

A burning problem

by Kory Glover
AgriNews Staff Writer

VERNON – WHILE TRACTOR FIRES MIGHT NOT BE AS COMMON AS ONE THINKS THEY ARE, THEY CAN STILL BE A DANGER TO CAUTION.

On Thurs., May 23, a tractor caught ablaze in a field out in Vernon owned by Dwight Foster of North Gower Grains. He explained that this was the first tractor fire that he had experienced and that there was minimal damage to the rest of the field and no injuries.

“A cause for the fire has not been determined at this time,” he said. “There wasn’t any additional property damage or injuries.”

For a tractor fire to occur, three elements of air, material to burn and a heat source must be present. Unfortunately, that can be hard to avoid in the agricultural business.

During the summer, when machines are running too long, they can heat up to a high degree and air, well, that’s impossible to avoid anywhere. But, there are certain precautions to take in hopes of avoiding this problem in the future.

Close of 75 per cent of tractor fires start in the engine or engine compartment area, so keeping close attention there can be vital. Using a pressure washer, try to remove any grease, oil and/or crop residue from the area, allowing the engine to run cooler and operate more efficiently.

During the start of the season, take some time to remove any dry chaff, leaves or any other material from the tractor (use your hands, leaf-blower or compressed air); and while

doing so, you should also look out for any leaks of fuel or oil.

If you do find any leaks, repair them immediately; probably safe to say you already know what happens when fire mixes with oil or fuel.

You can also just try to eliminate the heat sources all together.

The most common heat source in any tractor is the exhaust system. Checking to make sure the manifold, muffler and turbocharger are in good condition can go a long way to prevent a fire.

Also, make sure there are no worn bearings, belts or chains in your machine. Any rubber belt exposed to extreme heat can easily burst into flames.

Unfortunately, despite your best efforts, a tractor fire is still very plausible. So, it’s best to be as prepared as possible just in case of emergency.

Keeping a fully functional extinguisher on your machinery can go a long way to avoid fire spreading from your machine to nearby buildings or crops. It might even be possible to salvage your tractor for further use.

However, it doesn’t mean every single tractor fire is easily put out. Before you do anything, the local fire department should be contacted for safety precautions. Any fire can easily flare up from simply opening a door or hatch.

So, if you’re using an extinguisher, make sure you’re using it at a safe distance but also make sure the local fire department is on their way to contain the blaze appropriately.



Tractor fire in Vernon

A tractor caught fire in a field in Vernon, owned by Dwight Foster of North Gower Grains on Thurs., May 23. Foster says that there was no additional property damage or any injuries as a result. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Al-Rajab photo

CROPLAN

By WINFIELD UNITED

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RevolutionAg Retail Inc.

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means producers can put their focus on other aspects of their business and continue to grow; which means achieving the best yields is essential. “If you look at the genetic potential today of a corn plant, it’s 600 bushels. What we are typically shooting for in this area is about 200 bushels per acre. Everything that you do between the time that seed bag is opened until harvest is decreasing the yield. What we’re doing, is trying to protect the yield potential,” said Mac Namara.

She continued that her business is the only one offering both innovative products and cropping methods for producers looking well into the future. Mac Namara said she creates a partnership with her clients where both their business and hers work to achieve the best results.

With clients all around Winchester, RevolutionAg Retail Inc. is already making waves. “Producers’ two biggest concerns are input costs and market prices. The only way that they can insulate themselves from those two variables is to maximize their production on every acre that they farm,” Mac Namara explained. “No one else has ever driven into their yard and said, ‘I’m going to help you raise the best crop you’ve ever raised in your entire life.’ That’s what we do.”

Contributions to this article were made by Kory Glover.

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