

Ready to Plant Checklist

● **Tires:** Check inflation pressures at least once a week during the season. Write inflation pressures on tire rims for quick reference.

● **Planter balance:** Leveling a planter side to side and front to back is crucial to row-unit performance.

● **Hydraulic and electrical systems:** Examine all hoses as well as electrical lines (for bare wiring) and their connections (cleaning them with a solution made for electrical components).

● **Transmission:** Every component on the entire drive system should be examined with particular attention paid to sprockets, clutches, and all bushings and bearings.

● **Down-pressure springs or air bags:** All the springs on a row unit should have the same tension. Air bags rarely present repair issues. But their connections can spring leaks in time from vibration and hoses becoming brittle.

● **Drive chains and sprockets or cables:** Replace worn sprockets and chains without thought for their cost. "A faulty chain can set up vibration that affects meter accuracy, Drive cables, known for their durability, can become worn in time.

● **Parallel linkage:** Evaluate linkage by grasping the row unit (from behind) and moving it up and down and from side to side. Look for sloppy motion at the mounting points (an indication of worn bushings) or if row units rise and fall at an angle (an indication of twisted linkage).

● **Double-disk openers:** Measure the diameter of all double disks. If the result is close to or greater than ½ inch less than their original size, replace the disks. Next, examine their edges for sharpness.

● **Depth gauge wheels:** With the planter in transport position, grab the gauge wheels and turn them by hand to check for "operating slop, which indicates worn eccentric bearings. Check for sharp lips on the wheels, which are needed to form the seed furrow.

● **Closing disks and press wheels:** Check for worn bearings. Examine the press wheel assembly to determine if it is bent or cracked.

● **Row-unit alignment:** Check that the entire row unit is in alignment. "

Meter Maintenance

● Remove all graphite/talc and seed treatment that has accumulated on the internal working parts and surfaces.

● Buff out all surface rust on all finger pickup meters' internal surfaces and moving parts

● Examine brushes, belts, and idlers on pickup meters.

● Examine the backing plates, belt wheels, spring pins, and bearings in finger pickup meters.

● Check vacuum meters for wear on the contact surfaces of seals, meter disks, brushes, lids, and housings.

● Match each vacuum disk with the meter it operated with in the previous year.

● Remove all seed tubes. Look at them lengthwise to determine if they are straight or worn.

● Clean the eyes of the monitor sensor with seed tube brush, soap, and water.

***REMINDER:** When storing your seed disks after planting they should be stored in the vertical position and not lying flat as they have a tendency to warp.

Talc Usage (Vacuum meters)

- If planting commercially-treated seed and no farmer-applied treatments are being used, apply talc at the following rates:

50 bushel tank.....	16 cups
35 bushel tank.....	11 cups
3 bu hoppers.....	1 cup
1.6 bu hoppers.....	1/2 cup

- Adjust these rates as necessary so all seeds become coated with talc, while avoiding an accumulation of talc at the bottom of the tank.



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