

Plan Now For Planned Tractor Maintenance

(Continued From Page 17)

As an aid to operators, owners or service personnel, the back side of each card lists service information and specifications for materials or parts required for service and the quantities involved. Included is a most useful checklist of things to do before storing a tractor:

- . Store the tractor under cover.
- . Clean the machine, removing excess grease and dirt.
- . Lubricate the traction booster linkage.

During storage:

. Check battery electrolyte level and trickle charge the battery every three months.

As a discipline to the owner-operator and as a check for the owner or maintenance supervisor overseeing a fleet is a "sign off section" for each preventive maintenance action. As the hours accumulate and maintenance is performed according to the indicated schedule, the operator is asked to enter the date and the material used opposite each item, with his initials.

Where many tractors and other operating vehicles are involved, a formal maintenance log — a typical cost saving device used in many industries — is helpful. In the case of the farm tractor study, the log permits each incidence of service work over and above preventive maintenance by the operator to be kept for inspection and relation to the total preventive maintenance program.

The form seeks 12 categories of information:

1. Date unit came in for service.
2. Hour meter reading.
3. Service performed was regular maintenance or breakdown repair.
4. If breakdown, what failed? What caused failure?
5. Name of operator of this unit at the time of this service?
6. Location where unit was working? What work was unit doing?
7. Has normal preventative maintenance been regularly performed on this unit to this time? If not, what was not done?
8. What unusual or extreme operating conditions or excessive loads has this unit been subject to if any?
9. Attach copy of Owner Shop Job Order showing work done,

parts used, and mechanic's hours, etc.

10. Attach copy of Dealer Invoice for parts or Dealer (Outside Shop) Invoice and Job Orders, if any, itemizing work done, parts used and labor and hauling charges, etc.

11. Was this unit promptly repaired and returned to work? If not, what caused the delay?

12. Date repairs were completed and unit ready to return to work.

How Do We Know Such Checklists Work?

First, there is the experience of other industries with other kinds of equipment. The service department of the Allis-Chalmers Industrial Truck Division reports that well-conceived and diligently followed checklists for operators have reduced main-

tenance costs and downtime. Also, such maintenance on large construction machines is considered a must by most large contractors.

In summary, this type of planned maintenance record will greatly reduce time required by operators and shop personnel in determining when service should be performed and to what extent. It will also help owners prevent expensive downtime due to omission of daily service checks. When different operators operate a machine over prolonged periods, it is important to establish specific maintenance procedures and then to assure that they are followed. Properly implemented, such a preventive maintenance program also will work for individual farmers.

Neppco Exposition To Hear Campbell

Two of the nation's most forthright speakers will issue thought-provoking challenges during the luncheon meetings scheduled for Northeastern '73, the annual exposition of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council in Hershey.

J. Phil Campbell, U. S. Undersecretary of Agriculture, and M. A. Pekarek, head of the speaker's bureau of National Cash Register, will enliven mid-day get-togethers during the initial two days of the 14-state NEPPCO Convention, October 30 through November 1.

Campbell will keynote the exposition and its entire educational program with a probing examination of the "Dawning of a New Era for Agriculture" when he opens the 3-day meeting at noon on October 30.

More than a dozen experts from throughout the East have been gathered by NEPPCO to provide in-depth seminars on topics related to the Convention's theme, "Tomorrow".

As Undersecretary, Campbell runs USDA when the boss is away. Consequently, he has been on the inside as the Administration developed its new approach to the role of U. S. Agriculture in global economics

and politics. Campbell will provide his NEPPCO audience with a stimulating look into the days ahead for U. S. Agriculture and what they will mean for the poultry industry.

Pekarek travels over 100,000 miles to address more than 100 audiences each year with his fast-moving review of today's dynamic marketplace in a topic he calls "The Challenge of Change". He is a practical problem-solver who served as NCR's account manager prior to 1967, when he personally sold and directed the installation of more than 1,500 retail systems.

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