

CALIBRATION METHOD FOR NO-TILL AND CONVENTIONAL TILL DRILLS

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All planting equipment should be calibrated to ensure that the proper seeding rate is being metered out. Calibration should occur prior to the planting season for each crop or mixture of species being planted.

Step 1: For each of the drop tubes being evaluated, detach the drop tubes either from the drill's hopper box or as it connects to the row unit. Securely attach plastic baggies to catch the seed either just below the seed cup/metering unit or at the bottom of the drop tubes being evaluated. Ensure that all metering units and drop tubes are clean and clear of obstruction.

Step 2: Determine the width between row units. Measure the distance between the center of one row unit to the center of the next row unit. Using this distance, determine the calibration distance from **Table 1**.

Step 3: Measure and mark calibration distance on the terrain that is typical of what will be planted.

Step 4: With the drill's ground-driven drive mechanism engaged and traveling at the desired operating speed, start precisely at the beginning of the calibration distance and travel to the end of the calibration distance.

Step 5: At the end of the calibration distance and with the tractor and drill parked, collect the plastic bags and record the weight of the seed in the bags (tare the scale to account for the weight of the bags) using a scale that reads in grams.

Step 6: The grams of seed collected from the distance traveled equals the lbs of seed being put out on a per acre basis from that row unit. For example, if traveling the specified distance, one collects 30 g of seed off of one unit, then that row unit is putting out 30 lbs of seed/acre.

Step 7: Adjust the seed metering units' openings as needed and/or repeat to ensure that all row units are putting out a similar amount of seed (+/- 10% of the target rate).

Table 1. Calibration distances for corresponding widths between row units on a no-till or conventional drill.

Row Spacing (inches)	Calibration Distance (feet)
6	192
6.5	177
7	165
7.5	154
8	144
9	128
15	77