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## The Most Important Part of Your Saw Operation Doesn't Even Have a Blade by Tom Manenti, 2004 BCMC Committee Chair

*Understanding the principles of material handling can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your plant. Learn more at BCMC 2004!*

What system can you as a component manufacturer put in place to relieve time consuming bottlenecks in your plant? If you answered a "material handling system" then you are correct! This year, one of the BCMC tracks is focusing on material handling and ways to relieve congestion around saws in your manufacturing plants. After all, a plant can only produce as many components as it has prepared and staged materials.

The BCMC Committee has decided to feature material handling as the subject for three 75-minute breakout sessions. The track is titled, "The Most Important Part of Your Saw Operation Doesn't Even Have a Blade."

Over two days, the presenters will examine material handling systems in detail. Their talking points were selected to give you, the component manufacturer, a better understanding of the principles of material handling and how analyzing, planning and managing it can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of production in your plant. Each presenter will provide information and examples from their experience and operations that you can then take home and apply in your own plant.

Tim Rouch of Visalia, California's Gang-Nail Truss Company is presenting the first two sessions "Measuring Productivity from Inventory to Production Tables" and "Maximizing Operations Efficiency." He will lend his thirty-two years of industry expertise to increase everyone's understanding of the key material handling issues.

In the first track, Tim will explore the saws used at Gang-Nail Truss Company— you may use some of these same saws every day, but do not know their full capacity. He will also outline the type of lumber that each saw should be cutting and then address batching materials by angles, quantities or lengths. Tim will continue by demonstrating the realistic benchmarks his plant uses to measure the output for each saw in his operation and how you can apply these principles in your plant. Lastly, he will enlist his own experience in optimizing the balance between production and plant saw capacity.

In the second session, "Maximizing Operations Efficiency," Tim will examine material handling by working through a five-step process. He will show the most efficient and effective way to get

your materials to, through and away from your plant's saws. In an industry like ours, cutting operations are changing daily. There are 14 different choices for single blade linear saws alone. Using them most effectively is much different than using multi-blade saws. Lastly, Tim will review the keys to understanding automated cutting and how to plan for unexpected situations that could arise.

The third and final session in the track, "When it Pays to Automate—Evaluating your ROI," will be presented by 50-year industry veteran and Stark Truss CEO, Abner Yoder, and Stark Truss Vice President of Operations, Don Groom. Because automating your component manufacturing plant can be a big overhaul and a large investment; it is important to be sure that it is the right path for your plant. These gentlemen will look at what you should consider in order to see a profitable return on investment and exhibit a formula that Stark Truss uses to measure payback versus the price of automation. Specifically, Abner and Don will lend their advice on implementing cost, quality and labor improvements in order to reap a healthy return on investment and improve profitability.

As you can see by this track, "The Most Important Part of Your Saw Operation Doesn't Even Have a Blade," the BCMC Committee continues to strive to make your plant more efficient and effective in relation to the trends of the industry. Attend this and other BCMC sessions in order to maximize your BCMC experience and bring back new ideas to rejuvenate your operations.

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