

# THE ANVIL



HAMMERING OUT NEWS, EVENTS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM SUMMERS MANUFACTURING

**Variable Rate Tillage:  
A New Advancement in  
Tillage Technology**

**4 Uses for Land Rollers**

**Spring Maintenance Tips**

**An Eventful Year Ahead**



## Summers Celebrates 50th Anniversary

*In 1965, a young blacksmith named Harley Summers looked to start his own business. He purchased the patent rights for Goebel truck and pickup hoists and began manufacturing them in a small shop in Maddock, North Dakota, under the name of Summers Manufacturing Company, Inc.*



Quite a bit has happened since then. The company opened new manufacturing and distribution facilities in the Dakotas, expanded those facilities countless times, hired hundreds of people, and developed a huge line of tillage

equipment, sprayers, land rollers and rock pickers, which are now sold to farmers around the world.

Today, we proudly celebrate our tradition of building Field Tested Tough equipment. But it's a different company than the one that started 50 years ago in a small blacksmith shop. Since 2007 Summers has been 100-percent employee owned. That means every employee has a stake in the success of our company,

and the success of our customers. It's a responsibility and privilege that nobody here takes lightly.

Despite how far we've come, we like to think that this is still just the beginning for the company. Not only do we thank everybody who has supported us these past 50 years, but we'd also like to ask you to join us for the next 50, as we continue to help farmers feed and fuel the world.



***It's been an eventful year...and not just for us. It's been eventful for agriculture in general.***

Of course, most of the attention has been on softening commodity prices, which have presented a challenge to anyone involved in ag. However, going into our 50th anniversary this year helps remind us of where we've come from and the tough challenges we've already been through. Many of our customers who come from a long line of farming can identify with that.

So, as we look to the year ahead, we're excited about the coming opportunities to improve and to grow (and we hope you are, too). In fact, we've already been making some big announcements. For instance, this spring we're launching the VRT2530, a variable rate tillage tool that can be adjusted on the go to accommodate changing conditions and tillage needs in each field. We've also launched a new website to help farmers research our products better and tap into the knowledge of our experienced farmer/engineers.

Like our company founder Harley Summers always used to say, change is the one thing you can count on in life. As the market continues to change, look for new developments from Summers to help you adapt.

***You have  
our word on it.***

**BRIAN  
PERKUH**  
Vice President  
of Sales



# VARIABLE RATE

## A New Advancement in Tillage Technology from Summers

At Summers, we've heard a lot of producers ask for a new type of universal tillage tool, which could provide a lot of the benefits of vertical tillage, but with increased aggressiveness for handling heavy residue. So, we listened to these requests and responded by introducing our new VRT2530 variable rate tillage tool. Of course, that probably leaves you wondering, what is variable rate tillage, and how does it compare with vertical tillage?

### What Is Vertical Tillage?

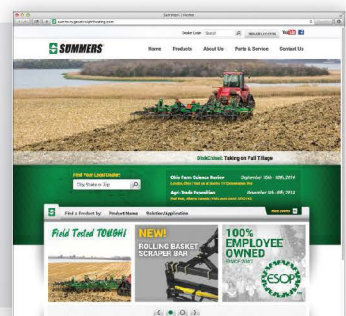
Let's start with vertical tillage. We like to define it as a tool that enters and exits the soil on a vertical plane so that it doesn't move any soil horizontally. In

order to achieve true vertical tillage, the implement's blades cannot have any concavity, and they cannot be mounted at an angle. That's why we designed our Supercoultter vertical tillage tool with two rows of gang-mounted coultter blades, which are mounted at a zero-degree angle to run in-line with the direction of travel.

True vertical tillage tools, like the Supercoultter, are designed to size residue and "score" the soil to produce natural soil fracturing. This helps eliminate soil layers and promote deep root growth. Vertical tillage is also great for moisture management. It assists with moisture conservation, while helping to eliminate

### The New Summers Website

*In case you haven't seen it yet, be sure to check out our new website at [summersmfg.com](http://summersmfg.com). You'll find lots of new product information, photos, videos and other helpful resources on tillage, land rolling, spraying and rock removal.*





# ATE TILLAGE



washing and drowning out of lowlands by providing a path for precipitation to enter the soil.

## The Need for Variable Rate Tillage

However, good farming practices in recent years are boosting yields and creating more residue than ever before. This residue can be difficult to manage with a true vertical tillage tool and may require something more aggressive to help bury it. But rather than going back and forth between a vertical tillage tool and a conventional disk, wouldn't it be great to have one implement that could do both? That's where the VRT2530 comes in.

Like variable rate planters and application equipment that allow producers to adjust inputs according to changing soil conditions, the VRT2530 offers on-the-fly adjustment of tillage performance. So, for instance, the operator can switch from a lighter vertical tillage application on a hilltop to more conventional tillage in lower spots and heavier residue areas.

## How Variable Rate Tillage Works

The VRT2530 has a front row of dual-mounted disk blades and a rear row of gang-mounted coultter blades. The front blades are designed for more conventional tillage performance since they are slightly concave and mounted at a 12 degree angle. This configuration is specially designed to mix soil as vertically as possible, since horizontal movement can cause smearing and layering effects. The VRT2530's rear blades have no concavity and are fixed at a zero degree angle to size residue and fracture soil layers like a true vertical tillage tool.

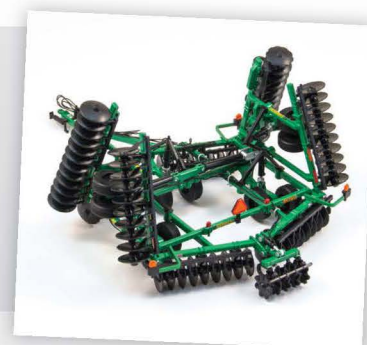
The VRT2530 also has a hydraulic hitch to shift weight between the front and rear blades on the go. By adjusting the hydraulic hitch to dig in the front blades more, the implement will move more soil to help bury heavy residue. By putting less pressure on the front, they will dig shallower to leave more residue on the surface, helping to conserve moisture and prevent erosion when needed, similar to the performance of a true vertical tillage tool.

The field finishing equipment of choice on the VRT2530 is a mounted harrow/rolling basket combination. Our heavy-duty harrows have been used successfully in the field for many years to help distribute residue and level the soil profile. Additionally, our rolling baskets have patent-pending mud scrapers for a superior finish in practically all conditions. The rolling baskets are equipped with hydraulic down pressure, which automatically adjusts the baskets to maintain the ideal level of firmness in the seedbed.

As prescription farming and variable rate application trends continue to gain momentum, variable rate tillage tools like this are also set to increase in popularity among producers who want more control over their tillage results. Summers plans to have limited quantities of the VRT2530 available in spring 2015, so if you're interested in this new technology, we encourage you to speak with your local dealer soon.

## Field Tested Tough Toys

To commemorate our 50th anniversary, we had a limited number of Diamond Disk die-cast models produced. The 1:32 scale model of the DK2610 features fully movable parts, making it a great gift for farmers young and old. The suggested list price is \$99. If you're interested in purchasing one, please contact your local Summers dealer. But don't wait too long...they're going fast!





# 4

## USES FOR LAND ROLLERS

When we bring a SuperRoller to trade shows, one of the most common questions people ask is, “What does that thing do?” However, there isn’t an easy answer, because land rollers actually have several uses. To give you a better idea, here are four of the most popular ways our customers have experienced success with land rollers:



### 1 Reduce Debris Uptake During Harvest

This is the most common use for land rollers. If you’re farming an area with lots of rocks or tough root balls, we recommend using a land roller soon after planting soybeans or other low-to-the-ground crops (basically, anything that is harvested with a flex head). The roller will push those solid objects into the ground, so they don’t get picked up by the combine header later. Keeping the rocks and root balls out will help prevent costly damage and downtime to the combine during harvest. It can also reduce the amount of dirt taken up by the combine, resulting in less wear-and-tear on the machine and a cleaner harvest (which could get you a higher price at the elevator).

### 2 Increase Seed-To-Soil Contact

Using a land roller after planting doesn’t just help with rock management...It also firms the soil, thereby increasing seed-to-soil contact. This increased seed-to-soil contact promotes quicker emergence, which we’ve experienced firsthand in our own fields. In fact, we’ve conducted side-by-side testing, which has shown a yield increase of one to two bushels per acre in soybeans by land rolling.

Some of our customers have been so convinced by this benefit that they’ve started rolling other seeds besides beans. For instance, we’ve seen people follow corn planters with their land rollers to help boost emergence, especially in areas with short growing seasons.



### 3 Strengthen Soybeans

In soybeans, some people like to use land rollers during an early growth stage, generally before the beans have developed their fourth trifoliate leaves. This slightly stresses the plants, encouraging better root growth and helping the plants grow back more vigorously than before.

### 4 Manage Residue



Land rollers can actually help manage residue by shattering and breaking down tough corn stalks. They also fracture corn root ball structures while they’re still in the ground to aid in residue decomposition. This practice is often used by no-tillers after corn harvest as a way to deal with challenging residue without reverting to tillage.

### How to Get Started

If you’re interested in trying one of these approaches for yourself, one of the best ways to get started is to rent a neighbor’s land roller. If there aren’t any land rollers currently being used in your area, it could be a great opportunity for you to be the first one. Oftentimes, after one farmer purchases a land roller, it generates a lot of interest in the community. Others may start asking to rent the land roller and, before you know it, the unit is paid off and you’ve got a new source of income.

*“My Summers equipment does such an even job, and I like the quality. You can do thousands of acres, and they just don’t show the wear.”*

—Dale Hilbrands, Hilbrands Farming Service  
Equipment Owned: 36’ CoulterChisel and 28’ DiskChisel



Dale Hilbrands

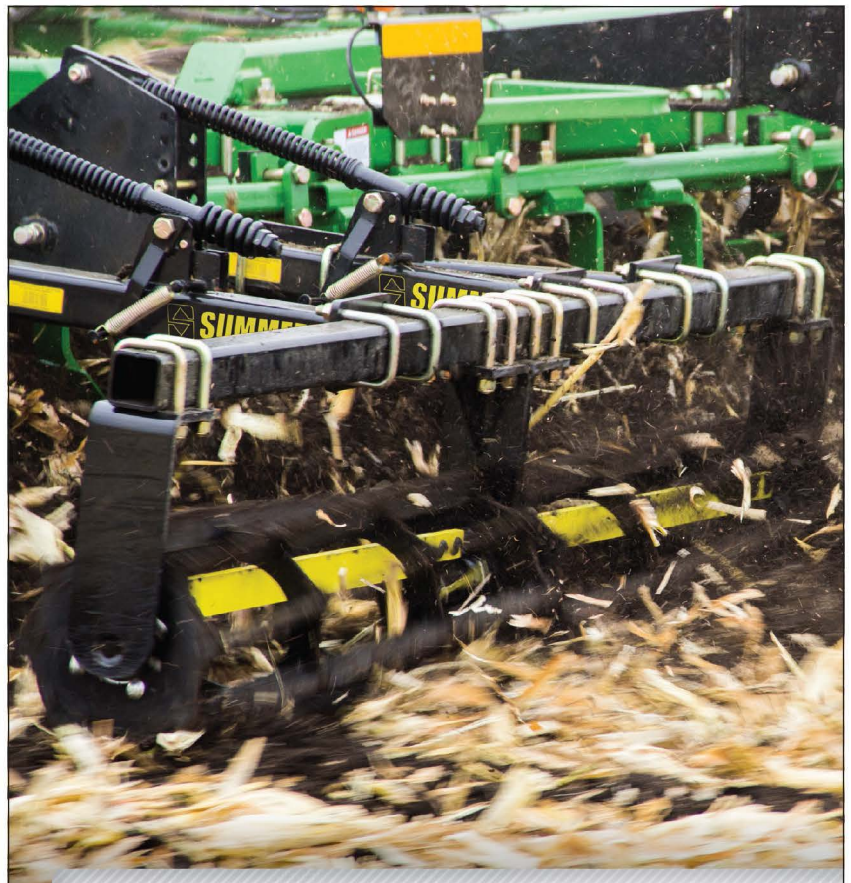




# Maintenance Tips

As winter comes to an end, many of you will be getting out your vertical tillage tools to help dry out and warm the soil before planting. But before you do, make sure the implement is ready to go by following a simple maintenance checklist (see your owner's manual for more detailed recommendations):

- ✘ **Grease all bearings and pivot points.** *(To maximize bearing life, grease them at mid-day or end-of-day when they're at operating temperature.)*
- ✘ **Tighten spindle nuts if any side-play is evident in the bearings.**
- ✘ **Check disk gang shafts for proper tightness.**
- ✘ **Make sure wheel bearings are clean. Repack them if necessary.**
- ✘ **Check tires for proper inflation.**



## Fit For Any Field

When it comes to farm equipment, one size doesn't fit all. That's why we've developed such a full line of Field Tested Tough™ equipment and attachments. No matter where you farm, what type of operation you run, or what conditions you face, we'll likely have the equipment to address your unique challenges, while holding up to the toughest abuse.

### Dealing With Wet Conditions?

Try Our New Rolling Baskets With Internal Mud Scrapers

- Patent-pending design prevents mud buildup.
- Available in 4-, 6-, 8- and 10-foot sections.
- Compatible with a wide range of tillage equipment.



Tillage | Sprayers | Land Rollers/Coil Packers | Rock Pickers | **Mounted Attachments**



Thank you for 50 great years!  
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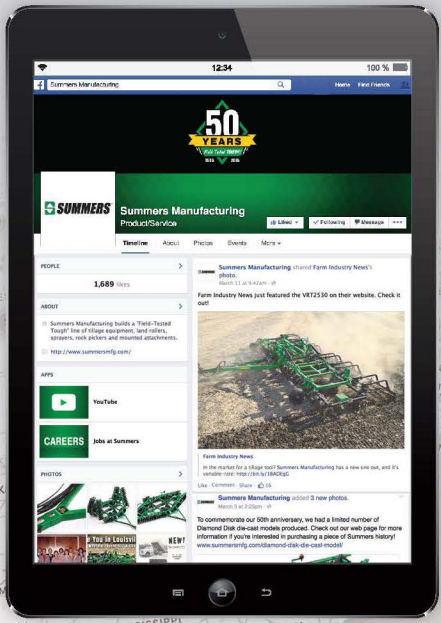


# Keep In Touch

Stay tuned for more updates and information from Summers in our next newsletter. Until then, stay connected by liking us on Facebook, subscribing to our YouTube channel or visiting with your local dealer.

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