



2017 Georgia Logger of the Year

Daniel Dunagan

Daniel Dunagan, Inc.

Rome, Georgia

Daniel Dunagan grew up surrounded by the logging industry. As a little boy he loved chainsaws, big trucks, bulldozers and all the big machines that powered a logging operation. It would become his dream to learn each piece of equipment and one day own his own logging company.

Daniel learned the logging trade by working for his father's logging company throughout high school and even while in college. He is a native of Armuchee, Georgia where he graduated from Armuchee High School in 2001 followed by earning a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from Kennesaw State University (KSU) in 2006. Upon graduation he continued to work for his father, Tommy Dunagan, and helped manage the crew.

In October 2009 Daniel took \$10,000 from selling his small herd of cows along with a few loans to purchase used equipment and trucks, and started his own business, Daniel Dunagan Inc. (DDI). He did all of the bookkeeping, payroll, truck tags, timber bids, and office work in the evenings himself, and still worked in the woods all day running a loader, any machine, driving a big truck and buying his own timber. He gradually started buying new equipment and trucks that offered warranty plans to keep out of pocket repair costs down. In 2013 he began expanding into 4 crews and 2 full time office staff which leveled out at 38 employees. Over the last year, Daniel has

strategically repositioned his employees and equipment into two crews to minimize overhead costs and maximize production. He based these transitions on weekly expense reports that analyze each crew's productivity along with stiff quotas and decreased wood prices. He currently has a full-time mechanic, welder, runner, two office staff, 11 truck drivers, and 9 woodsmen. He runs John Deere, Tiger Cat and Prentice machines paired with Mack, Western Star and Peterbilt trucks. He has over 50 trailers that run the spectrum plus four new Pitts trailers with custom air ride suspension that gauge the trailers weight using air pressure to keep loads at legal weight limits. The new trailers also have built-in brake control which will improve driver wear-and-tear on trucks and trailers along with better safety for pulling. Daniel still buys all his own wood and determines where he will be based on what is needed that given day.

Daniel's wife, Maggie Wilson Dunagan, from Forsyth Georgia, also grew up around the logging industry. She runs the office and oversees internal operations. They met at KSU and have been married 10 years. They live in Rome, Georgia with their three children, Georgia (6), Sawyer (4), and Gretchen (2). Daniel is a member of the Rome Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church of Rome and enjoys being with his family, teaching his kids to fish and play ball, and of course being in the woods logging.