

Spring Tune Up Is Job For A Mechanic

If you intend to do your own "tuning" on your tractor this summer, make sure you don't take too much for granted. There's more to it than simply installing new spark plugs and breaker points according to agriculture engineers. Better watch for the "off-beat" conditions, which if not corrected, can completely offset the effects of new plugs and points.

For example, a simple thing like a faulty condenser or loose connection can cause trouble. And, while many ignition conditions require the service of a professional mechanic, you can detect and correct many of them yourself by simply being aware of their causes and remembering to watch for them when you're working on the tractor, the engineers say.

Remember one important thing, though, concerning conventional tractor ignition systems . . . they produce only enough voltage to discharge to ground, which is another way

of saying electricity is lazy, and will always follow a path of least resistance.

Obviously, the voltage output of any ignition system depends on a lot of conditions — the battery, voltage regulator, starting and charging circuits, coil, etc. All are important to engine starting and operation. And, while you can't make a complete check of the condition of these components without special equipment, you can make sure the connections between them are clean and tight. Doing so will cut down on resistance and help maintain a flow of high-tension current throughout the ignition system.

Remember, dirt and corrosion around electrical connections act just like a kink in a garden hose. Just as the kink restricts the flow of water, so will dirt and corrosion restrict the flow of electricity.

A major cause of ignition trouble can be the distributor cap. Small cracks which develop between the towers may cause the voltage to short to ground, drastically reducing ignition system output and causing plugs to misfire.

Also, corroded or eroded terminals on either the distri-

butor cap or the spark plug block should make contact and coil-distributor cables with the distributor cam all (caused by poor contact between connections) can result in high resistance, again reducing voltage available to the spark plugs and increasing the likelihood of misfiring.

Dirty distributor caps can be troublesome too . . . especially if carbon dust mixes with atmospheric contaminants, and creates a "path" which allows the electricity to "leak" across it to the wrong insert inside the cap. This condition actually can cause spark plugs to fire out of order. Also, if allowed to exist for any length of time, the high tension current may erode a permanent path between two inserts, making it necessary to replace the cap to eliminate the trouble.

While you have the distributor cap off, better take a look under the protective rubber boots on the towers. Sometimes, the towers become badly deteriorated from continual arcing — a condition you won't notice unless the boots are removed.

(Speaking of rubber boots, better check those on the spark plugs too, if your tractor has them. Sometimes, grease and dirt will build up on the inside of the boot and on the spark plug insulator, causing the high-tension current to short across the top half of the insulator, preventing the plug from firing.)

Installing Breaker Point

Better leave most of the distributor work to a qualified mechanic unless you have the proper tools! You can't begin to check such things as dwell angle, distributor cam lobes, and other worn parts without a distributor tester or engine analyzer. You can, however, install a condenser and new points as long as you have a feeler gage to set point spacing, correctly. (Remember, though, the engine should really be timed after points are installed, and unless you have a timing light, better let the mechanic do it.)

Other things to watch for when installing points are rubbing block alignment and point contamination. The rubbing

4-H Beef Club Hear Speech On Farm Safety

A talk on farm safety presented by State Trooper, Edward Grazer, was a feature of the recent meeting of the New Holland 4-H Baby Beef club. The meeting was held at the home of Candy and Terry Myer, New Holland R1.

Leon Weaver was appointed as delegate to the county 4-H council.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Fred Nolt, New Holland, on May 17 at 8 p.m. The meeting will feature a steer grooming demonstration by a livestock extension specialist from Penn State.

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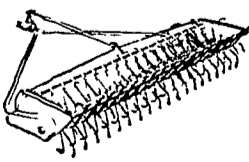
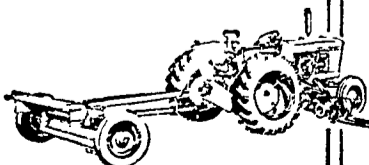
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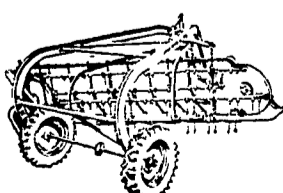
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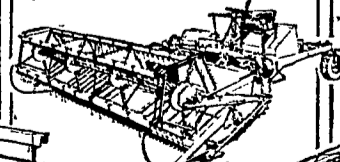
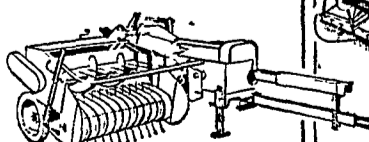


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