A DEVICE FOR SETTING FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTORS ACCURATELY AND A SIMPLE METHOD OF CALIBRATION

It is difficult to adjust most fertilizer distributors to a specific size of aperture to assure delivery of desired rates of fertilizer. When it is necessary to open and close apertures when moving the distributor between replicated plots, it is difficult to maintain a desired rate of distribution of fertilizer. The method of blocking up wheels and turning a given number of revolutions for calibration has been used, but it is a laborious method.

The screw adjustment (Fig. 1) has been helpful in maintaining desired rates of distribution when it is necessary to open and close apertures to stop fertilizer distribution, as well as serving as an accurate adjustment during calibration.

A simple and rapid method of calibration has been devised. A metal trough is placed in a position to catch the fertilizer and held secure by two linked chains. The metal trough (ridge-row) is shown in Fig. 2 as attached to the distributor.

The fertilizer rate for an area equal to the width of the distributor and the length equal to the distance covered by ten revolutions of the wheels is calculated. A marker (rag) is tied to the wheel rim and the revolutions are counted. The fertilizer is weighed after each trial and the aperture size is increased or decreased until the desired quantity is obtained. With this simple method it is possible to