



**Machine Operator**  
Ben Haffelmire

**Log Handler**  
Bob Baker

**Time**  
27 min. 57 sec.

**Cords Processed**  
1.5

**Cords/Hour**  
3.2

## Timberwolf Pro HDXL

BEN HAFFELMIRE, who grows corn and soybeans, is fairly typical of the farmers in central Indiana. To supplement his farm income, he runs a Timberwolf Pro HDXL firewood processor during the off-times. “It keeps us diversified,” he explained. He started out with a Timberwolf log splitter about 20 years ago, and purchased his firewood processor only a couple of years ago. “I keep getting older, so I had to make an upgrade or get out of the firewood business.” Ben sees it the same as any other agricultural equipment. It has to pay for itself.

Even coming to the Firewood Competition had to be worked in with Ben’s farming tasks. “Tom Brown—my Timberwolf dealer—had asked me if I’d be interested in demonstrating the machine at a show. It was too muddy to plant this year, so I agreed to do it.” Ben added that he and Tom have been good friends ever

since he purchased that first wood splitter from him.

The machine at the Competition was nearly identical to Ben’s, so it was no problem for him to take the controls. Although this was his first public demonstration, he said that the crowd did not bother him. “I watched the smaller Timberwolf processor in the previous heat, so I pretty much knew what to expect,” he said. “It didn’t bother me to work in front of an audience. When you get your mind on your work, you don’t think about the people,” he added.

Assisting Ben was Timberwolf dealer Bob Baker. Bob’s main task was to use the Nokka 4372 knuckle-boom loader to move logs from the trailer to HDXL’s 8-foot live deck so that Ben could cut and split without delays. Ben agrees that having a second person help saves time. “This machine keeps two people busy, but one person can do it if he gets off to load the deck.” The

7,100-pound firewood processor was powered by the standard 80-hp John Deere engine. Everything from there is powered by hydraulics. According to Ben, the chain infeed conveyer had no problems transporting the logs to the cutoff saw. "After a while, you learn how to set them on the live deck so that they fall into the trough right." He also put his experience with the hourglass-shaped top roller to good use. "The top roller at the end of the infeed conveyer does a great job holding the wood in place. Normally, I just had it in the float position to help feed the log and steady it for cutting, but I also used it to apply clamping pressure for the last cut on each log."

Ben finds the "hanging chain" log-length gauge simple and reliable. When the log bumps the chain, he pulls the lever to bring the 25-inch 0.404

slasher chain saw down through the wood. The model used for the competition was the "in-line" version. With the splitter in line with the cutoff saw, each block fell straight down into the splitting chamber where it met with the business end of an 8-

*"The top roller at the end of the infeed conveyer does a great job holding the wood in place." —Ben Haffelmire*

way wedge. In less than 4 seconds, 8 pieces of firewood were on their way up the 24-foot conveyer, where, all too often, they collided with the previous pieces of wood. The conveyer was just long enough to reach over the side of the trailer and the wood soon piled up to the level of the conveyer. "The pile didn't have anyplace to go," explained Ben. The Timberwolf team had to call at least three time-outs to clear a place for the wood com-

ing in from the conveyer. Even though the time-outs were not counted against them, each one cost them time. "You lose your momentum. That really messed up our pace," recalled Ben.

Even with the delays, the Pro HDXL's time was 27 minutes,

57 seconds, for a processing rate of just over 3 full cords per hour. With the show behind him, Ben headed back to the farm and his own firewood processor to fill orders for the coming heating season. According to Ben, the summer firewood rush was about to begin and would last until the first of September. "We try to get everybody stocked up for the winter." And when that's done, there's always the soybeans and corn. ■

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