



BEHIND THE BUSINESS

"Mississippi's economy is made up of the most creative, unique, and innovative businesses in the entire world. The Secretary of State's Office is proud to spotlight these businesses, and provide support for all ventures which choose to invest in our great State."

Dellunt

Hankins Lumber Company

Al Hankins and Lee Hankins

Hankins Lumber Co. Inc. is branching out from its roots as a small trucking company to deliver lumber from local mills to construction customers and lumberyards. The Grenada County-based family business now employs 155 workers and manufactures more than 150 million feet of lumber annually. The company also manages southern yellow pine tree farms scattered across the state.

In the 1950s, founders Burton and Bewel Hankins began expanding their start-up trucking business by buying an existing planer mill in Winona. By the early 1960s, the entrepreneurs had added a new planer mill, sawmill and dry kilns to allow them to also manufacture their own lumber from Mississippi-grown timbers. When Bewel died in 1971, Burton stepped up to provide leadership for the company's growth. He incorporated in 1972 as Hankins Lumber Co., Inc. Five years later, the family-owned company constructed a new planer mill and then undertook a major sawmill renovation in 1999.

After their father died unexpectedly in 2001, Burton's two sons Al and Lee assumed the reins and continued enlarging the family company into a state-of-the-art lumber business. In addition to upgrades to the sawmill and the addition of an Inovec Stereo Scan headrig carriage, Hankins Lumber added storage space for finished lumber inventory. New covered storage sheds totaling more than 63,000 square feet have since been built to provide better control over the company's lumber inventory. The company estimates the new equipment has increased its log manufacturing count by 20 percent and its lumber yield by five to six percent.

"To remain competitive in this industry, we must continue to improve our operational efficiencies as we do with keeping up with state of the art technologies," said Al Hankins, company president.

Today, Hankins Lumber manufactures and sells graded lumber, primarily to outlets in Texas and other midwestern states. The company also grows its own timber on tens of thousands of acres of tree farms in Mississippi. "We pride ourselves on our tree farms of southern yellow pine all across the state of Mississippi," said Lee Hankins, company vice president. "We are always activity looking to purchase timber or land with pine timber to increase the thousands of acres we currently have planted. Our active re-forestation will keep us a viable leader in the industry for years to come. As an added plus it gives a wonderful habitat for all kinds of wildlife. Great care is taken in the maintenance of this forest land."

