

Farm Group Built Custom Tillage Implements Together

Fifteen Quebec farmers worked together over two weekends in early 2019 to build a specialized tillage tool for each of them.

"We gathered in a crazy well-equipped shop in the dead of winter for 5 days and transformed \$70,000 of steel and parts into raised bed tillage implements for each of us," says one member of the group, Reid Allaway.

"Everyone in our group grows vegetables in raised beds, but the bed formats vary, so each participant got the machine with the dimensions and options they wanted," Allaway says. "The tool rebuilds and levels the raised bed with trailing disks and a tandem crumbler-roller. Both the tool itself and the rear roller assembly use triangle-type quick hitches for easy hitching and unhitching. The rear roller can also be swapped for a variety of other final pass tools."

Allaway says plans for the tillage tool were developed by L'atelier Paysan, an organization in France that assists growers with designing and manufacturing specialized farm tools.

"Group building is a great concept to produce implements and equipment at a very

reasonable cost compared to buying from a manufacturer, and it's especially worthwhile when the tool you're building is not on the market," Allaway says. "We did all the cutting, jig building, drilling and assembly. We had a laser shop do a lot of precision cutting work beforehand and a CNC shop turned the hub parts. We did our own plasma table work on anything that didn't benefit from the higher precision of a laser. Participants tweaked the design to meet their specific needs and in the process ended up with a custom implement. They choose the widths and components they wanted and only paid for what they got."

Allaway says it would have been 3 or 4 times more expensive to buy than what it cost the group to build the implements. Participants do the final assembly on their own farms and paint them whatever color they choose.

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Fifteen Quebec farmers who grow vegetables in raised beds saved money by working together to build custom tillage implements. Triangle-type quick hitches allow easy hook-up.



Dale McLaen added a cyclone-type dust separator to a new heavy-duty shop vac in order to catch fine dust before it can reach the filter.

Quick Fix Saves Shop Vac Filters

Quit replacing shop vac filters with a quick fix from Dale McLaen. His 2-stage dust collector captures fine dust before it reaches the filter.

"I have a waste oil furnace in my shop, and it produces a fine gray ash," says McLaen. "Initially I thought it would be easier to vacuum up than to sweep, but the dust plugged up the vacuum filter. I added a cyclone type dust separator to a new heavy-duty shop vac. It traps about 90 percent of the dirt and dust, which keeps the filter from clogging up."

McLaen mounted the shop vac canister to a plywood base on caster wheels, screwing it down to the base. Then he screwed down a 5-gal. pail alongside the shop vac. He attached a Dust Deputy cyclone separator to a plastic lid of a second 5-gal. pail and set that pail inside the first pail (www.oneida-air.com; ph 800 732-4065).

A vacuum hose is connected to the outlet

of the dust separator and the inlet of the shop vac. A pickup hose was mounted to the inlet of the dust separator.

"When the shop vac is turned on, dust and dirt are sucked into the cyclone chamber and fall into the inner pail," explains McLaen. "When the pail is full, I remove the lid and lift the inner pail out to dump it."

The cyclone dust separator/shop vac combo is equally handy for cleaning out the waste oil furnace and a pellet stove. McLaen even uses it with post holes.

"I use it to remove the loose dirt at the bottom of post holes," he says. "It's the go-to vacuum we use for everything indoors and out."

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Compact Ripper For Smaller Tractors

Jeff Sberna first designed a ripper to use with his 120 hp. Oliver 1855 and marketed a 12-ft. version (Vol. 34, No. 1) designed to dig up to 15 in. deep alongside smaller tines digging just 3 to 4 in. deep to work in residue.

"I didn't see anything on the market for smaller farms with compact tractors," says Sberna. "Our new CR 5.0 does the same job as our big unit but on tractors from 40 hp. on up. I've had it behind a 33 hp. tractor, and it did alright ripping to 12-in. depths."

"I've also pulled it with a 105 hp. tractor with no problem at speeds of up to 7 mph," adds Sberna. "It's a solid-built tool and made to last. The larger the tractor, the faster you can rip."

The 3-pt. mount, CR 5.0 frame is fabricated from 2 by 4-in. box tube with 1/4-in. walls

and a 4 by 4-in. rear beam. It has 2 rear shanks set on 36-in. centers on the rear beam with 3 heavy-duty Danish tines on 12-in. centers. It weighs in at about 800 lbs. without weights. A box mounted to the top of the frame can hold 6 or more cinder blocks for added weight.

"We have spring resets on the shanks," says Sberna. "The 72-in. width covers about the same area as a 4-bottom plow."

Sberna is marketing the CR 5.0 through a distributor. It is priced at \$3,499 with a \$100 credit toward shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A.M.S. Incorporated, P.O. Box 57, 102 W. Broadway St., Ogden, Ill. 61859 (ph 217 582-2288; toll free 877 747-2442; info@amsincorporated.net; www.amsincorporated.net).

Company Offers 3D Printing For One Part Or 1,000

Whether you need a single replacement part, a prototype of a new product, or a short run production, Peridot, Inc. can help. The Indiana firm offers 3D printing, casting, CNC machining, wire harnesses, and more. From concept to production, Peridot works with both individuals and companies.

"We offer turnkey solutions to customers in agriculture and many other markets," says Dave Hockemeyer, Peridot, Inc. "Our 3D printing services include prototypes, scale models, and short run production quantities. We specialize in producing translucent prototypes, which aid in understanding internal fits and functionality with mating components."

Peridot can take products from the initial design to the finished product. Hockemeyer describes typical scenarios the company follows.

"To provide one customer with prototype metal castings, we 3D print the pattern, make steel castings, then machine and paint them," says Hockemeyer. "We mold several low volume polymer components for an ag industry customer for use as aftermarket replacements. At the same time, we produce 25,000+ sub-assemblies annually for a couple of the largest ATV manufacturers."

Peridot's start-to-finish production work includes a variety of surface treatments, such as tinting and plating. The company can also help with design, including computer-aided design (CAD), mechanical design, and manufacturing advice.



Peridot's 3D printing services can be used to make everything from prototypes of a new product (above) to cast components.



"Contact us directly about services you need to bring your concept to market," says Hockemeyer. "Since our family-run business was founded in 1997, we've helped hundreds of customers in many diverse markets find solutions that work."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peridot, Inc., 14508 Bruick Lane, Hoagland, Ind. 46745 (ph 260 639-6500; www.peridotinc.com).



Jeff Sberna's 6-ft. compact ripper is designed for tractors with 40 or more hp.