

## Nelson Tractor Company Used Tractor Inspection Checklist

### 1. Check the safety features.

- First, check the ROPS. Almost all modern tractors have a roll bar, but some older tractors don't have them. If you're looking at a newer model tractor and the ROPS is missing, ask the seller if it was removed - and if he still has it.
- Seat belt
- Safety switches - you'll find safety switches in different areas of the tractor. clutch pedal, brake pedal, bottom of the seat, transmission, PTO switch.

### 2. Do a visual inspection.

- Take a walk around the tractor, looking for dents, rust, and missing paint.
- Check the tires for excessive or uneven wear. Look for depth of tread, damage, and signs of repair, like plugs or patches.

### 3. Check the water pump.

Wiggle the fan blades to see if it's stable. Check the belts to make sure everything is tight.

### 4. Check the fluids.

With the engine off and cool, pop open the hood and check all the fluids.

- Take the cap off the radiator. Make sure it has coolant and there's no oil floating in it.
- Check the engine fluid. Use the dipstick to check the level and make sure there's no water beaded on the stick. The oil should be black.
- Check the transmission fluid. Transmission fluid should be almost clear, so you might have to run your finger on the dipstick to feel the level. Have a rag handy to clean your hands when you check fluids.
- Power steering pump. Screw the cap off and check the fluid level.

### 5. Eyeball the clutch and brake pedals.

If the tractor operator rides the brakes, the dimples and paint on the pedals will be worn down.

### 6. Check the exhaust.

Time to crank 'er up. Lock the brakes, make sure the transmission is out of gear, and start the tractor. Let the tractor warm up for a few minutes, and take a look at the smoke. Is it white, blue, black, or

clear? The color of the smoke can indicate engine problems.

If the tractor smoke is:

**Clear** - Best case. If you just see a little puff and then no exhaust smoke, there is no indication of anything wrong.

**White** - There may be something wrong with the head gasket or water in the fuel system.

**Blue** - The tractor is burning oil. This could indicate a costly issue. The rings could be worn, or it could have some other internal issue.

**Black** - This is usually a cheap, easy fix. The air filter is probably clogged up and needs to be replaced. If the tractor continues to belch smoke after the initial start, it could indicate a bigger problem.

#### **7. Check the electronics.**

Check the flashers, dash lights and headlights. Everything that should light up, flash, or make noise.

#### **8. Turn the steering wheel and raise the lift.**

If it has power steering, the wheel should turn smoothly and easily. If it shakes or jitters, the fluid level could be low or a problem with the fluid. There could also be a problem with the pump.

Next, raise the lift lever. If it comes up nice and smooth, it's in good condition. If it shakes, there may be an internal fluid problem or an issue with the lift.

#### **9. Check the brakes.**

Put your foot on the clutch, shift into low gear, and put your right foot on one of the brakes. Slowly let out the clutch. The brake should keep the tractor from moving. Repeat with the second brake. Both brakes should be capable of holding the tractor in place.

At the same time, you can check the clutch performance. If the engine doesn't change and you can't feel the tractor straining to move, the clutch is slipping.

#### **10. Look at the hour meter.**

On the dash, you'll find an hour meter that tells you how many hours the tractor has been used. It may not be easy to read. The glass may be clouded or the markings faded.

If the hour meter is still working, you should see the timer ticking away while the motor is on.