

# Rebuild Equipment With Replacement Engine

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Engine breakdowns always seem to happen at the busiest time of the year. Although a complete overhaul may work in some cases, a replacement engine may be a more sensible approach.

"For many agricultural equipment owners, facing the probability of downtime during the busy season due to engine failure means pushing the panic button," said Harvey Gagnon, parts analyst, BSD Engines, Ford New Holland. "While being out of the field is bad enough, not knowing exactly what the problem might be, how much repairs will cost, or when the machine will be rolling again often creates a stressful, frustrating situation.

"Farmers should consider several factors when faced with the question of whether to rebuild or go with a replacement engine," said Gagnon. "Besides cost, the amount of downtime, risk factor of mixing old parts with new ones, possibility of future breakdowns, and limited warranty must all weigh on the decision."

If a farmer starts to see his "old work horse" is consuming more oil than normal or blowing excess smoke out the breather pipe, a

compression check is recommended. This simple test will show if major repairs are needed.

Determining exactly what is causing low compression involves tearing everything down and examining all pieces for wear and tear. The repair effort then may involve installing numerous new parts. If the block needs to be rebored or the crankshaft needs regrinding, the servicing dealer usually must find an outside labor source to complete this precise work. This extra step can keep the machine out of service even longer.

Rebuilding can also involve lengthy negotiations and may bring unanswered questions, such as how long will the job take, how good is the work, and what is the total cost? As time drags on, the relationship between customers and dealers may become increasingly strained.

"To avoid numerous pitfalls associated with an overhaul job, a farmer needs to consider the advantages of putting in a brand new replacement engine," said Gagnon. "In most cases, purchasing a new factory diesel is comparable to the total expense of a complete overhaul.

"Using one of our BSD (Basil-don Series Diesel) engines as an example, when you include a figure representing downtime before the rebuilt engine is back in the field, the purchase cost of a BSD engine is usually only 5-10 percent above the cost of an overhaul," he said.

Durability and improved technology are other solid reasons for purchasing a replacement engine. All engines feature the latest design components, are hot tested and run up to power before leaving the assembly line.

"Warranty is another budget parameter that can influence your decision. With our new Ford New Holland BSD Engine, there's a one-year warranty. However, an overhaul is usually limited to just 90 days."

Gagnon also points out that manufacturers such as Ford New Holland generally have replacement engines available which can be shipped immediately to local equipment dealers. They can then install a factory-fresh engine in a lot less time than it takes to overhaul one.

Manufacturers carry a variety of replacement engines. For example, Ford New Holland carries replacements for nearly every



A factory-fresh replacement engine can be installed in a lot less time than it takes to overhaul one.

tractor model dating to 1965, Gagnon adds. Not all manufacturers can match this service.

"So the next time your tractor is hard to start, lacks power, or shows signs of oil consumption, pull it in for a compression

check," said Gagnon. "By taking time for a thorough engine examination and a detailed discussion with your dealer, you'll be able to determine if an engine transplant might be your most cost-effective alternative."

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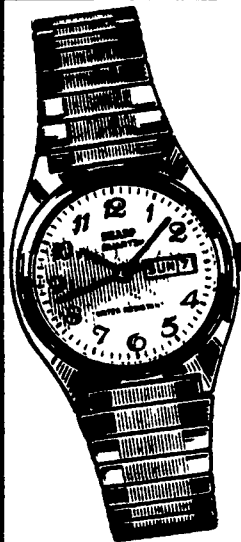
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