



**Rock Master showing reinforced steel bars with slightly longer center bars to keep bucket centered.**

## Rock-Picking Bucket Works Fast

Frustrated with using a 6-ft. wide skeleton bucket to pick rocks, Ted Kasper came up with his own rock picker design. The spade shape lets him zero in on a rock, while the angled tines sift out dirt and pebbles.

"With really big rocks, you can dig in from 2 sides to loosen it up and then get under it," says Kasper. "I can pick up a 3 to 4-ft. dia. rock with it."

The professional landscaper previously developed a multi-purpose dirt bucket that he called the Dirt Master. It too was spade shaped, but with a notched tip. He found the notches keep pressure focused between the arms of the skid steer.

"I made it for transplanting trees," says Kasper. "The sharpened sides and front cut through sod and packed dirt and go into dirt like a spade, not a square shovel. I found I could move dirt faster with it than with a traditional bucket."

Kasper also found he could pick rocks with it faster than with a skeleton bucket and with less dirt. His first thought was to cut slots in the Dirt Master bucket for even better rock picking, but he went with the bar design. Instead of a notched tip, the center section is extended a couple of inches to keep the bucket centered.

The 4-ft. long, 1-in. square steel bars are reinforced by steel bands and butt welded to the 4-ft. wide, 22-in. high back plate. The back plate serves double duty. Once a large rock has been removed, Kasper can simply reverse direction and drag dirt with the plate to backfill the hole.

The spade shape with the bars spaced at 2

1/2-in. intervals creates an angled effect. This prevents rocks from getting stuck between them as Kasper found happened with skeleton buckets.

"The open bars let you see what you are digging out and picking up," says Kasper.

He made the first Rock Master about 15 years ago for his own use. Friends urged him to make them to sell. Over the past 4 years he has sold around 60 Rock Masters, mostly in his local county.

"Sales have been mostly word of mouth," says Kasper. "People see a neighbor use it and decide to get one for themselves."

His first customer liked it so much, he called up his brothers and nephews and told them he would guarantee their satisfaction. If they didn't like it, he would give them back their money and give them a case of beer.

"I sold 5 the first week," says Kasper. "One customer said he could pick rocks 6 times faster than he could with a skeleton bucket."

The 550-lb. Rock Master is currently priced at \$2,000. The 24-in. high by 45-in. wide and 48-in. deep Dirt Master is priced at \$1,600. Both are powder-coated and fit most standard skid loaders. Their 4-ft. widths let them fit in the back of a pickup bed.

"The back plates ensure they don't rock in transit," says Kasper. "You can easily flip them off the back of the bed when you get to the work site."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rock Master, 32487 143rd St., Pierz, Minn. 56364 (ph 320 630-2712; kasperrockmaster@gmail.com).

## "Bed Buster" Stirs Up Freestall Bedding

"Dairy producers can break up packed bedding in freestall cattle housing from the comfort of a tractor or skid steer with the HMI Bed Buster," says Kade Walker at HMI. "The machine's rotating blades fluff and level sand and compost materials under freestall hoops as it moves forward in the alley."

The hydraulically-driven vertical blades are mounted in bearings on a reinforced steel deck, which is hinged to a 4 in. by 4-in. box frame. The frame has a universal mounting plate that attaches to a skid steer or tractor loader.

Walker says the 6-in. long teeth rotate at low rpm's when the deck is in the horizontal position. The driver controls operating height and blade speed from inside the cab using standard hydraulics and controls. When the teeth are turned off, a single hydraulic cylinder pivots the deck up 90 degrees for easy maneuvering.

"Using the Bed Buster keeps cattle beds soft, clean and dry while increasing cow comfort to help lower somatic cell counts," Walker says. "The machine has a low-profile design, is easy to operate and has just a few moving parts, so there's very little maintenance required."

Two models are available. The Compact



**Hydraulically-driven vertical blades on an HMI Bed Buster mount on a skid steer to fluff up sand or compost materials in free stall barns.**

Bed Buster has 3 sets of blades and handles a 4-ft. wide bed swath. The Standard Bed Buster has 5 sets of blades and handles a 6-ft. wide swath. Contact the company for pricing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hatfield Manufacturing, 1823 Shoestring Road, Gooding, Idaho 83330 (ph 208 934-5182; www.hatfieldmfg.com).

## Electric Off-Road Bike Geared To Farm, Ranch Use

Biktrix is an electric bike company based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Their bikes are designed to stand up to rugged off-road use.

Ryan Barber of Biktrix says the electric bikes are solidly built and would fit in well on a farm or ranch. The bikes are rugged enough to go off-road but with a smooth ride for touring the countryside.

"They're pedal-assist bikes, so you can pedal them like a traditional bike," he says. "They will be heavier than a traditional bike, ranging from 50 lbs. to as much as 80."

The batteries have a lot of power and last a long time. Barber says some of their customers are farmers who ride an electric bike while checking fencelines on their operations.

"In Canada, we're only allowed to ship engines tuned to 500 watts," Barber says, "even though they're capable of 750 to 1,000. Once it's on their property, farmers can unlock them up to their top performance."

The top speed the bikes go is 19 mph. They do go faster than that, but they stop helping assist the rider when you go past that mark unless it's been unlocked by the owner.

He says farmers love their bikes because "they're quiet, they don't scare the livestock, and they don't go deaf listening to a loud engine."

The bikes typically take between 4 to



**With a top speed of 19 mph, the bike is quiet so it won't scare livestock.**

6 hrs. to get to a full charge. Biktrix even has models that will fold up and fit in small storage places, including trunks, if you want to take them on a trip.

Farmers who've been in the business a long time are finding these units especially useful. "Anyone who doesn't walk as well as they used to, had a hip or knee replaced, will find that step-through option makes it much easier to ride one of our bikes," he said.

Bikes range in price from around \$2,500 to \$4,000 U.S.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ryan Barber, Biktrix, 640 Broadway Ave. #1A, Saskatoon, SK, Canada (ph 866-BIKTRIX; www.biktrix.com).



**Roberts Farm Equipment has been in business since 1939 and can ship parts wherever they are needed.**



## Tractor Salvage Yard Has Parts For All "Colors"

Roberts Farm Equipment and Tractor Parts of Camden, Ohio has more than 4,000 tractors in various stages of demolition in their salvage yard.

Founded by Morgan Roberts in 1939 and presently owned by his descendant Dan Roberts, the tractor salvage business follows the farm auction circuit searching for promising equipment or they purchase tractors outright from farmers getting rid of them.

"We supply used parts for tons of different models of tractors," says Roberts. "We like to say that we have parts for all colors."

He says they also have a few backhoes and skid steer parts plus the odd combine but most of the yard is filled with older and vintage tractors.

"I would say our most popular items

would be rims, hitches, and cylinder blocks. We seem to sell a lot of them, but on any given day, you don't know what you're going to be asked for."

The salvage yard features 2 types of service; a walk-in business where staff goes into the yard to identify and remove an item, plus a shipping service sending tractor parts all over the world.

"Even with the large number of tractors and pieces out there, we usually know off the top of our head if we have something a customer asks about," Roberts says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Roberts, Roberts Farm Equipment and Tractor Parts, 11377 State Route 177, Camden, Ohio 45311 (ph 800 367- 8751; eparts@robertstractor.com; www.robertstractor.com).