



Centra Sota Cooperative

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STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR AG EQUIPMENT

"Taking a few simple maintenance steps now will ensure a smooth start-up next spring and a long productive life with fewer breakdowns." – Howard Reinhard

Many pieces of agricultural equipment are designed for specific purposes or seasonal use so they are idle during the winter. Expensive equipment such as combines and other harvesters may be in storage up to nine months before returning to daily service. Proper maintenance now will prove to be an important factor in how well equipment starts and performs next season.

The most important thing you can do for your equipment is to change the lubricants in the engine and transmission before storage. A new engine lubricant will provide a fresh layer of protection against rust and corrosion, while fresh transmission fluid will reduce or eliminate the harmful moisture that accumulates in equipment fluid sumps, pans and reservoirs. Fresh lubricants will provide the best available anti-wear protection to ease dry engine start-up friction when the equipment is eventually restarted after extended idle periods.

In addition to a pre-storage lubricant change, you should also completely inspect vital operating components, such as tires, bearings, belts, chains, hoses, augers, pans, blowers, choppers and coolants, to help equipment operate properly when it returns to service.

Taking a few simple maintenance steps now will ensure a smooth start-up next spring and a long productive life with fewer breakdowns.

For additional tips, [here is an article](#) from The Progressive Farmer with the assistant director of the Nebraska Test Tractor Lab at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, offering more best practices for farmers to ensure their equipment is stored properly and is ready to go next spring.