

Best Practices for Moisture Tracker

Calibration

- Check calibration of unit daily, or more often if doing continuous-type testing, such as during forage harvest. Recalibrate as indicated by results shown on device.
- To check calibration or to recalibrate, it is advised to place the calibration target disk on a table or other stable, flat surface and hold the probe firmly against the disk during the procedure, avoiding movement of the probe.
- Keep calibration target disk CLEAN and DRY. Always be sure to clean the Moisture Tracker screen prior to placing it against the calibration target disk to avoid contamination.
- Always check to be sure that the 6 digit code on the disk matches the code that is entered in the Moisture Tracker.
- Always replace the cover on the calibration target disk and store it in the carrying case when not in use. Do not leave it exposed to direct sunlight that could fade the white reference material.

Measurements

- Hold the unit so that the probe is squarely in contact with the material being sampled, eliminating external light from interfering with the reading.
- Do not press the unit into the sample material beyond the point where external light is minimized. Material that pushes up through the screen will be too close to the sensor and will result in less accurate results. This is extremely critical when testing finely ground materials. The weight of the unit resting on the sample material is generally enough.
- Do not lift or move the unit until you hear the audible beep confirming that the scan has completed. An inadvertent trigger pull or premature move that results in the unit beeping while in the air can be eliminated from the sample by pressing the back arrow button.
- In sample materials that are more variable due to coarse chop length, lower moisture content, or mixtures of grass and legumes, etc., it is advised to increase the minimum number of scans per sample from 20 up to 30 or possibly more to increase accuracy.
- When testing, it is always advised to remove the top, exposed layer of the material so as to get to material beneath the surface that has not already dried out. Variations in moisture can quickly change on surface material exposed to sunlight and air. Piles of material that get rained on should be mixed thoroughly if possible prior to sampling to get a more representative reading.
- NEVER take scans directly from the face of a bunker or pile that exceeds 7 – 8 feet in height! Danger of feed collapse is always a threat and must be avoided. Always practice safe sampling techniques and take measurements from a pile that is moved away from the face of the bunker or pile.

Charging Batteries

- It is recommended to keep the unit connected to a power source in a protected environment (in the carrying case) when not in use so the batteries will always be fully charged when you initiate use. Batteries will not over charge.
- Be sure to thread the charging cable onto the Moisture Tracker unit to ensure that a proper connection is established.
- Measurements can't be taken when the power cord is attached to the unit. You must unplug the unit to take measurements. All other functions can be performed while charging.
- Charging will not occur in very cold or very hot environments. Store the unit in a moderate environment for charging.

General Use and Care

- Keep the glass lens clean and free of debris or moisture. Clean with monofilament cloth and solution designed for use with eyeglasses or LED type screens. Do not use any cleaning solution that may leave a residue which could interfere with readings.
- Clean the screen on the end of the probe between samples or during scans as needed. A stiff bristle brush works well for this.
- If sampling multiple materials, it is advised to start with the driest material first and end with the wettest or stickiest material last. That will minimize the need to do a major cleaning between materials.
- If the unit is stored in an environment that differs more than a few degrees from the environment where it will be used, it is advised to take the unit to the test area and power it up for 10 minutes or more in the test environment prior to taking a measurement to allow the unit to acclimate to the ambient temperature of the test area. For best results in extreme cold environments, it is recommended to bring a sample to a more moderate environment to perform the testing. Frozen sample material WILL NOT give accurate results. Frozen material will need to be completely thawed prior to sampling.
- Always store the unit in the protective carrying case when not in use to avoid damage.
- Check regularly for potential updates to software or feed calibrations. Be sure to save the updates to the USB (Click on "Send Ingredients" from the Send/Retrieve tab in the utility program). Updates will load to the Moisture Tracker the next time it is powered up with the USB installed.
- Do not disassemble unit, other than removing the screen to clean the lens. Any tampering with the unit would void the one-year manufacturer's warranty.
- Call Digi-Star Technical Support at (920) 563-9700 with any questions regarding performance and use of the Moisture Tracker.