

MERGER OPERATION TIPS



Just using a merger vs. a rake doesn't automatically improve crop quality.

Proper operation and maintenance are vital for producing better feed and trouble free operation.

The following document goes over a some operational guidelines to help ensure you are getting the most out of your Oxbo merger.

If you have additional questions contact your local Oxbo merger dealer or visit www.oxbocorp.com for more information.

A NOTE ON FIELD CONDITIONS

Proper seedbed preparation to make the field as smooth as possible reduces the chance of running the merger into the ground.

This is important to note when running winter forage. Winter forage is often seeded into no till or minimum till situations, causing the field to be rough with high and low spots which increase the chance of running the machine into the ground and picking up foreign material (dirt, rocks).

In situations where the field conditions are rough, slowing down will reduce ground strikes, helping improve merger operation.

OPERATING THE OXBO MERGER



We recommend leaving a lot of stubble

Not only will this make the merger wear and perform better, but the hay will dry better up off the ground, it promotes good regrowth, etc. 3" stubble height is recommended.

If possible, try not to drive on the hay

It may leave streaks where you pushed the hay into the ground with the tire, and the pickup tine cannot reach it.

Do not run the tines into the ground!

The merger pickup does not need to touch the ground to pick up the crop. A big part of the reason to buy this machine is for the low ash/dirt and rock pickup, not to mention you can damage the heads in time. The primary causes of the merger contacting the ground are:

1. Stubble height
2. Seedbed preparation
3. Machine adjustment

CONNECTING TO THE TRACTOR

THREE POINT HITCH HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

When on flat, level ground, the three point hitch should be adjusted so that the main frame of the merger is horizontal to the ground or from top of frame to the ground about 74" to 75" for the 330 & 334 (figure 1) or 43" from top of the hitch frame on 2330 & 2334 (figure 2) as shown in the photos.

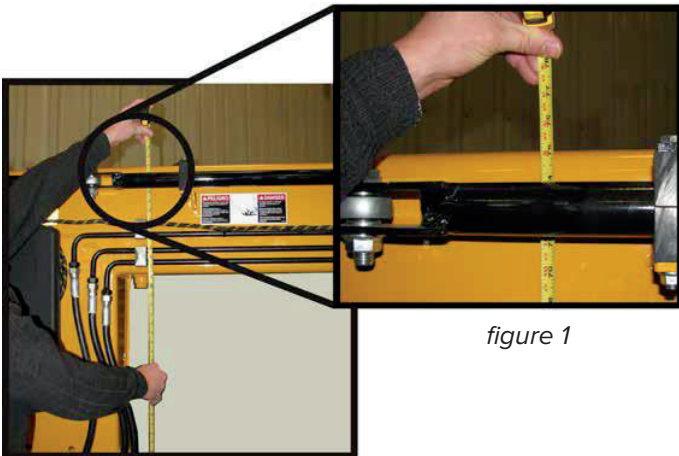


figure 1



figure 2

HITCH HEIGHT GUAGE

- Adjust so that chain is just skimming the stubble when the beam is level (figure 3).
- Operator can look back and make sure hitch has not settled.



figure 3

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Switch box - Float LEDs (figure 4A)

- Indicates machine has hydraulic pressure from tractor and that the float lock solenoids are energized.
- All three green lights should always be on during normal operation.



figure 4

HYDRAULIC FLOAT SYSTEM



Hydraulic float system: Nitrogen filled accumulator and a dedicated set of cylinders allow for smooth ground following.

Wide shoes: Instead of wheels to eliminate header bounce for a smooth head ride even in the roughest conditions.

When properly adjusted the skid shoes will carry only about 2PSI of ground pressure.

Float pressure is adjustable to adapt to varying ground conditions.

ADJUSTING FLOAT PRESSURES

Attach gauge to test port (figure 6A)

1. Start tractor & run at idle (make sure float LEDs are on).
2. Loosen jam nut on pressure reducing valve.
3. Turn adjusting screw until gauge reads desired setting
4. Tighten jam nut
5. Turn tractor off & remove gauge

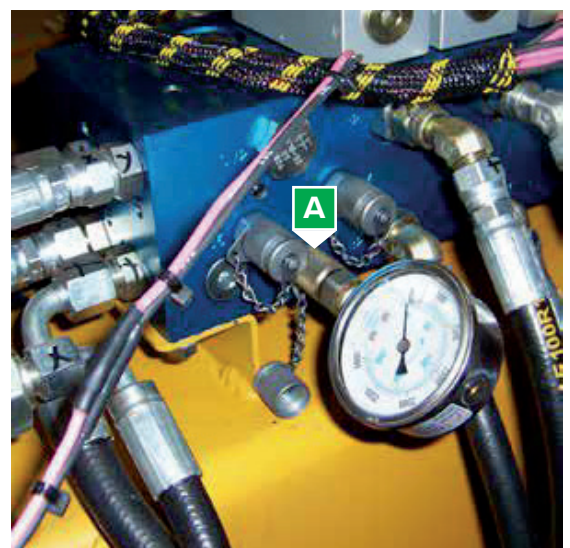


figure 6

PICKUP HEAD HEIGHT

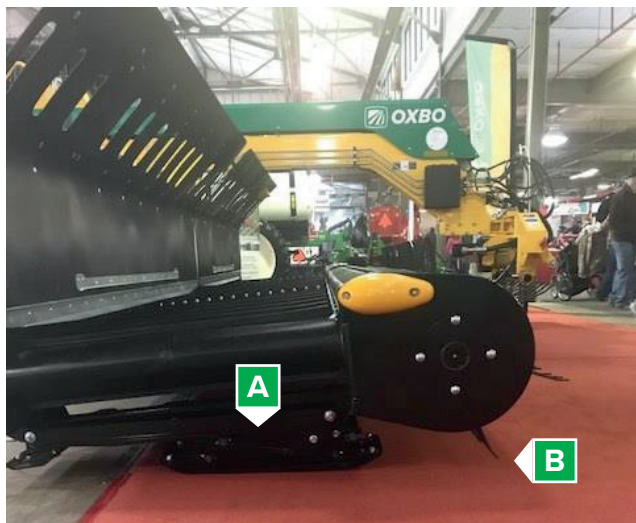


figure 7

Three individual pickup heads flex and float independently to follow the ground.

Header height is controlled hydraulically by raising and lowering the skid shoes (figure 7A). The range is approximately 7/8" 2 1/4".

Always operate with the heads raised as high as possible.

Pickup tines should NOT contact the ground (figure 7B).

PICKUP TINES

Patented rubber mounted split tines:

Positioned every 2 inches for the full pick up width provide excellent crop recovery even in light or difficult crops (figure 8).

Double tines (figure 9) can flex individually to reduce the amount of dirt and rocks picked up. Split tines can be retrofitted to work on pre 2014 machines.

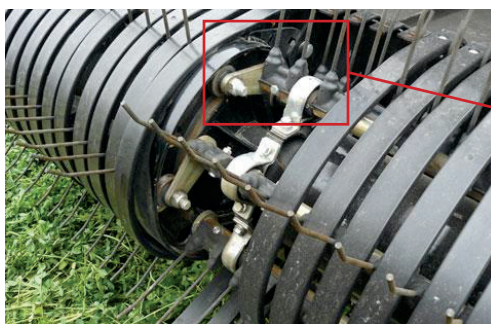


figure 8



figure 9

PICKUP TINE WEAR



New tines are 6" from end of rubber to tip when new. If the tines are below 5" it is time to replace them or you can hinder machine performance.

Also, if tines are out of alignment or deformed, replace them. It is best to replace all worn tines at the same time.

Contact your local Oxbo merger dealer to order replacement tines or visit www.oxbocorp.com for more information.