Improve Safety on the Farm with Preventative Maintenance

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My department’s responsibility is to maintain and repair more than 400 pieces of farm-related equipment, including utility ATVs, lawnmowers, tractors and multiple implements. We also maintain numerous pieces of research plot equipment. Equipment reliability in relation to research projects is important. Preventative maintenance is the key to our success.

The term “preventive maintenance,” commonly refers to the practice of regularly servicing equipment on a predetermined schedule so that it does not develop catastrophic failures and performs better over its useful lifecycle. Safety is the upmost benefit of preventative maintenance.

A poorly maintained piece of equipment can result in an unsafe work environment and increased risk of injury or loss of life. Preventative maintenance is an important aspect of owning equipment and not one to disregard.

A properly implemented maintenance program ensures increased family and employee safety, increased equipment efficiency, decreased unexpected downtime and increased equipment value at trade-in.

Preventative maintenance should be performed on a daily and seasonal basis.

Proper storage is another important aspect of preventative maintenance. Exposure to weather elements can lead to premature failure of your equipment such as tires, seals, hoses and exterior appearance.

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Routine Maintenance

All routine maintenance should be properly documented and easily accessible to all people responsible for maintaining equipment. Such documentation should include equipment hours/age, length of service intervals, frequently used part numbers with associated cost, and dates with type of service performed.

Off-season Maintenance

Off-season preventative maintenance is usually more involved. This is when equipment should be partially or completely disassembled for inspection and more detailed cleaning. At the Noble Foundation, we use this time to thoroughly inspect our equipment to ensure efficient and reliable performance.

Daily Maintenance

Daily preventative maintenance can be as simple as cleaning, lubricating and inspecting equipment like abnormal wear patterns around moving parts, proper belt/chain tensions, safety guard placement and function, leaking fluid, and proper lubrication.

Preventative Maintenance

Preventative maintenance is less stressful than reactive maintenance, which results in a more efficient operation while contributing to profitability. When performing any preventative maintenance or equipment repair, always refer to the model-specific owner’s manual and/or technical manual.

UPCOMING EVENT

TEXOMA CATTLEMEN’S CONFERENCE
The Future of Sustainable Beef

The beef industry continues to improve efficiencies and enhance production within each sector of the industry, which results in a more sustainable product for consumers. Attendees will hear from leaders in each sector of the industry as they describe their contributions toward the future of sustainable beef. Noble Foundation researchers will provide an update on current research and technologies being implemented on the Foundation’s research and demonstration farms.

Special pricing is available for students and government personnel.

9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Feb. 24, 2017
Ardmore Convention Center
$40 registration fee, includes lunch