

Preventing clogged auger and conveyor tubes

We've noticed an increase in the number of service calls involving clogged or slow-moving augers and conveyors. With the higher moisture content in the corn this year, some additional steps in preparation are necessary to minimize drag and prevent the seizing up of augers and conveyors. First of all, take time to review your owners manual, as it has a lot of useful information; not only on use of your auger, but also on safely operating it. Please note that your auger will run rough until the tube is polished due to some rust inside of it. Below are some general preparation guidelines.

Lockout and/or shutdown

1. Shut off engine and remove ignition key or coil wire from tractor.
2. If step 1 is not possible, remove PTO driveline from tractor.

Start-up and break-in

NOTE: *The angle drive requires a break-in period of at least 2 or 3 loads of grain.*

1. Ensure that you have completed the pre-operational checklist in your owners manual.
2. If everything is satisfactory, prepare for a 60-minute operation at half speed.
3. Ensure that the intake hopper is correctly positioned.
4. Ensure that the PTO drive on the tractor is in the OFF position.
5. Start tractor and **idle at low RPM**. Slowly engage PTO drive.
6. Gradually begin feeding grain into hopper bringing auger speed up to about 300 RPM. Do not overfeed the hopper on initial loads,

keep the grain at about half capacity. After auger tube is polished and runs fairly smoothly, proceed to unload at full speed of 540 RPM.

7. Upon completion of initial run, **slow auger down** until empty of grain and stop.
8. Lock out tractor and conduct a complete inspection of auger following the checklist in your owners manual.
9. After initial start-up and inspection, auger should be shut down and inspected at least three more times during the first ten hours of operation.
10. Once auger is broken in, the checklist should be part of the daily routine before operating the auger.
11. Do not run empty auger at high speed, as this results in excessive wear.

After break-in: Maintain auger speed of 300 to 540 RPM under normal use for maximum efficiency and to reduce chance of plugging.

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