

# **Spring Equipment Prep & Maintenance:**

## **Checking Tires, Hydraulics & Electrical Systems**

### **Why It Matters:**

Proper maintenance in spring ensures equipment runs safely and reduces the risk of costly breakdowns during planting season.

### **Key Safety Points:**

- Check tires for cracks, bulges, and proper inflation—blowouts can cause loss of control.
- Inspect hydraulics for leaks or worn hoses; a failure can lead to sudden equipment collapse.
- Test electrical systems: ensure batteries are charged, wiring is intact, and lights function properly.
- Always lockout/tagout equipment before servicing to prevent accidental starts.
- Replace worn-out safety decals and ensure all guards and shields are in place.

### **Real-Life Risks:**

- Farmers have been injured when hydraulic failures caused equipment to drop unexpectedly.
- Electrical malfunctions have led to tractor fires due to faulty wiring.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What equipment on your farm needs the most frequent maintenance?
- How do we ensure hydraulic and electrical issues are caught before they become major problems?