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Cotton Insights Newsletter

A service provided by Windstar, Inc. affiliated gins.

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Crop Update

Most fields have been treated with harvest aids and harvesting operations and ginning have begun. Dry weather is facilitating harvest across the region. With no killing freeze in the forecast many producers are relying on paraquat follow-up after initial ethephon or ethephon + defoliant tank mix applications. Residual green bolls have been a challenge in some fields. From a long-term average perspective, we have passed the normal first hard freeze date for Amarillo. However, for the far northern panhandle region, some lows in the lower to mid-30s are currently forecasted for around November 1.

Friendly Reminder Concerning Round Module Integrity

Some of our gins are experiencing "green cotton" issues and some round module integrity challenges. Density of some modules is less than desired and this results in loose wrapping of the round module and subsequent "flattening" during ground storage, transport and module feeding. Placing the maximum amount of seed cotton into a wrapped round module minimizes the module wrap expense for the grower. The Side Winder round module handling technology relies on good, solid round modules during module unwrapping and movement to the feeder. When the round module density is too low, it will "melt down" on the Side Winder, and this results in a labor and safety issue for the gin as well as a higher potential for plastic contamination.

It is noted that proper rockshaft calibration must be maintained on each harvester. The John Deere CS690 owners manual provides important information pertaining to this. On page 75-1 it states: *During the module forming process, the rockshaft pressure solenoid controls pressure to the rockshaft cylinders as necessary to maintain module density. A rockshaft pressure sensor provides feedback to the baler interface control (BIC) unit and the display. Actual module size is calculated from the output of the rockshaft position potentiometer.*

Rockshaft Calibration

It is recommended that producers discuss this with their local John Deere service personnel.

In a presentation for Windstar Inc. customers a year ago, Dr. John Wanjura, with the USDA-ARS Gin Lab at Lubbock discussed calibration procedures. Calibration is required when something "changes" such as part replacement, adjustment, or repair, component wear, and accumulation of trash, mud, etc.

There are 21 separate systems that can be calibrated from the cab. These include:

- HVAC Systems, Header and Unit Drive/Height Systems, Transmission Multi-function lever, Cleaner Drive, Moisture Sensor, Round Module Builder (RMB) Hydraulic Systems, RMB Gate/Handler Valves, **RMB Rockshaft,** Round Module Weight, etc.

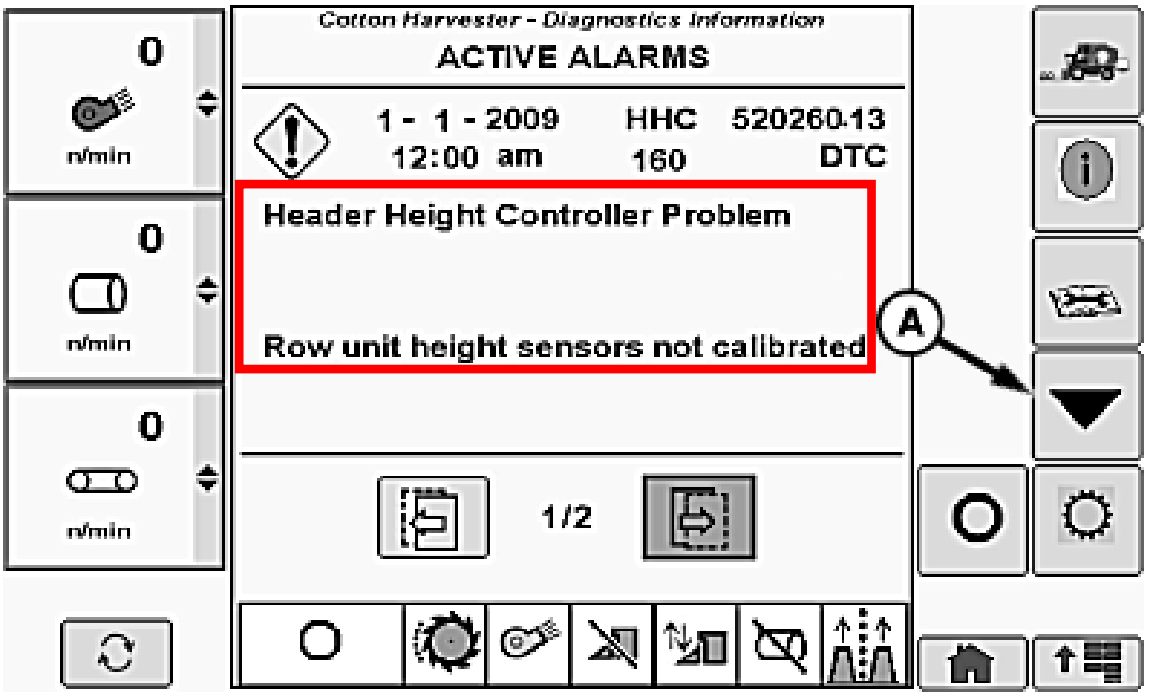
When performing calibrations:

1. Machine must be empty of cotton (accumulator, RMB, and handler)

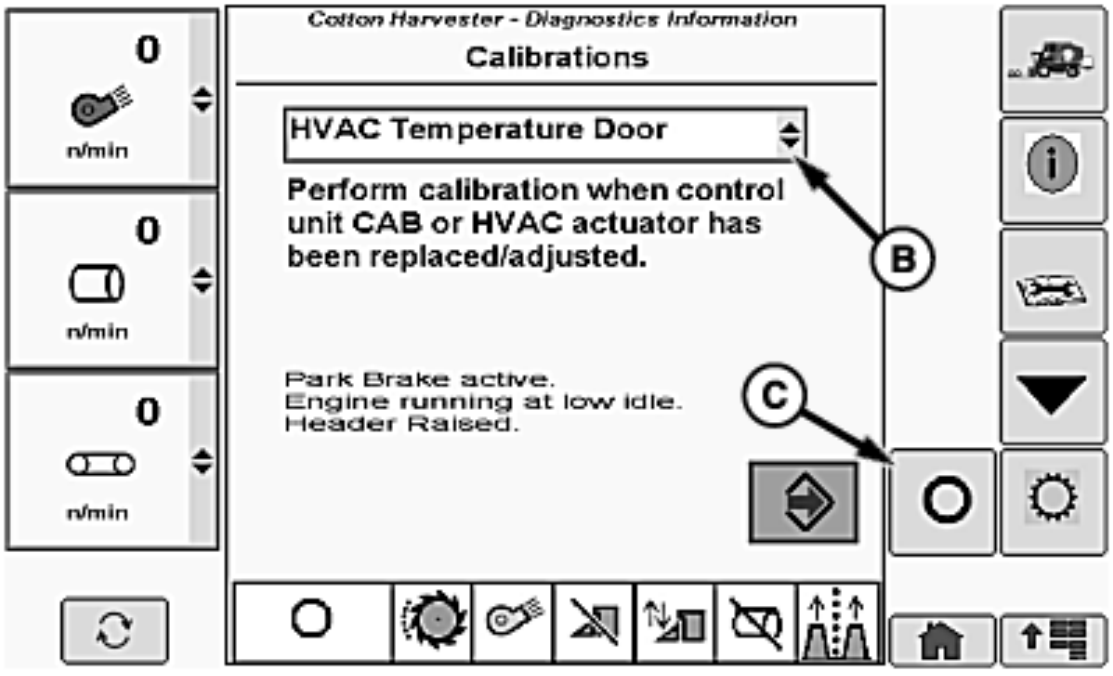
2. Hydraulic oil temperature >122^{o}F, to warm, run cotton handling system using floor switch, engage cleaner/header drive, and run engine at full speed.

3. Select Diagnostics Screen from Home Screen (A)

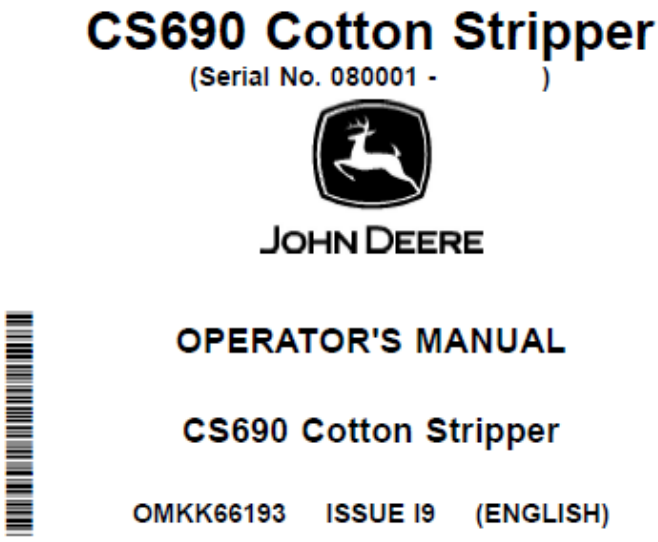
4. Next, select calibrations screen (down triangle button A) on Diagnostics Page. The Diagnostics Page will display any current problems and what needs to be done to solve the problem (an example is noted in red box below)



5. Select the subsystem to calibrate from drop down menu (B) and follow onscreen commands to complete. Screen will display when calibration is required and what machine conditions are required to complete.



The John Deere CS690 Operator's Manual discusses this on pages 25-16 and 25-17, and the text below is provided from page 25-17.



Once a subsystem is selected from the drop-down list, a series of screens listing detailed calibration or adjustment procedures can be accessed. These procedures are not intended for use on a routine basis but are necessary following repair or replacement of components in the respective subsystems.

Access the desired calibration procedure as follows (refer to graphics on page 3 of this newsletter):

1. Open active alarms screen from the main menu on the home page.

2. Select calibration button (A) on the active alarms screen. Calibration main screen appears. NOTE: Use of Off button (C) is required to perform some calibrations, follow on-screen instructions during calibration.

It is believed that proper rockshaft calibration will improve some of the round module processing challenges that are being experienced at our gins and we thank you for your attention to this detail.