



## Calculating Seeding Rate: Pounds of LIVE seeds/A

- **One hybrid rye seed unit = 1,000,000 LIVE seeds.**
- The weight for a 1,000,000 LIVE seed unit varies by variety and seed lot.
- LIVE seed takes into account the germination percentage of a seed lot.
- Hybrid rye seed is packaged in two ways:
  1. Half-unit bags (containing 500,000 LIVE seeds)
  2. Totes, with varying numbers of one million-seed units per tote.
- Target planting rate is 800,000 LIVE seeds/A or 0.8 units/A.
- To determine the weight of 800,000 LIVE seeds/A for planting per acre:
  1. Bags: multiply the bag weight x 1.6
 

*Example:*

    - » Bag weight for a ½ unit of seed (500,000 LIVE seeds) is 40 lbs (on seed tag)
    - » 40 x 1.6 equals 64 lbs (for 800,000 seeds/A)
  2. Totes: divide pounds of the tote by the number of units in the tote. This give you lbs/unit. Multiply this number by 0.8.
 

*Example:*

    - » A tote weighs 1,800 lbs and contain 25 units of seed (on seed tag)
    - » 1,800 lbs/25 units = 72 lbs/unit
    - » 72 lbs x 0.8 = 57.6 lbs (for 800,000 seeds/A)
- Check the pounds to be seeded per acre with your equipment seeding chart for an initial setting and adjust drill or seeder.

### BAGS - Seeding Rate/Acre Calculation

Seed lot number (from seed tag)	Bag Weight (lbs)	Multiply by 1.6	= lbs/acre
		1.6	
		1.6	
		1.6	

### TOTES - Seeding Rate/Acre Calculation

Tote Bag Weight (lbs)	Units/Tote (see tag)	Tote wt/units = lbs per unit	Multiply by 0.8	= lbs/acre
			0.8	
			0.8	
			0.8	

## Calibration Methods for Drill or Seeder

Calibrate each year, for each hybrid rye variety, and for each seed lot, if the pounds per seed unit are different.

### Method 1

- Place a tarp under the drill or seeder or attach buckets to catch seed from seed tubes (you can direct two tubes into each bucket).
- Advance the drill meters to deliver seed for the equivalent of 1/20<sup>th</sup> of an acre.
- Collect seed from tarp or buckets and weigh (a kitchen scale works well for this application).
- Check your seed weight (weighed seed weight x 20 = seed delivered/A) with your target seeding rate per acre in pounds.
- Adjust drill/seeder settings and repeat process, as needed, to verify hitting your target seeding rate.

### Method 2

- For your first seeding pass, fill the seeder with a small amount of seed to plant about one or two acres.
- Plant to empty your seeder and check the pounds of seed delivered to actual acres planted.
- Adjust drill/seeder settings and repeat process, as needed, to verify hitting your target seeding rate.

### Method 3

- For your first seeding pass, fill the seeder full.
- Plant a known area: one to two acres.
- Note how many bags of seed (lbs) it takes to REFILL the drill or,
- If seed is from totes, weight seeds in bucket before refilling the drill/seeder to calculate how many total pounds are needed to refill the seeder.
- Adjust drill/seeder settings and repeat process, as needed, to verify hitting your target seeding rate.

