

Planting



JOHN DEERE

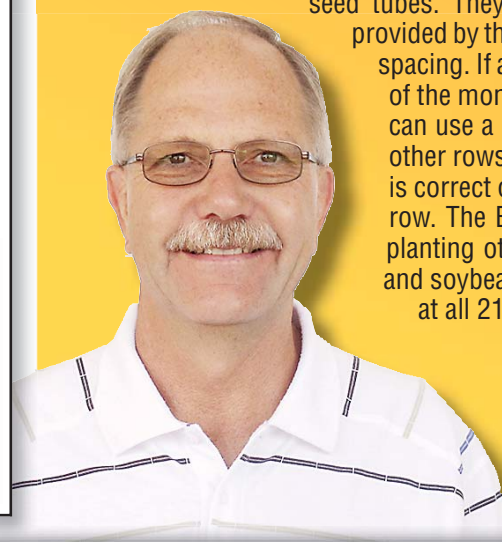
BetaPlanter – Temporary Solution To False Seed Skips With John Deere Sugarbeet Planter Monitors

Growers have reported that their monitor does not provide the actual seeding population when using smaller seed such as small sugarbeet seed. The population provided by the monitor can be less, resulting in an inaccurate value. Planters will do well with planting small seed sizes when the correct equipment is used, just as they do when using larger seed sizes with the correct equipment. However, the sensor does not recognize all of the seeds that flow past it. These seeds are classified as 'false skips'. The false skips are a result of the sensor being less sensitive on the outer edges, and the seeds not recognized can vary from 10% - 35% less than the actual planting population. John Deere developed a seed tube insert (long insert) to use with smaller seed sizes. The long insert places the seed in the center of the sensor and corrects or nearly corrects the false skips, but it causes erratic seed spacing and can bunch the seeds together which is the reason most growers quit using it years ago.

John Smith, retired Machinery Engineer at the University of Nebraska, Mike Marker, Betaseed Sales Representative, and I have tested multiple new and used sensors along with new and used seed tubes on the Precision Planting MeterMax Ultra test stand. We cut 8" off of the bottom of the long insert, which allows the BetaPlanter (short insert) to direct the seed to the center of the sensor and then the seed flows correctly down the seed tube with accurate seed spacing.

Eight growers participated in field trials which allowed us to determine if the results using a grower's planter with the BetaPlanter are as positive as the test stand results. The test consisted of using the same planter unit on each planter without an insert, with the long insert and with the BetaPlanter. After the sugarbeet plants emerged, we measured spacing between the plants to determine the seed spacing accuracy. After counting a total of 9,600 seed spacings, the data indicates that the seed spacing with no insert and the BetaPlanter were marginally different, but the seed spacing with the long insert had skips and some bunched seeds. The minimal spacing difference between no insert and the BetaPlanter has not shown any yield reduction or harvestability issues.

A number of growers used the BetaPlanter last spring with their John Deere seed tubes. They were satisfied with the information provided by the monitor and the accuracy of the seed spacing. If a grower does not like the performance of the monitor with the population variance, they can use a BetaPlanter in one row and move it to other rows to determine that the seed population is correct or a BetaPlanter can be placed in every row. The BetaPlanter must be removed prior to planting other crops such as corn, edible beans and soybeans. The BetaPlanter can be purchased at all 21st Century Equipment stores.



John Dillman
Betaseed
Regional Sales Manager



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