BEFORE THE FIELD:

PLANTER MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

SEED METER CARE

- Inspect meters for any warping, breaks or severe wearing
- Check all bearings, brushes, seals and meter surfaces
- Never store seed disks in a row unit; take them out of row unit, wash and store on a rod or dowel in a heated area to prevent warping

CHAINS AND IDLERS

- Check daily during planting
- Replace annually (chains are inexpensive in the process when you think about their significance to consistent seed spacing)

BEARINGS AND DRIVE SHAFTS

- Check for proper alignment
- Ensure all bearings are in good condition (will help reduce precious time in the planting process)
- Sprockets and transmission gears need to be checked for wear and adjustment (proper lubrication and smooth operation ensure population adjustments go smoothly)

ROW CLEANERS

- Centered on the row unit
- Ensure they move freely (both the wheels and the range of motion up and down)
- Once in the field, check to see that residue is moved at the desired rate (not too deep as to "plow" ahead of the row unit and not too shallow as to not move enough trash and have poor seed-to-soil contact)

PLANTER LEVELING

- Row unit should be 3/8" to 1/2" lower than the front
- Should be done with the same tractor used for planting
- If this isn't done, the rest of the planter operations won't function properly (seed tube angles incorrect, closing wheels will have either too much or not enough down pressure)
- Check to see if parallel linkage is running parallel

DISC OPENERS

- Check to make sure disk openers are proper diameter (JD should never be less than 14.5" in diameter [15" new])
- Ensure there is no play in the openers/bearings aren't worn

DEPTH CONTROL LINKAGE

- Make sure depth of entire planter is checked and consistent to establish a starting point if adjustment is needed in the field (2x4 and plywood under the gauge wheels)
- Check wheel bearings to ensure no wobbling (gauge wheels should always be in contact with the disk openers)
- Worn tires can allow dirt to fall into the bottom of the furrow, affecting seed depth

SEED TUBES AND SENSORS

- Seed tubes can get worn out if disks are run longer than they're supposed to, causing wear at the bottoms
- Seed tubes and sensors need to be kept clean as much as possible
- Sensors should be tested prior to planting to ensure proper function

CLOSING WHEELS

- Make sure the closing wheels are aligned properly over the center of the furrow to ensure proper furrow closure
- Check bearings (make sure free spinning)
- Ensure down pressure is correct for the given soil type planting into

DOWN PRESSURE

- Check that whatever form of down pressure is functioning properly (if pneumatic, make sure no air leaks - if hydraulic, check hoses for cracks or leaks)
- Make sure to have proper down force in the field (too much means smearing of the sidewalls - not enough and probably not getting to desired seed depth)

PRODUCERS® Hybrids