

START UP MAINTENANCE

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caused by drying gaskets and should at this time be able to check and adjust the packing gland on the pump. If the driver is an electric motor, the grease should again be changed, the unit turned by hand to insure that it is free, the motor openings checked for foreign objects or rodents and the area around the air intakes cleaned of weeds or trash.

The switch box should be checked to insure it is clean and free of rodents. The fuses should be replaced after checking to insure that they are not blown.

All electrical connections should be checked to make sure they are tight. A loose electrical connection can cause low voltage and excessive heat causing overload protector tripping and blown fuses. The extremes of temperature during the winter can sometimes cause electrical connections to expand and contract at different rates resulting in a connection that was tight in the fall to be loose in the spring. This is particularly true when aluminum wire is used.

On an electric motor driven unit,

the pump end start-up maintenance would be the same as with an engine driven unit; again all safety shutdown switches used on the unit should be checked to insure that they are working properly.

Presented in this manner, pump and engine maintenance seems like a great deal of work, and I have had operators tell me that they do not perform this type of maintenance and yet they get satisfactory life out of their unit. I submit that these people do not know what satisfactory life really is.

Several years ago a farmer in eastern Colorado who used a lot of pumping units, all engine driven, was using one of the major brands of engines, and was happy enough with the service they gave him that he kept trading his engines in to the dealer for the same brand when they did wear out. This man was getting 8,000 to 10,000 hours of operation out of each engine and he considered this satisfactory.

The dealer, upon rebuilding several of the engines he had taken in trade from the farmer, found that the engines were not worn out in general, but had excessive wear at several points in the engine, indicating lack of proper maintenance.

He requested the farmer to perform proper maintenance on one new engine as recommended to test his theory that most of the failures were due to improper maintenance. The farmer agreed to rigidly perform proper maintenance on this one new engine. As a result the last I heard the engine in question has passed 20,000 hours and was going strong. Now the farmer no longer considers 8,000 to 10,000 hours as satisfactory life and is an advocate of proper maintenance. □

Nu-Ag West Becomes New Div. Of Foamspray Chemicals

Nu-Ag West, a new division of Foamspray Chemicals, Inc., has been established in Lubbock, Tex.

W. G. "Skip" Purdy III, Foamspray's vice president and general manager, said the new division would specialize in marketing of growth aids — OD-4 and Microtil — for the west Texas area. Previously, he said, the distribution center for these growth aids had been from Dallas but that increased usage had dictated establishment of a nearby center.



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