

Grain Harvester Repair and Maintenance Costs

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Work-job orders for 15 combines with different cutting width were used in this study. Data for more 350 work orders were classified as repair or maintenance for nine categories. These categories included, header unit, threshing unit, separation, cleaning shoe, engine, pre-harvest jobs, general and fabrication works, electrical and tires. Total annual cost for each category was determined, and the ratio of total cost to purchase price was calculated. Total costs were divided into labour and parts according to each work job orders. Correlations between repair and maintenance costs and some factors (such as: separation hours, engine hours, combine age, labour cost, and parts cost) were made. The relationship between combine age and cutting width on repair and maintenance costs was investigated. Seventy-two percent of the work orders were classified as repair work while 28% were maintenance. Repair mean total costs were significantly higher than maintenance costs. Furthermore, repair and maintenance mean total costs were directly related to grain harvesters working life (age) and some other factors.