Timber Market Update - Aug '11

Roundwood prices have been falling gradually since the highs of Summer/Autumn 2010, however, they are still relatively favourable when one compares current prices available with 10 year CPI adjusted average prices. The response of timber growers to last year's excellent market conditions can be seen from the significant increase in the number of General Felling Licence (GFL) applications to Forest Service throughout 2010. For 2011 the number of GFL applications from private growers remains similar to last year and In the first seven months of 2011 General Felling Licences were applied for over 8,851 hectares of private woodland compared to 8,782 hectares for the first seven months of 2010.

It is interesting to note that the recent *'All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028'* (Phillips, H. 2011, COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Dublin) forecasts a potential thinning area from private forests of 7,627 hectares (ha) for 2011 in addition to a potential felling area of 168 ha. This forecast rises to 9,555 ha for thinning in 2014 with 91 ha of felling in that year. Thereafter the forecast thinning and felling areas increase to reach 18,690 ha of thinning in 2028 in addition to 6,561 ha of felling forecast for that year.

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