



“Plug-Proof” MudSmith Gauge Wheels

The open design of MudSmith replacement gauge wheels keeps planters and air drills going in conditions where the original wheels would likely plug up with wet soil. South Dakota farmers Roger Smith, his brother Duane, and nephew Jacob came up with the original design and tested it out for several years before selling some to neighbors. Now they’re marketing them for practically every brand in the field.

“We were under our corn planters and drills hundreds of times taking gauge wheels off and cleaning them out when we needed to be planting,” recalls Roger Smith. “When conditions are bad, you have to do it again and again.”

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



Open spoke design of new replacement gauge wheels keep them free of mud.

problem. Their new design with its open spokes dramatically reduces the problem. It also opens up both access and visibility to

disc opener hubs and scrapers.

“We’ve been running them on our own equipment for 3 1/2 years,” he says. “We were surprised how well they worked. We’ve had no more issues with plugging. They’re a huge improvement over the original equipment. We designed them so you can use standard bearings and tires from your dealer.”

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

“With the MudSmith, you just 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.”

MudSmith gauge wheels are available in 3-spoke/4-in. tire, 3-spoke/2 1/2-in. tire, and 4-spoke/4-in. tire. Prices start at \$125 for the hub and rim assembly. The completely assembled wheel ready to bolt on the planter is priced at \$165. Special through Dec. 31, 2009, 3 percent cash discount.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MudSmith, LLC, P.O. Box 83, Hazel, S. Dak. 57242 (ph 605 520-0617 or 605 881-4214; fax 866 593-6406; www.themudsmith.com).

Reader Inquiry No.79

The sight of deep-fried potato “ribbon” quickly attracts business to stand.



Drill-powered machine turns a potato into one long curly strip.



Ribbon Fries Sell Like Hotcakes

If you’re looking for a part-time or fulltime money-making venture, you might want to consider making curly fries, says Dr. Bill Beyers, Oconee, Ill. Last year he made curly fries at a local church festival using a simple drill-powered device and they were a big hit. He says the unusual treat would do well at any local fair or festival.

One potato will produce a plateful of ribbon or curly fries, all connected to each other. According to the company that makes the curly and ribbon fry machines, an order of fries sells for \$5 in most areas.

The concept of making curly fries is simple enough. The machine works somewhat like a small auger. An electric drill turns the cutter and cuts away a layer at a time from

the potato, producing a plate filled with one long ribbon when it’s done. The ribbon is then immersed in boiling oil.

The company makes two models, both stainless steel which are powered by electric drills.

The Ribbon potato cutter mounts on a custom table powered by a 3/8” VSR electric drill which is included and sells for \$285 plus \$22 S&H (U.S.). The Curly Fry Potato Cutter comes with a cordless drill, an extra battery and charger. It mounts on rocker legs for easy operation. It sells for \$319 plus \$22 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ribbon Fries (ph 605 996-7637; bearsrus@mit.midco.net; www.ribbonfries.biz).

Reader Inquiry No. 80

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