

CALIBRATING YOUR SEED DRILL

1. Read your drill's operating manual. Note adjustments for leveling, seed depth and seeding rate.
2. Clean out seed tubes by spraying out with air hose & run wire through to ensure there are no blockages
3. Use the below seeding rate chart to determine initial drill setting - set drill accordingly
4. Select proper gearbox setting or drive gear for the desired target seeding rate based on manual
5. Fill with small amount of seed above each opening in the drill box
6. Lower drill to engage seeding mechanism
7. Turn the mechanism until seed comes out to make sure seed is coming out each disk opener
8. Disconnect 3-5 seed tubes from disk openers
9. Place and secure a collection container on each tube. A sandwich bag secured with rubber band works well.
10. Pull the drill 150ft or turn the drive wheel the number of revolutions it would take to go 150ft
 - a. Determine revolutions by: $150 / (3.14 \times \text{diameter of drive wheel in feet})$
11. Carefully remove collection containers
12. Place empty container on scale and press the tare button. This will subtract the weight from the container being used to collect seed so you can get an exact measurement of seed. Weigh and record in grams each collection container with seeds in it.
13. Add seed weight for each collection container together and divide by the number of seed drop tubes collected to get the average weight per disk opener
14. Compare the average weight per disk opener to the grams of seed per disk opener found in table below for the desired seeding rate and row spacing.
 - a. If the collected weight is within 10% of target weight found in table below, then you are finished
 - b. If the collected seed is more than 10% difference than the target weight found in table below, repeat steps 7-12 after adjusting seeding rate setting on drill

A Youtube video on grain drill calibration can be viewed on the KYForages YouTube Channel:
www.youtube.com/c/KYForages

GRAMS OF SEED TO CATCH PER DISK OPENER IN 150FT FOR GIVEN COMBINATIONS OF DISK OPENER WIDTH (INCHES) AND SEEDING RATE (POUNDS/ACRE)

Reference : Kentucky University Extension - Don't make a mistake - calibrate

Distance between disk openers (inches)	Seeding rate (lbs/acre)																						
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	20	25	30	35	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	120	140	160	180
Grams of seed/disk opener to catch in 150ft																							
6	1.6	3.1	4.7	6.3	7.8	9.4	10.9	12.5	14.1	15.6	19.5	23.5	27.4	31.3	39.1	46.9	62.5	70.4	78.2	93.8	109.4	125.1	140.7
7	1.8	3.6	5.5	7.3	9.1	10.9	12.8	14.6	16.4	18.2	22.8	27.3	31.9	36.5	45.6	54.7	72.9	82.0	91.1	109.4	127.6	145.8	164.1
7.5	2.0	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	11.7	13.7	15.6	17.6	19.5	24.4	29.3	34.2	39.1	48.9	58.6	78.2	87.9	97.7	117.3	136.8	156.3	175.9
8	2.1	4.2	6.3	8.3	10.4	12.5	14.6	16.7	18.8	20.9	26.1	31.3	36.5	41.7	52.1	62.6	83.4	93.8	104.3	125.1	146.0	166.8	187.7

Reference : Kentucky University Extension - Don't make a mistake - calibrate