

# JOHN DEERE A20 ROW-CROP CULTIVATOR



JOHN DEERE

## OPERATORS MANUAL JOHN DEERE A20 ROW-CROP CULTIVATOR

OMN159401 H5 English

**OMN159401 H5**

LITHO IN THE U.S.A.  
ENGLISH





## To the Purchaser

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This new cultivator was carefully designed and manufactured to give years of dependable service. To keep it running efficiently, read the instructions in this operator's manual. Each section is clearly identified so you can easily find the information you need—whether it is operation, lubrication, or adjustments. Read the Table of Contents to learn where each section is located.

In addition to the equipment furnished with your cultivator, attachments are available to help you do a better job in special crop conditions. These are described in the attachments section of this manual and can be purchased from your John Deere dealer.

"Right-hand" and "left-hand" sides are determined by facing in the direction the cultivator will travel when in field use.

Record your cultivator serial number in the space provided on page 53. Your dealer needs this information to give you prompt, efficient service when you order parts or attachments. If your cultivator requires replacement parts, go to your John Deere dealer where you can obtain genuine John Deere parts—accept no substitutes.

The warranty on this cultivator appears on your copy of the purchase order which you should have received from your dealer when you purchased the cultivator.

 This safety alert symbol identifies important safety messages in this manual. When you see this symbol, be alert to the possibility of personal injury and carefully read the message that follows.

Your operator's manual contains SI Metric equivalents which follow immediately after the customary U.S. units of measure.



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# Safety Suggestions

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**!** Investigation of thousands of accidents shows that careless use of machinery causes nearly 1/3 of all accidents. Study the following safety precautions carefully and insist that they be followed by those working with you and for you.

Only one person—the operator—should be allowed on the tractor when the cultivator is in operation.

Never ride, or permit others to ride on the drawbar of the tractor on the cultivator.

Never allow anyone other than yourself on the tractor when operating or transporting the cultivator.

Never allow anyone around the cultivator when you are performing operating functions.

Reduce speed when transporting over uneven or rough terrain.

Shift the tractor into a lower gear when transporting down hills or steep slopes.

A protective four-post Roll-Gard is incorporated in each Sound-Gard Body. Your tractor may be equipped with a separate four-post Roll-Gard. Otherwise, a protective two-post Roll-Gard with seat belt is available for your tractor.

Under almost all operating conditions:

1. The use of a seat belt with the optional John Deere Roll-Gard is recommended.
2. Use of a seat belt without roll-over protective equipment is not recommended.

Always keep tractor in gear when driving down steep grades with cultivator raised.

Refer to safety instructions outlined under “Transporting” before road transport of cultivator. See page 6.

Always support cultivator frame and rigs on stands or blocks before working under or around cultivator.

When storing the cultivator, make sure the storage stands are securely fastened in their storage position. Refer to instructions on page 23.

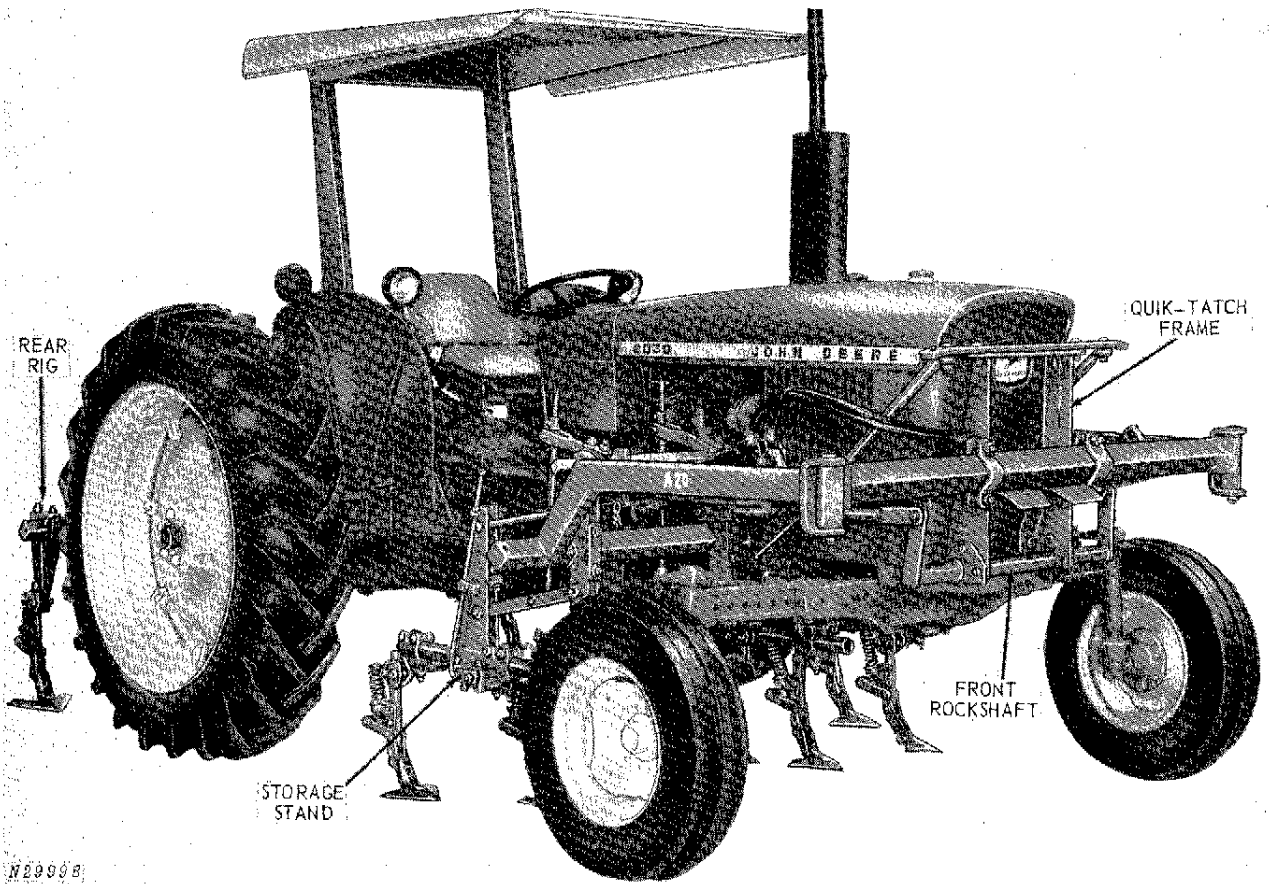
Escaping hydraulic fluid under pressure can have sufficient force to penetrate the skin, causing serious personal injury. Before disconnecting lines, be sure to relieve all pressure. Before applying pressure to the system, be sure all connections are tight and that lines, pipes, and hoses are not damaged.

Fluid escaping from a very small hole can be almost invisible. Use a piece of cardboard or wood, rather than hands, to search for suspected leaks.

If injured by escaping fluid, see a doctor at once. Serious infection or reaction can develop if proper medical treatment is not administered immediately.

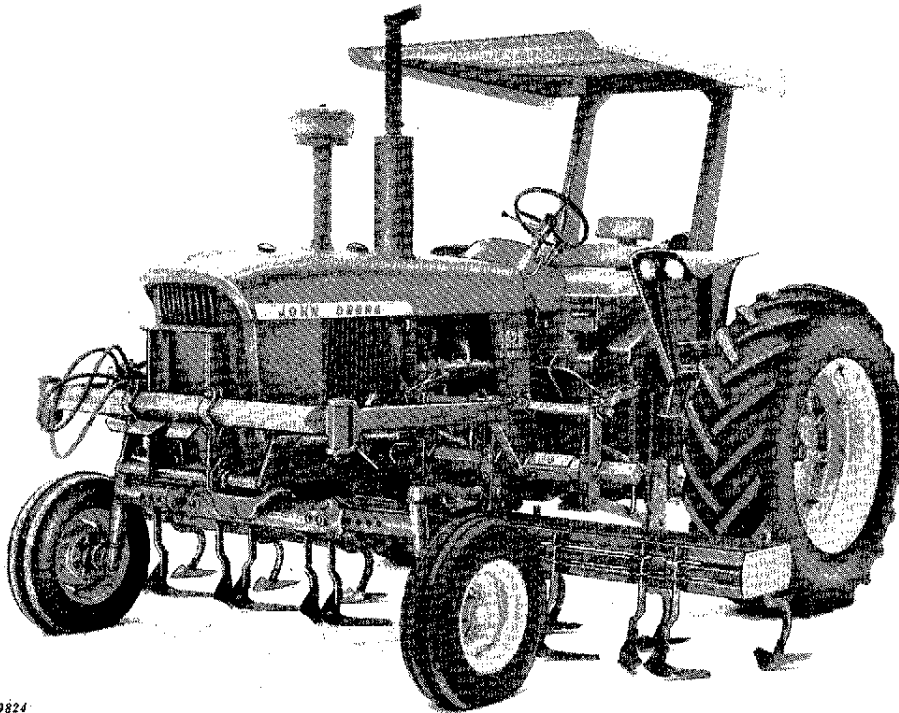
If spray can paint is used, be careful when discarding empty can. Do not incinerate or puncture can.

Finally, remember this: An accident is usually caused by someone’s carelessness, neglect, or oversight.



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*John Deere A20 Cultivator on 2030 Row-Crop Tractor*



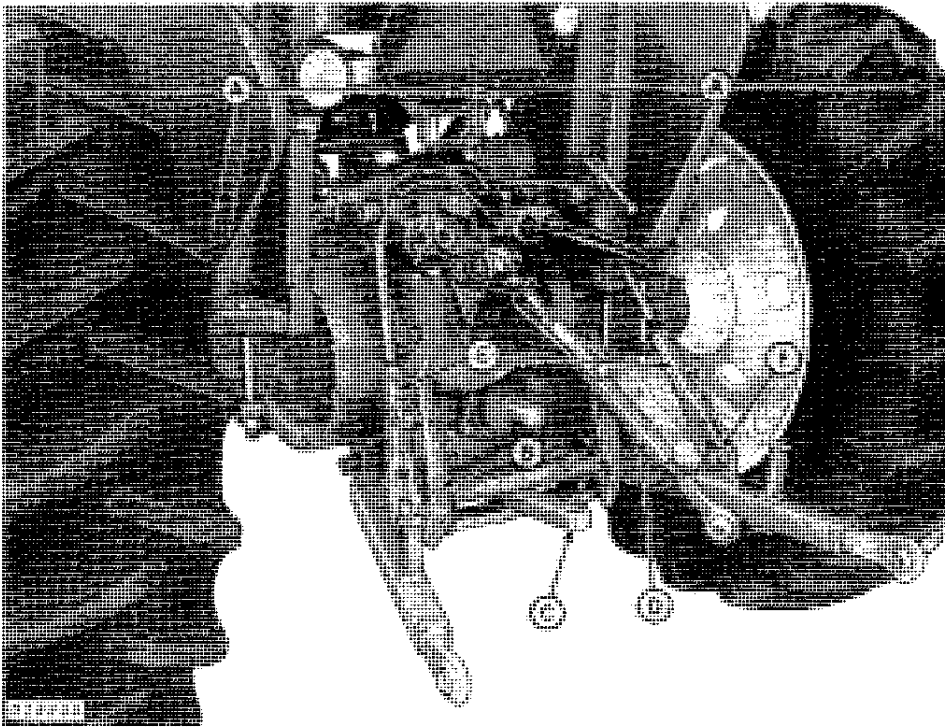
N 19824

*John Deere A20 Beet-Bean-Vegetable Cultivator on 4020 Row-Crop Tractor*



# Operation

## PREPARING THE TRACTOR



A—Same Distance  
B—Sway Blocks  
C—Drawbar

D—Center Link  
E—Lift Links  
F—Locked Position

*Tractor with Category 2 Three-Point Hitch*

### Wheel Spacing

Set the tractor wheels for the desired row spacing so the wheels are centered between the rows. The dimension "A" from the center of the tractor to the center of each tire should be the same.

On tractor with adjustable-tread front axle, set the front wheel tread 8 inches (203 mm) narrower than twice the row width to be cultivated (68-inch [1 727 mm] tread for 38-inch [965 mm] row spacing.)

See your tractor operator's manual for correct tire inflation pressures.

### Sway Blocks

Place the sway blocks (B) in the category 2 down position for use with rear rigs. See your tractor operator's manual.

### Drawbar Position

Place drawbar (C) as far forward as possible. Pin drawbar in a fixed, centered position.

## Lift Links

Adjust length of lift links (E) to minimum length, being sure to maintain adequate clearance between tractor tires and rear rig components. See your tractor operator's manual.

## Lift Link Lateral Float Adjustment

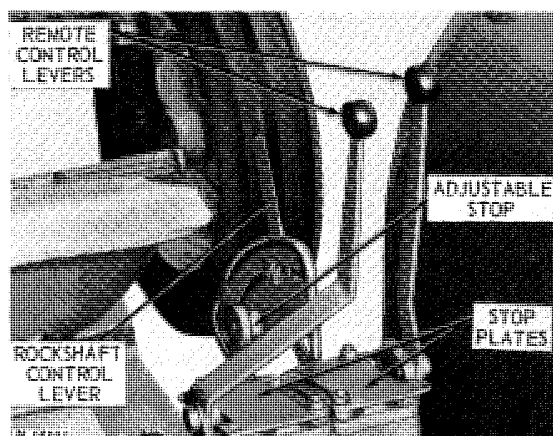
For rear rigs without gauge wheels, lock out lateral float (F). See your tractor operator's manual.

If rear rig is equipped with gauge wheels, adjust lift link pins to allow lateral float. See your tractor operator's manual.

## Tractor Tire Inflation and Ballast

Refer to your tractor operator's manual for proper tire inflation pressures and rear wheel ballast with front-mounted implement.

### CONTROLS



Refer to your tractor operator's manual for use of the rockshaft and hydraulic controls.

On front rockshaft operated cultivators, front rigs are controlled by the remote cylinder operating levers. If cultivator is equipped with one remote cylinder, one lever operates rigs on both sides of tractor. If cultivator has two cylinders, the left-hand remote cylinder lever controls rigs on left side of tractor, the right-hand remote cylinder lever controls rigs on right side of tractor.

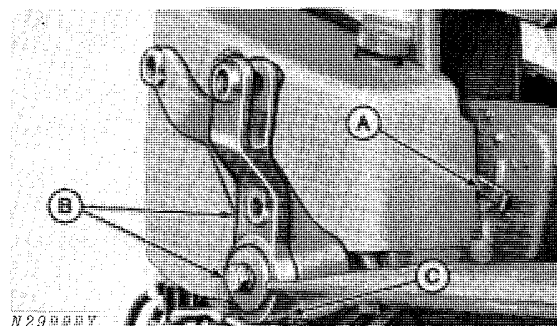
Push lever forward to raise rigs; pull lever back to lower rigs. Reverse hoses at outlets on tractor if rigs do not respond correctly.

On rear rockshaft operated cultivators, both front and rear rigs are controlled by the rockshaft control lever. Push the lever forward to raise the cultivator; pull the lever back to lower the cultivator.

**IMPORTANT: Do not attempt to raise cultivator unless storage stands are fastened to rig coupling plates. See page 9.**

Lock out "float" position with lever stop plates located on the top of control box.

## Rockshaft Selector Lever

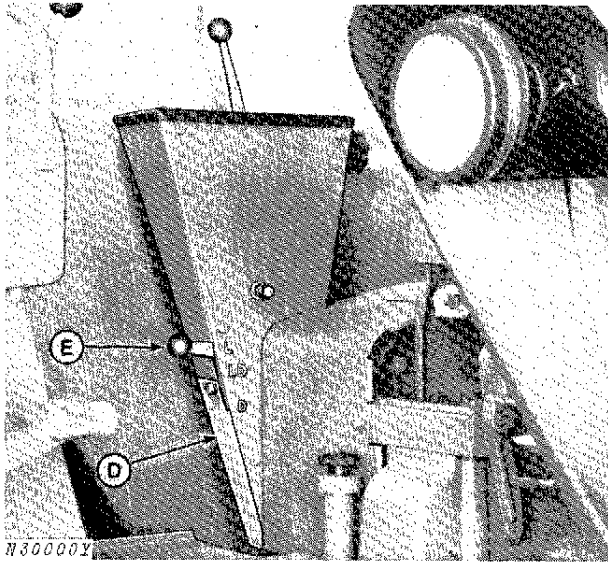


A—Rockshaft Selector Lever  
B—Lift Arms  
C—Timing Mark

If rear rig is used, place rockshaft selector lever (A) in the "ZERO" or "D" (depth control) position.

If cultivator will operate from rear rockshaft, install implement lift arms (B) on rear rockshaft. Align the timing marks (C) of the implement lift arms with the marks on the rockshaft arms.

### Rockshaft Selector Lever—Continued



D—Lower Cover

E—Rockshaft Selector Lever

On tractors equipped with hydraulic console located to the right of the seat, lower cover (D) on the hydraulic control console must be removed before the lift pipes can be connected to the implement arms on the rockshaft.

### TRANSPORTING

Never ride or allow others to ride on the cultivator or tractor. The tractor operator should be the only person on the tractor.

**⚠ CAUTION:** Do not exceed 15 mph (25 Kmh) while transporting the cultivator. Reduce speed before turning or applying brakes. Drive slowly over hills and rough ground to avoid tipping over.

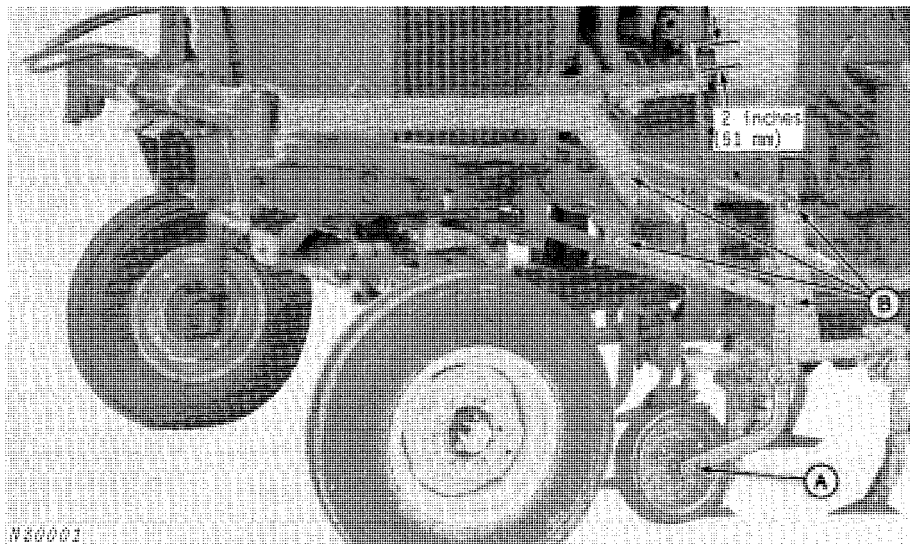
Always keep the tractor in gear when driving down steep grades.

**⚠ CAUTION:** When transporting the cultivator on a road or highway at night or during the day, use accessory lights and devices for adequate warning to the operators of other vehicles. In this regard, check local governmental regulations. Various safety lights and devices are available from your John Deere dealer.



## RIGS

## Rig Flexibility



A—Gauge Wheels

B—Pivot Studs

Rigs equipped with gauge wheels (A) will “float” with the surface of the ground if they are properly adjusted.

Rig pivot studs (B) should be loose enough so rigs work up and down freely but do not wobble excessively from side to side. To adjust pivot studs, loosen the nut on the end of each stud. Turn the stud to loosen or tighten the coupling plates on the lower rig link. After adjusting the stud, tighten the nut.

When cultivating, there should be about two inches (51 mm) of clearance between the upper collars and swivels on the rig lift rods to allow rigs to float.

On cylinder-operated cultivator, this clearance is controlled by the position of the cylinder depth stop. To increase the clearance, move the stop back or away from the cylinder.

On rear-rockshaft-operated cultivator, this clearance is controlled by the position of the depth stop on the rear rockshaft control lever. To increase the clearance, move the stop to the rear.

*NOTE: Make all final adjustments in the field.*

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