Kraft Packaging and Paperboard

This category is a combination of bleached food container stock, unbleached bag stock, unbleached kraft linerboard, and other wrapping stock. By far, unbleached kraft paper and linerboard are the most popular products in the southeastern area. Current annual production from thirty existing mills is 25,500,000 TPA. There are several machine installations and one new kraft linerboard mill nearing completion which will add another 740,000 TPA of production. In addition to the unbleached mills, there are five mills producing bleached linerboard, and thirteen producing bleached food container board. A number of the major forest products firms are principal manufacturers of this grade - International Paper, Georgia-Pacific, Container Corporation of America, Union Camp Co., and Inland Container. International Paper, Weyerhaeuser, Champion International, and Westvaco are the largest manufacturers of food container board.

Tissue

Current production of tissue in the U.S. is approximately 7,000,000 TPA as the demand for tissue products has been growing at the steady rate of 3% per year for the last ten years. There are six operating mills in the study area with three additional machines under construction at this time. Scott Paper Company, Fort Howard Paper Company, Northern Towel, and Georgia-Pacific Corporation are the major producers of tissue grades. Procter & Gamble is the single largest specialty tissue/napkin manufacturer.

Market Pulp

The production of market pulp in the Southeast has generally developed from a desire to balance paper production to pulping capacity or for pulp supply to other corporate mills. Bleached sulfate pulp comprises 75% of the market pulp produced from the sixteen pulp mills in the area. Only four of these sixteen mills are stand-alone and are neither part of an existing paper mill complex nor within a larger corporate organization which will consume the majority of the pulp internally. Two mills operated by ITT-Rayonier and Buckeye-Cellulose produce bleached sulfite dissolving pulp for both international consumption and market sales.

Typical Mill Description

The age distribution of the pulp and paper mills in the Southeast is a significant factor that affects equipment purchase. A high percentage of the present operating mills were originally constructed in the mid to late 1950's when the kraft process was modified to process the southern pine species. Since that time new mills have been constructed at an average rate of 3 to 5 per year. At the present time three new mills are nearing completion, and although several corporations are conducting feasibility studies, no announcements of further construction have been confirmed. The most common plant capacity of the older