Well-known lumber supplier Weaber Inc. has been making a name for itself as a producer of red oak and white oak flooring products.
A leading hardwood lumber manufacturer, Weaber Inc. credits its success to one simple principle, said Jeff Winslow, Director of Operations. “Our mission is to meet and exceed our customer’s requirements of quality and service. Our working principle, and you could say the company mantra, is to gear every step of our operation to the needs of our customer.”

Originally known as Weaber Lumber, the Lebanon County, PA-based firm was founded 70 years ago by Walter H. Weaber. In the early 1970s, son Galen G. Weaber assumed ownership and became president and CEO. Today Matt Weaber represents the third generation at the company’s helm as president and CEO of Weaber Inc., which was purchased by Resilience Capital Partners in 2011.

“Our company has thrived — and excelled — following a history of innovation,” said Winslow. Weaber is located on 100 acres of forestland with six acres under roof, encompassing the various divisions of the company including a sawmill.

“Weaber is one of the largest single-site sawmills east of the Mississippi, producing 850,000 board feet a week with a kiln capacity of drying 2.5 million board feet,” said Winslow.

Utilizing environmentally friendly timber management practices, the company produces and sells finished lumber, primed and painted S4S poplar boards, flooring, moulding and other finished goods. “We are known as the S4S Poplar Kings,” Winslow said. “We are leaders in business and proud of our ongoing heritage and of maintaining ‘Weaber Quality’ in what we produce.”

Weaber services customers locally as well as internationally, providing quick turnaround on orders. “We can do next day delivery and typically offer delivery less than one week from the date of order because we are able to transport orders in less than full truckloads,” said Winslow.

Flooring was added to the company’s portfolio of products in 2005. “We built a high-tech, state-of-the-art flooring plant and today we produce approximately 225,000 square feet of flooring a week,” said Winslow.

Weaber produces primarily red oak and white oak strip and plank flooring. “We use Leitz tooling throughout our plant,” Winslow said. “So when Adam Glogowski, our Leitz representative, suggested we should take a look at the Apex System from Leitz for our Hasko side matcher and end matcher machines, we agreed.”

Leitz’s Apex System is an adjustable solid wood flooring tongue-and-groove insert cutter set. It allows Weaber to adjust the tool on the machine to maintain the tongue-and-groove tolerances as the insert knives begin to dull. This allows for longer run times than the company experienced with its previous tooling.

The Apex System also has helped solve some of the company’s hardwood flooring production issues. “One issue it addressed is that as you run the machine over time, the tongue
Weaber offers five grades of Appalachian red and white oak flooring: rift/quartered, clear grade, select grade, #1 common grade and #2 common grade.
gets bigger and the groove gets smaller. It’s an issue of tightness,” said Winslow. “The Apex System offers uniformity with the tongue-and-groove gap; we can control it to get the exact fit between the tongue and groove we desire,” Winslow added.

The quality of the tongue-and-groove finish is superior with the new tooling, he continued. “We are also able to deliver exactly what each client wants. We have a wide range of markets, such as bevel edge for pre-finished, where the desired tolerance can be 0.0030 of an inch.”

The Apex System also offers a longer life. “In the past the inserts were one time and finished. With the new tooling we can have the inserts sharpened three times, giving us four times more tool life than our previous inserts,” Winslow said. “We are seeing a much larger return for our investment than originally anticipated. We assumed we would have a six to eight month return on our investment, but we calculated our ROI was more like three to four months.”

Winslow said the key to the company’s satisfaction with the tooling is that it produces a higher quality product. “It gives us the flexibility to satisfy the different requirements of flooring clients and continue to produce ‘Weaber Quality.’”

Leitz’s Apex System adjustable tongue-and-groove insert set is used in the Hasko side matcher and end matcher machines for producing flooring. The Apex enables Weaber to adjust the tool on the machine, thereby maintaining the required tolerances.

Weaber Inc. produces approximately 225,000 square feet of flooring a week at the production facility. Leitz tooling is used throughout the facility for the production of flooring and other finished wood products.

For more information on Weaber Inc.’s flooring and lumber products, visit WeaberLumber.com. For additional information on Leitz Tooling including the Apex System, visit LeitzTooling.com.
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