

### Checklist: Reducing Waste and Improving Yields

The yield of useful parts or dimension from lumber is dependent on ten major factors:

- Grade of lumber
- Drying quality
- Cutting bill, including part sizes
- Operator's skill and decision making
- Part quality required
- Rough mill layout
- Kerf
- Edging practices
- Lumber size
- Lumber grading rules

A key to evaluating a cut-up operation is to identify the reason why a particular piece of wood is going into the hog rather than into the pile of acceptable pieces. Some of the key factors are:

- Knot, knot hole
- Cross grain
- Split, end
- Check or honeycomb
- Stain
- Color contrast
- Left over (wrong size)
- Planer skip or thinness
- Fuzzy grain
- Chipped grain
- Wrong moisture content
- Warp--cup, bow, side-bend, twist
- Open glue joint
- Poor vision or lighting
- Others:

Which factors

- ! are natural?
- ! are caused by drying or machining?
- ! can be controlled? (how can they be controlled?)