

Fuel System Bleed Procedures

Running out of fuel on a gasoline/carbureted tractor is usually not a problem. They will have a fuel pump to supply fuel to the carburetor. Just avoid over cranking to prevent starter motor damage.

Diesel engines are a different story. Some tractors have transfer pumps and some do not. In either case, bleeding fuel system is required. First, refill tank with diesel fuel. Some fuel systems will have bleed screws on fuel filter housing, and fuel injection pumps. In this case, start at the fuel filter bleed screw. Loosen it and either let gravity bring fuel to this point or use the “Hand Pump” style transfer pump. Tighten screw if there is a bleed screw on the injection pump, loosen for gravity or hand pump it until the fuel flows free of air. Tighten screws. At this point, the fuel injectors need to be bled. Loosen fittings at all injectors 2 to 3 turns. If you have a way to charge batteries, portable jump starter or vehicle jump start, this will help reduce strain on electrical system. Never crank for extended periods of time. If cranking becomes slow, STOP. Charge battery and let starter cool down. Cranking excessively long or under low voltage conditions will damage your starting system. Crank over engine until air – free fuel is coming out of all injector lines at injectors. Lock down all injector fittings. Tractor should start at this time. If not... repeat entire procedure.

Tractors with no bleed screws on filter or injector pumps proceed as follows. Fill tank and loosen all injector line fittings at fuel injectors. Crank engine until air-free fuel comes out of all injectors. Lock down fitting and start tractor. Repeat the process if necessary. Always clean excessive fuel from engine before starting and NEVER let fuel run on the ground. Catch it in an appropriate container.

These tips should get you back to work in no time.