

FREE TOOLKIT

SERVICE GUIDE

Equipment never breaks on a slow day. Here is exactly what happens when you bring a machine to Unkefer Sales, or when we come to you instead.

WHAT'S INSIDE

The full guide · A seasonal maintenance checklist

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BRING IN A MACHINE

Service does not have to feel like a mystery. Here is the process, start to finish, whether you are bringing in a mower, a compact tractor, or a piece of construction equipment.

- 1 Call or stop in and tell us what is going on. Symptoms, hours, and how you use the machine all help us plan the work before it ever gets to the bay.
- 2 Drop it off, or ask about the on-site service truck if the job qualifies. Some work can come to you instead of the other way around.
- 3 Our technicians inspect and diagnose before touching anything beyond what you asked for. A mower tune-up, for example, includes a general inspection as part of the job.
- 4 If we find something beyond the original scope, we call you first. That is not a courtesy line, it is how every job works here. You approve the extra work before it happens, not after.
- 5 We complete the repair, and you pick up or arrange delivery.

Turnaround depends on what the machine needs, but when nothing extra turns up, we move fast. A mid-season mower tune-up, for instance, is often ready the day after drop-off or the day after pickup. Bigger jobs take longer, and we will tell you a realistic number instead of a guess.

ON-SITE SERVICE, WHEN IT MAKES SENSE

Not every job needs a trip to Minerva. Our service truck lets a technician come to your property, your farm, or your jobsite and handle a real range of service work right where the equipment sits, on a mower, lawn tractor, compact tractor, or other outdoor power equipment.

On-site service is the better call when the machine is hard to trailer, when you have several units that all need attention in the same visit, or when routine maintenance like a tune-up would otherwise cost you a half day of loading and hauling. It saves you the transport hassle and keeps your equipment closer to where you actually need it.

Bringing the machine into the shop still makes more sense for bigger diagnostic work, engine or hydraulic teardown, warranty repairs, or anything that needs shop tooling we cannot load onto a truck. If you are not sure which fits your situation, tell us the symptoms when you call and we will point you to the right option instead of defaulting to whichever is easier for us.

SIGNS YOU SHOULDN'T IGNORE

Most breakdowns give you a warning first. The machine still runs, so it is easy to tell yourself it will hold until next week. That is usually the moment a cheap fix turns into an expensive one.

Pay attention to hard starts or slow cranking, power loss when you push into a load, any new smoke color, or rising engine temperature. Hydraulics that feel weak, jerky, or slow to respond are one of the earliest signs of trouble, right alongside a transmission that hunts for range or a PTO that slips or chews shear pins.

Heavy or inconsistent steering and soft or grabby brakes are safety issues, not maintenance items to schedule around. Any fresh wet spot under the machine, a new noise, or a warning light that was not there yesterday deserves a look before you run it again.

A lot of these start as small maintenance habits that slip. Treating the hour meter as optional, skipping grease points on loader pins and driveline joints, letting fluids get low or overdue instead of checked on schedule, or running a dirty filter because the machine still starts fine. None of that stops a tractor outright on its own. It just wears the expensive parts quietly until one of them fails at the worst possible time.

A SIMPLE SEASONAL RHYTHM

You do not need a complicated system, just a few checkpoints tied to the season instead of the calendar page.

In spring, after equipment has sat through storage, check hoses, belts, tires, and battery health before the first real workload hits. Through summer, keep the cooling pack clean and watch hydraulic temperatures on long run days, especially if you are mowing thick or wet grass. As fall and pre-harvest approach, this is your last clean window to get ahead of downtime: audit fluids and filters, check road lighting if equipment moves on the highway, and inspect hitch, PTO, and driveline points before the season gets busy. Once winter is on the way, switch your focus to cold-weather basics: fuel treated against gelling, a battery that is load-tested rather than assumed good, correct coolant protection, and hydraulics that are not going to feel sluggish the first cold morning you need them.

None of this requires guesswork on your part. If you are not sure where your machine stands against that rhythm, that is exactly what a service visit is for.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

A few checkpoints tied to the season, not the calendar page.

SPRING

- ☐ Check hoses, belts, and tires for winter-storage wear
- ☐ Test battery health before the first real workload

SUMMER

- ☐ Keep the cooling pack clean of debris
- ☐ Watch hydraulic temperatures on long, heavy mowing days

FALL / PRE-HARVEST

- ☐ Audit fluids and filters
- ☐ Check road lighting if equipment moves on the highway
- ☐ Inspect hitch, PTO, and driveline points before the season gets busy

WINTER

- ☐ Treat fuel against gelling
- ☐ Load-test the battery — don't just assume it's good
- ☐ Confirm correct coolant protection
- ☐ Check hydraulics for cold-morning sluggishness

WHEN YOU'RE READY

If something on your equipment does not feel right, or it is just time for a checkup, call our service department at (330) 868-6419 or stop by 1115 N. Market St. in Minerva. We are open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, and Saturday 8am to 12pm. Tell us what you are seeing and we will get you scheduled, in the shop or on-site, whichever actually fits your day.

This toolkit includes a seasonal maintenance checklist you can keep on hand year-round. If something on your equipment doesn't feel right, or it's just time for a checkup, call or stop by and we'll get you scheduled.