Farm Equipment Lease Season Checklist

Get the season, the machine, and the money documented before delivery and reconciled at return

Run this list before a leased machine is delivered for the season, and again when it goes back. It pairs with the Farm Equipment Lease Agreement. Full guide: clearlegaltips.com/farm-equipment-lease-agreement/

BEFORE THE SEASON

- [ ] The season window is written as real start and end dates, not the word harvest alone
- [ ] A delivery deadline date is on the lease, with what a late arrival costs
- [ ] The insurance answer is in writing, confirming whether farm insurance covers a leased machine
- [ ] Make, model, serial or unit number, and the delivery hour-meter reading are recorded
- [ ] The machine and the hour meter are photographed before the season starts
- [ ] The base rate, included hours, and overage rate are filled in and agreed
- [ ] The daily-care and major-repair split is written in plain words
- [ ] The lease is signed and dated by both sides, with signer title if a party is a business

AT DELIVERY

- [ ] The machine arrives by the delivery deadline, delivered and running
- [ ] The delivery hour-meter reading is photographed and matches the lease
- [ ] Condition at delivery is recorded as Exhibit A against the arrival photos
- [ ] Attachments and implements listed on the lease are all present

DURING THE SEASON

- [ ] A daily-care log records greasing, filters, cleanout, and who ran the machine
- [ ] Any breakdown, damage, or theft is reported to the owner the same day, in writing
- [ ] The machine is stored under cover and secured when it is not working

AT RETURN

- [ ] A closing hour-meter reading is photographed and compared to the delivery reading
- [ ] Return condition is checked against the delivery photos in Exhibit A
- [ ] Overage hours, deposit, and invoice are reconciled against the lease
- [ ] The 24a machinery amount is split from any 24b pasture or farmland rent for the tax file

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This checklist is general information, not legal advice. Laws and tax rules vary by state and change over time. A lease that ends in ownership for no or only nominal (token) payment can be treated as a financed purchase under UCC 1-203 and a conditional sale by the IRS, which changes how it is taxed, so a farm tax professional can confirm whether you deduct rent on Schedule F line 24a or depreciate the machine as a buyer. The full guide and official sources are at clearlegaltips.com/farm-equipment-lease-agreement/