

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

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

In the MAFES system, leasing or renting equipment is not a common occurrence. When leasing or renting equipment is done, it is for special applications or special projects, or maybe special research projects.

However, whether equipment is leased, rented or purchased, it is done in “good faith” that the equipment has been through a service program. The service program should have a guarantee that the equipment will perform as the seller tells you.

As a buyer, one should be sure to get a warranty with a fair and equitable time period that promises the equipment will perform as the seller says that it will.

Regardless of the source of purchase, rent, or leasing, one must inspect the equipment very closely to make sure that the power train, frame work, tires, lighting, controls, and gauges are all in good working order.

Regardless of the type of equipment you’re acquiring, you should get an owner’s manual with it. I would recommend that you take the time to go over the equipment thoroughly to find any missing parts, broken parts, etc. While you are bargaining for the machine, I would take the extra time and give the vehicle a total inspection, looking at every piece on the machine.

If they give you a written “seal of approval” that the equipment is as good as they say it is, then you should be getting a good deal. On the other hand, if the seller is a little reluctant to discuss your questions and the need to do a thorough vehicle inspection, then you need to back off and question him about the performance of the equipment and what type of guarantee will he give you.

At this juncture, I would recommend doing a thorough inspection, including a test drive.

Inspection checklist:

- ✓ Lighting system
- ✓ Braking system
- ✓ Gauges and controls
- ✓ Tires and tire pressure
- ✓ Motor system
- ✓ Check the oil
- ✓ Service records for routine motor and power maintenance
- ✓ Electrical parts and sound system (if equipped)

If you are acquiring a tractor, check to see if it is equipped with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS). If so, check to be sure that it is a factory installed one and not a “shade tree” installation. If it is a homemade one, you need to bargain with the dealer or individual for a factory made one. Shop made or “shade tree” ones are illegal. There are “after-market” models available for most tractors. I would recommend dealing with the seller for a legal ROPS and seatbelt in the negotiations.

Regardless of whether you are leasing, renting, or purchasing used equipment, it is critical that you check the machine as thoroughly as possible for defective parts or other types of problems that would affect the performance of it.

Hopefully, you would be dealing with a legitimate seller. Regardless, again it is critical that you look and inspect this piece of equipment thoroughly, because of possible omissions of parts or some safety features.

KEEP SAFETY IN MIND
IT WILL SAVE YOUR BEHIND!!
◁ **SAFETY IS OUR GOAL** ▷
WHAT IS YOURS?