

MSU AGRICULTURE INNOVATION DAY

FOCUS ON PRECISION

TECHNOLOGY THAT PAYS

Yield Monitor Data and Proper Calibration

Yield Monitor Calibration Corn Example

MPH	Flow Rate	Monitor (lbs)	Weigh Wagon (lbs)	Difference (lbs)	Difference (%)
1	Low	3293	3976	-683	-17.2 %
2	Medium	4158	4161	-3	-0.1 %
3	Medium	5422	4736	686	14.5 %
4	High	4120	3762	358	9.5 %
			Average	90	1.69 %

* data taken from 2016 calibration of Case IH combine near Berrien Springs, MI.

The overall average error is very close (1.69%) so one might think it is calibrated close enough. However there are big discrepancies in the low and high flow rate areas of the field.



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Key Take Home Messages

Calibrating your yield monitor each year is necessary to obtain accurate data.

Yield monitor data can be used in making management decisions including variable rate nutrient application, variable rate seeding, dual hybrid selection and development of management zones.

Follow instructions in your operators manual to calibrate your yield monitor.

Most newer yield monitors allow for multi-point calibration.



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Key Take Home Messages

When calibrating your yield monitor, make sure you pay attention to all settings including moisture sensor temperature, mass flow vibration, cut width, header up/down, lag time and GPS offsets.

Even with a properly calibrated yield monitor, post harvest data processing is needed to clean up any errors or anomalies in the data.

Yield monitor data is increasingly being used in precision agriculture to develop precision for fertilization, spraying and variable rate planting.



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