FARM SMART
with a SMART BAKKIE

MAIZE PLANTER CALIBRATION
to improve your profitability

Importance of planter calibration
In most operations, maize seed rates vary from field to field due to different sampling methods. Most of the farmers use the traditional overlapping method, which is known to cause severe underplanting and overplanting problems, thereby reducing yield potential. Maize planters are very accurate if they are maintained and operated properly. Two major factors that affect the performance of a planter are: the way the planter is set up and the number of seeds in each row (i.e., seeding rate).

The planter calibration tool is a device designed to measure the number of seeds planted per unit area and to ensure that the planting depth is correct. Typically, the planter calibration tool is a small, handheld device that is attached to the planter, allowing the operator to monitor the number of seeds planted per row and to adjust the planter settings as necessary.

Know your planter
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• Check the planter settings after planting to ensure that the seeds are being planted at the correct depth and spacing.

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Seed calibration field
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Example: If a planter is set to plant 10 seeds per row and the calibration tool shows that only 8 seeds were planted, the planter settings need to be adjusted to ensure that the correct number of seeds are being planted per row. This can be done by adjusting the seed metering mechanism, the row spacing, or the row depth.

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