

CONTACT:

Ottawa County Road Commission
Jeff Johnson
14110 Lakeshore Drive
P.O. Box 739
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 850-7223
jjohnson@ottawacorc.com

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

In 2006 the Ottawa County Road Commission began using 9 ft. wings on their tandem axle plow trucks. The wings proved to be beneficial for more efficient plowing, but Ottawa CRC found the cutting edges did not last very long and they were expensive to replace.

**SOLUTION:**

After trying various manufacturer recommendations, which ranged in cost from \$102 to \$1,400 per blade, Ottawa CRC Operations Superintendent Jeff Johnson devised a solution that used strips of recycled truck tires as cutting edges. To begin, Johnson found a source for tire processing that charged \$7.00 each to process used Ottawa CRC tires. Each tire yielded a strip of rubber nine inches wide and seven feet long. Johnson was especially excited about reusing tires for this purpose because he had been paying \$10.00 each to dispose of used tires. After the tires were cut into strips, Johnson experimented with attaching them to the wing plow. He found that two strips held in place with a worn out steel blade from an underbody scraper provided the best balance between ease of installation in the shop and durability on the road.

LABOR/MATERIALS/COST:

Materials: \$36.00 Labor: \$84.00 Total: \$120 per truck

SAVINGS/BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:

Ottawa CRC pays \$3.00 less per tire to process their used tires into cutting edges for wing plows, and the resulting product performs better and is considerably less expensive than commercially-available products. A cost and performance comparison is as follows:

Reversible steel blade \$102.00 1 season

Nylon blade \$800.00 1/2 season

Repurposed car tires \$1,400.00 1/2 to 3/4 season

Repurposed truck tires \$36.00 1-1/2 to 2 seasons