



In less than a decade, Matt Oxender has turned one man's dream into an international juggernaut.

Oxender, a former employee of a company supplying the recreational vehicle industry, is the president and founder of Mudd-Ox Inc. of Shipshewana, which today is the largest producer of six- and eight-wheel amphibious all-terrain vehicles in the U.S.

The company's chief products after its start in 2005 were customized eight-wheel ATVs. With the 2013 acquisition of New York-based Recreatives Industries and that company's line of six-wheelers, Mudd-Ox significantly broadened its product portfolio.



President and Founder Matt Oxender

Mudd-Ox has gone through several facility expansions over the years and is on the cusp of growing its plant in far north-western LaGrange County to 24,000 square feet in a tax-abated, \$1.1-million project that will increase the number of employees to 16. The company has other offices in Buffalo, N.Y. and Europe, and a

distribution network that includes Australia, Canada, Germany, Russia, South America, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

"With our new facility and expansion and with the purchase of Recreatives," Oxender said, "we've got a good, bright future. We're going to keep building up our production lines and our dealer and distribution network."

LaGrange County, he said, has been an ideal place to grow the business.



Matt Oxender demonstrates the amphibious capability of the ATVs.

### Deciding LaGrange County Factors:

- LaGrange County Economic Development Corp. assistance
- Easy access to toll road
- Proximity to suppliers

"The (local) EDC has worked very hard for us and helped us out," he said. "And it's a very friendly business community. A lot of small businesses and suppliers are here, so that helps us develop our product. And we're centrally located. We're right off the roll road."

The proximity of suppliers led to one notable partnership. Hoosier Racing Tire Corp. of Lakeville, IN developed a special tire for Mudd-Ox's vehicles – the Mudd-Ox Vendetta.

Oxender said he expects the company's revenues to increase 10-fold or more in the

next decade as people and businesses discover the unique capabilities of Oxender's ATVs for recreational and business use. Among the users are hunters, fisherman, fire and rescue personnel, utility companies, oil producers and land management agencies.

"We're flexible," he said, "we'll listen to our customers and we'll customize."

"...it's a very friendly business community."

### The Company File

Mudd-Ox, Inc.

Year Founded: 2005

Headquarters: Shipshewana

Facility Sizes: 24,000 square feet

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