***Chippewa River Forest Management;***

Ken McIntyre, of Chippewa River Forest Management LLC, stands in front of his company's approximately 8.21 acres of vacant land by the airport in Cornell. The company produces an "in-woods chip" that is sold wholesale in the roofing, corrugated medium, door, hard board and bioenergy industries. This photo, taken on-site at the new property in Cornell, will soon have a pile of chips similar to what now exists at Mule-Hide (see story).

(Photo by John Marder)

***Land cleared for 100 foot truck scale, stacking conveyor ...;***

# Chippewa River Forest Mgt. buys land for expansion

**By JOHN MARDER**

The Chippewa River Forest Management company has bought 8.21 acres of vacant land, just off the Airport Industrial Park Road East (Lot 9) to, in part and put simply, develop a better "chip."

Ken McIntyre, manager, says the company will make a higher grade chip once the new site becomes operational.

"It's going to improve some efficiency with the paper mill," McIntyre said about his company's "in-woods chip," sold wholesale to Mule-Hide Manufacturing in Cornell. "They're going to use less electricity with our new product."

The current process takes the chips produced in the woods directly to Mule-Hide, which uses about 40,000-45,000 tons of chips each year. A truck dump, control shack and the stacking conveyor will be moved to the new site.

"We unload the trucks there and they get scaled on the way to the mill," McIntyre said. "We dump the load with the chips going into a large pile. The truck goes out and gets scaled on the way back, again, and goes back to the woods."

McIntyre said the system at the new site had to be up and running before Mule-Hide ran out of chips. Put simply, the product will be better having been pre-screened before being delivered.

"We're a whole tree chipping company," McIntyre said. "In one sense we're traditional loggers in that I'll go out and contact land owners and buy their timber.

"We'll then move to the site with our own equipment."

Trees will be cut with a "hot" saw and a skidder used. The skidders, with large tires and grapples on the back, back up to the felled bundles to drag to the chipper. It normally takes 15-30 minutes to load up a "chip van."

***Chippewa River Forest Management;***

Ken McIntyre, of Chippewa River Forest Management LLC, stands in front of his company's "in-woods chip" that is sold wholesale in the roofing, corrugated medium, door, hard board and bioenergy industries. His company just purchased approximately 8.21 acres of vacant land by the airport in Cornell. This photo, taken at Mule-Hide Manufacturing in Cornell, shows McIntyre's company's product being piled. A story about the plans for Chippewa River Forest Management development will be in next week's *Courier-Sentinel* .

(Photo by John Marder)

*Continued from Courier 1A;*

# Chippewa River Forest Management attempts to develop a better 'chip'

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***'We use the entire tree – top, crown, limbs, sticks, the whole nine yards.'***

**–Ken McIntyre**

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Large volumes of chips are made to order, meeting a customer's need through various specifications. Each chip van can carry roughly 25 tons of chips.

"Instead of getting cut up into 8 foot lengths, we grind up the whole tree," McIntyre said. "They go through a chipper into our chip vans. Very little is wasted.

"We use the entire tree – top, crown, limbs, sticks, the whole nine yards."

Aspen is targeted which is what Mule-Hide primarily uses.

"If there are higher quality maples and oaks we will separate those and cut them into saw logs," McIntyre said. "The sales we target are meant to be Aspen and lower quality hardwoods."

The roofing felt product made by Mule-Hide Manufacturing has different ratios of wood chips to recycled cardboard/paper that accounts for the different product weights.

"They're upgrading equipment inside the mill right now," McIntyre said. "A lot of the equipment that they're going to be upgrading is older. The newer pieces of equipment that they will install require a higher grade of chip than what we currently produce."

The purchase of the 8.21 acres will allow an unloading facility at that property instead of going directly to Mule-Hide.

"The product will be pre-screened here for what they call pins and fines," McIntyre said. "That's like a sawdust type of material that will be sifted out of the chips.

"It will then be reloaded into an open type trailer and go to the mill with more of a just-in-time inventory, instead of the great big pile they have now at different times of the year."

Next summer the building of a shop on the new 8.2 acre site is planned. Right now the land has been cleared for the 100 foot truck scale as well as the space needed for the logging trucks to maneuver.

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***'The thought is that, down the road, as the whole biomass industry develops and matures, we'd like to be a part of that.'***

**–Ken McIntyre**

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"Soon the new site is going to consist of a truck scale, a scale shack, the truck dump we will pull out of the mill, a stacking conveyor and a large concrete slab to put the chips on," McIntyre said. "We don't want the

**(Continued on Page 9A)**

chips to be mixed in with rocks."

"The chip pad will be 200 feet wide by 300 feet long. We've got a hopper, a set of screens and some re-loading conveyors. Next year, once we get this part tackled, we'll be putting up a shop here."

Four employees/operators and four owner/operator truck drivers are employed full-time.

"We'll have to add a couple of more jobs," McIntyre said. "The thought is that, down the road, as the whole biomass industry develops and matures, we'd like to be a part of that."

Biomass is a renewable energy source with biological material derived from living, or recently living, organisms including wood, waste and alcohol fuels. Biomass is commonly plant matter grown to generate electricity or produce heat.

Biomass excludes organic material such as fossil fuel which has been transformed by geological processes into substances such as coal or petroleum.

The biomass chip product uses include that of energy.

"You could use them for pellet energy," McIntyre said. "We do sell some material to the Packaging Corporation of America (PCA). That's a corrugated medium. That's the squillery paper that's on the inside of a cardboard box.

"Off and on we've supplied chips to Marshfield Door Systems, where they make door cores. That's now happening, but down the road I'm anticipating some uses for energy as well as, possibly, for pellets."

Advantages of someone using pellets for heating purposes include having a cleaner burning product.

"It's the initiative of getting off of foreign oil," McIntyre said. "That's what started the whole thing. It's a renewable resource, so instead of consuming coal and other non-renewables, you're using a product that is grown right here, locally."

Although the product now made is sold just in Wisconsin, McIntyre can envision a greater market developing in the future for Chippewa River Forest Management. McIntyre may be contacted at (715) 239-6400.