

# John Deere Field Connect Frequently Asked Questions



## Document Contents

Q: I have a JDLink Account, do I need to create a new account for John Deere Field Connect?.....	2
Q: I just installed my gateway and probe in a field but my probe is not showing as 'active' on the website. Why is that? .....	2
Q: What type of cell signal does John Deere Field Connect use?.....	2
Q: I don't have 2G coverage in my area, will John Deere Field Connect work?..	2
Q: How long is the probe harness? .....	2
Q: Why do we have to set the soil type for a management zone .....	2
Q: Budget lines are already created for my management zone. What are these and how are they created? .....	3
Q: Is there a guide for getting started with the system?.....	3
Q: Where should the probe be installed in the field? .....	3
Q: Why is each sensor further apart the deeper you go in the probe? .....	3
Q: Can I leave my probe installed all year long? .....	4
Q: Graphs indicate moisture uptake up to 12 inches into the profile. Does this mean my roots are only 12 inches deep? .....	4

Q: I have a JDLINK Account, do I need to create a new account for John Deere Field Connect?

A: No, if the customer already has an existing JDLINK account they will automatically have a John Deere Field Connect organization created on the web. The user will need to log in to the Field Connect website using their JDLINK login credentials, accept the user agreement and it will take them to their account.

Q: I just installed my gateway and probe in a field but my probe is not showing as 'active' on the website. Why is that?

A: Verify the probe is associated with a management zone (should have been completed before installation of hardware). After the installation, verify the gateway GPS light is solid, once the light is solid press the multi-function button on the gateway. This should register the probe and gateway.

Q: What type of cell signal does John Deere Field Connect use?

A: John Deere Field Connect utilizes a 2G GSM Signal.

Q: I don't have good cellular coverage in my area, will John Deere Field Connect work?

A: Yes, along with the cellular signal, John Deere Field Connect has a Satellite modem. If the cellular signal is not present the gateway will automatically switch to satellite signal to complete the call. If for some reason the cellular and satellite signals are not available the gateway has a USB backup to download the data off of the gateway.

Q: How long is the probe harness?

A: The probe comes standard with a 3m harness. A 25m and 50m harness are available to order. John Deere does not recommend extending the probe harness past 60m (200ft).

Q: Why do we have to set the soil type for a management zone

A: Data collected by the system is calibrated to ensure the highest accuracy possible. This calibration is dependent on an accurate selection of soil type, making this selection very important to the overall accuracy of the data being collected.

Q: Budget lines are already created for my management zone. What are these and how are they created?

A: When a probe is associated to a management zone on the management zone edit screen, the web application creates a set of preliminary budget lines. These budget lines are based on the probe length and soil type of the management zone. Preliminary budget lines are designed to be changed to optimize the crop. Values should be updated throughout the season to ensure that the budget lines can be used to accurately manage soil moisture.

Q: Is there a guide for getting started with the system?

A: Yes. This is available in the help documentation of the system, which can be accessed by clicking on the menu in the upper right hand corner of the application after login.

Q: Where should the probe be installed in the field?

A: Probe placement can be complicated so it is recommended that a trusted agronomic advisor is involved in the process. While many factors are involved, three key factors are soil type, irrigation system, and topography. If a field is irrigated **with** a system that does not utilize variable rates, the field would likely only be managed to a single value and therefore only one probe maybe needed. Taking into consideration the soil types of that field is also important. Probes should be placed in locations that are representative of the majority of the field soil type. This will ensure that the data collected can be used to make irrigation decisions that are optimized for the largest amount of the crop. Hills and valleys throughout the field can also cause differences in how the soil retains and absorbs moisture. Subsequently topography plays a role in where the probe is placed as some locations will cause the readings to represent a small subset of the field and not the majority to which management decisions are made.

Q: Why is each sensor further apart the deeper you go in the probe?

A: Within the John Deere Field Connect Probe, sensors are spaced out every 4 inches in the first 12 inches of the probe. This upper part of the soil profile is where most of the key uptake of moisture is done by the crop. Concentrating sensors in the upper profile allows producers to more adequately visualize the uptake of moisture by their crop. The lower sensors help to provide a full understanding of how moisture moves through the profile as well as to potentially indicate where the water table is compared to your plant.

Q: Can I leave my probe installed all year long?

A: Installation and removal will depend on the producers operation.

Permanent crops will likely not remove the probe during the year.

However, row crop operations will want to install the probe after planting so that it can be positioned properly. Probes are typically placed between plants so that root uptake can be seen in the analysis of the data. It's also important to understand where irrigation system emitters are located in relation to the installation point of the probe. At the time of harvest, row crop operations will want to remove the probe and gateway from the field to ensure there is no damage done to the gateway or probe. Opportunities may exist for early spring (Pre-planting) installation for identification of appropriate moisture levels for planting activities.

Q: I only see stepping on my graph up to 12 inches into the profile.

Does this mean my roots are only 12 inches deep?

A: Not necessarily. Upper parts of the profile will indicate much higher uptake rates than the lower parts of the profile based on plant physiology. This can often be misleading when reviewing graph data for root depths based on uptake rates.

Additional Resources:

Help Documents are available in the John Deere Field Connect Application

[StellarSupport.com](http://StellarSupport.com)

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