



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

It is important to have the right tools for the job. Tools are not always just hammers, wrenches and saws, it can also include UTVs, heavy equipment, and vehicles. To ensure this type of equipment is in good condition and functions as intended to perform the job safely, routine inspections are essential.

Most importantly, regular inspections ensure the safety of workers. You can get projects done on time and with peace of mind, knowing your equipment is in good condition. When it comes down to it, there is no reason not to have routine inspections and get the most out of the equipment and vehicle that is an essential tool in your job.

When & how often should equipment be inspected?

Equipment/vehicle inspections should always be performed BEFORE its use. How the equipment is used can help determine the frequency of these inspections.

A few examples ...

- Hard work and long miles:
 - A tractor, picker or combine is being used hard all day long; it would be wise to check everything before starting that morning & then check the fluids again halfway through the day.
 - Nobody likes to be broke down on the side of the road or late for a meeting because of vehicle problems. A thorough inspection before you leave, both going & coming back, can help prevent these unexpected delays.

- Multiple operators: A piece of equipment/vehicle used by multiple people should be inspected by each operator before it is used. You would not want to be responsible for a problem someone else caused earlier.

What are some benefits of routine equipment/vehicle inspections?

- Stay safe – Equipment and vehicles that are in top condition are safer to work with. Failed brakes, blowout of a tire, lose of control's function or any such malfunction of a component could cause property damage or injury to an operator or other by-stander. Pre-use inspections can help reveal warning signs and fix small issues before they turn into a safety hazard.
- Save time - When equipment/vehicles fail, the workflow gets interrupted, and you might not be able to stick to your schedule and meet deadlines. Inspections can help reveal small problems before they become big problems, giving time to order parts or schedule a service call for a mechanic when necessary.
- Save money - You will be able to make a repair before it leads to a much more expensive problem. Small repairs are often worth the time and cost less because equipment and vehicles are not cheap to replace, it only makes sense to properly maintain something so valuable.

Document your equipment/vehicle inspections and always report problems found to the supervisor. If an inspection reveals a safety issue, the equipment/vehicle should not be used until repaired.

(Attached is a general inspection checklist for use.)

For more info contact:
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Sources:

<https://www.macallister.com/importance-of-equipment-inspections>
<https://www.thechecker.net/stories/blog>

Equipment Inspection Checklist

PRE-START / KEY OFF:

- ___ Fluid levels (oil, coolant, hydraulic, brake, steering)
- ___ Tire/wheel condition (air pressure, cuts, gouges, cracks, defects, missing studs/lug nuts)
- ___ Leaks, cracks, frays or other visible defects (hoses, cylinders, connectors, cables, chains, belts, wires, tanks)
- ___ Condition of attachments/implements (including condition of hitches, pins, receivers, links, draw bars)
- ___ All guards & covers in place & secured.
- ___ Operator compartment free of trash & other potential obstructions to controls.
- ___ Safety devices in place & working properly (seatbelt, ROPS, SMV triangle, fire extinguisher)

RUNNING / KEY ON:

- ___ Safety devices in place & working properly (lights/flashers, backup alarm, safety switches/interlocks)
- ___ Gauges functioning properly
- ___ Steering operates smoothly & without excessive free play
- ___ Brakes & parking brake function as intended
- ___ Smooth & predictable operation of all controls (no hesitation, jerking, unintended movement of load handling equip.)

Other Observations/Comments:

***The equipment should not be placed in service if the examinations show that it may not be safe to operate.
Problems should be recorded on this document and reported to your supervisor immediately.***

Equipment type/model: _____

Meter Reading: _____

Operator Signature: _____

Date: _____