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Fuel System Maintenance

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FUEL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Farm Machinery Fact Sheet FM-13

By Dr. Von H. Jarrett, Extension Agricultural Engineer

General Instructions

- 1. Purchase good clean fuel from a reliable dealer who handles fuel from a good distillation source.
- 2. Keep fuel clean and free of water and dirt—beware of fuel that has been stored too long.
- 3. It takes about 24 hours for water to settle out of diesel fuel.
- 4. Most fuel contamination occurs during storage after delivery; however, hauling gasoline and diesel fuel without thoroughly cleaning tanks and hoses can also cause problems.

Fuel Storage

- 1. Moisture condenses in a partially filled tank. All storage tanks should be tilted with a drain on the low side and delivery hose on the high side.
- 2. The hose nozzle should be protected from airborne dirt and debris.
- 3. Above-ground tanks should be painted a light color to reflect the heat.
- 4. Below-ground tanks are tilted with an extended pipe to the low end for pumping off water and debris.
- 5. Fuel storage tanks should have a final tank filter (except alcohol).
- 6. Whether the storage is above or below ground, it should be completely emptied occasionally.
- 7. You should not buy more than a single season's fuel supply at one time. (Fuel is blended for the season being used.)
- 8. You can minimize gasoline loss from evaporation with a shade over the overhead tank.
- 9. Check hoses and nozzles for gum and rust that will cause problems.
- 10. Keep your tractor fuel tank full to prevent condensation in storage.
- 11. Drain water from sediment bowl each day.
- 12. Water can freeze and cause expensive injection pump problems.
- 13. It is necessary to replace fuel filters three or four times a season even with limited use.
- 14. Decals are available to mark your tanks and fuel cans so that the wrong fuel will not accidentally be added.

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