

Recording Equipment Usage

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Keeping tabs on your farm equipment usage helps you know what tools and machines get used most often for your business and when they are due to be maintained. This can help you determine the equipment that is absolutely critical to your success and ensure it stays available and ready to help you thrive. If you've set up machines like tractors and trucks in [Farmbrite's Equipment section](#), you might want to know when they were used, who used them, and the current mileage or hours on their odometer. After tracking that usage, you might also want to configure email notifications so you are alerted when a piece of equipment is due for service. The key to all of that is creating equipment usage records; let's take a look at how you can add them.

You can add these usage records for whatever type of tools and machines you track. Just navigate to Resources>Equipment, and select the equipment record. You'll see an option for Usage in the menu.

The screenshot shows the Farmbrite web application interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with options: Schedule, Tasks, Livestock, Plantings, Resources, Accounting, Market, Contacts, Farm Map, Climate, and Reports. The top navigation bar includes the Farmbrite logo, a search bar, and several icons. The main content area is divided into sections: a top alert bar showing '3 Inventory Alerts' and '1 Overdue Task'; a weather section for Golden, CO, displaying a 'WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY' and a 25°F temperature; a 'TOP UPCOMING TASKS' section with two tasks related to fertilizing; and a 'RECENT ORDERS' section showing a bar chart for October 2024.

In order to get the most value out of this feature, you'll want to set up some of the basic equipment details first.

- Be sure that you **make a selection for how the usage should be tracked**; this can be miles, kilometers, or hours.
- Next, **check that the field for Current Miles/Kilometers/Hours is accurate to the equipment's most up to date reading**. Your next usage record will use this as the amount of starting miles, and both usage and service records will update this field as you add them.
- Optionally, **add an Estimated Usage Cost to calculate a cost associated with the usage**. This should be the amount it costs you to run the equipment for each hour/mile/kilometer it is used.

In our examples in this article we are working with a pickup truck that we track in miles. where each mile usage is \$1.02.

The screenshot shows the Farmbrite web application interface. On the left, a sidebar menu is visible with a 'Details' section containing 'Schedule', 'Tasks', 'Notes', 'Usage Logs', 'Maintenance', 'Accounting' (highlighted by a mouse cursor), and 'Photos'. The main content area displays a form for equipment accounting. The form includes the following fields and options:

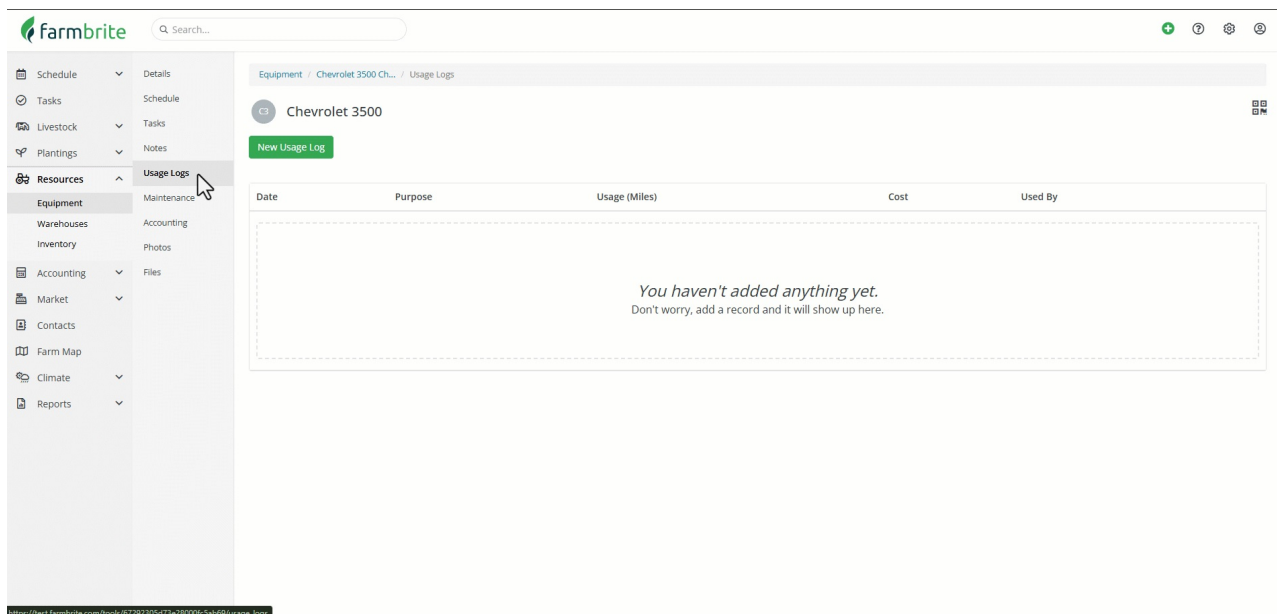
- Status: In Use (dropdown)
- Brand/Model: Chevrolet (text input)
- Model Year: 2024 (text input)
- ID/Plate Number: (text input)
- Serial Number: (text input)
- Electronic Id: (text input)
- Engine/Transmission: Engine (eg: 2.9L 3-cyl diesel) (text input)
- Transmission (eg: Collar shift Hi-Lo) (text input)
- Track Usage (Miles/Hours): Miles (dropdown)
- Current Miles: 8742.0 (text input)
- Send Service Reminder Every: 10000 (text input)
- Email Alerts To: chris@farmbrite.com (text input)
- Estimated Usage Cost: \$ 1.02 (text input) per mile (text input)
- Link To Service Manual: http:// (text input) Paste link to manual here (text input)
- Leased Or Purchased: ☒ Leased ☐ Purchased (radio buttons)
- Date Acquired: 02/21/2024 (text input)
- Purchase Price: \$ 68750.00 (text input)
- Estimated Value: \$ 62500.00 (text input)
- Equipment is Insured: ☐ (checkbox)

After setting those up, you can choose Usage Logs, and then create a new one. You'll be presented with optional fields to record information about using the equipment. Each one is outlined below; **the only required field is the Ending measurement.**

- Purpose - Why did you use the equipment? Something like "run to the supply store", "till field B", "cut up trees that fell in the storm" or "take animals to stock show".
- Starting Miles/Kilometers/Hours - The starting reading for total usage on the equipment at the start of this new log.
- Ending Miles/Kilometers/Hours - The ending reading for total usage on the equipment at the end of this new log.
- Date Used - When did the usage take place?
- Used By - Select who used the equipment from a list of your Farmbrite users.
- Keywords - Add any keywords to this usage record to more easily search for it later.
- Description - Describe how the equipment was used and provide any additional import details you want to capture regarding it.
- Associated To - You can associate this usage record with a grow location, animal, or livestock group.
- Map Location - Geolocate the usage record to pinpoint exactly where the equipment was used. You can [read more about this here](#).

Need to track something else? You can [create custom fields](#) for your Equipment Usage records to track any other details that you need.

After you have added what you need, be sure to save in the bottom right.




You can continue to add usage logs to the equipment over time, and always reference back to the equipment record to see the history. Note our example in the image above where the cost is also calculated here; remember that this calculated based on the cost per mile associated with the equipment details.

You can also configure notifications to alert you when a piece of equipment has reached a certain milage interval. [Check out this article to learn more.](#)

Reporting on Usage Records

If you'd like to see all of your usage records combined in one place, you'll be able to access them in the Equipment Usage Report. Navigate to Reports>Standard Reports, pick the Resources tab, and then run the Equipment Usage Logs report. This report is grouped by equipment, so you'll see all of the logs for each in a single area, with a combined total too. By default, the report will display all usage records for all equipment, but you can click Customize in the upper right to add or remove field, filter the report, or group it differently.

In three example below we run the standard report, but then customize it to filter for only this month, and group it by who used the equipment. That way we can easily separate the equipment usage associated with Chris and Farmhand Willy.



Search...

Schedule

Tasks

Livestock

Plantings

Resources

Equipment

Warehouses

Inventory

Accounting

Market

Contacts

Farm Map

Climate

Reports

Details

Schedule

Tasks

Notes

Usage Logs

Maintenance

Accounting

Photos

Files

Equipment / Chevrolet 3500 Ch... / Usage Logs

Chevrolet 3500

Last used on Nov. 04, 2024 8,742.00 Miles

New Usage Log

Search Records

Date	Purpose	Usage (Miles)	Cost	Used By
Nov. 04, 2024	Trip to Otto's Supply Store in Springfield Picked up chicken feed and some new fertilizer to try on the tomatoes	42.00 Ending 8,742.00	\$42.84	Farmhand Willy

Displaying 1 record

Let us know if you have any questions on recording equipment usage!