

Orangeville Expo Day – Save the Date!

Be sure to pencil in Thursday August 23rd into your calendar for a can't miss event in Orangeville! We are excited to have variety of topics ranging from soil fertility, equipment, market updates along with an optional afternoon bus trip to see an innovative farming operation. Please contact the Orangeville office to confirm your RSVP today! Formal invitation to follow.

Summer Pest Information

- Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) moths fly from Michigan and overwinter on sandy soil types in Ontario. Traps have been put out again this year to be monitored for peak flight of these moths that lay eggs in corn pre – tassel and dry edible beans during pod development. Peak flight in 2017 fell between July 31- August 6 in Peel, Dufferin, Simcoe and Wellington counties. Action threshold is 5 egg masses cumulative over 2-3 weeks scouting. WBC is attracted to this stage of corn for larvae feeding on tassels before dropping to the ears to mine holes and create points of entry for mould which can lead to increased vomotoxin development, and feeding to reduce yield. Once at threshold a fungicide and insecticide at silking time are recommended.

- Soybean aphids are often found on the underside of leaves. Early in the season these pests tend to be on the new trifoliates. Infestation of aphid symptoms can be a “honey dew” appearance on leaves that are sugar excretions from the pest, and more severely, a sooty mold can grow on these areas. Aborted pods, smaller seeds, and stunted plants are also symptoms. An economic threshold (ET) of 250 aphids per plant with an increasing population requires treatment.

Preharvest Wheat – Perennial Control Opportunity

As wheat harvest draws near, watch for those fields that may need a preharvest application of glyphosate. Preharvest treatments can be effective in controlling perennial weeds such as Canada thistle, sow thistle, milkweed and twitch grass. Treatments also aid in ease of harvest and dry down of both the crop and weeds, which lead to earlier combining and help maintain grain quality and marketability of the crop. Preharvest treatments can be the first step in your 2019 weed management strategies. There are two indicators in determining when the wheat is physiologically mature: stem colour and the thumbnail imprint test. Optimum timing for preharvest is when the crop is at 30% moisture or less. At this stage, a thumbnail impression will remain on the kernel. You can also look at the peduncle (the stem located just below the head) as an indicator because it will turn from green to brown in colour. Remember, if you go in too early with glyphosate the seeds will appear shrunken and have a similar appearance to frost damage.



Contact your Holmes Agro Agronomist to help evaluate correct sprayer timing

Whether the Weather and Bumper Crop Soybeans

Mother Nature will certainly dictate if the weather will provide the awesome yield outcome we dream of...a bumper crop of soybeans! The weather is out of our control, but some important decisions that we are in control of, need to be made to help with our bumper crop dream. With, hopefully, the ideal plant stand (even emergence, good deep broad root system and desired population) established, we now consider the options available to protect the yield potential we have and focus on building opportunity for more bushels should environmental conditions allow.

Fungicides are important as they help plants stay healthy and mitigate disease. Healthy plants are plants that flower prolifically, have more pods and have bigger pods. Fungicides help mitigate stress throughout the reproductive stages of the soybean plant.

Foliar fertilizer is important to compliment a good soil fertility program. Nutrition uptake demands by a soybean plant almost rival that of a corn crop with the biggest pull required during the reproductive stages R1(first flower) to R6(full seed). It is important to have full spectrum of macro and micronutrient nutrition available through these periods.

There is synergy when fungicides and foliar nutrition are tank mixed together and good idea to maximize value when making in season passes with the sprayer. A '3 products in 1 pass' solution may suit your needs as insect pressure may soon become a concern. Have a Holmes Agro representative help you Scout, Scout, Scout for plant health, in season fertility issues and insect pressure concerns. It's go time to protect and enhance your in season soybean management decisions.

Value of Cover Crops

This year most fields have variable emergence and everyone would agree that it is due to the dry conditions? Yes, the dry conditions are partially to blame but emergence is worse where soil conditions/ health are worse! When I think of the few fields I have seen that look good they were hay last year, wheat with a clover plow down or had manure. These fields have more plant available water due to the residues that have been added and the ability of roots to grow more easily through them.

So, start thinking cover crops! If you haven't already added red clover to your wheat fields then Crimson Clover, cereal rye or a combination of both, should be your second thought while harvesting wheat this July.

"Watch It Grow" Signs

As many of you might have seen in your travels Holmes Agro has "Watch It Grow" signs to help promote awareness of local agriculture and education about the crops grown in our geographic. If you would like a sign, please let us know and we can set something up for you.

Social Media

Holmes Agro is pleased to announce the continuation of our social media contests for the 2018 growing and harvest seasons! If you enjoy taking photos, and enjoy free swag, this is just the thing for you. We want to see your farming photos throughout 2018! Upload them to social media (Twitter & Facebook) and tag **@HolmesAgro** with **#WatchItGrow18**. We also want to see pictures of how Holmes Agro's lawn and garden products are helping you achieve that happy and healthy landscape! At the end of the year we will randomly pick the contest winners, and they will win a Holmes Agro prize pack! Be sure to check out Holmes Agro's website for updates as well!



CLEANFarms 2018



Welcome back to the jug and seed bag collection program! Holmes Agro is proud to participate in the CleanFarms program as a depot to accept your empty pesticide jugs and seed bags. Just a few guidelines to remember:

Seed/chemical bags – all types of EMPTY pesticide bags as well as paper multi-wall and plastic seed bags can be returned in the clear green plastic bags we have available at our locations.

Seed bulk bags can be returned neatly bundled into rolls of 6.

Chemical jugs – only clean, triple-rinsed jugs with caps and booklets removed will be accepted for recycling

Triple rinsing

1. Drain container into tank 30 seconds
2. Fill container with clean water (1/4 or 1/5 full)
3. Shake, swirl vigorously
4. Drain into spray tank 30 seconds
5. Repeat procedure two more times
6. Puncture bottom

Calendar 2019

It's never too early to start sending in pictures for the 2019 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 nicole@holmesagro.com

Upcoming Events

July 12th – Farm Smart Expo, Elora Research Station (www.farmsmartconference.com)

August 14th-16th – Canadian Beef Industry Conference, London Convention Centre

August 16th – Stayner Expo Day

August 23rd – Orangeville Expo Day

September 11th-13th – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

September 18th-22nd – International Plowing Match & Rural Expo, Pain Court, Chatham-Kent

***** Please email micheller@holmesagro.com to sign up for our e-newsletter *****

