



**John Deere**

**Operator's Manual**

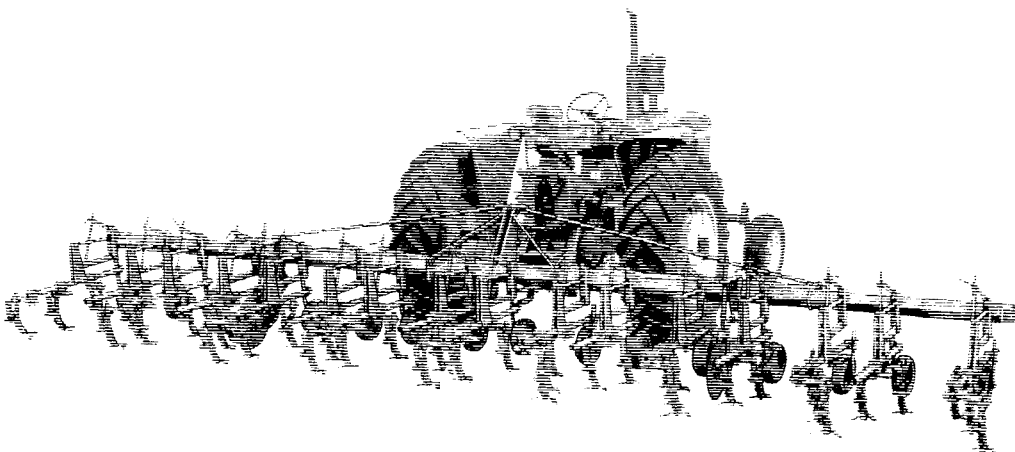
**RG8, RG1230**

**OM-N159245**

**and RG1620**

**Issue H0**

**Row-Crop Cultivators**





## 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 special equipment 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 use.

Record your cultivator serial number in the space provided on page 60. 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.



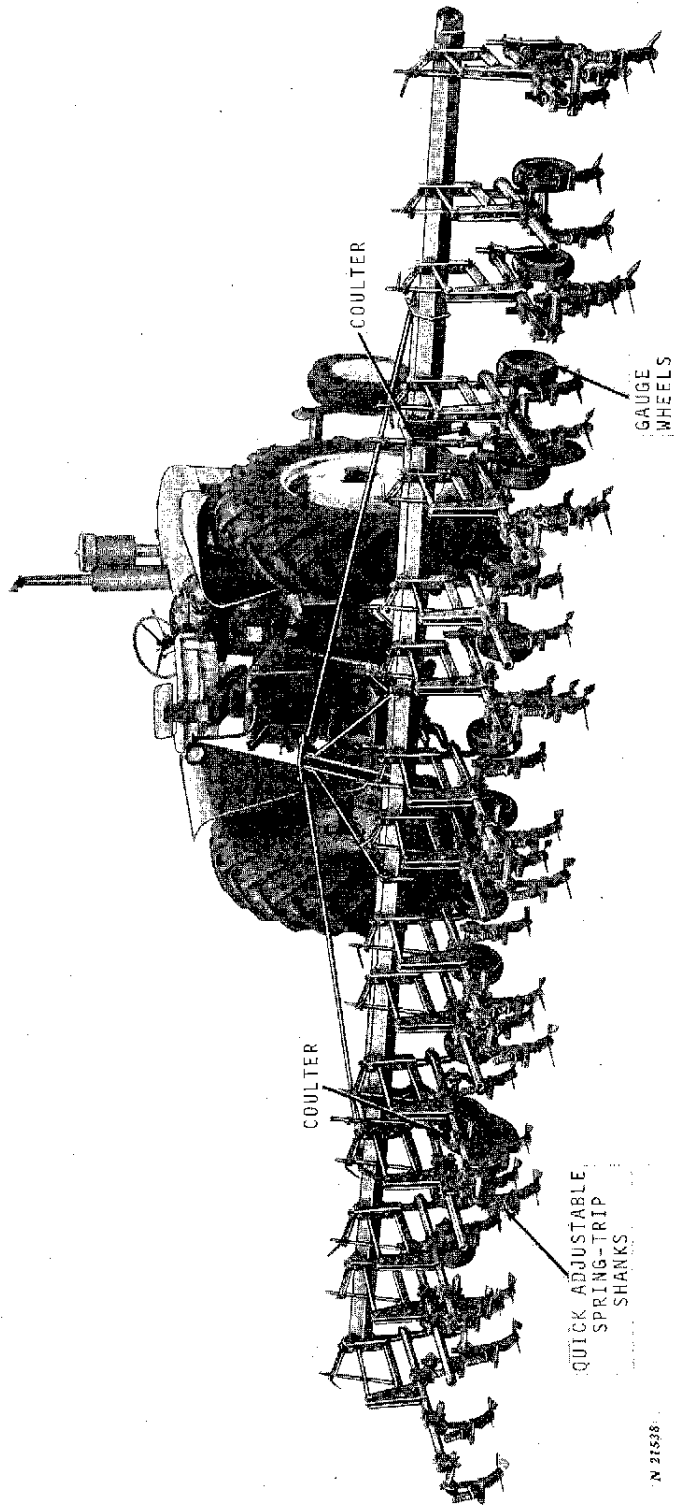
This safety alert symbol identifies important safety messages in this manual. When you see this symbol, be alert to the possibility of personal injury and carefully read the message that follows.



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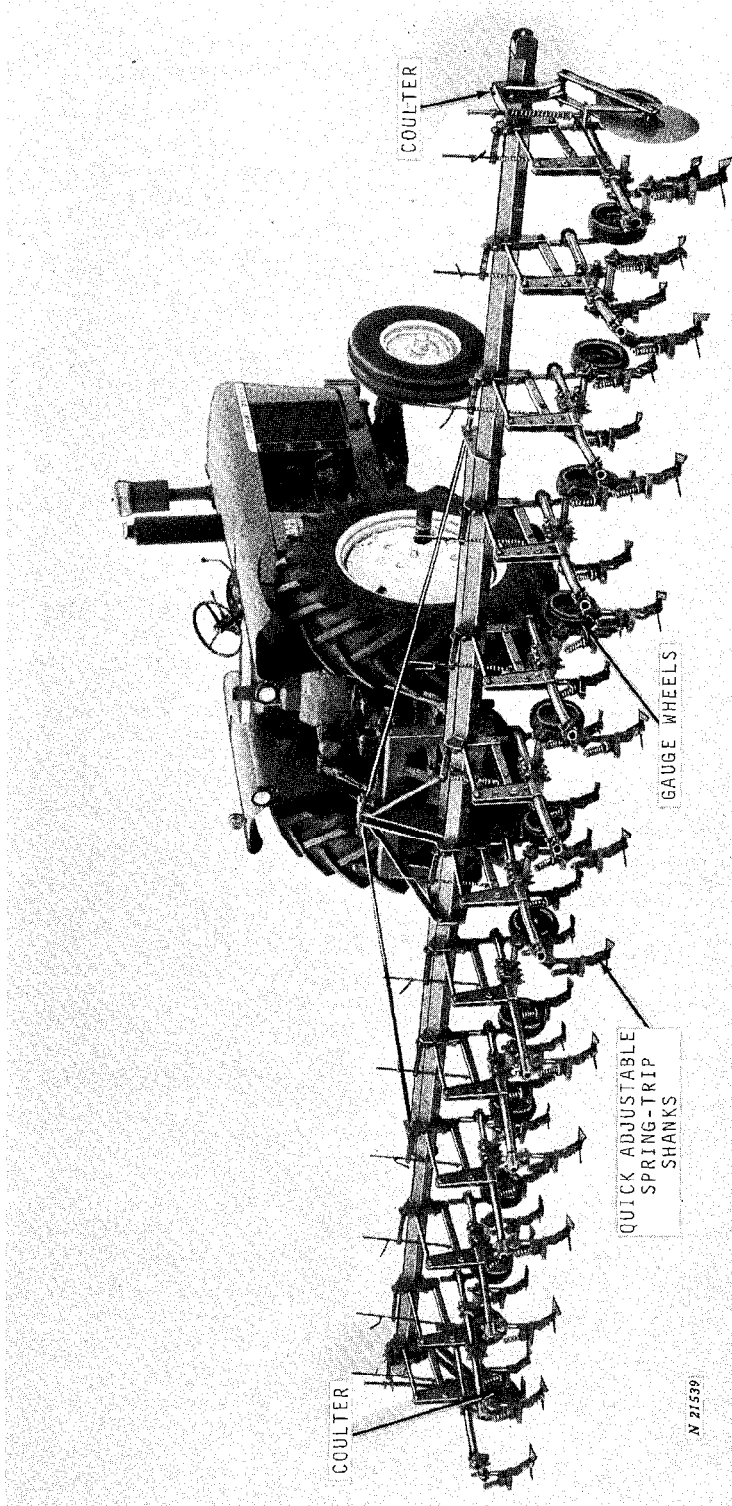
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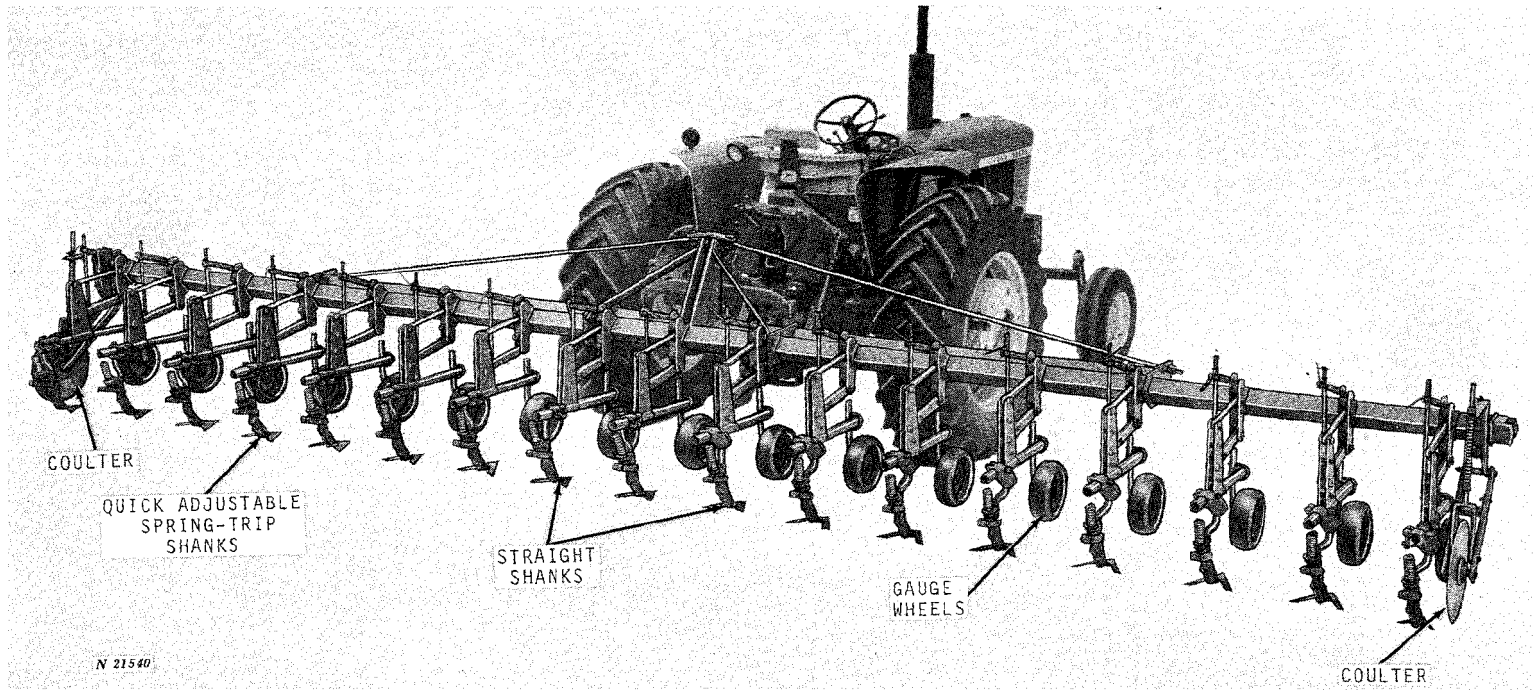


N 21538

*John Deere RG8 Row-Crop Cultivator with Quick-Adjustable Spring-Trip Shanks*



John Deere RG1230 Row-Crop Cultivator with Quick-Adjustable Spring-Trip Shanks

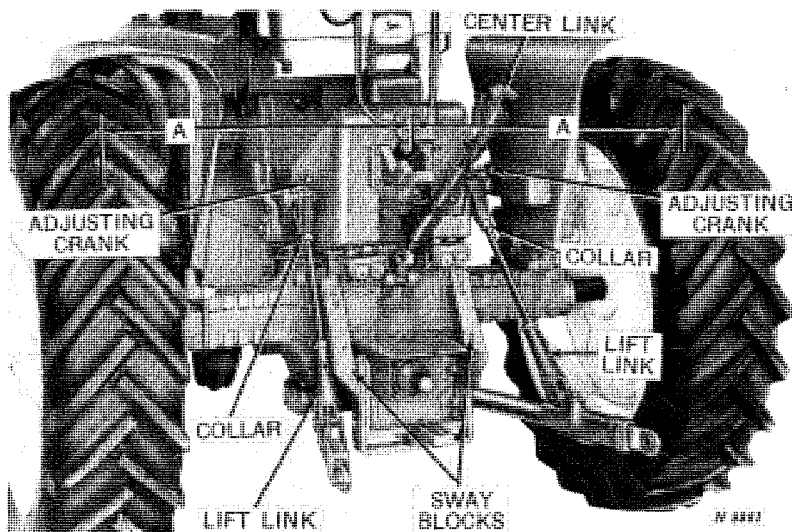


*John Deere RG1620 Row-Crop Cultivator with Quick-Adjustable Spring-Trip Shanks*



# Operation

## PREPARING THE TRACTOR



### 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.

See tractor operator's manual for correct tire inflation pressure and rear wheel ballast.

### Rear Tire Limitations

When RG8 or RG1230 Cultivator is used on 4000 Tractor, 15.5 - 38 6-PR tires are not recommended.

For RG1230 Cultivator, 18.4 - 38 10-PR single or 12.4 - 42 6-PR duals are recommended for 30-inch rows. 12.4 - 42 6-PR duals are recommended for rows less than 30-inches on 4520 Tractor. Use of 15.5 - 38 6-PR tires are not recommended on 4000 Tractor.

For RG1620 Cultivator, rear tires larger than 13.6 are not recommended due to the insufficient crop clearance.

### Sway Blocks

Place the sway blocks in the upper wide setting as illustrated, to prevent cultivator side sway during transport. See tractor operator's manual.

### Lift Links and Center Link

Adjust the length of the lift links to 29-1/2 inches on the 4000, 4010, 4020 and 4520 Tractors and 39-9/16 inches on the 5020 Tractor.

Adjust the length of the center link to 29 inches on the 4000, 4010, 4020 and 4520 Tractors and 31-5/8 inches on the 5020 Tractor.

### Float Adjustment

Adjust lift links to eliminate lateral float. See your tractor operator's manual for instructions.

### Load and Depth Control

Place the load and depth control selector lever in the "D" position.

**PREPARING THE TRACTOR—Continued**

**Front End Weight**

For those cultivator and tractor combinations which require additional front end weight for transport stability purposes, add front end weight to tractor as shown.

**RG8 Cultivator**

4000 Row-Crop: Adjustable	1200
4010 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread Dual Front Wheel	1200 1500
4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread Dual Front Wheel	1200 1500
4020 Standard: Adjustable Tread	1300
4020 Power Front Wheel Drive	200

*NOTE: Add 100 pounds if Quik-Coupler is not used on 4020 Tractor.*

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	200
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**RG8 Cultivator with No. 8 Granular Insecticide Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	900
5020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	300

**RG8 Cultivator with No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	
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**RG8 Cultivator with No. 812 Transport Wheel Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	600
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**RG8 Cultivator with No. 8 Granular Insecticide Attachment and No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1000
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5020 Row-Crop Adjustable Tread	400
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**RG8 Cultivator with No. 8 Granular Insecticide Attachment and No. 812 Transport Wheel Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1600
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5020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1000
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**RG8 Cultivator with No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment and No. 812 Transport Wheel Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1100
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5020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	500
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**RG8 Cultivator with No. 8 Granular Insecticide Attachment, No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment, and No. 812 Transport Wheel Attachment**

4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1700
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5020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1200
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**For RG8 Cultivator with Spray Shields (Reaction Weight)**

Tractor	Tractor Front Axle	RG8	RG8 with No. 20 Frame Gauge Wheels
4000 RC	-	1700	2100
4020 RC	DUAL	2050*	2450*
4020 RC	ADJ.	1650	2050*
4020 PFWD	FIXED	650	1050
4020 STD	SWB-ADJ.	1850	2300*
4020 STD	SWB-FIXED	1850	2300*
4020 STD	LWB-FIXED	1600	2000*
4520 RC	-	450	850
5020 RC	ADJ.	0	200
5020 STD	FIXED	0	500

**Legend**

- SB = Swept-back Axle
- STR = Straight Axle
- SWB = Short Wheel Base
- LWB = Long Wheel Base
- PFWD = Power Front Wheel Drive



\* Front axle ballast requirements for most 4020 Tractors with RG8 Cultivators are greater than the front axle reaction provided by the full compliment of tractor weights. However, addition of integral sprayers (spray tank and frame net weight) provides additional front axle ballast to offset the deficiency.

Reaction weights are for use on tractors with Quik-Coupler. Deduct the following tractor weights when cultivators are used on the tractors listed below without Quik-Coupler.

TRACTOR	DEDUCT
4000	300 pounds
4020	300 pounds
4520	350 pounds
5020	350 pounds

Recommended maximum front axle weight on adjustable tread tractors (4000 and 4020) is limited to tire carrying capacity or 5600 pounds whichever is smaller.

**RG1230 Cultivator**

4000 and 4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1400
4010 and 4020 Standard: Dual Front Wheel	1700
4010 and 4020 Standard: Adjustable Tread	1500
4020 Power Front Wheel Drive:	400
4520 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	100

**RG1230 Cultivator with No. 12 Granular Insecticide Attachment**

4010 and 4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1700
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**RG1230 Cultivator with No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment**

4000, 4010, and 4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1000
4010 and 4020 Row-Crop: Dual Front Wheel	1300

**RG1230 Cultivator with No. 812 Transport Wheel Attachment**

4000, 4010, and 4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1500
4010 and 4020 Row-Crop: Dual Front Wheel	1900

**RG1230 Cultivator with No. 12 Granular Insecticide Attachment and No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment**

4010 and 4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1900
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**RG1230 Cultivator with No. 20 Gauge Wheel Attachment and No. 812 Transport Wheel Attachment**

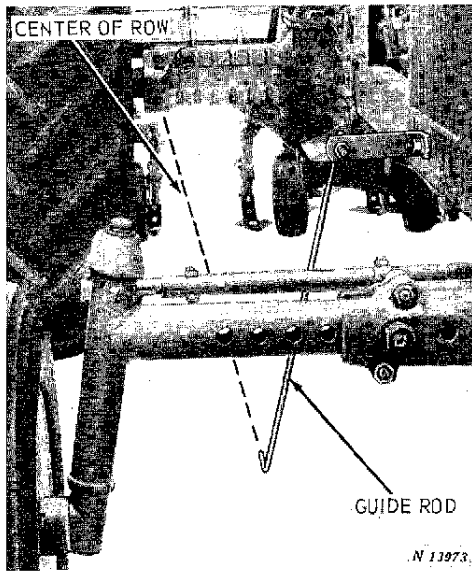
4010 and 4020 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	1700
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**RG1620 Cultivator**

3010 and 3020 Row-Crop: Single Front Wheel	1200
Adjustable Tread	800
4000 Row-Crop: Adjustable Tread	300
4010 and 4020 Row-Crop: Single Front Wheel	600
Adjustable Tread	300

*NOTE: When Quik-Coupler is NOT used, 200 lbs. less front ballast is required.*

### Guide Rod



Attach the guide rod and bracket to tractor.

The guide rod enables the operator to keep the rear-mounted cultivator on the rows without constantly looking back at the cultivator.

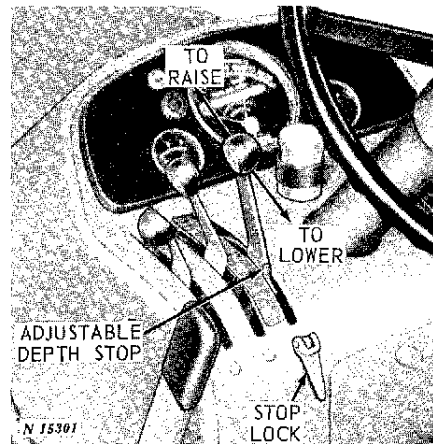
Adjust the guide rod so the bottom of the rod runs over the center of the row next to the tractor. When the guide rod is adjusted properly, and the tractor driven with the rod over the center of the row, the cultivator will stay on the rows.

### Control Lever

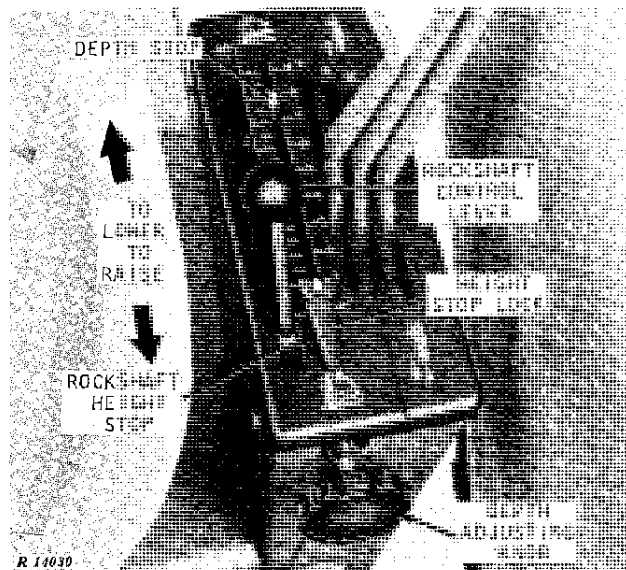
Use the tractor rockshaft control lever to raise the cultivator for transport and lower the cultivator for operation.

Set the depth stop so the cultivator frame stops 28 inches from the ground when lowered for operation.

*NOTE: The cultivator gauge wheels, not the tractor hydraulic system, control the cultivating depth.*



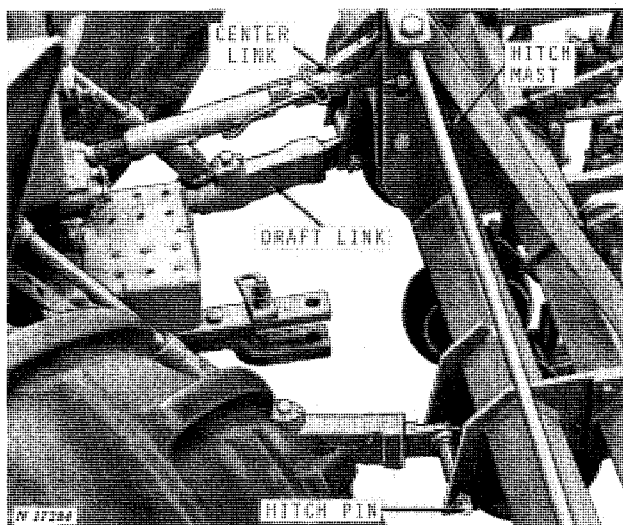
Control Lever on Dash



Control Lever on Console

## ATTACHING CULTIVATOR TO TRACTOR

### Tractor Without Quik-Coupler



Back the tractor until the draft links are just above or below the cultivator hitch pins.

Remove the quik-lock pin from one hitch pin and move the hitch pin so it is recessed in the spacer. Position the draft link between the spacer and inner hitch pin bracket by turning the lift link adjusting crank. Push the hitch pin through the draft link and hitch pin bracket. Replace the quik-lock pin. Attach the other draft link in the same manner.

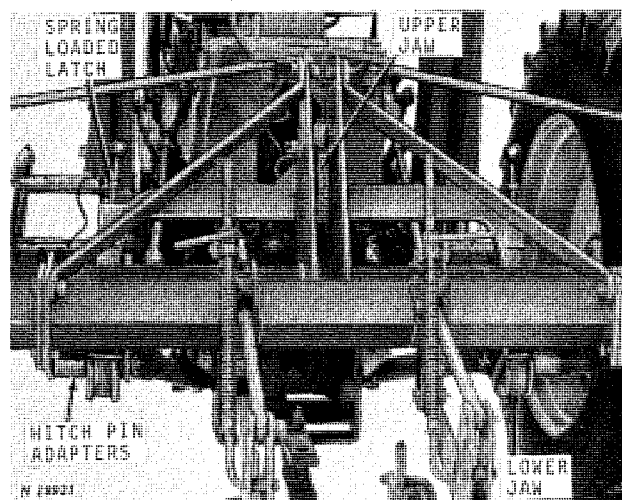
Fasten center link on the hitch ball in the cultivator mast. The center link can be lengthened or shortened for easier attaching.

Reposition lift links and center link after attaching cultivator. See page 5.

### Detaching Cultivator

To detach the cultivator from the tractor, lower the cultivator onto a level surface and remove the center link. Disconnect right and left draft links from hitch pins.

### Tractor with Quik-Coupler



Lower the 3-point hitch so the upper jaw will pass under the spacer between the cultivator mast plates.

This will also allow the lower jaws on the quik-coupler to pass under the cultivator hitch pins.

Back the tractor until the three jaws are under their respective hitch points and raise hitch. The lower jaws automatically lock in place if the spring loaded latches are in the up position before the quik-coupler contacts the cultivator.

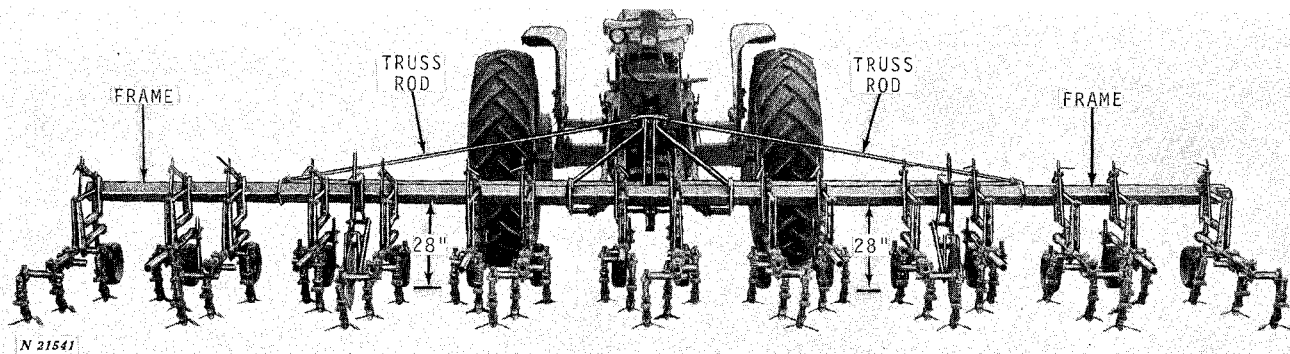
*NOTE: When the spring-loaded latches are properly locked, the indicator rod will protrude through the slot in the coupler frame adjacent to the latch rods.*

Reposition lift links and center link after attaching cultivator. See page 5.

### Detaching Cultivator

To detach the cultivator from the tractor, lower the cultivator onto a level surface, push down on the spring-loaded latches and lock them in the released position. Lower the 3-point hitch.

### LEVELING CULTIVATOR FRAME

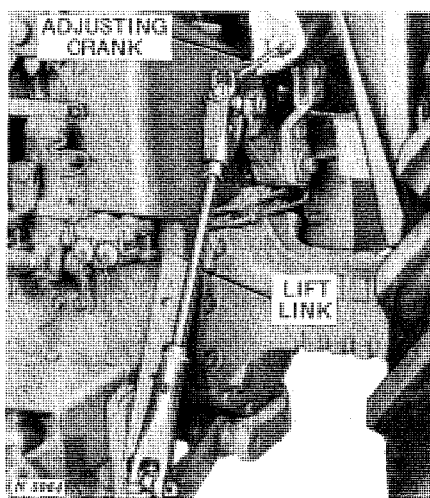


Turn the adjusting crank on each lift link until both ends of the cultivator frame are level. Turn the adjusting arm on the center link so the hitch mast is perpendicular to the ground.

*NOTE: Adjust depth stop for tractor rockshaft control lever so cultivator frame stops 28 inches from the ground when cultivator is lowered to operating position.*

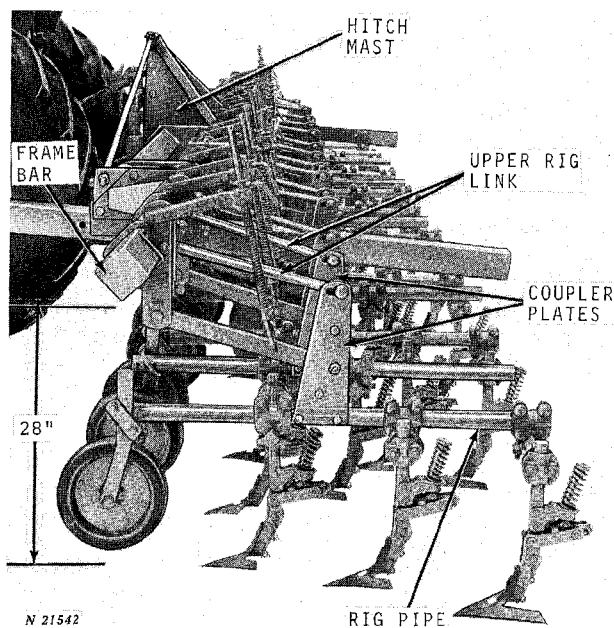
#### Truss Rods

If necessary, tighten the nuts on the end of each truss rod - one nut at a time - so the cultivator frame ends will bow slightly forward and upward.



### ADJUSTING THE RIGS

The rig pipes must be parallel with the ground, and level with each other, when the cultivator is operating in the field.



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