

# Stop Marker Furrowing In No-Till Beans

By Chad Smith, Contributing Editor

Jerry Kroll is a 100-percent no-till farmer in Michigan who was having trouble with his row marker making a furrow in his soybean fields. He came up with a unique solution to the problem.

“The standard marker, which is basically a disc, would make a furrow while doing no-till in light sand,” Kroll says. “That would build up on the cutter bar on the floating cutter head of my combine during soybean harvest.”

It wouldn't get into the combine, but Kroll says the sand would sit on the knife so it wouldn't feed the beans into the machine. He had to stop regularly and clean off the sand.

The thing about no-till is he needs to see the mark left behind. If he was aggressive enough so he could see the mark, that would leave a furrow. If he wasn't aggressive enough crossing the field, he couldn't see the mark.

“I had some row cleaners I'd taken off the planter, and I wondered what might happen if I put them on the marker arm of my current planter,” he says. “A row cleaner will clean the debris but won't dig in the dirt.”

Kroll put the row cleaners onto his planter and loved the result. He doesn't have to adjust anything, whether he's planting in the lighter or heavier ground.

“I took the existing arm off and made a bracket with some angle iron I had on the farm,” Kroll says. “It bolts on with the same two bolts that the standard stock OEM marker bolts to.”

Kroll says that made it easier if he needed to go back over his tilled ground because it would only take a minute to put the OEM marker back onto the planter.



**Kroll put row cleaners onto his planter marker arm to mark his no-till fields to stop furrowing.**

“Since I've done this, I've never put it back on my planter,” he says. “I've even made and sold a few sets to neighbors who thought this would work well for them too.”

Kroll says he usually had to climb down every couple of rounds to clean off the dirt, so his idea does save time during harvest.

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# Farmall A Modified For Yardwork

Richard Theroux Jr. made several modifications to his Farmall A and turned it into a multi-purpose workhorse for use around his home acreage. Theroux says the tractor was originally designed for light-duty tillage, but now he uses it to shag logs in the woods, run a sawmill, pull trailers, grade his driveway, and plow snow.

“Sitting on the original seat was like sitting in a wok, so I took that one off and with a few modifications to the frame, replaced it with a comfortable seat from a riding lawn mower,” Theroux says. He moved the battery box from under the original tractor seat to the front of the tractor and built a plywood box frame in its place to store tools and other items.

Next, he cut apart the U-shaped drawbar and built a reinforced mounting system in the center to hold an electric winch. The beefed-up drawbar has tow hooks on each side and a sturdy triple-ball hitch in the middle. Metal shelving attached to the right fender holds mixed gas, bar oil, his chain saw, and tow chains. Flat storage next to the operator's seat holds other tools.

Theroux built an undercarriage for the tractor to carry a grader blade and V-plow. He uses the electric winch and a cable system to raise, lower, and move the blades forward and back. Theroux made the concave v-blade by cutting apart a discarded electric water heater, welding brackets to the back, and mounting it to the undercarriage. He says the metal inner shell of the water heater tank was very strong and thick enough to weld without any bleed-through.

Theroux's restored A is completely repainted, has new decals and tires, and now looks like a “factory build” that carries tools he uses to work around his yard.

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**Richard Theroux Jr. built attachments for his Farmall A so it could plow snow, grade the drive, shag logs and carry work tools.**



# His “New” Barn Uses Recycled Materials

Paul Miller of Gardner, Mont., had to rebuild his barn on higher ground in 2020 when the Yellowstone River flooded his old barn.

Miller is 78, struggles with Parkinson's, and has a limited budget. So, he got creative.

He wanted to build a 16 by 20-ft. building, so started collecting what he needed. Miller found 30 free pallets, four used 8-ft. steel posts, 30 used 8-ft. 2 by 4's, a couple of billboard tarps, and eight metal 2 by 4's, and got to work.

At the new location corner, Miller put the 8-ft. post into the ground and drilled two holes into it to screw it to an upright 8-ft. 2 by 4. Then, Miller used the 3:4:5-triangle method to make a square corner.

“I put metal 2 by 4's on the ground in a line along where the walls would be,” Miller says. “Then, I stacked and screwed the pallets together along the wall line and put an upright 2 by 4 screwed into every other pallet.”

The north wall is 8 ft. high by 20 ft. long. The south wall is 4 ft. high by 20 ft. long. The east wall supported the 8-ft. and 4-ft. walls.

“I ran 16-ft. stringers every 2-ft. from the north and south walls,” Miller says. “2-ft. 6-in. boards were screwed in and glued at a 45-degree angle between the 8-ft. wall and each stringer for extra support.”

The southwest face of the building is open. Miller put the billboard tarps over the north



**Miller built a low cost structure using pallets, steel posts, used 2 by 4's and some billboard tarps.**

wall and roof stringers. Then, he screwed the tarps down with lath.

“With the roof slanting to the south, the building sheds snow very well, so there's no heavy snow buildup,” he says.

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**Quicker Picker rock picker barrel rotates as dirt and debris fall through holding the rocks inside.**

# Rock Picker Leaves Dirt Behind

The Quicker Picker from Flexifinger cleans rocks as it picks them up. As rocks knock into each other, dirt falls away. The rotating barrel with its open bars spins away everything smaller than 2 in. in diameter.

“We've had users send in pictures of rock piles 8 to 10 ft. tall, thousands of tons of just rock at the end of a field,” says Dick Dietrich, Flexifinger. “Some of our customers bring the rocks into their yard, wash them, and sell them to landscapers and builders.”

Quicker Pickers come in two models, the 400 with a 36-in. long, 30-in. diameter drum and the 800 with a 48-in. long, 36-in. diameter drum. Both models are available with universal quick-attach mounts for use with tractors or skid steers.

The 400 has a capacity of 900 lbs., while the 800 can carry up to 2,000 lbs. Both are direct drive with a 7 gpm flow rate. The 400 weighs in at 760 lbs. and the 800 at 1,165 lbs.

Each model comes with a list of accessories, including solid, perforated, or mesh screens. They will catch and hold rocks and debris larger than a 1/4-in. in diameter or greater,

depending on the screen.

“Customers are using the Quicker Picker with screens in metal yards, gravel pits, wood lots, mining, compost pile management, and cleaning litter out of beach sand,” says Dietrich. “Landscape companies find them handy for capturing valuable topsoil when removing lawns and grassy areas.”

Flexifinger has sold the Quicker Pickers for the last 8 years. Dietrich purchased the rights to the unit when he ran across it and the farmer who invented it at the National Farm Machinery Show.

Since then, he says, Flexifinger has sold hundreds, if not thousands, of the rock pickers. “We've never had a customer report even a bent spindle on the model 800,” says Dietrich.

The MSRP for the 400 model is \$8,649 and \$9,995 for the 800 model.

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