

# VERSATILE

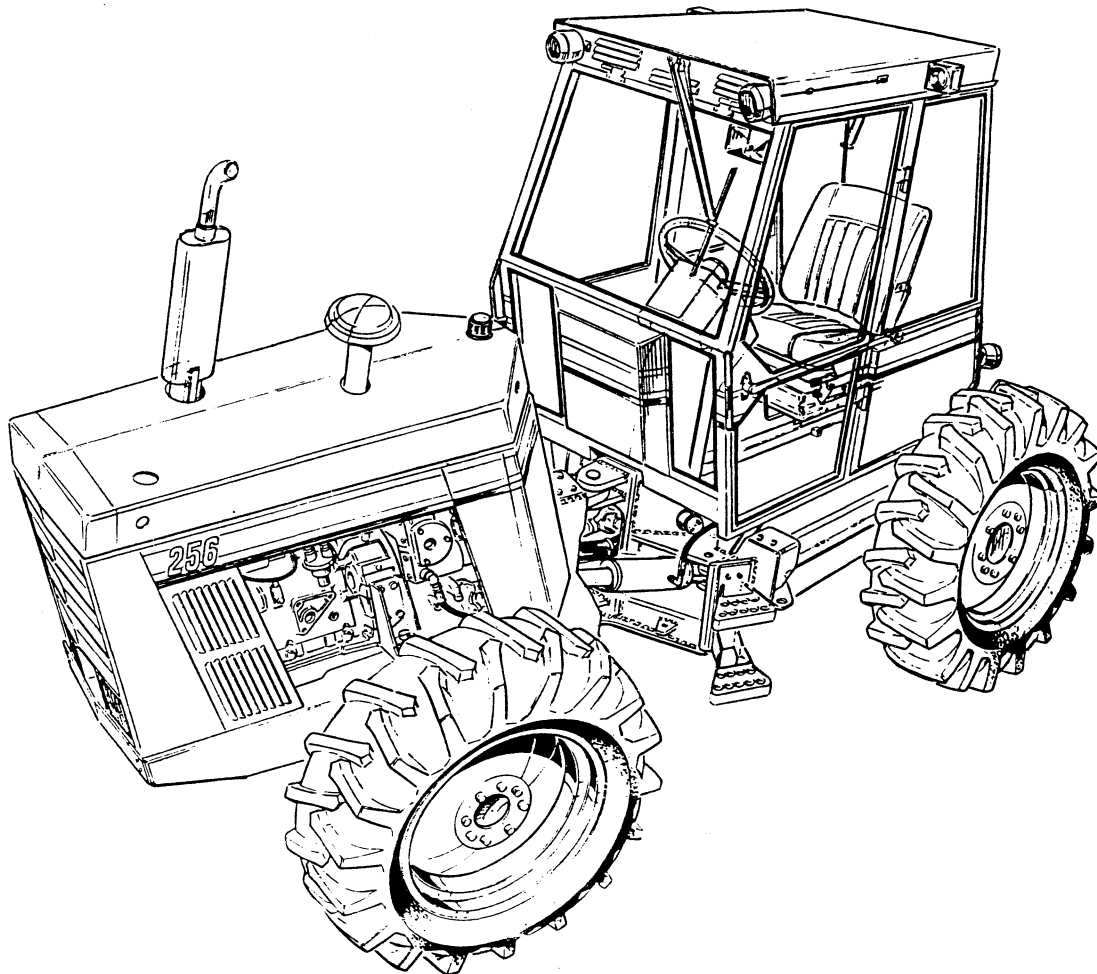
## Operator's Manual



### Tractors 256/276

1984 - 1986

42025621



Reprinted



*A division of Versatile Corporation*

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**VERSATILE**

**256/276 Tractor**

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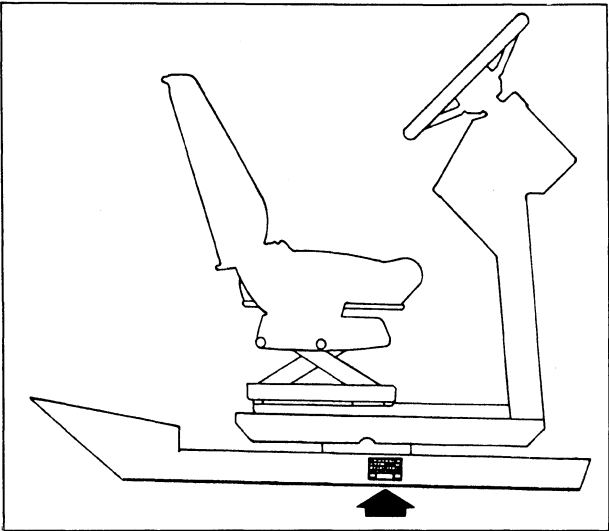


# Serial Number Location

**IMPORTANT**

To obtain the fastest service when ordering parts, remember to:

- 1. Order the part by the correct number
- 2. State machine model and year
- 3. Include the serial number on the tractor and engine plates



**Tractor Plate**

**TRACTOR**

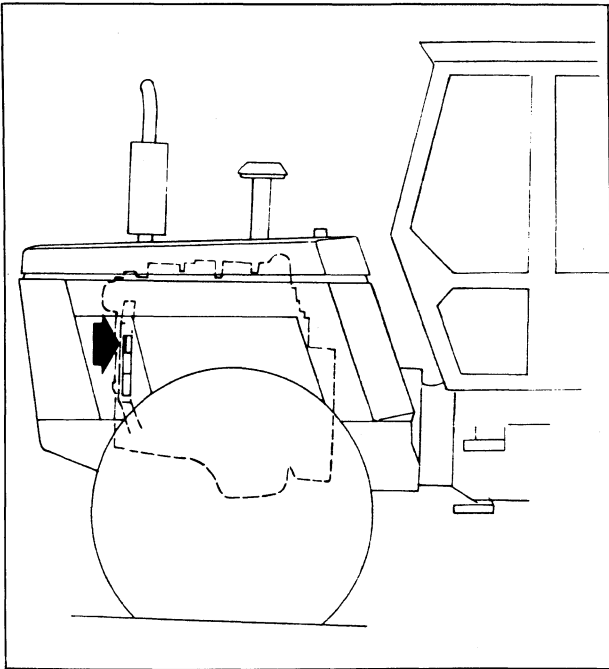
Serial number is stamped on a metal tag on the steering console base right-hand side.

SERIAL .....

**ENGINE**

Serial number is stamped on the timing gear cover at engine front.

SERIAL .....



**Engine Plate**

# Introduction

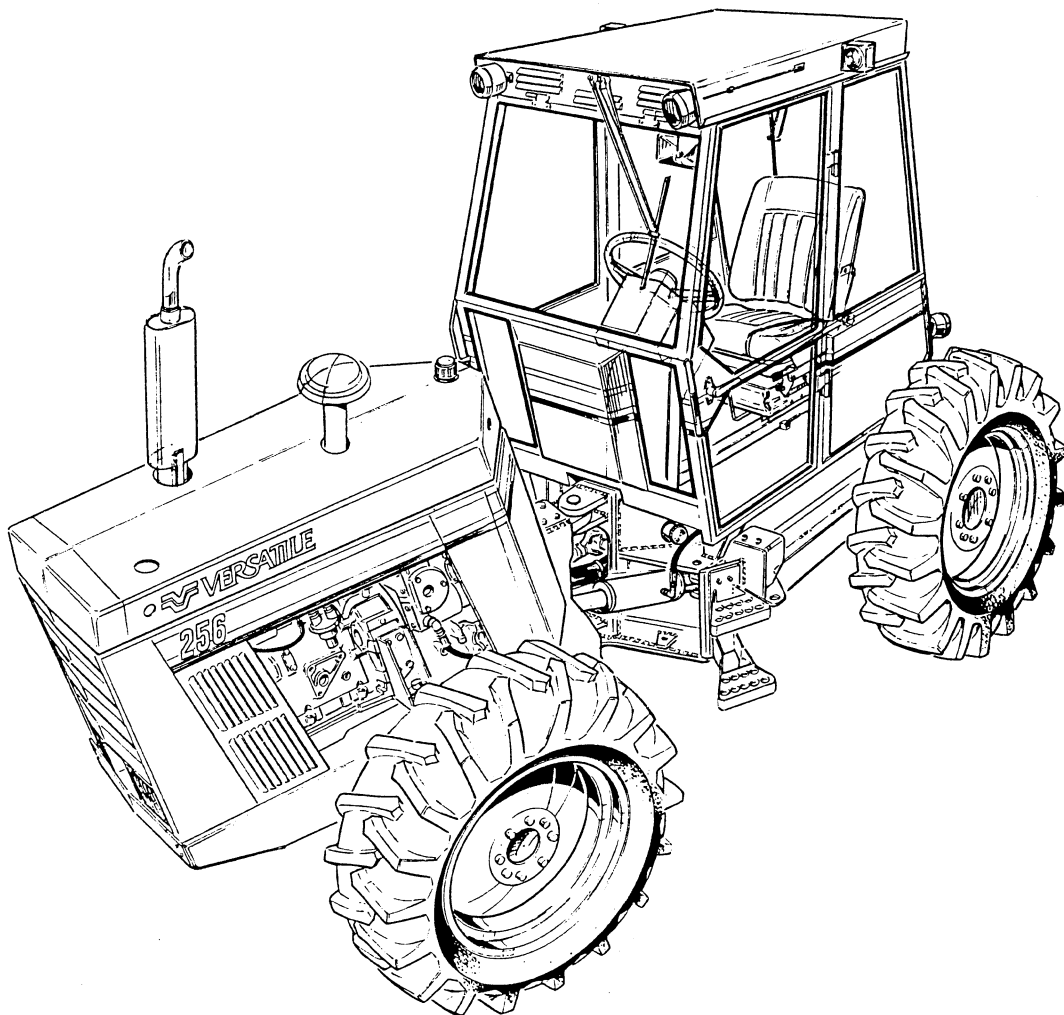
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We at Versatile Farm Equipment Company are pleased you have chosen a VERSATILE® Model 256/276 Tractor for your farming operation. It has evolved through the ideas and suggestions submitted to us by customers such as yourself.

We ask that you study this manual and adopt the preventive maintenance program outlined in it.

The suggested schedule has been designed to meet most operating conditions although it may be necessary to adjust your maintenance program to suit your specific operating conditions.

Your Versatile dealer is factory trained to provide you with genuine parts and professional repair service. Consult him for all your service needs.





Watch for this symbol. It identifies potential hazards to health or personal safety. It points out safety precautions. It means: ATTENTION – Be Alert. Your safety is involved.



# 1 Safety

National Safety Council statistics tell us that many people die or suffer needless injury each year as a result of farm accidents.

Don't become a statistic or a victim.

Carefully review the procedures in this manual with all operators **ANNUALLY**. It is important that all operators be familiar with, and **FOLLOW**, safety precautions.



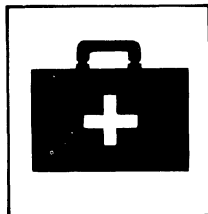
**Operating instructions must be given to everyone using the Tractor before operation and at least once yearly thereafter in accordance with OSHA regulation 1928.57.**

## GENERAL SAFETY

1. Never allow an unauthorized driver operate the tractor.
2. Keep a fire extinguisher in the cab. Maintain it and be familiar with its use.

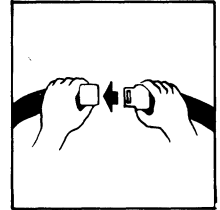


3. Never allow passengers inside or outside the cab.
4. Never operate machine in a closed building.
5. Always keep sleeves, jackets or other clothing relatively tight and belted since loose clothes might catch in moving parts.
6. Provide a first aid kit for use in case of accident.



7. Never jump from tractor. There is a danger of catching clothing on protruding parts.
8. Use steps and handholds when mounting or dismounting tractor or for servicing components too high to reach from the ground.

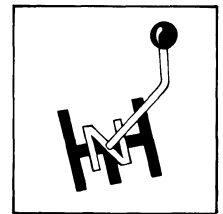
9. Fasten seatbelt before starting tractor.



10. Safety devices are intended to protect operators of Versatile equipment from injury or death. Under no circumstances should they be disabled or removed.

## OPERATING SAFETY

1. Always operate tractor from operator's seat.
2. Lock seat and instrument console before operating tractor.
3. Always start tractor with FNR lever in neutral, range control in first range and PTO clutch control lever disengaged. This is particularly important during cold weather operation.



4. Always wait until all warning lights go out before putting tractor into gear.
5. Never oil, grease or adjust tractor while it is moving. Do not leave engine running while tractor or drawn equipment is being adjusted, repaired or cleaned.
6. Ensure parkbrake is set when tractor is stopped. Tractor can freewheel even when in gear.
7. Avoid abrupt turns, starts or stops.
8. Keep all safety shields in place when operating tractor.

9. Do not operate tractor when you are tired. Take a rest.
10. Never operate machine at high speeds in crowded areas. Damage to machine and injury to operator or bystanders may result.
11. Never start engine by shorting across starter terminals. Tractor will move when starting safety switch is bypassed.

### SAFE OPERATION IN ROUGH TERRAIN

1. Drive tractor slowly on hillsides and curves to eliminate the danger of tipping. Avoid slopes which are too steep for safe operation.
2. Always drive slowly over rough ground. Drive at speeds slow enough to ensure your safety.
3. Avoid sharp turns on hillsides.
4. When driving out of a ditch, gully or up a steep hillside, engage the FNR lever slowly.
5. When descending steep grades, select a sufficiently low gear to maintain control.
6. Never drive near the edge of a ditch or gully unless absolutely necessary.
7. Be especially alert when operating tractor at row ends, road slopes and around obstructions.



3. Add coolant to the radiator only when engine is stopped and cool. Turn radiator cap to its first stop to relieve pressure before removing.

4. Never refuel tractor when engine is hot or running. Do not smoke while filling fuel tank or servicing fuel system. Use precautions in handling any type of tractor fuel. Vaporized diesel fuel is as dangerous as gasoline. Do not overfill.



5. Do not smoke and avoid open flames near batteries.
6. Ether starting fluid is highly flammable. Do not use near fire, sparks, open flames or while engine is running.
7. Remove mud, crop residue, chains and tools from steps and inside cab. They may interfere with pedal operation, console rotation or entry/exit from the tractor.
8. Disconnect hydraulic couplers to prevent flow to implements when servicing.
9. Ground fuel storage tanks to prevent static buildup.
10. Ensure turbocharger is cool before servicing.
11. Keep flammable material away from turbocharger.
12. Never mount a damaged tire. Tire may explode.

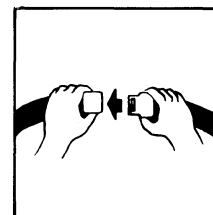
### MAINTENANCE SAFETY

1. Escaping hydraulic oil under pressure can penetrate the skin causing personal injury. Ensure all connections are tight and lines and hoses are undamaged. Before disconnecting hydraulic lines, relieve all pressure. Do not overfill tank.
2. Wear gloves and goggles and use a piece of cardboard or wood as a backstop for spurting oil when searching for hydraulic leaks.



### LOADER SAFETY

1. Improper use of loader or attachments can cause serious injury or death.
2. Operate all controls from operator's seat. Before starting engine, fasten seat belt and put all controls in neutral.





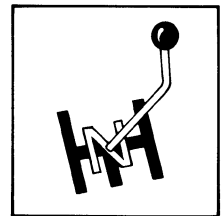
3. Be familiar with hydraulic controls and direction of operation.
4. Back down ramps and slopes keeping bucket low for added stability. Be extra careful on inclines.
5. Never allow people to ride in bucket.
6. Do not hook a chain to bucket to pull or pry.
7. Lower bucket to ground when leaving machine for any reason.
8. Reduce speed gradually to avoid tipping.
9. Carry loads within 600 mm (24 in.) of ground except when dumping. Avoid sharp, high speed turns with full bucket. Use caution when handling loose or shiftable loads.
10. Never walk or work beneath raised bucket.
11. Never operate loader with frayed or damaged hoses or leaking fittings. Before disconnecting lines, relieve all pressure.
12. Confine operation to solid ground. Loader operation around loose fill, rocks and holes is dangerous.
13. Allow for loader length when making turns.
14. Set wheels at widest convenient spacing for stability and add recommended ballast to engine end tires.
15. Avoid overhead powerlines when loader is raised. Electrocutation may result if wires are touched.
16. When removing loader from tractor, park on a hard level surface. Block loader securely.

## IMPLEMENT SAFETY

1. Always hitch loads to drawbar or hitch points.
2. When hitching equipment to drawbar, back tractor past clevis then move forward so that in making the connection, tractor will be moving away from equipment.
3. Always lower implements to the ground when not in use and disconnect hydraulic couplers. Hydraulic pressure can rupture hoses releasing high pressure oil causing implement damage.
4. Be careful when turning with a towed implement. Lift it from the ground during turns. Side thrust could damage implement.
5. Use transport locks, lower implement to ground or securely block frame before servicing implement.

## PTO SAFETY

1. Never start tractor with PTO clutch control engaged.
2. When using PTO in a stationary application, ensure articulation lock is engaged, parkbrake is set and FNR lever is in neutral. Do not leave tractor unattended. If you must leave area for any reason, stop and lockout tractor.
3. Take special care in hookup of implements to PTO.
4. Ensure all guards are in place while operating PTO.
5. Stop and lockout tractor before disconnecting or servicing PTO drivelines.



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