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Fast Wrap protects outdoor equipment from winter weather

By CHRIS LUSVARDI - H&R Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, October 22, 2010 4:01 am



DECATUR - Although the weather has been relatively warm and dry so far this fall, Terry Himes already has his attention turned toward winter.

Himes is hoping to assist others to prepare for the winter well before snow and ice have taken over the landscape. With the help from his son, Drew, Himes started Fast Wrap Central Illinois in August.

The franchised business is designed to protect various pieces of equipment, no matter the weather or where they're stored.

"We're going out to wherever people want it done," said Himes, who lives in Moweaqua. "Bad weather can be advantageous for us. People want to start getting stuff inside."

Phil Julius of Decatur had a baler he sometimes uses for his business, PJ's Landscaping, that he decided to have Himes wrap for him. Julius said he's short on shed space to store all his equipment during the winter.

"It's wrapped and can sit outside and hopefully be fine through the winter," Julius said. "Then I can put some more of the expensive equipment in my shed. It will keep the rain, snow and everything out of there."

The baler was a little tricky to get the plastic material to fit because of its somewhat odd shape, Himes said as he and Drew put it on.

"It's not just square," Himes said. "We had to think about how to do it."

With some work, the plastic shrunk onto the equipment with some tape to plug any holes that developed.

"We shrink the whole thing tight," Himes said.

Drew Himes said he's been working together with his father his whole life, and the business was a chance to keep going together.

"I like hands-on work," said Drew Himes as he looked over the baler in an attempt to make the best fit. "I like figuring it out."

The plastic comes in various colors, including clear, royal blue, forest green and white. Julius' baler was wrapped in green, which happened to match the trim on his shed.

"We try to choose the color depending on where it's going and sitting," Terry Himes said. "With the dark color, it should melt snow off better."

Once the plastic is no longer needed, Fast Wrap offers the service to take it off, which sometimes needs to include using a special knife to protect against scratches, Himes said. The company then will take the material to be recycled.

Julius was impressed with how the process went, saying it beats what he's done in the past. He'd consider having more equipment wrapped if necessary.

"I hate storing any equipment outside," Julius said. "But it seems pretty quick. The baler is not an easy piece to wrap."

Other projects the company is working on include wrapping a grain dryer and house boat. They're open to a variety of applications, including marine, residential, automotive, recreational vehicles, agricultural, industrial, construction, disaster mitigation and shipping/freight.

The process is not something that's just done for the winter, either. Boats, for example, can be protected against dust and buildings can be wrapped while being constructed.

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