

Combine header care is critical

CHICAGO, IL. — After nurturing your crops from planting to harvest, you can't afford to leave yields in the field. You can avoid excessive losses by subjecting combine grain headers and corn heads to a thorough preseason checkup.

By doing so, producers can trim downtime and increase the percentage of crop harvested, says Gerry Salzman, marketing planning manager for International Harvester.

"Combine header maintenance is a little different than for other equipment," Salzman admits. "It's hard to schedule

maintenance based on a certain number of hours, because different soil types and field conditions will cause varying amounts of wear and stress on the equipment."

Salzman also points out that the effects of the 1983 drought and PIK program will appear on combines this fall. "Combines were virtually idle in many parts of the country last year," Salzman says. "Producers should pay very close attention to preseason maintenance this year to reduce downtime and assure their machines are in top operating condition."

For either grain headers or corn heads, Salzman suggests a good checkup should begin with a thorough, high-pressure or steam cleaning to remove debris, dirt and/or grease which might impede smooth, efficient operation.

CORN HEAD

Start by leveling the unit, then check the outer divider points for proper operation or damage. The gatherer height should be set to factory specifications. These can be found in the operator's manual, says Larry Lanie, International Harvester technical service adviser.

All divider points should be inspected for proper height to ensure free, even movement.

Although International Harvester Axial-Flow combines contain over 40 percent fewer belts and chains than conventional models, proper chain maintenance and function are vital for a smooth harvest. "If chains are not properly adjusted, accelerated wear will result," Lanie explains.

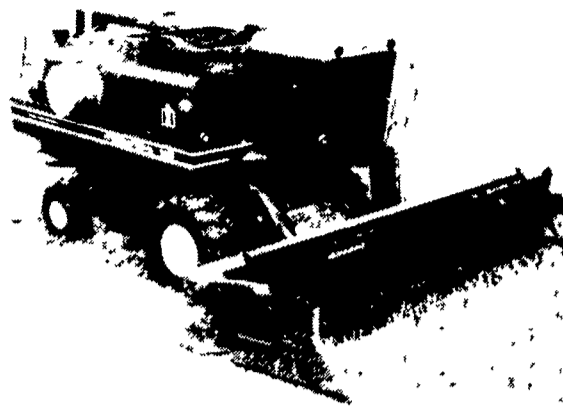
He advises producers to inspect gathering chains for wear and proper adjustment, as well as the chain stripper shields, main drive chain and sprockets.

The best time to replace any parts is before the harvest begins. This decreases the chance of possible breakdowns during the busy season when every working hour counts, Salzman says.

Stalk roll knives should be inspected for wear, as well as spacing, sharpness or possible damage incurred during previous harvests.

It's imperative that the auger system function properly, Lanie warns. He advises a thorough inspection of the auger trough bottom and stripper clutch adjustments.

Finally, Lanie says, producers



Proper rotor and sensor speed adjustments are vital to efficient soybean harvesting. A thorough preseason checkup can ensure smooth operation.

should top off a corn head checkup with new gear case oil and a complete lubrication of all main points, chains and moving parts.

GRAIN HEADER

For grain headers, Lanie says, the first step after a thorough cleanup should be to make sure all flexible parts move freely.

The reel drive chain, sensor speed unit and lift should be adjusted to specifications.

Knife guards, hold-down clips, plates and knife sections should be checked for excessive wear and replaced if necessary. All drive belts, especially the knife belt, should be checked for uneven wear or cracks.

At the auger, Lanie says, producers should inspect the drive chain for wear and check auger clearances. The retractable fingers should be set for the

primary crop levels using specifications found in the operator's manual.

Lanie says a grain header checkup should be rounded out by adjusting the counterbalancing springs and setting the header control height linkage. You should inspect all electrical wires and connections on units equipped with electrohydraulic sensing units.

In windrow country, where windrow pickups are used, they should be checked. If the pickup belt is worn, it should be replaced or adjusted, and the belt angle should be set. The front roller drive chain should be inspected for wear and lubricated as necessary.

"Time spent before harvest preparing your combine's grain headers and corn heads may save a lot of time during harvest when it's needed most," Salzman concludes.

Zimmermans are honored



Charles and Jane Zimmerman of J.B. Zimmerman & Sons, Blue Ball, with a branch at Anville, were recently honored as members of the DeLaval Honor Council. Ragnar Beyer, President, Alfa-Laval, Inc., Ft. Lee, N.J. and Carl F. Gerhardt, Vice President and General Manager, Alfa-Laval, Inc., Agri-Group, Kansas City, Missouri, presented the award.

The award was presented at the Cerromar Hotel, Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico. The Zimmermans were in Puerto Rico for five days of special business advisory meetings with the top executives of Alfa-Laval, Agri-Group.

Membership in the Honor Council is earned by outstanding achievement in sales and performance as a DeLaval Dealer. Members of the Honor Council will serve one year on the advisory council to Agri-Group management.

Rickey gets Case post

RACINE, Wis. — Vickie L. Rickey has been named director of corporate planning for J I Case, according to John Borden, executive vice president, finance and corporate planning.

In her new position, Rickey, 32, will be responsible for all worldwide corporate strategic planning, short and long range planning, business economics, and distribution planning.

Rickey was most recently

manager, worldwide distribution and marketing services for the Agricultural Group. Prior to this Rickey held positions as manager of Worldwide Supply and Distribution-Ag; manager of business planning-Ag; supervisor of inventory distribution, and inventory control analyst.

Rickey joined Case in 1975 under the Graduate Development Program. She received her Bachelor's degree in marketing from James Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, and her MIM from the American Graduate School of International Management, Glendale, Arizona.

A native of Decatur, Illinois, Rickey and her husband reside in Racine, Wis.



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