

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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*Hand -Me - Down Hazards:  
The Dangers of Used Equipment*



In our system the practice of purchasing or trading for used equipment is an uncommon practice.

However, there are times and situations where it is warranted to obtain used equipment, possibly in special research projects or if the piece of equipment isn't available on the new market.

Regardless of the situations warranting the purchase, lease or renting of a special piece of equipment, it is imperative that the equipment is in a sound, working condition. At least if it is not, then we should know that on the front end so we can negotiate a price allowance for the deficient part. A request for a maintenance or service contract included in the purchase gives one a hint that the equipment will be sound and perform as needed.

If not, this is a hint that we better check deeper on the condition of the unit to make sure we get what we bargained for. Look for items that may detract from safe use and the service ability of the unit:

- ✓ All guards and shields in place.
- ✓ Will the seller give you a guarantee or equipment warranty with the purchase?
- ✓ Copies of the maintenance and operator's manuals should be available.

- ✓ Engine is in sound condition, lights, brakes, etc. are in working condition.
- ✓ Manufacturer's operation and instruction manuals are available with the unit.
- ✓ As an example, if you are buying a tractor, is it equipped with a "Rollover Protective Structure" (ROPS). If not, a discussion should be forthcoming on who will be responsible for the cost of purchase and installation? Remember that all tractors purchased after October, 1976 and used by employees in agricultural operations must be equipped with the Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) and Seatbelts.

Regardless of where you buy or trade for equipment, it is critical to check all the functions to be sure that you get what you bargained for. Specifically, you would need to check out the lights, brakes, guards and shields, and the maintenance records. Obviously you will look and feel out the power train to see that it is good working order. It will probably be too late to bargain for a flaw in the unit after it leaves the place of purchase.

***PRACTICE SAFETY IN ALL  
YOU DO  
EVERYONE DEPENDS ON  
YOU!!***

***SAFETY RULES ARE THE BEST  
TOOLS!***

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