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# FORD



## Operator's Manual

Tractor  
1215

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## BREAK-IN PROCEDURES

Your Ford Tractor will provide long and dependable service if given proper care during the 50-hour break-in period. During the first 50 hours of operation :

1. Avoid "lugging" the engine. Operating in too high a gear under heavy load may cause engine "lugging", which is indicated when the engine will not respond to a throttle increase.
2. Use the lower gear ratios when pulling heavy loads and avoid continuous operation at constant engine speeds. You will save fuel and minimize engine wear by selecting the correct gear ratio for a particular operation. Operating the tractor in low gear with a light load and high engine speed will waste fuel.
3. Avoid prolonged operation at either high or low engine speeds without a load on the engine.
4. Check the instruments frequently and keep the radiator and oil reservoirs filled to their recommended levels. Daily checks include :
  - Engine oil level
  - Radiator coolant
  - Air cleaner

## STARTING THE ENGINE

Safety switches on the tractor allows the starting motor to be used only when the clutch pedal is fully depressed and when the rear P. T. O. lever and mid P. T. O. lever (if equipped) are in "OFF" positions. For safe operation the transmission gear shift levers should be in neutral position prior to starting the engine.

**WARNING:** Never attempt to start the engine while standing beside the tractor — always sit in the seat when starting the engine.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not engage the starting motor continuously for more than 30 seconds ; doing so may cause starting motor failure.

## WARM WEATHER STARTING

To start a cold engine in warm weather or to start an engine that is warm .

1. Depress the clutch pedal fully, move the transmission shift lever to the neutral position and P.T.O. levers to the "OFF" position.
2. Move the hand throttle forward to 1/4 to 1/3 open position and push the stop control knob in.
3. Turn the key switch to the "START" position, Figure 16. When the engine starts, release the key. Check to be sure the warning lights go out. If the engine fails to start after cranking for approximately 10 seconds, refer to the following "COLD WEATHER STARTING" information.

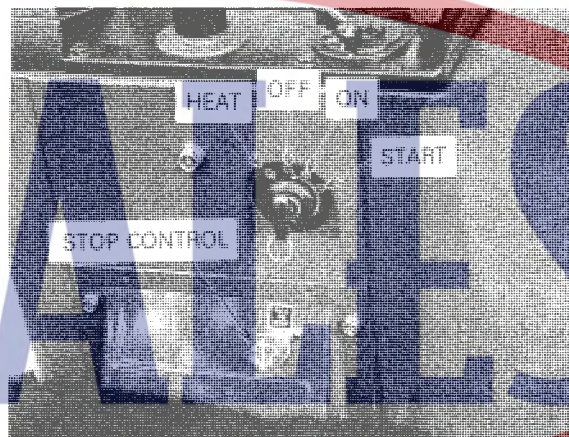


Figure 16 — Key Switch and Stop Control

## COLD WEATHER STARTING

If the engine fails to start using the preceding warm weather starting procedure or when starting the engine in cold weather:

1. Depress the clutch pedal fully and move the transmission shift levers to the neutral position and P.T.O. levers to the "OFF" position.
2. Move the hand throttle forward to 1/4 to 1/3 open position push the stop control knob in.
3. Turn the key switch to "HEAT" to preheat the combustion chambers and wait until the cold-start aid indicator glows red. (approximately 20 seconds), in Figure 5.
4. Turn the key switch to the "START" position. When the engine starts, release the key.

**IMPORTANT:** In cold weather below 23°F (−5°C) start the engine after holding the key switch to the "HEAT" position for an additional 10 seconds even if the glow plug indicator has shown red.

# OPERATION

## WEIGHTING FOR STABILITY

Front end ballast may be required for stability and steering control when weight is transferred from the front wheels to the rear wheels as the implement is raised by the tractor 3-point hitch.

As a general guide :

Ballast the tractor (less implement) so that approximately 1/3 of the tractor weight is on the front wheels.

When a mounted implement is raised to the transport position, the front wheel reaction should be least 20% of tractor weight.

Add additional front end ballast as required for stability during operation and transport. Tractor front end ballast may not always maintain satisfactory stability if the tractor is operated at high speed on rough terrain. Reduce tractor speed and exercise caution under these conditions.

When using front mounted equipment, add weight to the rear axle to maintain good traction and stability.

**WARNING :** If proper stability cannot be obtained within the weighting limitations below, reduce the load on the tractor until stability is obtained.

**IMPORTANT :** Do not exceed the tire load and inflation specifications in the Tire Inflation vs. Permissible Load Chart, page 24.

## WEIGHTING LIMITATIONS

The weighting limitations that follow are limitations only ; they do not imply that the tractor should be weighted to obtain the weights shown. Use only enough weight to obtain good performance.

## Total Vehicle Weight

Do not add cast iron weight in excess of the following :

Front End — 99 lbs.

Each Rear Wheel — 74 lbs. plus liquid ballast.

## LIQUID BALLAST (OPTIONAL)

It is a common practice to add weight to the tractor by filling the rear tires with liquid. A calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) and water solution is recommended due to its low freezing point and greater density (weight per gallon) than water. Never exceed the total recommended weight for the tractor. Because special equipment is required to fill the tires, we recommend that you consult your Ford New Holland Dealer. Tires should never be filled beyond 75% (tire filled to the valve stem when valve stem is at its highest point at the top of the wheel).

## CAST IRON WEIGHTS (OPTIONAL)

Cast iron weights are available as accessories from your Ford New Holland Dealer. Weights can be mounted, on the front end of the tractor, and on the rear wheels as shown in Figures 26 and 27.

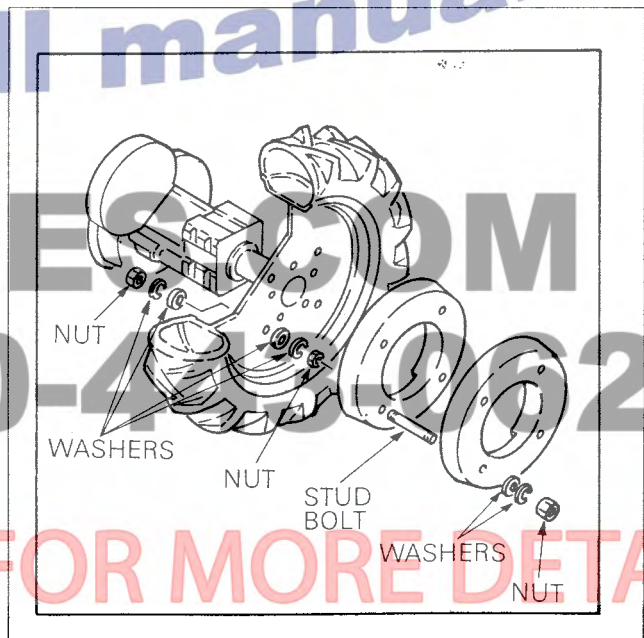


Figure 26 — Rear Wheel Weights