



“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 Duane Smith, his brother Roger, 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 Duane 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 keeps 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 a few 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, 2010, 3 percent cash discount.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MudSmith, LLC, P.O. Box 83, Hazel, S. Dak. 57242 (ph 877-240-1675 or 605 881-4214; fax 866 593-6406; www.the mudsmith.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 102

Two Ways To Get Rid Of Carpenter Bees

Carpenter bees drill holes in wood where they nest and lay their eggs, which can be a real problem in any building with exposed wood. This new carpenter bee trap is designed to help eliminate the problem.

The holes in the Best Carpenter Bee Trap mimic the entrance to a carpenter bee nest, and the bees end up trapped in a plastic soda bottle. No bait or poison is needed.

The trap is designed to be placed on corners and peaks of buildings, preferably on the sunny side of the building where bee activity is the greatest. It consists of a small wooden house with angled sides and a flat top. There’s also one flat side, allowing the trap to be screwed to wood directly over any existing carpenter bee hole.

An empty 20-oz. plastic soda or water bottle is screwed onto the bottom of the trap. Once the bees get inside the trap they want to get out and fly toward the light inside the bottle. To do that they have to go through a little plastic funnel and then down into the bottle. When the bottle gets full of bees you unscrew the bottle, put a cap on it, and replace it with another bottle.

“It’s the most effective carpenter bee trap

on the market,” says inventor Brian Blazer, Heflin, Ala. “The trap has a wire on top so if you want you can hang it from a rafter or the corner of a building.”

In structures already badly infested with bees, Blazer offers a product called carpenter bee butter. “The bee butter will wipe the bees out due to the active ingredient pymethrin, which is contained inside a clear grease. You inject the grease into the bee’s entrance hole. Any bee that goes into or out of the hole will get grease on it and die.

“It turns every carpenter bee entrance hole into a bee trap,” says Blazer. “It works much better than spraying pymethrin onto the wood because it actually gets the pymethrin on the bee and not just on the wood. It also works better than using pymethrin dust, which has only an 18-day residual before it breaks down. The grease protects the pymethrin so it’ll last more than a year.”

One bee trap sells for \$19.95 (\$26 total with S&H included). Bee butter sells for \$12.95 (\$18 with S&H). One trap with bee butter sells for \$38 (S&H included). For an average-size house, Blazer recommends a set of 3 traps and one order of bee butter



Carpenter bees enter through holes in small wooden house and soon head toward a plastic soda bottle below, where they become trapped.

for \$79 (S&H included). Personal checks accepted and you can order online at www.carpenterbeesolutions.com.

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