



Nitrogen Management in Wheat

With 2021 wheat prices still trending over 7 dollars per bu, everyone is excited and open to ideas about how to get the most out of their crop this year. The keys to high yielding wheat begin at planting and even before planting in most cases. Things like residue management, variety selection, seeding rates, and starter fertilizer requirements have all been managed so far, leaving stand assessments and spring nitrogen requirements to be the hot button topics in the next 60 days. How much N to apply and when really boils down to doing a solid stand assessment not only plants per foot of row but also number of tillers on each plant. The general rule of thumb is the later you plant your wheat, and the fewer tillers you have going into dormancy, the earlier, and harder you are going to have to push your nitrogen applications in order to encourage the crop to tiller out and fill in. Conversely, earlier planted wheat tends to tiller more in the fall so applying a large amount of available N, early spring can create issues with lodging, which will also be determined by variety. To put things a little more scientifically, during our Next Level Ag Series webinar, Phil Needham presented recommendations showing with less than 30 tillers per square foot to apply 60-70 lbs of N at green up. If your in the 40-60 tillers per square foot range, then apply 50 lbs of N and finally if your greater than 70 tillers to only apply 30-40 lbs of nitrogen early spring. Timing is only one of the 4R nitrogen management principles to take into account when putting together wheat fertility programs. Rates of N are important for obvious reasons, but also take into account sources of N for optimal uptake and environmental sustainability. Multiple sources of nitrogen in a wheat crop can lead to not only higher yields but better overall quality and test weights.

Precision Agriculture Update

As we approach the 2021 crop season, we are busy planning strategies that will help us to be as profitable as we can. One strategy that we can use is Satellite imagery. This NDVI imagery can compare the health of a crop within a field. This allows us to identify areas of the field that are doing better or worse than other areas. We can use this information, through an app on a smartphone to direct our field scouting efforts to those areas in a field that may be having a problem, making us more efficient and effective scouts. This can be used to find insect or disease outbreaks before they have spread too far, and control them early. We can also use this imagery to help us target in season applications of nitrogen or crop protection products. We can split areas of a wheat field that may have been winterkilled from areas that are growing very well, and use this to optimize the fertilizer we apply, by making sure it goes where the crop needs it. Imagery can also be used at the end of the season to identify areas of the field that may need to be soil sampled separately to determine why some areas of the field performed better than others, and what types of solution there might be to boost yields for the following year. Holmes Agro is partnering with Granular Insights again for the 2021 crop season to offer their industry leading imagery to our customers. Talk to your Crop Advisor if you are interested in signing up some acres!

Spreader Safety Reminder

With the spring rush, hopefully just around the corner, please keep in mind some important points when using fertilizer spreaders.

- Complete a circle check – tires, safety chains, in/out of gear, monitor tightness of drive belts, if you see any issues please contact our local office.
- We instruct our delivery drivers to set the spreader when filling it, but please double check. The density and rate will be on the loadout ticket, use the chart on the spreader to determine the spread width and gate setting. Double check the High/Low speed is on the correct sprockets.
- Cleanliness – Ensure that spinner blades and flow divider are clean and not damaged.
- Run at optimum tractor PTO speed (most tractors should be run around 2200 RPM), at a 40 or 50-foot interval, depending on the spreader. Avoid turning sharply as damage to the PTO shaft may occur.
- Slow your ground speed as rates increase, for optimal pattern.
- Ensure that while parked, the jack is secure.
- Do not exceed 30 mph when towing a spreader on the road, and make sure that the spreader is out of gear.
- Loads should not exceed 1.0mt when being towed behind a pickup truck.

Spreaders are always in high demand in the growing season, please contact Holmes Agro as soon as you are finished with your spreader - your neighbour may be waiting for it!

Calendar Submissions

It's never too early to start sending in pictures for the 2021 calendar. We are proud to be able to provide a calendar full of grower pictures year after year – all thanks to your great submissions! Please email your photos to laura@holmesagro.com

COVID-19 Update

As lockdowns start to ease across most of the province and the days are getting longer, hopefully we are starting to see a light at the end of the COVID tunnel. At Holmes Agro we remain diligent about protecting the health and safety of our employees and customers through increased sanitizing and safety protocols such as face coverings and social distancing. As always, we are available to fill all your needs for the upcoming growing season. Here's to spring!

Stayner Location Update

With spring around the corner, the Stayner Location has some exciting additions and changes to start off the 2021 season. Our workshop/equipment storage is well under way and move in day is on par for the beginning of April. Our tender truck fleet has 2 new additions, a 16T tandem and a tri-drive with a 20T delivery capacity, helping us increase our delivery capabilities. Lastly, our blending automation program is being upgraded to enhance our blending abilities, more specifically in our overall blending pace and the time it takes to go from one blend to the next. We are looking forward to spring and seeing these additions and upgrades in action, while sharing the added benefits and efficiencies with our growers.



We Are Hiring!

We are still looking for candidates to join our team for 2021:

AZ/DZ drivers - all locations

Production/Yard Labourers - Orangeville location

Lawn and Garden Customer Service - Orangeville location

Operations Assistant/Crop Scout - Redickville location

Please visit our website for more information. If you are interested in applying, please email Archie (archie@holmesagro.com) or call the office at 519-941-0450.

Holmes Agro Credit Policy

Our credit terms are net 20th day of the following month for eligible charge accounts, as per our credit application and agreement. Online bill payments are available at the following financial institutions: Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Meridian Credit Union, National Bank, RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust. To set up, select Holmes Agro as the payee and use your 5-digit account number, which is listed next to your account name on invoices and statements.

Third Party Loan Due Dates:

All eligible crop input purchases between Sep 01 /19 and Aug 31 /20 have a repay date by Feb 23, 2021 for Scotiabank Yield More financing, and March 15, 2021 for FCC Crop Input financing. There is no penalty if you pay early, and funds become available once again. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Going Paperless

Going Paperless conserves valuable resources and is more efficient than regular postal mail. Sign up for any of the following options available for Holmes Agro customers:

- **Invoices and Statements:** Contact our office staff to set up your account for paperless billing: micheller@holmesagro.com
- **Payments:** Setting up online or telephone banking is simple. Select Holmes Agro as the payee and use your 5-digit account number, which is listed next to your account name on invoices and statements.
- **Newsletters:** Please email Laura to sign up for electronic newsletters: stefani@holmesagro.com



Upcoming Events

March 22nd – 23rd – Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic

March 25th – Grower Pesticide Renewal, Orangeville Location