

Check on dryer before giving it its fall workout

By JOSH FLINT

SINCE many corn acres were planted late thanks to a wet spring, one thing's for sure: The dryer's going to get a workout in the coming months.

While planting was delayed, many farmers began evaluating their current dryer situation. This is evidenced by GSI's dryer sales through May. "We're on a record year for dryer sales," says Gary Woodruff, GSI's product information manager.

While ordering a new dryer now may be cutting it close, inspecting the current one to make sure it's ready is a good idea. Not to mention, if a problem arises, it will be a lot easier to fix before harvest begins. Piece by piece, Woodruff explains his checklist for inspecting a typical portable grain dryer.

Key Points

- Inspect your dryer now to make sure it's working properly.
- Service calls near harvest can result in expensive downtime.
- Verify that the farm moisture meter matches the elevator's.

- ✓ First, Woodruff recommends working from top to bottom to ensure nothing is missed.
- ✓ Check the top auger's drive system. Visually inspect the belt for cracks and obstructions. Also, check the belt tension. Do the same for the bottom auger. (See photo A.)
- ✓ Make sure the load level switch rotates freely and is operational.
- ✓ Be sure to inspect all load and unload auger entrance and connection points for birds' nests, animals and other debris. Do this for the top and bottom augers. (See photo B.)
- ✓ Inspect the gas train for leaks. If

Inspection points



there is a malfunction, Woodruff recommends calling a gas technician or the dealer's service department. If the gas regulator is defective, Woodruff says it should be replaced, not repaired. (See photo C.)

- ✓ Climb inside the dryer and check the burner for obstructions or signs of oil requiring vaporizer adjustment. (See photo D.)
- ✓ Clean the control boxes with pressurized air and a soft brush.



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