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PIONEER PREMIUM SEED & TREAT-MENTS, CROP INSURANCE, AGRONOMY SERVICES, FIELD DAYS, SEED WHEAT, SEED DELIVERY, & PERSONAL SERVICE

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Corn Planting Depth 1
Soybean Yield Contest 1
Winners
Walking Your Fields 1
2024 Infinity Program 2

2024 TruChoice Prog. 2
Upcoming Meetings etc. 2
For Sale 2

Spring Planter Prepara- 3

Planter Test Stand
Agronomy YouTube
Contact Information



Yields from the Fields newsletter and Walking Your Fields Newsletters is the digital Pioneer newsletter. Don't miss out on the local, timely agronomic tips, management articles and local performance information Pioneer shares from pre-plant through harvest and even through the winter months. Go to

www.pioneer.com/

signup to get signed up to start receiving this newsletter and other information for your local geography from Pioneer.

## CORN PLANTING DEPTH CRUCIAL FOR TOP YIELDS

The main goal of your corn planting operation should be to place all seeds at a uniform depth and spacing. Technology advancements from equipment manufacturers have allowed for much improve seed metering accuracy and monitoring



in recent years, however planting depth uniformity remains a factor that must be evaluated manually with changing field conditions. Proper planting depth is crucial for even stand establishment, which maximizes your corn yield potential.

#### PLANTING DEPTH RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ⇒ Planting depth should be 1.5 to 2 inches. Up to 3 inches may be justified in very dry soil conditions to reach adequate moisture
- ⇒ Set planting depth in the field with the planter being pulled at full operating speed
- ⇒ Check planting depth across entire planter( center can vary significantly from outside wings due to weight distribution)

- ⇒ Check for good seed-soil contact
- ⇒ Slower planting speeds achieve more uniform planting depths
- Utilize in-row residue management equipment where needed.

#### CORN PLANTED TOO SHALLOW (<1.5 inches)

- ⇒ Is less able to uptake water nda nutrients through the roots
- ⇒ Can develop a condition called "rootless corn syndrome" Plants will fall over due to the lack of nodal root development in dry soil
- ⇒ Can expose seedlings to herbicide resideues, increasing the potential for herbicide injury
- ⇒ Can slow emergence and root development in dry conditions.



# Inman farmers among Soybean Yield winners

The highest-yielding entry of the 2023 contest came from Inman farmer Brett Froese. The Pioneer 42A84E, an Enlist soybean variety, yielded 104.2 bushels per acre and were entered in the statewide no-till irrigated division of the contest.

In the <u>statewide no-till irrigated division</u>, George Ensz, Inman, earned second place with 94.4 bushels per acre and Menold Farms, Hiawatha, placed third with 92.3 bushels per acre.

In the <u>statewide conventional-till irrigated division</u>, Doug Mills, Hugoton, took first place with 102.2 bushels per acre and Chad Penner, Inman, took second place with 100.2 bushels per acre. Third place went to Sam Miller, Haven, with an entry of 94.8 bushels per acre.

The Kansas Soybean Commission provides monetary awards to finalists each year. Winners received recognition at the 2024 Kansas Soybean Expo January 10 in Topeka. Details about the contests are available at www.kansassoybeans.org/contests

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PIONEER SEEDS:
TAKEAWAYS FROM
2023 NCGA

**WINNERS** 



Type this into the search bar to find it.

PLANTER TEST STAND

Get your meters calibrated and repaired. We have a planter test stand

for checking the accuracy of vacuum, finger pickup, and Kinze brush meter units.



This is something that we suggest should be done on a planter at least every other year. Contact Mike, Tye, or Korey for details and to schedule your test. We would really like to do these this winter instead during the spring rush.

Pricing is \$25/row before March 1st and /\$30/row after March 1st.

#### PIONEER & WHEAT SEED

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### **BILLING QUESTIONS**

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Another harvest has concluded, and David Hula and Pioneer brand corn products have shown why they're the best in the industry with another record-breaking yield result with 623.84 bu/A with 14830VYHR.

Pioneer corn products continues to build on their legacy of consistent, proven performance and agronomics. Pioneer growers earned 9 national wins and 205 state wins across 41 states.

### SPRING PLANTER PREPARATION BY LAURA SHARPE & MARK JESCHKE

#### PLANTER LEVELING

For proper disc cutting action, seed delivery, planting depth accuracy, and press wheel action, planters need to run slightly uphill, particularly as they age and the parallel linkages become worn. Check your planter for its levelness. If the planter is running downhill, it may require adjusting hitch position.

#### **PARALLEL LINKAGES**

Parallel linkages wear over time, which can lead to excessive movement of the row unit. Bushing wear will tend to make a row unit plant slightly shallower with more tendency for erratic seed distribution. With your planter raised in the air stand behind each row unit and push up and side to side. If you find that the row unit moves



#### **OPENING DISCS**

Sharp cutting double-disc openers can either make or break a planter. A business card can be used to determine if the discs have the necessary 2 inches of cutting edge contact (see below). The V-trench they form is critical for good seed-to-soil contact and uniform emergence. As disc openers wear, they will no longer form a firm cutting point. This can lead to an irregular furrow, shaped like a "W" instead of a "V" resulting in variable seed depth placement and a lack of seed to soil contact. Discs should be replaced when wear exceeds factory specifications, which is typically when they have lost ½-inch or more of their original diameter. A good visual indicator that discs need to be replaced is when the original bevel on the edge of the discs is gone.

#### **DEPTH GAUGE WHEELS**

Depth-gauge wheels should be checked to make sure that they turn freely, move up and down easily, and run tightly against the opening discs. This is important to ensure that soil doesn't flow

between the wheels and the opening discs and into the seed trench, which can result in irregular seed placement and planting depth variability. Yearly inspections will tell you if the gauge wheel arm bushings are worn and if the wheels need to be shimmed in against the double disc opener



#### **SEED TUBES**

Inspect seed tubes and vacuum for obstructions, leaks, and loose fittings, and continue to do this regularly throughout spring planting season. Clean seed tube sensors routinely, and make sure to adjust vacuum pressure according to seed size and shape. Check your seed drop tubes to be sure they are free and clear of any obstructions, and make sure that they are not worn by your double disc openers. Rough edges caused by wear can alter your planter's seed drop accuracy. Any hindrance or obstruction that interferes with seed drop can result in erratic seed distribution, even though meters are functioning perfectly. If seed tubes are worn, they should be replaced. If the planter is equipped with seed firmers, they should also be checked for wear and replaced if necessary.

#### **METERS**

Meters should be taken apart before each planting season for cleaning and to check parts for wear. Finger pick-up metering units should be recalibrated after 100 acres have been planted per row unit. Confirm that all seals on vacuum meters are in working order and seed discs are flat and not warped. Double check the clearance between the seed disc and the housing to prevent vacuum leaks. Inspect any belt or brush within the meter, and in high-speed delivery systems, for wear and misshapen bristles or paddles. It is also important to check the bowl tension on John Deere ExactEmerge™ planters. If the bowl tension is too loose, seeds may not end up getting to the brush belt for delivery to the seed furrow.

#### **COULTERS AND ROW CLEANERS**

Coulters and other attachments can impact seed to soil contact, especially with heavy residues. Coulter depth and sharpness are important to allow residues to be cut cleanly rather than crimping and pushing them into the seed furrow. Most coulters should be set to run about 1/4 inch above the depth of the double-disc openers. Be sure that coulters and residue attachments are aligned properly with the double-disc planted too deep and double disc openers not turning properly. Make sure row cleaners gently sweep residue – you don't want to move soil, just residue. Watch the row cleaners running. Fixed row cleaners shouldn't turn constantly; they should gently turn sporadically, especially through areas of thick residue. Floating row cleaners should maintain constant contact with the ground, flowing the contours and providing a clean and consistent path for the depth gauge wheels to follow.

#### **CLOSING WHEELS**

For closing wheels to perform properly, it is important to ensure that they are aligned with the opening discs. To check alignment, set the planter on the ground and pull ahead about 5 feet. Look at the mark left behind the planter by the double disc openers. The mark should run right down the centerline between closing wheels. If a closing wheel is running too close to the seed furrow, adjust the closing wheels to bring it back to the center.

#### **CHAINS AND SPROCKETS**

Check all chains, sprockets, and shear pins for wear and proper tension. If they are worn or chain links are stiff, the chain should be replaced. Make sure chains are lubricated properly.

#### **TECHNOLOGY CHECK**

Check all wiring harnesses, ensure all wiring is connected and in working order. Consider gathering loose cords with zip ties. For all add n equipment, check all electric sensors, own force compressors etc. Review all monitors, remove old prescriptions. Load VRS planting scripts from Granular Insights™ prior to planting and ensure planter is accepting the prescription. Utilize agronomic tools from Granular Insights like population charts for hybrids based on seed price, yield environment, and commodity price. Scan corn seed batch tags for final planter settings to optimize seed drop. Have your planting plan preloaded into the monitor and onto all employee smart phones for simple stress-free planting.

#### **SAFETY CHECK**

Perform a safety check on all planting equipment to make sure lights and signals work properly so you don't risk accidents when moving from one farm or field to another. Ensure that all farm equipment has the appropriate slow moving vehicle signage. Clean windows to ensure operators can see clearly. Ensure the hitch pin is secure and safety



chain is attached, especially for road travel

## 2024 PIONEER INFINITY PROGRAM





#### QUALIFIERS:

Invoice and Payment by March 1, 2024

#### BENEFITS:

50% Replant

Granular Insights

Financing: Prime - 1 @ 12% Discount

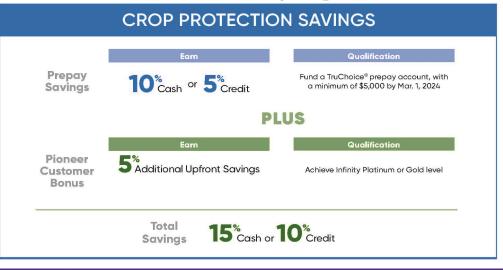
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See eligible crop protection products at www.wildcatagriservices.com/ services then click on TruChoice Financing or at pioneer.com/truchoice



### **UPCOMING AG MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SCHOOLS**

**TOP PRODUCER SUMMIT** Feb 5th -7th in Kansas City https://events.farmjournal.com/top-producer-summit-2024/begin

**AG INNOVATION FORUM 2024** Feb 13th in Kansas City MO. www.agbizkc.com/upcoming-events

or 10% credit.

WOMEN MANAGING THE FARM CONFERENCE Feb 14-16th http://womenmanagingthefarm.com

**2024 ALFALFA SCHOOL** February 13th Great Bend, KS. Hosted by the K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council (KSFGC) RSVP by February 7th 620-793-1910 or aboor@ksu.edu

K-STATE COW-CALF PRODUCTION CLINIC—February 20th—Eureka, KS. RSVP by calling 620-583-7455 or benjam63@ksu.edu

**K-STATE COW-CALF SCHOOL**—February 22nd—McPherson, KS. RSVP 620-241-1523 or tregehr@ksu.edu or online at https://tinyurl.com/KSRECOWCALF24

K-STATE EXTENSION AND KANSAS BEEF QUALITY BEEF ASSURANCE
TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION —March 18th RSVP 785-273-5225 or KBC@KansasBeef.org

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