

Setting Seeders, Broadcast Seeders, & Drills

Setting Seeders

1. To find the amount of seed to plant for one acre: Take the total bulk pounds of seed and divide by the total acres. (Example: 150 bulk pounds divided by 50 acres = 3 bulk pounds per acre) This would be your planting rate per acre.
2. A square acre contains 43,560 square feet, or about 70 square yards. NOTE: 70 large steps will be very close.

Broadcast Seeders

1. Always broadcast seed cross wind. (Example: Wind blowing out of the South should seed East to West).
2. Broadcast seeders should cover about a ten foot strip, but you need to adjust according to seed weight and wind speed.
3. Always drive in the same gear, RPM and MPH.
4. Mark off three, one acre plots, and pour enough seed to plant one acre and start planting.
5. When you have planted about $\frac{1}{4}$ of your acre, you should check to see how much seed you have left. At this point, you should close or open the gate on the bottom of the broadcaster. If you are applying too much seed, close the gate. If you are planting too little, open the gate. By the time you have covered your three, one acre plots, you should have your seed rate per acre down very close

Drills

1. Measure distance around the field. Every $\frac{1}{10}$ th of a mile on your odometer equals 528 feet. Multiply $\frac{1}{10}$ th x 528 = distance.
2. The formula would be: distance x width of drill = square feet divided by 43,560 = acres in the first round.
3. Pour enough seed in drill for the first round. Check drill about every quarter of first round. And open or close as needed. Drill should be very close after three rounds.
4. If field has several corners, allow about five percent of seed by volume to sow corners. (Example: Distance around field is $\frac{9}{10}$ th mile. The drill is twelve feet wide. $(9 \times 528 = 4,752) \times 12 = 57,024$ divided by 43,560) = 1.3 acres. You would need enough seed in the drill for 1.30 acres or $1 \frac{1}{3}$ rd acres on your first round.

