powerful tractive effort of the carrier and says that the clamshell hood enclosure is a real positive when it comes to daily maintenance. Going from a fixed lower to Tigercat's R7-150L-2 leveling undercarriage, Dave comments that he feels a lot fresher at the end of the day, compared with operating his previous machine.

While not a true harvesting head, the Satco 424 does have feed rollers, enabling Dave to fell the tree and perform a rough and quick delimiting job



Renner's H855C fells and shovels uphill to the 630C skidder.

before shovelling it to an advantageous location for the skidder. The site where we visited Dave had its share of crooked, forked and heavily limbed trees on the stand; knocking some of the limbs off in-stand decreases weight and drag resistance, increasing skidder productivity and reduces fuel consumption and drivetrain wear. (The Radiata is very heavy with a ratio of one cubic metre per tonne. Compared to a region like British Columbia with similar harvesting conditions, the various species range from 0,55-0,8 tonnes per metre with very few limbs. Dave who purchased the first Tigercat skidder on the South



Dave Paul's 635D skidder.

Island, a 630C, recently traded for 635D skidder and finds it to be an ideal skidder for his application. It handles the steep terrain and large timber as well as any soft soil conditions he encounters.

The 635D pulls to roadside where a Tigercat 880 equipped with the Woodsman Pro 800, a 5 000 kg head, processes and merchandises. Even with multiple sorts and poor stem form (resulting in added time to pick trees from the pile), the 880/Woodsman combination easily processes Dave's 75 000 tonne annual quota. With 18 different grades, production averages of about 350 tonnes per day. Dave has hit on a system that meets the multiple challenges of steep terrain, large timber, many sorts and less than optimal stand quality.

Renner Logging

Based in Rangiora, just north of Christchurch on the South Island, Peter and Wendy-Lee Renner own Renner Logging, operating in the Canterbury Plains and the slopes skirting the eastern edge of New Zealand's famous Southern Alps. Pete, a former athlete who competed in the 1984 Summer Olympics in the 3 000 m Steeplechase event, is another hands-on contractor with many years of manual falling experience. With mechanization



Renner Logging runs a Tigercat H855C with an HTH624C at roadside.

firmly taking hold in New Zealand, most of the hand falling in Pete and Wendy's operations have been replaced with a Tigercat LH855C equipped with a Satco 630 directional felling head.

Pete initially purchased the LH855C with a Waratah so that machine had the ability to double up as a harvester and processor in their ground based logging operations in the Canterbury Plains region. Now that much of the annual cut volume for Renner's ground-based crews is moving toward steeper terrain, their decision to purchase a second Tigercat H855C processor was made a lot easier on the strength of the performance of the original LH855C.

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Pete swapped out HTH624C, electing to put it on the flat-based H855C with the intent to use the new unit as a full time roadside processor. This freed up the LH855C to be fitted with a Satco directional felling head for full time felling and bunching in the steeper terrain. In light of the fact that the price gap between the H855C and an excavator conversion was pretty tight, Pete and Wendy call the decision a “no brainer.”

The day we visited, Pete’s crew was working on steep and muddy ground with a small percentage of blowdown. The wood they were felling was a bit on

blowdown events that wreak havoc on the flats in the Canterbury Plains.

Grimmer Logging

Jordan Grimmer, owner of Grimmer Logging based in Whangarei, operates in the Northland region of the North Island. One of the few CTL operations we visited in New Zealand, Jordan owns two Tigercat 1075B forwarders, a Waratah HTH625C equipped LH855C and an excavator-based feller/shovel logger.

Jordan has a yarding side with an older H855C harvester fitted with an Ensign felling head. This machine fells and bunches for the yarder. Jordan also recently purchased a new Tigercat 880 equipped with a Waratah HTH625C.

Jordan has adapted and modified his ground-based equipment and operations over the years in search of the most optimal solution for the terrain and weather conditions



Jordan’s H855C and 1075B. Jordan says that the CTL model extends his season.

the small size (under two tonne piece size, if that can be considered small) because they were harvesting prior to the normal 25-27 year rotation to get at the blowdown timber.

The LH855C was felling and shovelling the wood up the steepest sections of the block and feeding the 630C skidder, which was transporting the wood on the easier ground to the H855C at roadside. Pete surmises that another factor that has contributed to the increasing number of plantations being situated on steep ground is reduced exposure to the serious



Jordan Grimmer (centre) flanked by Marcus Bourke, AB Equipment sales specialist and Tigercat district manager, Glen Marley (right).



It doesn't look it here, but the Northland region experiences high rainfall.

he typically encounters, while being mindful of the human resource element.

“We needed to get away from tree-length to extend the season to twelve months,” says Jordan, who goes on to explain that his operation used to use hand fallers in combination with tree-length skidding to an excavator-based processor at roadside. With the addition of the excavator-based feller/shovel combination machine and Tigercat’s purpose-built

leveling harvester, “We could get rid of the skidder and replace it with a forwarder.”

In Jordan’s operations, the skidder was the weak link with several disadvantages. First off, and most important, the ground is too wet in winter for a skidder to work consistently as the region is beset with poor drainage. Second, Jordan found it very difficult to find good operators. Conversely, he says, “I can put any kid who is good at video games in the forwarder. And the guys like running them.” While Jordan concedes that a forwarder cannot achieve the same daily production as a skidder, “Over the span

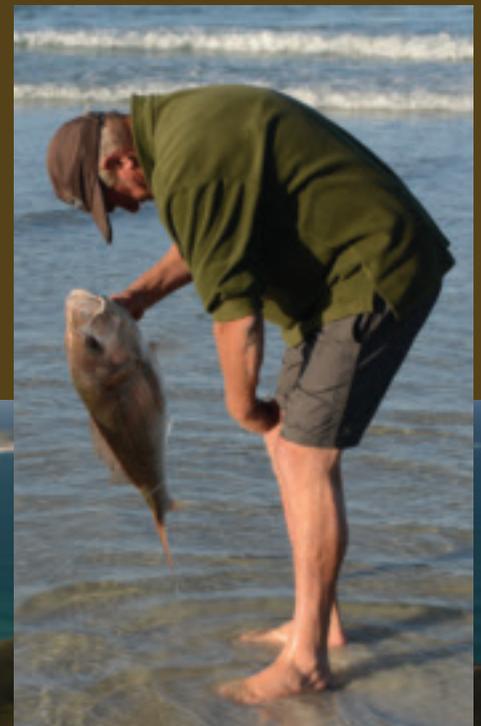
of a year, the production is much better because it can work more days.” Yet another case of the concept that slow and steady wins the race.

The excavator-based machine fells all the timber and shovels as required out of the steepest and wettest sections of the tract. For Jordan, this is the key to high production as it leaves the trees in a more favourable position for processing and forwarding, keeping the

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Kontiki Fishing

No trip to the north of New Zealand would be complete without a day of kontiki fishing with Herb Adams. Owner of Adams Logging and long-time Tigercat customer, Herb’s set-up consists of a small trailer equipped with a winch and a battery powered torpedo. The torpedo is launched off the beach and travels about two kilometres out to sea. (Apparently in times past, the fishermen would rig a mast to a small vessel and sail the long line out to sea.) As it travels, Herb baits the long line. The next part of the process involves standing around and drinking a few beers. Then Herb starts up the winch and slowly brings the torpedo back to shore as we all run out into the surf and pick the snapper off the line.



Another good sized snapper gets winched to shore.





Peter and Tim Mold's LH855C felling for a yarder on steep terrain.

LH855C and the 1075B out of the steep gullies and at maximum production. This allows the single harvester to stay ahead of the rest of the system – which would otherwise prove difficult.

The 1075B operator, Lionel Clark, attempts to pick up as few sorts as possible per load while balancing the load size with amount of machine travel per load cycle. This job is made a little easier since Jordan has an excavator on deck operated by a log maker, Jo Coutts, who can quickly and effectively sort the three grades of saw logs and three to four lengths of export logs and pulpwood.

Mold Logging

The top of the North Island narrows to a peninsula as little as 12 km wide in some areas. A sparsely populated part of the country, the wide white beaches double as roadways. (90 Mile Beach was used as a runway for early air services between Australia and New Zealand in the 1930s. Even today, it is designated as an official public highway.)

Close to the top of the North Island, near Spirits Bay, we found the yarding operation of Mold Logging, owned by Peter and Tim Mold. Operating in 25-27

year rotation Radiata plantations on long, steep slopes of what is essentially a giant sand dune, Mold Logging utilizes an LH855C equipped with a Satco 630, falling and bunching for a yarder. An 880 processor works at roadside. Peter and Tim have a second 880 operating with a ground-based crew and were the first in New Zealand to pull the trigger on an 880.

The region in which the Molds are operating in is possibly the most remote logging region in the country. When Peter and Tim were looking for a machinery supplier, mechanical availability was an important factor in the purchase decision – they knew that the gear had to be durable and reliable with strong service and back-up capacity. After doing their homework, Pete and Tim chose Tigercat and AB Equipment. Today Mold Logging runs one of the most up-to-date, efficient, reliable and professional operations in all of New Zealand.

Visit www.tigercat.com and click 'Tigercat TV' to see the New Zealand Steep Slope Series, a collection of HD videos showing different steep slope techniques in ground based and yarding applications. ■



Demo Day in Taupo

BTB's New Zealand tour ended with a Demo Day near Taupo at the jobsite of Ronnie Thomasson and Bryan Rutgers, owners of BR Logging. The site was picture perfect, consisting of a 20-30 degree slope declining to a flat landing and viewing area.

BR Logging operates an LH855C equipped with a Woodsman directional felling head, 630D and 635D skidders and an 880 logger equipped with a Woodsman processor. The demo ran like a real operation and the crowd was impressed with the timber, the terrain and the production levels, especially the extreme slopes that the LH855C operated on, piloted by crew foreman Jake Van Heuven, who had only spent about a week in the seat of the machine and had never felled trees with anything but a chainsaw previously. The crowd also gasped at some of the bites the 635D was pulling. I heard onlookers speculating the weight of the loads at 18-20 tonne. The 880 impressed the crowd of 100 plus as it threw around the two tonne stems with ease. Ronnie and Bryan have built a very efficient and professional crew with the help of Tigercat and AB Equipment and continue to be one of the largest producers of logs in the country. This was a very impressive operation.

Special thanks to Steve Mellar (Taupo AB sales specialist), Mark Hill (AB Tigercat product manager), Ronnie, Bryan and the entire crew for a great Demo Day.



All three machines wowed the crowd on Demo Day, near Taupo. Ronnie Thomasson and Bryan Rutgers, owners of BR Logging, run a top-notch operation.



CONEXPO 2014



Tigercat was back at CONEXPO in March with the new 470 mulcher and the T726E street trencher. Both machines received a lot of interest and attention with traffic to the booth coming from around the world. Attendees commented on the build quality, clean component arrangement, easy access to service points and the ergonomic operating environment of both machines.

The 470 is a Tigercat FPT powered Tier 4i 245 kW (328 hp) machine well suited to seismic and pipeline ROW work. It manages soft ground with a 20,9 kPa (3 psi) footprint.



Street Works sells and leases the T726E throughout North America.

Taunton, Massachusetts based Street Works is the North American distributor for the T726E. The machine provides utility contractors with a quicker, easier, more cost effective and less disruptive method of opening streets for the installation of underground utilities. The T726E cuts asphalt and concrete, trenches to the required depth, pulverizes the material and backfills all in one step, minimizing traffic disruption. It eliminates transportation costs for the broken pavement that must be removed as well as the new backfill that must be brought in. For more information, visit StreetWorksUS.com. ■



The new Tigercat FPT powered 470 mulcher.



product news

TIGERCAT 5195

Building on the successful introduction of the 5185 fixed bar saw, Tigercat has developed and released the 5195 directional felling head. Both the fixed wrist and directional version of the Tigercat bar saw head follow a design philosophy of simplicity, durability and high performance. The versatile 5195 can fell, buck, bunch and shovel log. It has a 1 145 mm (45 in) saw bar, heavy-duty construction and a continuous rotation high torque rotary manifold for excellent performance and control in big wood applications.

The 5195 will typically be paired with the S855C or LS855C shovel logger for use in steep slope or oversized timber applications in South America, Australia and New Zealand. A new stick boom has been developed specifically for the application with full integrated hose guarding. The first two units have been sold into Chile and a third unit has been purchased by Heslop Logging in Nelson, New Zealand.

Visit www.tigercat.com and click on 'Tigercat TV' to see the new felling head in action. ■



LS855C shovel logger with the new 5195 directional felling head purchased by Heslop Logging in Nelson, New Zealand.



Metsakone's LS855C with the 5195 in a post-forest fire stand near Arauco, Chile.

upcoming events

Expo Richmond Breakfast

Virginia based Forest Pro is set to open a new branch location in Ashland, off of the I95 just north of Richmond, and just in time for **Expo Richmond 2014**, May 16-17. Binky and Guke Tapscott and the Forest Pro team will host a pre-show welcome breakfast and open house on Saturday morning to show off the new digs. The open house will feature a hot breakfast, door prizes, Tigercat apparel and a chance for customers to meet and greet with the Ashland employees and Tigercat personnel. The breakfast is from 7-10 am, Saturday May 17.

Forest Pro
11440 Air Park Rd.
Ashland, Va 23055

More events

In addition to Expo Richmond, make plans to attend the **Northeastern Forest Products Expo** (May 9-10) in Essex Junction, Vermont at the Champlain Valley Exposition Grounds. CJ Logging Equipment is hosting the Tigercat display.

In Scotland is the excellent **Forestry Harvesting Demo** (May 15-16) in Little Clyde, Elvanfoot, Biggar, South Lanarkshire. Conceived and organized by Treetop Forestry Ltd, the UK Tigercat dealer, in partnership with the other major equipment distributors in the UK, the 2014 Forestry Harvesting Demo will be a great opportunity to interact with Tigercat engineering staff and key management personnel along with the Treetop team and learn about Tigercat's latest developments in the cut-to-length arena.

Watch Tigercat H845C and H855C flat base and leveling track harvesters and the 1075B forwarder in action on a real world, high production logging operation. Tigercat and Treetop will also demonstrate a 13,000 hour H855C harvester, showcasing the high uptime and long-term durability achievable with full forest duty Tigercat carriers. On static display will be

the 1135 wheel harvester, specially designed for in-stand thinning between forwarder rows.



Learn about the elegant Tigercat FPT Tier 4 solution that meets stringent EU emissions requirements without the use of variable geometry turbochargers, an EGR system, a higher capacity cooling system, an intake throttle body or a diesel particulate filter.

May 21-23 is the **Expo Forest 2014 Brazilian Forestry Fair** in Mogi Guaçu, São Paulo State. See Tigercat full-tree and CTL systems in high production, high cycle eucalyptus harvesting applications. Tigercat and Trabel personnel will be on hand to answer all your questions.



For more information on all Tigercat events in 2014, visit www.tigercat.com and click on 'Shows & Events'. The shows are a great opportunity to see the new gear and have the ear of Tigercat designers, technical personnel, field staff and management to discuss issues, ideas and future requirements.

Tigercat news

There was a buzz of excitement in the Tigercat Brantford office as Olympic gold medalist, Jim Armstrong entered the building. Jim is the skip for the Canadian wheelchair curling team and together with his teammates earned a gold medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia. Suzanne Cline, VP of Finance for Tigercat is Jim's proud and supportive wife. Tigercat co-workers Sandy Stuart and Barb Sabila organized a surprise celebration for the couple. Tigercat employees were thrilled to take photos, hold the medal and shake hands with the gold medalist.

Congratulations Jim, it was a pleasure watching you play for Canada! ■



Jim Armstrong and Suzanne Cline recently returned from Sochi with some extra hardware to claim at Canada Customs.

 <p>www.faeusa.com</p>	<p>FAE the best option for your Tigercat.</p>  <p>+ 1 770-407-2014 info@faeusa.com</p> <p>FAE USA Inc., 5321 Rafe Banks Dr., Flowery Branch, GA 30542</p>	  
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letters

From: Russell Stites

To: Ken MacDonald

Subject: Random thank you

I know you're a busy man but I wanted to drop a quick email to brag on your equipment. I currently own and operate daily (9) 234 Loaders, (4) 724 Cutters, (2) 726 Cutters, and (8) 620 and E620 Skidders.

I do own some other brands as well due to limits on financing and such but the only paid for equipment I run daily is Tigercat. I honestly don't think with today's issues I could run the kind of logging force I run without the longevity that Tigercat offers. I bought one of the first 234s that came out. My loader was on the cover of the 234 brochure for a long time. That very machine now has over 14,000 hours on it and it runs every day on the original motor. It gets better fuel economy than my newer ones and it has ran a grapple saw in heavy hardwood applications almost its whole life.

Thanks for making a great product.

Russell Stites
President, Pro South Companies
Booneville, MS
www.prologging.com



Russell's original 234 loader photographed in 2007.

Thank you very, very much Mr. Stites,

It is always a great pleasure to get a thank you sent to me from any of our customers. We really do try hard to make the best equipment. You can rest assured that I will share your note with many of the other members on my team that have been influential in the development of the models of machines you have purchased and who continue to be the directing

minds of our organization. Happily, as the founder and CEO, I have been blessed with many terrific people that I get to work with and fortunately for all of us, we continue to attract many more fine young members which will allow us to continue to design and build machines that meet customer needs.

Again, thank you for the note, the business you have steered our way, and the confidence you have placed in our dealer and Tigercat. If you are at the Starkville show this year, I would like to meet you and shake your hand.

Ken MacDonald
CEO of Tigercat

employee news



Tigercat is pleased to announce that Matt Roberts is returning to Tigercat. Matt previously worked in the track machine design group from 1996 to 2004 as product manager and as international sales manager from 2004 to 2010. Matt's new role as marketing manager, harvester and processor heads will focus on commercializing and expanding the line of Tigercat harvesting and processing heads. In this position Matt will liaise with sales, engineering and manufacturing, focusing on sales and marketing, new product development, training and product support.

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