



BUYING A USED FARM MACHINE

Farm Machinery Fact Sheet FM-02

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1. Know the seller's reputation in reconditioning, service, use and operation of farm machinery.
2. Check with last owner of the machine (the reason for selling) and ask for maintenance records.
3. Check with the dealership on availability of parts and service.
4. It is a good idea to know the seller personally and know the equipment that he is selling. Is the machine popular among other farmers?
5. Is there any kind of warranty protection, especially on reconditioned tractors? Some dealers will offer a 50/50 warranty on parts and labor.
6. Test drive the unit before the sale date and make some pretty extensive checks on the unit before purchasing.
 - a. Brakes
 - b. Transmission
 - c. Clutch
 - d. Steering
 - e. Air intake
 - f. Exhaust
 - g. Check all gauges very carefully.
7. Check a tractor on a dynamometer for several hours to check horsepower, fuel and oil consumption. While the tractor is under load, check exhaust smoke, oil leaks, blow-by and any unusual noises.
8. Check hydraulic oil pressure and flow with a flow rater or pressure gauge.
9. An oil analysis can also tell you a lot about the condition of an engine (if oil has been in the crankcase at least 25 hours). Analyzing a two-ounce sample can alert you to excessive wear in rings, valves, bearing, cylinder walls, and other engine parts.
10. Remove the air cleaner element and use flashlight to check the seals for air by-pass, intake hoses and connections for leaks.
11. Drain off a sample of hydraulic and transmission oil in a clear glass; hold it up to the light and check for filings and contamination.
12. Check cooling system for scale, rust and contamination.
13. Check tires for breaks, cuts, wrinkles and buckles in the sidewalls.
14. Check grease fittings for evidence that they've had contact with a grease gun.
15. Jack up a front wheel and rotate, checking for side clearance in bearing and seals.
16. Check with implement association dealership on suggested price.

17. Your first impression of a machine is important. Look for caked-on dirt and oil leaks, cracks, new welds, rust, faded paint, loose nuts, cracked belts and hoses.
18. Check contaminated plugs on hydraulic connections.
19. A clean, freshly painted machine can cover up a multitude of sins. Dirt or grease that has been painted over can be a clue.
20. The hour meter does not always tell the whole story about the value of the machine.
21. Check for excessive clearance in bearings, pulleys, shafts, chains, bushings and nonalignment of pulleys and belts. Excessive vibration in a component area can cause trouble internally.
22. No mechanical device is going to run perfectly, but if you take time and do your homework carefully, there is no reason you can't select a good used piece of equipment.
23. The only way you can justify machinery is to work it efficiently.

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