

MudSmith Gauge Wheel Eliminates Plugging Problem

The open design of the MudSmith, replacement gauge wheel keeps planters and air drills going in conditions where the original OEM wheels would plug up due to wet soil or residue. In 2007, South Dakota farmers, Duane Smith, his brother Roger, and his son Jacob, came up with the original design and tested it out for several years before starting to sell them, starting with their neighbors. The demand has been overwhelming at times and they now market them across Canada and the United States for nearly every brand of planter and drill in the field.

“We were under our corn planters and drills hundreds of times, taking the OEM gauge wheels off and cleaning them out, when we needed to be planting,” recalls Duane Smith. “When conditions are bad, you have to do it again and again which wastes time and is very frustrating.”

Smith points out that earlier planting dates and reduced tillage have added to the



MudSmith has reinvented the gauge wheel with an all-new design that cleans itself.

problem. Their wheel, which has evolved from their early edition now comes with even larger spaces between the spokes. This larger spacing has dramatically reduced the problem with plugging and, by opening up the wheel even more, it has also allowed for access and visibility to disc opener hubs and scrapers.

“We’ve been running them on our own equipment for many years,” he says. “We no longer have issues with plugging.

These wheels are a huge improvement over the OEM equipment. We designed them so you can use standard bearings and

tires from your dealer.”

The MudSmith units feature a cast iron hub and a simplified bearing replacement. Smith notes that original equipment gauge wheels require removing the tires, splitting the rim and removing bolts to get to the bearing.

“With the MudSmith wheel, you remove the snap ring and replace the bearing,” says Smith. “We didn’t intend to sell them when we first made them for ourselves, but the response has been terrific.”

Call or order MudSmith Gauge Wheels online: 877-443-2820 or www.themudsmith.com



Reader Inquiry No. 49



Re-Used Vinyl Billboard Signs Make Strong Tarps

Need a strong waterproof vinyl tarp? How about an industrial strength 14 by 48-ft. for only \$50? Billboard Tarps re-uses former vinyl billboard signs and sells them as tarps at deep discount prices. Once a billboard is expired and taken down off the frame, Billboard Tarps has the exclusive national contract to get them. You can buy them one at a time, by the pallet, or in truckload quantities. Customers include farmers, contractors, lumber yards, commercial pond builders, steel mills, government agencies, schools, storage facilities, marinas, winter guard gym floor covers, and many more.

Many of the large billboards that you see driving down the highway are made of an industrial strength material called FlexVinyl. This material is 3-ply with PVC vinyl on the 2 outside layers and a polyester mesh material in the middle. The billboard vinyl comes in weights of 9 and 13 to 16 oz. per square yard. (The typical polyethylene blue tarps weigh 3 to 4 ounces per square yard). The thickness ranges from 11 to 17 mil. These also have a UV protective layer and are anti-mildew. The material is waterproof and is designed to withstand years of hot, cold, wet and dry weather. The middle mesh layer makes it tear and fray resistant. “These are really tough pieces of vinyl that have many applications.”



Customers continually come up with new uses for the heavy-duty tarps.

Billboard Tarps also carries new vinyl tarps constructed with the same heavy-duty vinyl used for billboard signage. They are available in black or white, and have even longer lifespans than the reused material. Available in weights including 9, 13 and 20 oz., this new vinyl material is ideal for applications such as pond lining, hoop buildings, hay tarps, roof covers and more. Through their relationships with vinyl manufacturers across the country, Billboard Tarps is able to provide new vinyl at prices nearly as low as their reused material.

“Due to the high quality of the material, these vinyl tarps originally cost about \$600 to \$3,000 to manufacture, depending on the size. We sell them for only a fraction of that cost. Also, by re-using this material, you can lower your carbon footprint by eliminating additional energy needed for manufacturing

new product. It’s great to find alternative uses for the material instead of throwing them into a landfill.”

Billboard Tarps has many sizes to choose depending on their current inventory. Some popular sizes are: 14 by 48 ft, 28 by 48 ft, 20 by 60 ft. They also make custom sizes over 1,500 sq. ft., so you can get any XL size you need. Some popular sizes are 40 by 60 ft., 50 by 70, 100 by 100, and even 200 by 200 ft. Please call or email with the size you need at info@billboardtarps.com

Or call toll free at 1-877-771-8277 (TARP) Must call ahead for local pickup.

www.BillboardTarps.com

Contact information: Sky Group, Inc. (DBA Billboard Tarps), 2565 Kasota Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 Email: info@billboardtarps.com.

Reader Inquiry No. 50