

# Farm Equipment Management Checklist

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- Perform Regular Equipment Inspections**  
*Weekly (or daily) checks identify issues with your machines before they happen. This practice can help prevent in field break-downs and save you time and money.*
  
- Listen to the Warning Lights**  
*Those warning bells and lights are a pain, but they often have merit. Not everything needs to be addressed right away, but getting a quick understanding of what the warnings are will help you make a more informed decision. It may make sense to take the plunge to fix the machine in the season to prevent a bigger breakdown in the future.*
  
- Train your Operators**  
*Spending 15 minutes introducing your employees to the machines can pay large dividends. Neglecting equipment and misuse contribute significantly to wear and tear.*
  
- Don't Overrun your Equipment**  
*Using your machines at the extent of their capabilities hurt their value in the long run. Yes, they are designed to run at the limits, but consistent use will add wear and tear that may come back to haunt you.*
  
- Store Machinery Properly**  
*If possible, keep machines stored out of the elements. Spray down your machines from time to time and keep them in good working order. Rain, mud and rodents can wreak havoc on your equipment's systems.*
  
- Monitor Your Expenses**  
*At the end of the season, having a log of your expenses will give you insight into when it may be time to trade in your machines. If the equipment is starting to cost more in repairs, it may make more financial sense to trade it in.*
  
- Keep a Central Record of Maintenance**  
*Having all your records in place is a good idea for a number of reasons. For your own business, these records aid you in making decisions and ensure your business is operating as well as it can be. In the event of selling equipment, having this record can bring confidence to the buyer and make your machines more valuable.*