

Take time in warming up your equipment

Brrrr! It's cold out there. Well, that's what your tractor and equipment are thinking as well. The conveniences of those beautiful warm mornings are now a thing of the past and something to look forward to in the spring. Now, as we begin our days out in the cold and for some of us, out in the dark as well, it requires a little more planning ahead to allow our equipment adequate time to warm up.

Remember that unless your tractor or loader has an optional hydraulic oil heater, that oil is the same temperature as the outside air. Several minutes are required to warm this oil to allow it to flow as it should through the many passages within the hydraulic and transmission systems. The newer MX and Magnum tractors will actually display a fault code if the tractor is put into gear before the oil is at optimum temperature.

Repairs to hydraulic and transmission systems are very costly and result in unwanted and untimely downtimes. So remember to take a little extra time and let those tractors warm up before they are put to work. If you're a coffee drinker, it just might allow you to have another cup.

Also, please remember that if you have invested in a machine that is equipped with a grid heater, allow that grid heater adequate time to do its job, and very importantly on these machines—do not use ether!

Stay warm and be careful out there and keep in mind that spring is just around the corner. We just don't know how long that corner is.

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