

# F-2000

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## owner's manual

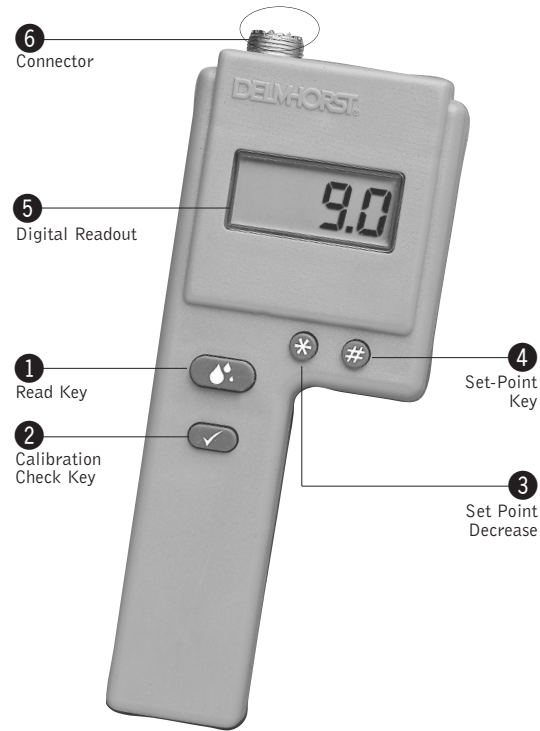


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# DELMHORST F-2000



## F-2000 FEATURES

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- ▶ 6% - 40% MC range
- ▶ Digital readout
- ▶ On-screen statistics
- ▶ Built-in calibration check
- ▶ Proven microcontroller circuit
- ▶ Ergonomic case design
- ▶ Includes (1) 9-volt battery
- ▶ Three year warranty

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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### Key Functions

- ➊ READ KEY - Reads the Percent Moisture Content Value.
- ➋ CALIBRATION CHECK KEY - When pressed with the read key checks the meter calibration. It also displays the number of readings in memory (up to 100), the average, and the highest stored reading. It also clears the memory.
- ➌ SET POINT (DECREASE) KEY - Acts as an arrow (scroll) key when pressed after the set-point key to decrease the set point to a lower value.
- ➍ SET-POINT KEY - Displays the current set-point. Also acts as an arrow (scroll) key to increase the set-point value in 1% increments.

### CHECK CALIBRATION

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▶ Remove the probe from the top of the meter.

▶ Press and hold the read key ➊ and check key ➋ simultaneously. Meter is in calibration if it displays "12" ( $\pm 0.2$ )

If you check the calibration and the display does not read "12," it is likely an indication of a low battery. If this occurs, replace the battery with a new one immediately. Continued use with a low battery may cause the meter to go out of calibration. If you have a fresh battery and the instrument still does not indicate an acceptable calibration, return it to DELMHORST for service. See **Service for Your Meter** section.

A hard Reset is required if, after changing the battery, the display is frozen. This is sometimes caused by the interruption of contact between the battery and battery lead wire. Resolve this as follows:

Disconnect the battery. Press and hold the Read key for 15 seconds. Release the Read key. Press and hold the Check key for 15 seconds. Release the Check key.

Connect a fresh battery to the lead wire in a single action, making sure to align the poles properly and without interrupting contact. If the display remains frozen, repeat the procedure. If this procedure does not solve the problem, refer to the Service for Your Meter section.

## CHANGE THE SET-POINT#

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- ▶ **To change the set-point value** press the set-point key ④. The meter will display the current set-point value.
- ▶ **To scroll forward** to a higher value, hold the set-point key ④ while the current value is displayed and scroll to the set-point value desired.
- ▶ **To scroll backward** through the set-point values, press and release the set-point key ④. Within one second press and hold the set-point decrease key ③.
- ▶ **Continue to hold the set-point decrease key ③** and the set-point value will decrease.
- ▶ **When scrolling in either direction**, release the key to stop at your desired set-point.

If the meter reads a %MC value higher than that of the set-point, a buzzer will sound.

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR READINGS

The meter will accumulate up to 100 readings in memory. After all 100 readings are "stored" it will continue to display the number of readings, the average, and the highest as a reminder that the memory is full. It will not add new readings until the memory has been cleared.

- ▶ **To add a reading** to the sum of all the previously stored readings, release the Read key within 2 seconds. To avoid storing a reading, keep the Read key depressed until the electrode/prod is no longer in contact with the hay.

Readings below 6% will be displayed as .0 and readings above 40% will be displayed as a flashing 999. Neither of these types of readings will be added to your accumulated readings.

## TO CHECK ACCUMULATED READINGS

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This feature allows you to view the total number of all accumulated readings, the average of those readings, and the highest stored reading.

- ▶ **To view the statistics** press and release the calibration check key ②. First the meter displays the number of accumulated readings for one second, then the average of those readings for two seconds. Then it displays the highest stored reading for two seconds. The total "cycle" time is five seconds.
- ▶ **To erase all the accumulated readings**, hold the calibration check key ② for more than 5 seconds until the meter displays "0".
- ▶ **To keep the accumulated readings in memory**, release the calibration check key ② before the total cycle time is complete.

## TO RESET METER

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- ▶ **Press and release the calibration check key ②.**
- ▶ **Within one second**, press and hold the set-point decrease key ③.
- ▶ **The meter will reset itself** and display "119." This indicates that the meter has been reset and that the set-point has been set to its default value of 19%. It will also clear all of the readings stored in memory.

## TAKING A READING

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### Testing Baled Hay

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- ▶ Connect the bale prod to the connector on the top of the meter.
- ▶ Insert the bale prod into the bale.
- ▶ Press the read key **1** The meter displays the %MC for two seconds.

### Notes

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- ▶ The bale prod is electrically insulated, except at the metal points near the tip. The moisture content measured represents the hay in contact with the tip of the prod only.
- ▶ Partially cured hay may have wide variations in moisture content throughout the bale. Readings should be taken in several different parts of the bale and the highest readings used as a guideline. The arrangement and compaction of hay fibers in a bale may have an effect on meter readings.
- ▶ If you are testing high density bales, we recommend using the H-4 handle with the 830-2 10" prod, 830-3 18" prod, or the 830-4 36" prod. Using the handle/prod combination eliminates stress on the instrument case that may occur when trying to insert the prod into a high density or large bale.
- ▶ When using the 36" prod, be sure to guide the prod into the bale with one hand while pushing on the H-4 handle.

### Testing in the Windrow

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There are three ways to test moisture content in the windrow:

## Test A

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- ▶ **Attach the #831 short pin prod** to the H-4 handle and connect the handle to the external connector on top of the meter.
- ▶ **Prepare a representative sample** by collecting hay from various parts of the windrow.
- ▶ **Place hay in a non-conductive container** (such as a 5 to 10 gallon plastic pail) and apply the short pin prod to the hay.
- ▶ **Press the read key ①** and take a reading.
- ▶ **Mix the sample once again** and take at least two more readings. Use the highest readings.

## Notes

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- ▶ Repeat the steps above if considerable variations are found in the meter readings. To reduce these variations, chop the hay, mix it thoroughly and take several readings by following the procedures above. This will make the moisture distribution in the sample more uniform.

## Test B

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- ▶ **Attach the #831 short pin prod** to the H-4 handle and connect the handle to the connector on top of the meter.
- ▶ **Apply the prod** to the hay in the windrow.
- ▶ **Press the read key ①** and take a reading.
- ▶ **Make several tests** on the hay exposed to the sun, then turn the windrow over and make an equal number of tests on the hay that had been closer to the ground. Use the highest readings.

## Notes

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- ▶ Make sure that the points of the electrode are not touching the ground. The electrode points should make contact with the hay only.



## Test C

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- ▶ Select up to five large, slower-drying stems from a section of the windrow.
- ▶ Place them one at a time across two adjacent points on the # 831 short pin prod.
- ▶ The average of these stem readings should be about two to five points higher than the actual moisture content.

## Notes

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- ▶ Repeat these steps in different parts of the field and pay special attention to the areas where the hay is heaviest.
- ▶ The amount of variation found among windrow readings as well as the average stem moisture should be taken into consideration before the decision is made to start baling.

## FACTORS AFFECTING YOUR READINGS

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Because of the many variables that affect the electrical meter readings, the indicated moisture content should not be used as an absolute quantitative measurement. Meter readings are very useful guidelines for the safe storability of hay.

Meter readings become more significant when they are considered in the light of the density of the bales, anticipated handling and storage, and prevailing climate conditions.

## Range of Moisture Content

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The F-2000 is designed to test moisture in hay over a range of 6%-40%. Readings over 30% should be used only as a qualitative indication of high moisture content. Delmhorst moisture meters use the relationship existing between electrical conductivity and moisture content in hay. As moisture content increases, so does the conductivity.

Tests on hay at high moisture content, over 25%, are less accurate. This is mostly due to the variability in moisture distribution. The reduced level of accuracy in the high range does not significantly affect the usefulness of the meter, as a few high readings indicate that some action be taken to dry the hay to avoid spoilage or even self-combustion.

While it is important to note the average of several readings, it is even more important to note the high readings and the frequency at which they occur.

## Hay Temperature

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The F-2000 has been calibrated at 80°F on various samples of different types of hay, mostly alfalfa, and on different cuttings and mixtures. The higher the temperature of the sample, the higher the meter readings will be. Temperatures lower than 80°F cause lower meter readings. The correction is approximately 1% for every 20° difference. Refer to chart below:

Hay temperature	Add to reading	Subtract from reading
20°F/-7°C	3	--
40°F/ 5°C	2	--
60°F/15°C	1	--
80°F/30°C	0	0
100°F/40°C	--	1
120°F/50°C	--	2
140°F/60°C	--	3

### Example

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Meter reading: 22%  
Temperature: 40°F/5°C  
Moisture Content: 24% (22 + 2)

## Curing

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Before proper curing has taken place, wide variations in moisture content should be expected in both recently baled hay and hay in the windrow. These variations will be exposed by meter readings taken on different parts of the windrow or bale. The higher the moisture range, the wider the variations. The more curing has been allowed to take place, the greater uniformity in moisture distribution can be expected.

The validity of the meter readings is closely related to the care spent in sampling the hay to be tested. Whether hay in the windrow or baled hay is tested, the number of tests made should be increased whenever the initial readings show considerable variations.

## Density

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The calibration of the moisture testers applies to bales of normal "average" density. Generally:

- ▶ Denser bales may yield readings 1-2% higher.
- ▶ Looser bales tend to yield 1-2% lower.
- ▶ Tests in stacks usually yield readings 2%-3% lower.
- ▶ Tests on grass hay may yield readings about 3% lower.

**Baling should be done according to the lower meter reading.**

When testing baled hay, drive the prod across the slices of the bale, not between them. This will ensure firmer and more uniform contact.

## Use of Preservatives

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Hay preservative or stabilizers may also have an effect on meter readings. Normally a bale of hay treated with preservative will read higher than a bale of the same hay that had not been treated. The readings typically increase by 2-4%, and 24-48 hours after treatment, the readings between the bales tend to equalize.

Occasional higher readings may occur if, in addition to the effect of the increased conductivity due to the stabilizer, the bales tested also show an increase in temperature and "sweating." As the stabilizer becomes more thoroughly absorbed and the sweating subsides, the meter readings recede to the initial level and will continue to decrease, assuming that the bale becomes progressively dryer.

## Sample Size

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When testing baled hay, it is essential to take readings at several different points in the bale. Hay moisture may vary a great deal in the same bale. For example, at one point bale moisture may be 20% and at another over 35%.

More tests must be made whenever the variations among readings are greater. If there is a possibility of high moisture areas, samples from these locations should be taken. Areas of high moisture content will spoil, resulting in loss.

It is extremely important to note the high readings and the frequency at which they occur.

## CARE OF YOUR METER

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To keep your meter in good working order:

- ▶ Store your meter in a clean, dry place. The optional protective carrying case is an ideal storage place when the meter is not in use.
- ▶ Change the 9-Volt battery as needed. Continued use with a low battery may cause the meter to go out of calibration.
- ▶ Clean the meter and probe with any biodegradable cleaner. Use the cleaner sparingly and on external parts only. Do not immerse the meter or any prod in water.
- ▶ Remove the battery if the meter will not be used for onemonth or longer.

## SERVICE FOR YOUR METER

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If your meter is not working properly, replace the battery with a new one and check the calibration. If this does not resolve the problem, go to [www.delmhorst.com](http://www.delmhorst.com) and follow the instructions under the Product Support tab.

If you require further assistance please call 877-DELMHORST (335-6467) or 973-334-2557.

## WARRANTY

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Delmhorst Instrument Co., referred to hereafter as Delmhorst, guarantees its F-2000 meter for three years from date of purchase and any optional electrodes against defects in material or workmanship for 90 days. If, within the warranty period of the F-2000, you find any defect in material or workmanship return the meter following the instructions in the **Service for Your Meter** section. This limited warranty does not cover abuse, alteration, misuse, damage during shipment, improper service, unauthorized or unreasonable use of the meter or electrodes. This warranty does not cover batteries, pin assemblies, or pins. If the meter or any optional electrodes have been tampered with, the warranty shall be void. At our option we may replace or repair the meter.

Delmhorst shall not be liable for incidental or consequential damages for the breach of any express or implied warranty with respect to this product or its calibration. With proper care and maintenance the meter should stay in calibration; follow the instructions in the **Care of Your Meter** section.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL DELMHORST BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF ANY TYPE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOST PROFITS OR DOWNTIME ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED IN ANY RESPECT TO ITS METERS OR ELECTRODES AND NO OTHER WARRANTY, WRITTEN, ORAL OR IMPLIED APPLIES. DELMHORST SHALL IN NO EVENT BE LIABLE FOR ANY BREACH OF WARRANTY OR DEFECT IN THIS PRODUCT THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF PURCHASE OF THIS PRODUCT.

The express warranty set forth above constitutes the entire warranty with respect to Delmhorst meters and electrodes and no other warranty, written, oral, or implied applies. This warranty is personal to the customer purchasing the product and is not transferable.