

Crop Roller Mounts On Cultivator

Rollers have become popular in recent years as a way to eliminate problems with root-balls, rocks and corn stalks during soybean harvest. They don't come cheap, though, costing up to \$40,000 for a 45-ft. model. A Minnesota company says you can save money by turning your existing row crop cultivator into a roller.

Tebben Enterprises displayed its new Culti-Roller units at the recent Farm Fest show near Redwood Falls, Minn. Each roller is 16 in. in dia. and made from 1/4-in. thick steel. A clamp-on toolbar mounting bracket mounts on front.

The idea is to remove the back shanks from the cultivator, and bolt the Culti-Roller units in their place. The crop slides through between the rollers, which are equipped with metal shields on both sides.

The company offers 2 different Culti-Roll-



Culti-Rollers were field tested last spring on this 18-row Deere cultivator. Rollers can be filled with water or sand to add weight.

er models. A 14-in. wide model is designed for 22-in. rows and uses 10-in. rollers on end rows; the other is a 22-in. wide model that's designed for 30-in. rows and uses 18-in. rollers on end rows. The 14-in. wide model sells for \$591 per unit; the 22-in. wide model for

\$661 per unit.

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Reader Inquiry No. 01

He Loves His ATV Sound System

Whether he's at work or play, Norm Belanger's "sound system on wheels" brings him a lot of enjoyment.

The Pickardville, Alta. man loves music and he loves using his ATV, so it just made sense to equip it with a sound system he can drive around with.

The sound system was designed and built by his friend, Norm McGregor, of Stony Plain, Alta.

The system is made from simple materials including 6-in. sewer pipe, a small 240-watt amplifier, and 2 waterproof marine speakers. It's strapped with bungee cords to the ATV's front carrier rack and is entirely waterproof,

thanks to glue and silicone sealant in the joints. Belanger simply plugs his iPod into the front of the speaker system and then stores it in a waterproof compartment in his Suzuki Kingquad 4x4 750 Axi.

"To build the speaker system, I used a 2-ft. section of 6-in. dia. sewer pipe with a matching elbow on each end," McGregor explains. "I put the amplifier inside the straight section. The speakers fit perfectly in the open elbow ends. The materials cost me about \$250 and it required about 10 hours of assembly."

McGregor has built several of the units for sale so far.



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Self-Propelled Rock Picker Sweeps Fields Clean

A self-propelled rock picker developed by a central Minnesota farmer can sweep a field clean of 2 to 15-in. rocks, faster than any rock picker we've seen. Inventor Mel Aho's brother Merf now uses the machine to do custom rock picking for as little as \$100 per acre, depending on field conditions. The partners plan to begin marketing the machines, but prices have not yet been determined.

Mel Aho began working on the picker after being frustrated with conventional rock pickers in a particularly rocky field. He and a Washington state farmer/friend, Perry Gilmour, began collaborating on a new-style picker.

In field tests, the unit has removed 1,500 cu. yds. of rock from 55 acres in 65 machine hours. It can make a single pass over 30 to 35 acres in a 10 to 12-hour day and produce 25

to 30, 8-cu. yd. loads of rock a day.

The RP1000 is a combination of off-the-shelf and fabricated components. The base power unit is the New Idea 803C power unit with a Cummins engine. Major elements of the picker include gathering arms, conveyers and a hydraulic side-dump cart.

The outriggers unfold from transit position alongside the cab in a V-shaped angle. Steel ribbed rollers supported on a wheeled frame churn the soil surface to a depth of 6 in. Rocks roll toward the center where they are gathered onto a conveyer. It moves them up and into a rolling basket that filters dirt



back to the field. Rocks larger than 2 in. roll to the rear and onto a second conveyer that deposits them in a trailing side-dump cart.

Aho explains that being able to unload to a dump truck for transport to field edges allows him to keep moving in the field.

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