

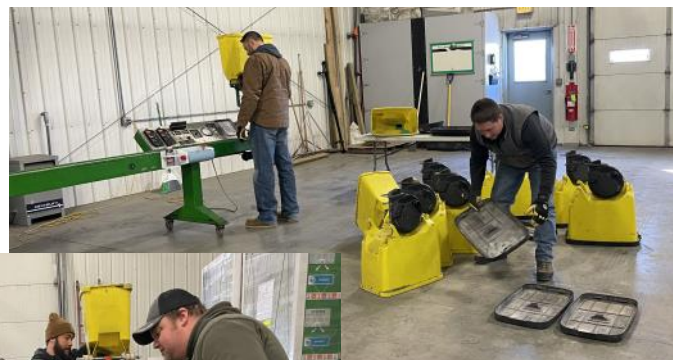


Profitability Starts With Your Planter...

Two of the most profitable aspects of sugarbeet production are stand establishment and plant population - neither of which can be achieved without proper planter maintenance and operation. Your planter is a precision tool, and arguably one of the most important pieces of equipment on your farm; planter malfunctions and/or incorrect operation can significantly reduce both plant population and stand establishment. Additionally, the average seed cost is \$269/acre. If you're planting 25 acres per hour, you've got \$6,725 worth of seed going in the ground each hour, or just over \$80,000 in a 12-hour day. Keeping your planter in top shape is essential for starting the growing season off strong. The following pages highlight some key areas of your planter to pay extra attention to before it hits the field this spring. You can also refer to the [2025 Sugarbeet Production Guide](#) for a complete planter checklist.

2025 Planter Test Stand

The NDSU Planter Test Stand will be held **February 18, 19, and 20** at the Minn-Dak Seed Warehouse/Tare Lab. **There is still time to schedule an appointment with your agronomist.** Test stand hours are 8 AM - 4 PM, with the seed companies sponsoring coffee, rolls, and a catered lunch each day. If it has been a while since you've had your planter units tested, or if you've never done so in the past, please consider bringing them in. We are often able to find problems that would otherwise go undetected, causing serious malfunctions that not only delay planting, but cause significant stand losses by damaging and/or wasting seed.



Disc Inspection



Replacement Guidelines:

- Deere/Kinze: 14.5" (15" New)
- Case IH 12XX: 13.5" (14" NEW)
- Case IH 2XXX: 14.5" (15" NEW)
- White 9XXX: 15.375" (15.875" New)
- White 8XXX: 14" (15" New)



**Check for wear.
14.5" or less in
diameter justifies
replacement on
John Deere and
Kinze planters.**



Check Your Vacuum Tubes

**Mice can
wreak havoc
in a planter
during off-
season stor-
age. Spider
webs too!**



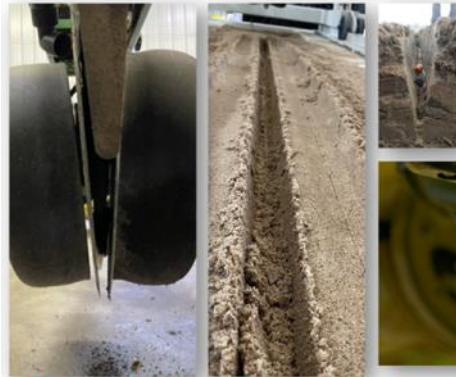
Inspect Seed Tubes

**Check for wear
or blockage.
Rough surfaces
can allow for in-
consistent seed
spacing & poor
placement in the
furrow.**



*Thank you to Yield Advantage for their contributions to this issue.
Yield Advantage will be at the Planter Test Stand.*

Disc Shimming



Centered on Shank
Check 3 Places
Follow manufacturer specs depending on
Blade Thickness



**Disc opener
clearance should
be ~1.5" to 2.5".**



Narrow Setting
Shallow Crops

Closing wheels:

**Double check they are clean and
turn freely. 1" gap maximum is
typical for sugarbeet planting.**

Plate Recommendations

Seed Size	Medium Plate (JD Part: H136445)	Large Plate (JD Part: A51713)	Sorghum Plate (JD Part: A43066)
Mini Pellets	2 to 3 inches	N/A	N/A
Regular Pellets	N/A	2 to 3 inches	3 to 4 inches
ELS	N/A	N/A	3 to 5 inches
Pro 200	N/A	N/A	5 to 7 inches

Vacuum doors:
Check to ensure they close correctly. Check seals for cracks or major wear. Ensure a proper seal.

Plates:
Install plates corresponding to correct seed size. Check for warping or grooves.

Knocker wheels:
Verify they work properly and knockers aren't worn.



Closing wheels

Gauge wheels:
Inspect to make sure they are in good condition and have minimal wear. For older planters, make sure that the arms are mounted on the correct side of the unit.

Meter Components



Seals



Singulators, Ejectors & Extractors



Brushes



Seed Plates, Drives, & Bearings

