

THE ANVIL



HAMMERING OUT NEWS, EVENTS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM SUMMERS MANUFACTURING

Maintenance Tips: Keeping Attachments in Tune

Fall Tillage to Fit Your Farm

No Pressure with Down Pressure

The Summers Guide to Attachment Selection



Win Rolling Baskets at Farm Progress

Trade shows are always a great place to learn about what new agricultural equipment would make a welcomed addition to your farm. The Farm Progress Show on Sept. 1-3 in Decatur, Ill., is no different, except this year one lucky visitor who stops by Summers Manufacturing (Booth 1268) will win a set of our Rolling Baskets.

With patent-pending internal mud scrapers, these versatile attachments are a great way to customize equipment for better residue management and field finish. The winner also will get help with delivery and installation of the Rolling Baskets from a Summers representative.



For more information, visit
www.WinRollingBaskets.com.

One of the best parts of my job is seeing you, the customer, and it so happens that the next few months are filled with opportunities to do just that.

The agriculture trade-show season is in full swing, and the Summers crew has been busy racking up mileage to spread the word about all our offerings — including brand new equipment. It's a major undertaking to get our chisels, sprayers and land rollers to events such as the **Michigan Ag Expo** and **Farmfest** in Redwood Falls, MN. But it's always worth it, especially when it means interacting with farmers.

After all, it's farmers that really make our "Field Tested Tough" motto stick. We look to them when developing new products, and take to heart their critiques and insights. It's why we so steadfastly stand behind the products that bear the Summers name, and have for the past 50 years.

Speaking of which, this year marks a half-century for Summers Manufacturing. We've been celebrating with open houses at our three main facilities. The first open house at our Aberdeen, S.D. location was a big hit, and the follow-up in Devils Lake, N.D. was even better. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, including state officials, and all the Summers staff who made it possible.

If you're in the area, I invite you to come to our final 50th Anniversary Open House Oct. 15 in Maddock, N.D. We'll save a brat and burger for you.

**You have
our word on it.**

**BRIAN
PERKUHN**
Vice President
of Sales



Fall Tillage



John Nowatzki,
— NDSU Fargo, ND

After harvest, there's more than one way to prepare the seedbed for spring

Just like the proverbial skinning of a cat process, there are many ways to tackle tillage in the fall. Because the moisture levels, weather, crops and soils experienced in one corner of the country can differ vastly from another, there also isn't a singular right or wrong methodology. No-till, minimum till and conventional tillage all have a time and place; but the idea remains the same no matter how fall tillage is accomplished.

"The primary objective is to get the seedbed ready for spring," said John Nowatzki, Agricultural Machine Systems Specialist at North Dakota State

University in Fargo, N.D. "A seedbed that warms as soon as possible in the spring, and in many cases dries out, means a farmer can plant earlier. And most of our crop research shows that early planting is better in terms of yield."

A Head Start on Spring

More farmers, particularly those in the upper Midwest, are considering some form of fall tillage for the simple fact that springs have been wetter, forcing them to push back planting. By tilling after harvest, farmers can assist residue decomposition, manage soil moisture, aerate the soil and be a step ahead when spring arrives — wet or not.

No Pressure with Down Pressure

Among the VRT2530's many innovations is hydraulic wing pressure in lieu of weights. This feature automatically adjusts to ensure consistent cutting depth across the implement as field conditions change. For even greater efficiency, farmers can make down pressure adjustments for the wings and optional rolling baskets from a single convenient location.



to Fit Your Farm

Farms also are getting larger, Nowatzki noted, while the number of laborers has stayed the same or even decreased.

"Farmers want to get over that land fast and cover as many acres as they can in a shorter period of time," he said.

While residue will decompose eventually, sizing it in the fall can increase soil contact and speed the process. This has become more important with crops such as corn, which increase the amount of residue left on the field. Modern combine headers also pose an issue. As they've grown in size, the resulting residue trail is much narrower than the width of the header. This is particularly noticeable with small grains, and the uneven residue distribution can cause problems.

"They're not getting seed-to-soil contact," Nowatzki said. "When they lose that, they lose the moisture needed to start the germination process."

Options Galore

The good thing is that farmers today have many fall tillage tools at their disposal. Summers has an array of options that enable farmers to get the job done for their unique soil management practices.

"You know your field and residue, we're just here to provide choices," said Brian Perkuhn, Summers Vice President of Sales. "We understand there is a lot to think about: What crop is coming off, what is coming on, rocks, weeds, soil, moisture. All those things make fall tillage choices very personal to your situation."

When dealing with uneven residue distribution, using variable-rate-tillage equipment allows the farmer to adjust as needed.

"In areas where there is more residue, you can get more aggressive or go deeper, which is far more efficient," Nowatzki said.

The Summers VRT2530 was designed specifically for such situations. Farmers can start with rather moderate aggressiveness before dialing up the pressure when reaching areas with more crop residue.

When soil erosion is an issue, the no-till farmer has several options. They can spray for burn down, or use a Summers hydraulic fold SuperRoller or rolling chopper for knocking down heavy residue, such as corn stoves and sunflowers.

For minimum till, the Superharrow Plus offers light tillage, which shines in small grains and any soil type. The Supercoultter has the same light touch, but sizes residue as well as incorporates it in more difficult residue conditions. Adding some attachments, such as harrows or rolling choppers, will assist in residue sizing and optimize field finish.

The Diamond Disk offers residue cutting and mixing in high residue and moisture conditions. For the toughest soil and residue situations as well as breaking compaction, the CoulterChisel and DiskChisel will stay at a given depth to achieve unequaled consistency.

Deciding what tillage equipment is right for your farm can give you a head start on spring planting and germination, and it will ultimately boost yields.



If you still have questions about fall tillage, reach out to your local Summers dealer, or visit summersmfg.com/solution-application/fall-tillage.



The Summers Guide to **Attachment Selection**

Mounted attachments are an excellent way to customize your tillage equipment. Installing a line of harrows, rolling baskets or rolling choppers can enhance field finish and seedbed prep.

But which mounted attachment to choose? There are many factors that should go into this, therefore, let's break it down so you can make an educated decision on your next mounted attachment purchase.

Harrows



Harrows distribute residue and level soil. Summers mounted harrow models – available in 3- and 4-bar configurations – differ by tine diameter and length. In general, larger diameter and longer length result in more trash clearance and aggressiveness, whereas a smaller diameter and shorter length is less aggressive but leaves a better field finish.

For seedbed preparation and a better field finish, go with less-aggressive models like the MH1094 or MH1104 mounted harrow. Use a model MH1106 or MH108 after a primary tillage ripper for more aggressive tine action and surface leveling. Then there is the model MH1105, which hits a sweet spot between aggressiveness, field finish and leveling. Don't forget to pick the right width for the implement, as a harrow that is too wide can cause transportation issues.

For breaking clods and leveling, choose mounted rolling baskets. They are ideal for seedbed prep, as the basket knocks down the peaks and valleys left behind from a field cultivator or finisher. And thanks to the patent-pending internal mud scraper, the Summers mounted rolling basket can work in wet conditions that would clog other baskets.

Some farmers choose to run the rolling baskets behind mounted harrows. The harrow/basket one-two punch offers ideal seedbed prep and residue management in the toughest conditions. However, adding more attachments also increases weight, so be sure to have the right caliber machine to handle the load. Visit summersmfg.com to learn more.

Rolling Baskets



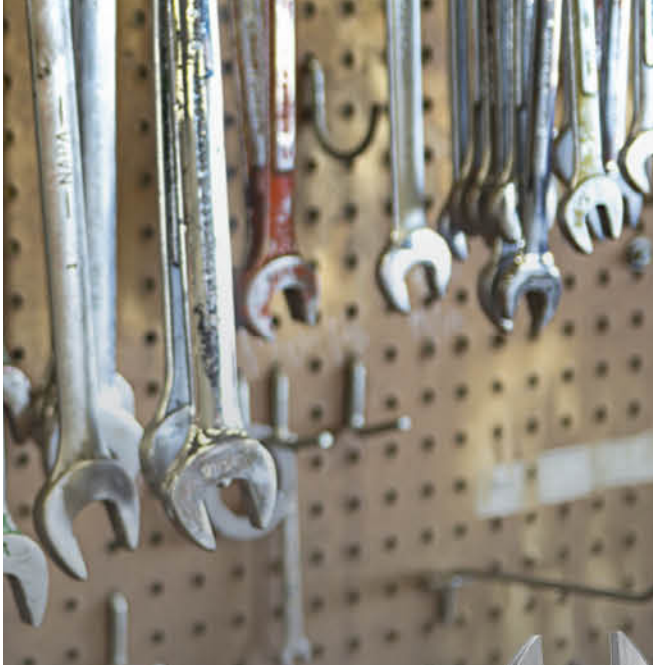
When it comes to primary tillage, breaking sod or grass, and extremely heavy residue management situations, a mounted rolling chopper excels. The finish is too rough for a seedbed since choppers size and fracture material, but they set up the field for the next phase.

Whether using a blade- or shank-style implement, what isn't cut during tillage comes out in line with the direction of travel. Because the chopper runs perpendicular, it either cuts or crimps residue, which increases residue-to-soil contact and greatly accelerates decomposition. This gives next year's crop a big boost. In hilly conditions or areas where soil conservation is practiced, choppers also help with wind and water erosion.

Rolling Choppers



Still have questions about mounted attachments? Feel free to reach out to the knowledgeable experts at your local Summers dealer, or use our online dealer finder to locate the Summers specialist in your neck of the woods: summersmfg.com/dealer-locator.







Maintenance Tips

QA With a Summers Product Tester




Keeping Attachments in Tune

No matter the Summers mounted attachment, success hinges on how it is tuned. Although a relatively simple process, doing it correctly will mean your mounted harrow, rolling basket or rolling chopper is working effectively and efficiently, and lasts for many seasons to come.

Mounted Harrows

-  Attach head to frame.
-  Adjust height of the section with the spring pressure rod to match tillage depth.
-  Level section in the field so the tines are working equally.
-  Finally, adjust tine angle – more aggressive or less aggressive – to get the desired field finish.

Mounted Rolling Basket and Rolling Choppers

-  Attach the basket to the frame.
-  Adjust height to match tillage depth.
-  Periodically grease the two bearings per section to help ensure longer service life and minimal downtime.

At Summers, our best ideas come from the field. Not only do the farmers/engineers on staff develop and test new products on their own farms, but many of our customers also help refine prototypes by putting them to use in their fields. Roy Aldrich, a farmer from Webster, S.D., and one of the product testers for the VRT2530 variable rate tillage tool, recently gave us a few minutes of his time to share his thoughts on the new product and what it's like to partner with Summers.

How have your tillage practices changed over the years?

We used to just use field cultivators in the spring. But with today's higher residue, that doesn't work anymore. It just plugs.

What are the biggest challenges on your farm today when it comes to residue management?

Dealing with corn stalks is our biggest challenge. It's not easy finding a tillage tool that can size residue, bury residue and let the residue flow through the machine. The VRT2530 seems to do all three.

The design and angle of the blades on the VRT2530 allow you to size, and they provide the dirt movement to bury the residue and control weeds. Competitors do not have enough dirt movement to do that. Some other machines allow fast flow and do a good job of sizing, but they don't do a good job of moving and leveling dirt.

Overall, what are your thoughts on the VRT2530?

I believe it's a tool that will meet the requirements of a lot of farmers with high residue. It's an efficient, long-life machine that functions the way it's intended.



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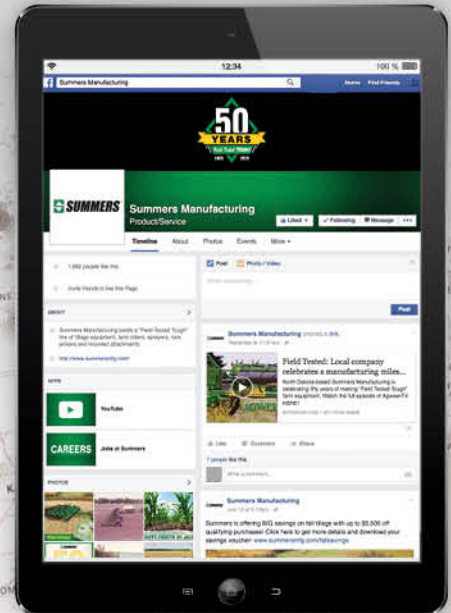


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