

I seem to be losing hydraulic oil but I can't find any signs of a leak.

(The following advice does not apply to Colt tractors or to the Case 100 series garden tractors of the sixties.)

Place your tractor on level ground and stick a drain pan under the trans-axle. Carefully remove the fill/level plug located on the rear of the trans-axle if your trans-axle has only one plug on the right side of the trans-axle. If you have a later model with two plugs on the right side, then carefully remove the upper plug because that is the oil level plug.

There is a possibility that the front seal on the drive motor is leaking and the hydraulic oil is adding to the oil level of the trans-axle. By slowly unscrewing the level plug while keeping pressure on it, you will know whether the oil level is too high or just right as the plug is undone.

If the oil is obviously much higher than it should be, then you will have to remove the drive motor and see if a local hydraulics repair shop can locate the correct seal for it from their inventory. They can inspect the shaft at the same time and tell if replacing the seal will solve the problem on a long-term or short-term basis. Buy a new O-ring to seal the motor housing to the trans-axle housing while you are there. You don't want to find oil dripping after you put it all back together and begin using the tractor again. The O-ring is inexpensive.

No matter what, you should allow any excess oil to drain out of the level plug until it stops. No harm

will come to the trans-axle gears as a result of hydraulic fluid mixing with the existing oil. See the FAQ titled "What oil should I be putting into the trans-axle?" for more information. If the oil appears contaminated with water, then consult the "What oil should I be putting into the trans-axle" FAQ.

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