

Orangeville Fertilizer Tower Update

Most of you will be aware on May 4th our Orangeville location took on a significant wind storm that ended up putting our fertilizer tower out of commission and shutting down our shipping and bagging process. In the meantime, Flamborough, Stayner and specifically Redickville have done an amazing job supplying fertilizer products. We were able to put in a 8 tonne floor blender at the back of the plant within a week to get us up and running at Orangeville. We would like to recognize the support from a couple of local retailers, Waterloo Crop and Alliance Agri Turf, for also assisting. We are grateful for your patience, understanding and support getting through one of the busiest springs. Our focus was to ensure we made all efforts to make sure we did not slow anyone down and communicated any delays.

Currently we are back in full operation with our bagger operating, which is being supplied from a small elevator leg. Now that we are winding down the spring season we are currently working through design and engineering stages to upgrade to a new tower and start installation later this summer.

Again, want to thank you for your support this spring and working through this unforeseen challenge. If you have any questions or thoughts, please don't hesitate to give us a call – Jeff Holmes

Managing Forage and Grass Hay Production

Hay production is one of the cheapest sources of feed and plays an important role in livestock production. The effectiveness of fertilizers on forages in increasing dry matter yield and economic returns is dependent upon the levels of nutrients in soil, climatic conditions, soil type and forage type.

- Grass forages respond very well to N fertilizer on most soils. It also important to monitor the levels of both phosphorus and potassium. It has been shown we have higher levels of response to nitrogen when there are good levels of both these nutrients in the soil.
- When applying fertilizer to high legume hay crops it is important to evaluate the percentage of legumes. Over 50% needs very little nitrogen but higher demand for phosphorous and potassium. The normal ratio with alfalfa is a 1-4 ratio.

In summary it is important to monitor your levels in the soil by taking soil tests. Summer / fall is the best time to maintain your levels and make sure your getting the best return on these important crops.

Solutions for Topdressing Nitrogen More Consistently in 2018

Holmes Agro has introduced 2 new fertilizer products this season:

- Yara Amidas – 40-0-0+ 5 sulfur – Providing a urea/ sulfur based homogenized product
- Yara AXAN - 27-0-0 + 3.7 Sulfur and 5.7 Calcium – Providing a Nitrate / Sulfur/ Calcium Homogenized product

Both these products provide a more efficient form of nitrogen fertilizer by having all nutrients in each granule with the hardness rating improved - providing spreading ability out to 120 feet wide. These products are ideal for a broad of crops including corn, canola, wheat and potatoes.

ALPINE K20-S

ALPINE K20-S is a foliar fertilizer powered by ALPINE's exclusive, industry leading K-Tech technology. ALPINE K20S is a mixture of both macro and micro nutrients for a balanced foliar program. ALPINE's K-Tech gives the plant a very safe and efficient form of potassium which is crucial for stronger stalks and stems, aiding photosynthesis and fighting diseases as well as increasing protein and starch levels in the plant. In addition to a small amount of slow release Nitrogen and a high amount of Potassium, ALPINE K20-S also contains: Sulfur, which is needed to produce amino acids. Calcium, which aids in translocation of nutrients throughout the plant. Boron, which is critical for moving carbohydrates from the leaves to the fruit and Manganese which is vital in photosynthesis and general plant health.

ALPINE K20-S is very tank mixable so it can be paired with a chemical application for a crop protection and crop nutrition application. Corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa can all benefit from an application of ALPINE K20-S.



Seed Skid Returns



As we are wrapping up planting with all the great weather we have had - please have your seed and skids returned to Holmes Agro by June 13th.

"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!



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.

- On-Line payments are available at the following financial institutions: RBC Royal Bank, TD Canada Trust, CIBC, Scotiabank, Bank of Montreal and **New!** Meridian Credit Union – Orangeville branch.
- Holmes Agro can assist customers with setting up third party financing to FCC (Farm Credit Canada) and Scotiabank YieldMore Financing – please contact your crop advisor representative for more information

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

June 17th – Father's Day

July 4th & 5th – South Western Ontario Diagnostic Days, Ridgetown Campus (www.diagnosticdays.ca)

July 5th – Ontario Forage Meeting, Dufferin, Brakke Farms.

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

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