



Planter Recommendations for 2017

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- There are many settings and calibrations to be made on your planter, but ultimately the operator is the most valuable component.
- Settings made in the shop during the winter seldom reflect actual field conditions, so significant time must be taken to check planter performance on your first field.
- It is perfectly ok to trust your planter monitor, but with the value of the seed and potential crop revenue loss, the operator must physically check depth and spacing often.



Before the Field

Each type of planter has various wear components that need to be checked and potentially replaced. Parts like tires, wheels, hubs, bearings, bushings, planter bar structural steel, hydraulic cylinders and lines, and other components that have a less direct impact on the row unit, still need to be checked over closely for wear. Worn row unit parts have a direct impact on depth and spacing. These parts include; opening disks, gauge wheels and their arm components, parallel linkage components, row cleaner wheels, drive chains or cables, springs, airbags, hydraulics, closing disks/wheels, and any bushings associated with them, should all be checked for excessive wear. Electrical components such as seed tube sensors should also be tested.



JD opening disks that are worn down to 14.75" from 15" should be replaced. Depth should be preliminarily set in the shop using blocks of the same thickness as the desired depth of planting, by placing them under the gauge wheels and adjusting depth as necessary.

Meters need to be checked every year whether on a test stand or run normally on the planter row units in the shop. Air leaks need to be addressed for both vacuum and positive pressure planters, as variations from row to row can cause noticeable differences in singulation.



- JD meters covers and seals should be checked and be replaced if you are unable to achieve uniform vacuum. Plates and knockouts/scrapers should turn smoothly through their full rotation. Singulators should be set in the second position or higher.
- Case IH Early Riser meter covers and plates should be checked for excessive wear. Uneven vacuum can occur before the plastic reaches the full depth of the wear mark indicators. If you cannot achieve uniform vacuum through the full plate rotation the covers should be resurfaced or replaced. Set singulator to position 4 or lower.
- White positive pressure meters need to have the plates properly shimmed to achieve cell fill and eliminate excess blow by. Cutoff brushes should be replaced if they pull and retain seed from the cells. Singulator/tickler brushes should be replaced if worn.
- Precision Planting meters and their components also have typical wear in varying locations. Please consult your precision dealer for advice on maintenance.

Making the First Pass

When you hit the field, the initial steps you take checking and adjusting your planter have significant revenue consequences for the entire crop year, which can be both positive and negative. The best way to check depth and spacing is a method I observed from one of our shareholders. Using a small length of rope or strap to tie up the rear closing system, so that the seed trench remains open, the performance of everything else on the row unit becomes very evident. As seen in the agronomic practice population data in last week's Agricultural Beet, achieving 175 to 200+ stand counts is becoming more common. Your planter is capable of achieving these stands, but it is your time and adjustments to create a more uniform stand that can increase both your profitability and crop quality for your co-op. The SMBSC Agricultural Department staff is highly knowledgeable and dedicated to a strong start for your 2017 sugarbeet crop. Please contact your agriculturist or your equipment dealerships with any questions or concerns you may have about planting your 2017 sugarbeet crop. Remember to have a safe and successful spring!

