



Terry Jacob was tired of Bt modified corn stubble ripping up his tires, so he came up with this roller to smash them. He also uses it to crimp his cover crops.

## “Made It Myself” Roller Crimps Bt Stubble

Tired of Bt modified corn stubble ripping up his tires, Terry Jacob’s answer was a roller to smash them and crimp his cover crops as well. He had a local machine shop make it for him for about half the \$30,000 he estimates a commercial unit would cost. He says the 20-ft. roller works great and was well worth the money.

“I bought a new planter this year and flattened a tire on the one field I hadn’t rolled,” he says. “I’ve used it on cover crops including sun hemp that I was late rolling because of rain. It was 4 to 5 ft. tall, and I knocked it right down. Even though I was going the

same direction as the drill, it flattened it so drilling the wheat was no problem.”

Getting a smooth roll across his fields was vital for Jacob. It’s one reason he didn’t go with one of the smooth rollers on the market. He felt they bounced too much. Working with a local metal shop, he came up with a chevron pattern that grips the ground and crimps the crop as it rolls. Each roller has 23 angle irons mounted at 8-in. intervals with the edges welded to the roller.

“It runs really smooth across the field,” says Jacobs. “I can roll a field at 9 to 10 mph.”

Jacob bought a 7 by 7-in. toolbar with



Roller’s chevron pattern grips the ground to reduce bouncing. Each roller has 23 angle irons mounted at 8-in. intervals, with the edges welded to the roller.

Brillion-style rollers on it, which he had the shop remove. He then had them cut a 20 ft. length of 30-in. diameter, 1/4-in. wall pipe in half and mount on the toolbar. Angle iron formed the chevrons.

Jacob quickly learned the 3,800 lb. weight was too great for the original system. Double bearings and a bigger shaft were installed. The toolbar also had to be strengthened to carry the weight.

One other change that was needed was to build a 24-in. wide tag-a-long unit. The two rollers left a 10-in. space untouched. While not a problem in corn stubble, it was needed

for rolling cover crops.

Since going to a 40-ft. wide, 16-row planter, Jacob has started planning for a 42-ft. roller. He has purchased a 42-ft. folding toolbar. Initial plans are for a 20-ft. center roller with two 10-ft. wings mounted to the rear of the center roller and slightly overlapping.

“Even though we have flat ground here, the challenge is to design one that will float in three sections,” he says.

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## Gutted Combine Converted To Ear Corn Picker

Gutting out a combine with his blowtorch left David Newbury with the perfect chassis for picking corn. With a little metal work and a three-row header, he was in business, clearing out end rows for his chopper.

“I don’t have downed stalks at the end rows anymore,” says Newbury. “Instead, I harvest the ears and store them with the silage. The cows eat them like candy, burrowing into the silage to get at them.”

Newbury had wanted to build a self-propelled ear corn picker for several years. When a cousin offered him a 1960’s 55 Deere, Newbury got busy.

“The combine had been outside for about 10 years. He said I could have it if I could start it,” he says. “I had to clean out the fuel lines and replace the battery, radiator, points and fuel pump. That was enough to get it running.”

To get it home, Newbury also needed a new set of rear tires. He also found a quick-tach feeder housing that fit the old combine.

“I found a three-row corn head sitting in

a fence row and mounted it to the feeder housing,” says Newbury. “The hardest thing to find was an elevator.”

Newbury wanted an old flat bottom grain or hay elevator to move the ears into a trailing wagon. Once he found one, he cut it down to about 20 ft. in length and gutted out the combine’s threshing mechanism to make room for it.

“We slid the elevator in place and welded on some tin to gather the ears as they came through the feeder housing and dropped onto the elevator,” he says.

Newbury cut a hole in the top of the combine housing and braced it so the elevator could rest there at an angle above the towed wagon.

“It’s high enough. It works with either a gravity box or a barge box with hoist,” says Newbury.

To power the elevator, he replaced the original pto shaft with a longer shaft that extends through the combine wall. A drive pulley mounted to the shaft end is driven



David Newbury converted a 1960’s Deere 55 combine into an ear corn picker equipped with a 3-row header. Elevator unloads out the back.

by the original grain tank unload belt drive.

“The feeder housing was the most expensive part of the whole venture,” says Newbury. “I probably have \$1,000 in the whole rig.”

The ear corn harvester has more than paid for itself. Newbury isn’t wasting ears in the field, and his cows love the ears at the feed bunk. To store the ears, he simply spreads

them on the floor of his temporary trench silo (two rows of big round bales). As the silage is packed on top of the ears, they ferment along with it.

“The whole ear gets really soft and palatable,” he says.

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## Shingles Peeler Makes Roof Tear-Off Easy

The Shingles Peeler looks like a lawn mower for your roof. Designed to eliminate the difficult job of tearing off old roofs by hand, Rob Stuart of Milton, Vt., is the U.S. distributor of the unusual machine.

“I farmed for 27 years before I got into roofing,” says Stuart. “Tearing off old roofs by hand is a lot harder than farming.”

He went looking for a better way and discovered the Shingles Peeler. Stuart made four trips to Canada to convince the inventor he would be a good U.S. distributor.

“It picks the shingles up, pulls nails out, cuts the shingles, and sends everything out the back of the machine. And it’s fast,” Stuart says.

To begin, remove the cap and top three rows of shingles. Place anchors in the rafters on the opposite roof and attach the Shingles Peeler cable. Push the machine to the bottom of the eave, start the engine and place the fork

assembly under the second row of shingles. Then engage the winch, apply the gas and guide the machine up to the peak. Carbide steel blades on both ends cut the shingles and the fork teeth lift and deflect around nails. If the shingles are fairly decent, they hold together in a foot-wide ribbon that can be gathered up and tossed in a bin or truck below. Older, curled up shingles can be scooped into totes or gathered in an optional container that attaches to the Shingles Peeler.

“The beauty of this is its simplicity,” Stuart says. “I am very impressed with the quality of the construction and engineering.”

A video and on-line manual explains how to use the machine, and there’s a learning curve. It took Stuart an hour to do one side of his first roof and only 9 minutes to do the other side.

“It removes a bundle of shingles a minute,” he says. The process goes especially fast with

one person running the machine and a couple workers moving the shingles.

The biggest challenge is very hot days when the shingles stick to the tarpaper, and don’t flow through as easily. Remove shingles early in the day or in cooler temperatures, Stuart suggests.

Shingles Peeler doesn’t work on half lap roofing or flat roofing and is recommended only for walkable roofs — up to a 6/12 pitch. While the machine could go steeper, it’s not safe for workers. When not in use Shingles Peeler has three contact points on the roof so it can’t fall off.

Stuart sells Shingles Peeler for \$4,700 to U.S. customers. Canadians can purchase them from the inventor at MatriX Evolutions, Inc.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rob Stuart, Roofers’ Helpers LLC, P.O. Box 170, Milton, Vt. 05468 (ph 802 363-0040; www.



The Shingles Peeler picks up shingles, pulls out the nails, cuts the shingles, and then sends everything out back of machine.

roofershelpers.com); in Canada: MatriX Evolutions, Inc., 1635 rue St. Denis, Sorel-Tracy, Quebec J3R 2A8 (ph 450 517-3131; www.shinglespeeler.net).