Chapter 24: Equipment Calibration

Calibration is the measurement of the delivery rate of your application equipment per given unit of area.

*Goal:* To apply the correct amount of material uniformly so as to achieve the desired pest control without added risks.
Common Calibration Problems

- Haven’t accurately determined travel speed
- Improper opening of spreader gate
- Boom height wrong for nozzle spacing or angle
- Inaccurate pressure gauges (read too low)
- Inadequate hose size to nozzles, causing pressure drop
- Worn or plugged nozzles
Improper Calibration

- Leads to too much material applied:
  - Violation of label
  - Could damage treated surface, plant or animal
  - Illegal residues
  - Increased risk to humans and environment
  - Wastes money!

- Leads to too little material applied:
  - Poor pest control – could lead to resistance
  - Wastes money!
Equipment Calibration

- All equipment is different
- Be able to measure distances accurately and determine area in sq. ft.
- Measure time accurately to the second
- Measure liquid volume with graduated containers to nearest fluid ounce
- Measure dry weight to nearest ounce
- Calibration should be checked throughout the spray season.
Boom Sprayer Nozzles

- Make sure they are all the same make and model
- Remember nozzles wear out - replace any that are greater or less than 5% off from average nozzle output.

New……>……>…….  Worn