

Farmers should check off this list before planting season

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Colorado State University Extension offers 10 things farmers should remember to check before planting season this year.

1. Level the planter when at planting mode. Check hitch-height. Make sure the planter's tool bar is level (vertically) or running slightly up hill. When planters tip down, coulters run too deep and closing wheels run too shallow.
2. Check bushings and parallel linkage. Worn bushings increase row bounce, which increases seed bounce. Stand behind the row unit and wiggle it up and down and back and forth, checking to make sure bushings are tight.
3. Drive system. Check every chain. Kinked chains cause shock and vibration in the meter. Start with fresh, lubricated chains and check them daily. Include transmission chains, meter drive chains and insecticide box chains.

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