

PRE-SEASON MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR PEANUT COMBINES

- ◇ Inspect all drive chains, particularly the main picking cylinder drive chain, for loose pins or stiff links. Either condition can cause chain breakage, which can result in extensive secondary damage to your combine. Lubricate chains according to manufacturer specifications or replace with the recommended chain. Adjust tension for slight chain sag between sprockets. Inspect sprockets for wear and alignment. Replace worn sprockets when replacing chain to maximize life.
- ◇ 2. Inspect all belts for wear or cracking. Check the pulleys and idlers for alignment with each other and check belt tension. Also check the pulleys for wear on the sides and in the bottom of the “V.” Wear in the bottom may indicate the belt or the pulley is worn and the belt is riding on the bottom and not on the sides as required.
- ◇ 3. Inspect separator cylinder bar and header bar hinge bearings for wear. Bearings which exhibit radial play in excess of 3/16 inch should be replaced as continued wear may damage the bars and create a need to replace these as well. Cam follower bearings at the end of each bar should also be inspected and replaced when radial play exceeds ¼ inch.
- ◇ 4. Inspect header, separator, breast and picking springs for breakage.
- ◇ 5. Grease wheel bearings. Adjust tire pressure and lug nut torque to specifications recommended on the chart located on each side of the combine.
- ◇ 6. Inspect all shaft bearings for wear. Lubricate all seals externally with oil from a squirt can to soften and free them after storage. Wipe off excess oil to prevent dust and grit buildup.
- ◇ 7. Inspect main drive gearbox for leaks and check oil level at plug on side. Fill with gear oil as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ◇ 8. Inspect drive shafts for wear and for shields in place, particularly the CV joint at the tractor. Observe that the main drive shaft telescopes freely. Grease all universal joints putting as many as 35 pumps into the center of the CV joint, depending on the model.
- ◇ 9. Inspect all picking and cleaning adjustments to see that they move freely.
- ◇ 10. Inspect header bands for wear.
- ◇ 11. Inspect poly-slide under separator cylinders for warp and dirt build-up underneath.
- ◇ 12. Inspect stripper cylinders for wear or damage to beaters.
- ◇ 13. Inspect cleaning fan for damage to blades and blade bolt tightness.
- ◇ 14. Inspect stemmer saws for bent or broken blades.
- ◇ 15. Inspect peanut funnel on stemmer bottom for dirt build-up and damage. In particular, look for dirt build-up between funnel and front stemmer support hinge above jet tunnel.
- ◇ 16. Inspect duct work for obstructions and wear.
- ◇ 17. Inspect basket hinge points for wear or damage and lubricate.
- ◇ 18. Replace hydraulic filter. Inspect oil in hydraulic reservoir for level and contamination.
- ◇ 19. Inspect digital speed indicator for digit showing in display. If blank, replace battery.
- ◇ 20. Pressurize hydraulic lines. Inspect for cracks and leaks.
- ◇ 21. Make certain all safety shields are in place.
- ◇ 22. Be careful not to over apply grease. Too much grease can escape around the bearings and attract dust. This dust can work into bearings and wear surfaces causing more wear or damage.

Revised by Mitch Smith, Agricultural Extension Agent and Dr. Gary Roberson, Extension Engineering Specialist on August 29, 2023.