

WHY WHITE OAK?

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My discussion will open with an overview of the cooperage industry with a brief history of the origins of coopering and barrel production and the importance of transporting goods for commerce and trade. The conversation will move to present day coopering and the importance of white oak (*Quercus alba*) in barrel manufacturing from harvesting to production at a stave mill, the seasoning and drying process and the barrel raising process. Finally, the discussion will conclude with where we are as an industry, the importance of white oak in the forest industry, and what we can do as an industry to promote white oak.