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Fuel System Maintenance

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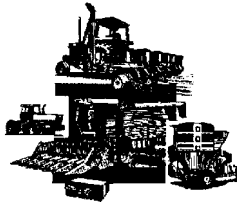
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FUEL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

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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