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THE ANVIL



VOLUME 5 : ISSUE 1

Variable Rate Tillage: A Flexible Option for Farmers

For years we've known that soil types and conditions can change drastically, not only from one field to the next, but also within just one field. And as technology and farming practices advance, we're learning to manage these variations by adjusting our seeding rates, hybrids, fertilizer rates and other inputs accordingly. Consequently, **one of the latest innovations in tillage is variable rate tillage tools**, such as the Summers VRT Renegade™, that provide farmers with the flexibility to adjust tillage aggressiveness on the go according to changing field conditions.



Story continues on inside.



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HAMMERING OUT NEWS, EVENTS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM SUMMERS MANUFACTURING

Variable Rate Tillage: A Flexible Option For Farmers

Why Land Rollers Are A Good Investment To Consider In 2019

Let Summers Help You Get Ready For Spring

Meet The 2018 Rolling Baskets Winner



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And The Winner Is...

Craig Headley from Middlekoop Farms in Packwood, Iowa, is the winner of our 2018 Rolling Baskets giveaway. The Summers team visited him this winter to install our Rolling Baskets with patented internal mud scrapers onto his John Deere 512 7-shank disc ripper.



WHY LAND ROLLERS ARE A GOOD INVESTMENT TO CONSIDER FOR 2019

Land roller use has grown in recent years, and the trend doesn't show any signs of slowing down. If you're thinking about buying a land roller, here are some good reasons why you should consider doing it in 2019.

Rut Management

There are a lot of ruts remaining in fields from last fall, and land rollers are one way to help manage some of them without doing intensive tillage. Land rollers can help smooth fields, level the soil profile and leave a consistent seedbed for spring planting.

Protecting the Investment in Your Combine

When margins are tight, the last thing you need is a repair bill. And one of the most feared farm equipment repairs is combine damage from taking in rocks or unnecessarily running a lot of dirt through the combine with your crop. Rolling soybeans and other low-to-the-ground crops after planting can push those rocks into the ground, while also breaking up root balls and dirt clumps, for safe, efficient harvesting without fear of equipment damage or unnecessary internal wear.



Story continues on inside.

Let Summers Help You Get Ready for Spring

Fieldwork will be extra challenging for many farmers this spring, due to the challenging conditions last fall. After a late, wet harvest, we're left with a lot of ruts, unmanaged residue and saturated soil conditions to start the 2019 growing season. As a result, we've been talking with producers about a few different solutions that can help:

VRT Renegade™: No matter what type of field conditions you're dealing with, our new VRT Renegade can produce the exact tillage outcomes you want. It can move a lot of soil when you need it to, but then adjust on the go to become less aggressive tillage when you want. Plus, it can operate at high speeds to cover a lot of ground in short windows of time, while leaving an ideal seedbed for spring planting.

Supercoultter: Our Supercoultter true vertical tillage tool equipped with mounted harrows and rolling baskets is still a tried and true practice for getting in the field early, opening the soil to dry and warm up, and creating an ideal seedbed.

Land Rollers: In no till or minimum tillage operations, land rollers can help level fields and fracture tough residue for faster breakdown.

3RT: The 3RT is another great option for no tillers and minimum tillers. It allows you to fill in ruts without disturbing the rest of the soil.

Rolling Baskets: With our wet spring conditions, you may want to take a close look at our rolling baskets with patented internal mud scrapers. They run clean in even the wettest conditions, so you can spend more time doing spring tillage instead of unplugging baskets.

To learn more about these products or other solutions that can help ensure a great start to your growing season, we encourage you to visit your local Summers dealer. They can help find the best fit for your unique operation.

You have our word on it!



VRT RENEGADE
VARIABLE RATE TILLAGE

"If farmers have the option to buy tillage equipment that does variable rate, I think it's good, and it's something that I can see having a fast payback."

Continued from cover story.

The 2018 growing season is an excellent example for many producers of how flexible tillage technologies can fit into farming operations. Consider how one field may benefit from multiple types of tillage because of challenging weather conditions experienced throughout the season. One spot may have only light residue that requires little tillage, due to flooding earlier in the season. Other spots may have ruts from the sprayer or harvest equipment that require filling. Some areas may have been too wet to plant at all, and became overgrown with weeds. But most of the field produced exceptionally well and left heavy residue that needs to be sized and mixed for quick decomposition. Of course, the goal in all of these management zones is to leave a smooth, consistent seedbed for spring planting in 2019.



A variable rate tillage tool like the VRT Renegade allows operators to independently adjust the front and rear blade angles, as well as the hydraulic hitch, tillage depth, gauge wheels, wing down pressure and rolling basket down pressure on the fly using an iPad. The combination of all these adjustments allows operators to achieve the exact desired tillage outcome in all field conditions, from light vertical tillage to heavy conventional tillage and anywhere in between.

Continued from cover story.

WHY LAND ROLLERS ARE A GOOD INVESTMENT TO CONSIDER FOR 2019.

Increasing Yields

Not only can land rollers save money on combine repair bills and reduced downtime, but they can also make you money by increasing your soybean yields. In fact, extensive university field studies have shown a consistent yield increase of about three bushels per acre by rolling soybeans in the V1 to V2 growth stages.



Custom Farming Potential

Looking for new revenue sources for the farm? You can pay for your equipment sooner and increase your operation's bottom line by rolling for neighboring farmers. According to the 2018 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey from Iowa State University Extension, the average charge for custom land rolling is \$7.50 per acre.

10-Year Warranty

You can rest assured that you've made a sound investment in a Summers land roller that is protected by an unprecedented 10-year warranty.



John Nowatzki, agricultural machines specialist at North Dakota State University Extension, sees several potential advantages of variable rate tillage tools. "I see it particularly appropriate for residue management when there's less residue on higher elevations and more residue in lower areas," he said.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of minimizing over-tilling is erosion control. "Farmers now generally till the whole field the same way," said Nowatzki. "But if they can go to less intensive tillage, especially on hills and areas where there is less residue to protect the soil, they may help reduce erosion issues, and it ought to be more fuel efficient, too."



John Nowatzki
NDSU Extension

Along with fuel efficiency, the flexibility of variable rate tillage tools allows operation at high speeds as well. In recent years, many farmers have gravitated from vertical tillage to more aggressive high-speed disks due to challenges with heavy residue and the need to cover a lot of acres quickly. However, variable rate tillage tools may now offer farmers benefits of both vertical tillage and aggressive high-speed disks in one implement.

Another potential advantage of the variable rate tillage trend is the ease of use. "Farmers often tell me that one of their biggest management issues is finding people to operate equipment, specifically when we get into precision technologies, because older farmers are often not comfortable using computers," said Nowatzki. "I think the ability to do variable rate is great when the technology is easy to use. And I'm interested to see how manufacturers may be able to further automate this technology in the future based on field maps or sensing residue in the field."

In the end, Nowatzki sees variable rate tillage as a natural fit in what farmers are doing with precision ag today. "If farmers have the option to buy tillage equipment that does variable rate, I think it's good, and it's something that I can see having a fast payback."

For more information about the VRT Renegade™, visit summersmfg.com/tillage/vrt-renegade

