



POWERING THE VINEYARD INDUSTRY

UKIAH: 235 E Perkins St.
(707) 462-2404

NOVATO: 7546 Redwood Blvd.
(415) 892-1030

CALISTOGA: 810 Foothill Blvd.
(707) 942-4566

LAKEPORT: 1975 Argonaut Rd.
(707) 279-0550

Tractor Maintenance Tips for Vineyard Managers

courtesy of Rainbow Ag



Every 10 hours

- Check engine-oil level
- Check coolant level
- Drain water and sediment from the fuel tank and fuel filter
- Lubricate tie rod ends
- Lubricate steering spindles
- Lubricate front axle pivot pin(s) *(see below)
- Lubricate front axle bearings

Every 50 hours

- Check transmission-hydraulic system oil level
- Check Mechanical Front Wheel Drive (MFWD) axle hub oil level
- Clean and check battery
- Inspect all tires
- Lubricate front axle pivot pin(s) *(see below)
- Lubricate steering spindles
- Inspect tractor for loose nuts and bolts

First 100 hours

- Change engine oil and filter
- Replace transmission-hydraulic filters

Every 250 hours

- Service air cleaner
- Change engine oil and filter
- Replace transmission-hydraulic filter
- Clean and check battery
- Inspect and adjust alternator/fan belt
- Inspect and adjust A/C compressor belt (Cab)
- Lubricate 3-point hitch
- Check neutral start system
- Check clutch pedal free travel
- Clean operator enclosure air filters (Cab)

Every 500 hours

- Replace fuel filter

Every 600 hours

- Change oil in MFWD axle housing
- Clean engine crankcase vent tube
- Repack front wheel bearings (Adjustable front axle)
- Check and tighten all hoses and hose clamps
- Check cooling systems for leaks
- Lubricate rear axle bearings
- Check engine idle speeds
- Check and adjust valve clearance
- Have your John Deere dealer:
 - Check front axle pivot pin
 - Adjust engine valve clearance
 - Inspect fuel injectors

Every 1200 hours

- Change transmission-hydraulic oil and filter
- Clean transmission-hydraulic pickup screen

Annually

- Change engine oil and filter
- Replace air cleaner elements

Every 2 Years or 2000 Hours (Whichever Comes First)

- Flush cooling system

Service Other Areas as Required

Use this list as a general guide. Each tractor model or manufacturer may require specific maintenance not covered in this list. **Always refer to the operator's manual produced specifically for the machine you are servicing.**

Coolant System Maintenance

Often neglected, it is extremely important to flush your cooling system periodically and replace the thermostat. The manual requires that it be done every two years.

A tip: Using John Deere's Long Life Premix 50/50, you can extend the flushing interval to five years.

The Right Battery

When you get ready to change your battery, be sure to check out the John Deere Hibernator battery. Rainbow has carried these for two years. We believe in them! Not only do they carry the best warranty (12 months, free replacement) but we have customers tell us that they charge faster and last significantly longer than the auto part will-fit batteries. They are made to endure the rough life of a tractor battery. Check them out online at:

http://www.deere.com/deerecom/_john+deere+parts/learn+about+john+deere+parts/batteries/Hibernator/default.htm

Can't find your manual? Let Rainbow order it for you!

Lake and Mendocino County residents, call Tom Carkin at (707) 462-2404.

Sonoma, Napa and Marin County residents, call Bob Coffin at (707) 942-4566.

* **IMPORTANT: Lubricate front-axle pivot pin** Especially on the John Deere 5000 series tractors, Lubrication of the front-axle pivot pin is a maintenance task that's often ignored. Recently at Rainbow, we've seen a number of failures directly related to neglect of this small maintenance task. Talking with the operators/owners, we discovered they had NEVER lubricated it. If you are not sure if you have lubricated this pivot, go do it now! The small amount of effort it requires might save your a costly service repair bill.