

Right to Repair



National
Farmers
Union

Most modern farm equipment, such as tractors and combines, are technologically advanced and contain computers and sensors. As a result, software tools are often necessary to complete repairs. However, most equipment manufacturers refuse to make those tools fully available to farmers and independent mechanics, leaving farmers no choice but to take their broken equipment to a licensed dealership. This leads to lack of competition in the repair market, inflated service prices, and long delays during tight planting or harvest windows.

There are not many alternatives for farmers who want to buy equipment they can fix themselves. About 95 percent of large farm tractors are made by just three companies, all of which engage in the kind of repair restriction practices. Some farmers have resorted to buying older tractors that don't require software to complete repair. This has led to inflated prices for older equipment and is not a long-term solution.

Legislators and administration officials are taking note of this problem. Federal legislation has been introduced that would ensure that farm equipment owners and independent mechanics have access to the documentation, parts, and software tools required to diagnose, repair, and maintain equipment. Right to repair bills are being considered in state capitals across the country. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) unanimously adopted a policy in July 2021 to ramp up law enforcement against illegal repair restrictions. And in March 2022, NFU joined several organizations in filing a complaint with the FTC against John Deere for restricting repair.



FAIRNESS FOR FARMERS

A Farmers Union Project

About

95 %

of large farm tractors are made by just three companies

For Deere & Company, its repair services are up to

6x

more profitable than selling equipment.

What We Can Do:

- **Support the Agricultural Right to Repair Act (S. 3549) introduced by Senators Tester (D-MT), and the Fair Repair Act (S. 3830) and (H.R. 4006) introduced by Senators Lujan (D-NM) and Lummis (R-WY) and Representative Morelle (D-NY).**
- **Work to pass right to repair legislation for farm equipment in your state capital.**
- **Tell the NFU your story about how repair restrictions harm your farm operation.**