

# Soybean planting tips outlined

NEWARK, Del. — Some farmers still plant soybeans by pounds per acre, and it's costing them money. Research has shown that seeding rates for this crop should be based on number of beans per foot of row, not on seed weight, says University of Delaware extension county agent Dave Woodward.

He says plant populations are the same for conventional and no-till soybeans. Though population depends somewhat on variety, it depends primarily on row spacing, and as a general rule the agent recommends the following seeding rates:

Row Spacing (inches)	Final Stand (plants per foot of row)
7	2-3
10	3-4
15	4-5
20	5-6
30	6-7

"Extensive research on soybean row spacing and population at the University of Delaware's Agricultural Experiment Station and other universities has proved that narrowing the rows improves yields," Woodward says. "Over the years, traditional spacing has been reduced from 40 to 30 inches. But many growers now find it advantageous to plant 15- or 7-inch rows."

Widths of less than 30 inches will improve yields provided certain management practices are used, the agent says. He recommends growers go to narrower spacing when planting after small grain or when using a recommended herbicide program to control weeds. Be sure to adjust seeding rate to row width for the correct plant population. If hard-to-control weeds are present in a field, it's best to use chemical weed control plus cultivation.

Besides row width and plants per foot, other factors affect final soybean population. For example,

the seed germination rate must be known to establish a planting rate. "If you must use poor quality seed, test it with a seed treatment to find out whether fungal infection is the cause of low germination," Woodward advises. "If you're going to plant early in cool, wet soil (below 55 degrees F) or in dry soil, we recommend treating seeds with a fungicide."

Several materials, alone or combined, will help control common seedling blights and seed decays, and promote early season growth. For specific recom-

mendations on fungicides to use, he suggests farmers contact their county extension agent.

"Seed treatment has no serious effect on nodulation where nodulated soybeans have been grown previously, Woodward says. "Most available chemicals show little or now adverse effect on the Rhizobium bacterium if exposure before planting is minimized, that is, if the seed is planted within two hours after treatment. If you plan to apply Rhizobium and a fungicide simultaneously in the planter box, do the mixing just

before planting."

Seed depths also affects final stand. Plant seeds 1 to 2 inches deep, depending on soil moisture, temperature and general soil condition. If seed is planted too deep, crusting can occur and the seedlings won't have enough strength to emerge, or their necks will snap off as they come up.

Planter speed is another factor that determines final plant population. "Drive at recommended speeds and calibrate for those speeds," Woodward says. "Driving faster will decrease the

stand; going slower will increase it."

Also make sure planter plates are the correct size and that the planting mechanism is in good repair.

Another way to influence final stand is to inoculate soybean seeds with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. If a well-nodulated crop has been grown in the field within the past five years and soil pH is satisfactory, inoculation is not necessary. The bacteria may live in the soil for several years, provided conditions are not too acid.



## QUALITY BINS MADE IN U.S.A.

**NEW**  
From GSI  
(The #1 Bin Company  
in the U.S.A.)  
**HEAVY DUTY 2 1/2"**  
**CORRUGATED**  
**FEED BIN**



Featuring The New Flex Auger  
Boot & Straight Auger Boot

★ FULL LINE PARTS DEPARTMENT

### EMHERR EQUIPMENT, INC.

RD 1, Rt. 272 S., Herrville Rd., Willow Street, PA 17584  
Phone 717-464-3321 or Toll Free: 800-732-0053

★ WE SELL, SERVICE & INSTALL

Serving the Industry For Over 20 Yrs.

## Equine vaccination urged

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Horse owners are being urged to vaccinate their animals against Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (horse sleeping sickness) which is often a serious problem as mosquito populations increase during warmer months. Mosquitoes are the major transmitters of this viral disease.

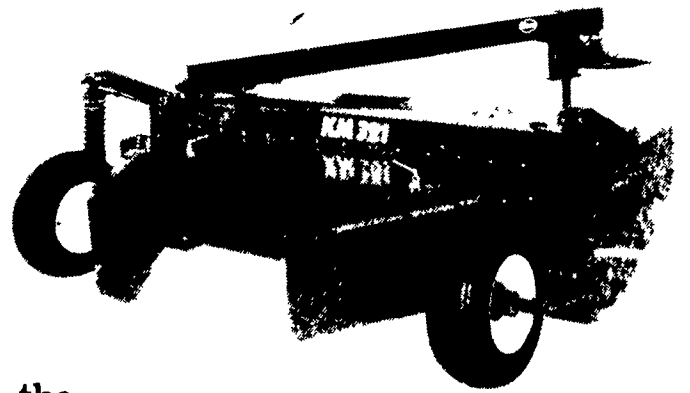
While area mosquito control is helpful it is only one measure that can be used. Protective vaccines for horses are necessary. Usually eastern encephalomyelitis kills its horse victims, the few survivors often show incoordination and impaired vision. A specific treatment against the virus is not available, only supportive treatment and nursing care are useful.

Effective vaccines are available for horses and other equidae. Animals must be vaccinated annually to be adequately protected. It is best to vaccinate horses in the spring before mosquito numbers "build up" advises Dr. J.C. Shook, State Veterinarian, Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Veterinary practitioners can best vaccinate horses now. If vaccination is delayed until sickness occurs veterinarians are often too "bogged down" trying to save sick horses to carry out vaccinations. Supportive treatment can be expensive, yet not necessarily prevent death.

Horses do not serve as a source of eastern encephalomyelitis virus to humans. The virus is perpetuated by a bird-mosquito-bird cycle, with man and horses being "dead end" hosts for this virus

## THE FASTEST MOWER/CONDITIONER IN THE WORLD



When conditions get tough, the Vicon KM321 Mower/Conditioner can get your hay in the windrow at least 30% faster than any conventional system.

One reason is the unique high-speed Vicon disc-cutting system. Which won't plug. And it's so gentle on your hay crops there's virtually no leaf loss.

Even if you've got a heavy dew-wet crop, the KM321 won't plug, and won't leave you worrying about leaf loss.

Another reason is a new drive system that lets you operate non-stop. Even taking square corners with no drive line vibration or danger of failure.

*We Would Like To Show You How To Improve Your Mowing and Conditioning. Just Call For A Demonstration*



**MELVIN J.**  
est. 1893  
**SHEFFER INC.**

121 Railroad St. and 100 Chestnut St. Hanover, Pa 17331  
(717) 637-3808

