SUMMERS

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SUMMERS

THE ANVIL

VOLUME 4 : ISSUE 1

HAMMERING OUT NEWS, EVENTS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM SUMMERS MANUFACTURING

WE SAW OUR 3. AND RAISED IT TO 10.

For the 2018 model year, we took our industry-leading 3-year warranty on land rollers and raised it to an unprecedented 10-year limited warranty*. We did this because we don't think you should roll the dice with inferior land rollers. Instead, we invite you to invest in a quality land roller with Summers. In return, we'll help cover the costs of repairs needed over the next 10 years. (But chances are, you won't need it!)

Visit summersmfg.com/10YearWarranty to learn more.

*See website for terms and conditions.

ALL 2018 MODEL LAND ROLLERS 10 YEAR WARRANTY

ALL 2018 MODEL LAND ROLLERS 10 YEAR WARRANTY

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Timing Your Spring Tillage

It's that time of year when many producers think about spring tillage. Where you live will largely have an impact on the type of tillage you do. Those in warmer climates may simply be leveling the seedbed for planting or controlling weeds. In northern climates, on the other hand, farmers often have colder soils and undecomposed residue to deal with. No matter your situation, here are some tips for ensuring conditions are ready for spring tillage operations.

Story continues on inside.

ALL 2018 MODEL LAND ROLLERS 10 YEAR WARRANTY

How Will You Roll?

Whether you've been using land rollers for years or want to try them out for the first time this spring, we'd like to invite you to roll with Summers and our new 10-year limited warranty. That's right…10-year warranty coverage on all 2018 model land roller purchases. Here are a just few ways you can use them to boost yield:

Rock Management

Traditionally, land rollers have been used soon after soybean planting to push rocks down into the soil surface. This prevents them from getting picked up by the combine at harvest, potentially saving thousands of dollars in wear-and-tear, repair costs, and downtime. Because of the concerns of rock damage, some custom harvesters won't even touch a soybean field that hasn't been rolled. Additionally, land rolling at this time helps increase seed-to-soil contact for better emergence. In fact, our side-by-side tests have shown a consistent yield boost of one or two bushels per acre.

Rolling Without Rocks

Recently, we've seen more producers use land rollers even when they don't have rocks in their fields. That's because it still creates a smoother soil profile, which benefits harvesting. It reduces the amount of dirt and other trash being fed into the combine for a cleaner harvest. It also allows combine operators to run their headers closer to the ground, helping to collect more low-hanging pods and short plants.

Post Emergence Rolling

Another one of the latest trends is to roll soybeans after they have emerged. Multi-year studies by Farm Journal Test Plots show that the V1 to V2 is the sweet spot for this. Rolling soybeans during these growth stages promotes increased branching and shortens internodes, resulting in more pods per plant with an average yield increase of three bushels per acre. The research recommends finishing rolling before the V3 growth stage, when plants are more likely to break below the cotyledons.

Go to summersmfg.com/10YearWarranty to learn about our new warranty. Then, visit your local Summers dealer or give us a call, and we can help you get set up for land roller success.

You have our word on it!

BRIAN PERKUHN
Vice President of Sales

Continued from cover story.

New!

For more information on vertical tillage, rolling baskets and other tillage topics visit: summersmfg.com

Wait for the Right Conditions, If Possible

Many farmers get overly anxious to start working their fields as soon as the weather turns warmer. Sometimes, however, they may be better off waiting a couple days, if possible, for field conditions to improve. This is especially true if the soil is too wet. Driving on wet ground could lead to excessive compaction, and traditional tillage tools may cause soil smearing. These effects could inhibit root growth and lead to lower yields, even before you've planted the crop.

How wet is too wet for tillage? Extension engineers at University of Nebraska-Lincoln have recommended taking a handful of soil from tillage depth and pressing it in your hands to make a mud ball. If wet soil sticks to your hand, conditions are not ideal. UNL Extension then advises to drop the mud ball to the ground from waist high. If the mud ball doesn't break apart when it hits the surface, producers may want to wait for drier conditions.

Agronomists at Purdue Extension have offered another method. They recommend making sure that the soil will break apart at 1 inch below the depth of tillage. Producers can also take a clump of soil from the depth of tillage and roll it between their hands. If the soil forms a "worm" that is 5 inches long with a diameter of three-eighths of an inch or less, then producers may want to consider letting the field dry out before doing tillage.

Additionally, Purdue Extension proposes that producers wait to do spring tillage until a field is within 24 hours of the intended planting time. While this advice may not be feasible for all farmers, the agronomists state that this practice may help reduce the risk of erosion, gullies and soil crusting.

Of course, soil types vary greatly from one region to another, so recommendations that work well for one farmer may not work as well for another. Because of this, it's important to stay up-to-date on the latest information from your local extension and also take into account results from past experiences.

Tillage in Wet Soil

For some producers, especially those in the northern corn belt and Canada, waiting is easier said than done, as there may be a very small window of opportunity for spring tillage. And if they simply wait for the ground to dry naturally, they may never get the crop in. In these instances, tillage is often necessary for warming up the seedbed and drying the upper soil profile to create better planting conditions. If you fall into this category, don't worry. You can use true vertical tillage tools to operate efficiently on wet ground while minimizing negative effects on the soil.

Here's how it works:

On true vertical tillage tools, the coulter blades are mounted at a zero-degree angle. (We say "true vertical tillage" because some products that are marketed as vertical tillage actually have angled coulters or concave disks.) Because of their design, true vertical tillage tools don't move soil horizontally and, therefore, don't cause the soil smearing and hardpan that are often created by more traditional tillage tools. As a result, this type of equipment is ideal for wet conditions.

When running a true vertical tillage tool, the blades slice through surface residue and score the soil surface, exposing it to the sun and air. This dries the soil out much faster to help farmers plant their fields sooner. Warming the soil this way also promotes quicker crop emergence, which is key in colder climates.

For operation on wet ground, University of Minnesota Extension recommends keeping tillage shallow. Their experts have suggested running vertical tillage equipment no more than 3 inches deep to minimize inversion of the soil. They also propose using the lightest tractor possible to get the job done in order to help prevent compaction. Thankfully, the design of vertical tillage tools allows them to be pulled easily, requiring less horsepower than conventional disks.

Another factor to consider is that lifting wet soil can create clods. Rolling baskets generally do a great job at breaking up these clods, but conventional baskets have a tendency to fill up with mud, and unplugging them is a very time-consuming process. Because of this, producers may want to consider using rolling baskets with internal mud scrapers to help deal with wet conditions without ever plugging up with mud.

Sources: *University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension — "Wait for Better Conditions Before Heading Out on Wet Soils." | Purdue Extension — "Purdue Agronomist: Don't Fall for the Three Tillage Temptations" | University of Minnesota Extension — "Fall Tillage Management in Wet Soil Conditions"*

We Have a Winner!

Congratulations to **Martin McCevers of Sorento, Illinois** — the winner of our Rolling Baskets giveaway at the 2017 Farm Progress Show! We'll be installing our patented Rolling Baskets with internal mud scrapers onto his Case IH RMX340 disk harrow this spring. Stay tuned for pictures and more details in our next newsletter.