



Have a safe spring!

Office Introductions

As spring is on our doorsteps we would like to take some time to introduce our logistics team and summer students for 2018. In Orangeville we will have Stefani and Dean running the main customer service and dispatch for fertilizer. We welcome Liz back from maternity leave to help with customer service and crop protection needs. Working alongside her is Quinn managing the crop protection warehouse. Taking care of seed is Stefani, along with the help of her summer student, Andrea, managing the seed warehouse.

Moving up to Redickville, many of you may already have met our customer service representative, Jade. Helping out in the warehouse, with fertilizer and scouting, we welcome both Will and Griffin back from last year.

We are looking forward to working together in the coming spring!

Lawn and Garden Needs

Did you know that we carry more than just crop inputs? We also have a line of Lawn and Garden products. Items such as Spring, Summer, Fall Lawn Fertilizer and Grass Seed can be found at any of our four locations. A few recommended products for vegetable or flower gardens included 25kg bags of 19-19-19 or 15-15-15 that are also available. Did you know trees and shrubs have a special fertilizer blend as well? They need different nutrients than your lawn and garden. We also carry many other lawn needs such as Epson salts, lime and bone meal. To learn more, check out our website for more information!

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 website for updates as well!



Keys With Early Planting Soybeans

Establishing the right planting date for soybeans has been something growers were more comfortable leaving until later in May or early June. Emergence after frost has and still remains one of the biggest concerns. Since the cotyledons are an above ground growing point, a hard enough frost would kill the plant unlike corn which remains below ground until around V6. One thing to keep in mind with soybeans is their nature to be photoperiod sensitive or growth determinant based on day length. The closer we can have soybeans flower to summer solstice the more opportunity we have to achieving our optimal yields since shorter days generally influence maturity. If planting earlier to achieve flowering during this period or to grow longer season soybeans is something your operation is interested in, factors such as insects, disease and soil temperature need to become more on the radar. In some seasons planting earlier can mean cooler soil conditions which in turn means those seeds are required to sit longer in the soil before emergence. As our seed spends longer amounts of time under the surface, seed treatments become more important in our decision factors. Seed Corn Maggot, Grubs and wireworm are given more time to feed and diseases like damping off and seed rot are given more chance to become established in a stand. This means it is necessary to have detailed understanding of your fields and the pests that may challenge your stand. Another strategy in earlier planting is use of low quantities of phosphorus weather in the form of a dry or liquid. In cooler soils plants have a harder time producing an extensive root system, where a band of phosphorus saturates the root zone to provide the early season energy the soybean needs to thrive. In summary, there are multiple influencers on ensuring successful early planted soybean production along with accepting the risks weather variables can add.



Precision Agriculture – Drones 2018

We are excited to be offering drone services for 2018. We have the capabilities to create NDVI maps based off of the data collected from drone flights. Using these maps we can create a variable rate application map if required. . A picture may be worth a thousand words, so contact your agronomist to find how drone flights can better fit your farm!

Inoculant Options for 2018

When looking at variety options for soybeans in 2018, don't forget to have a discussion around inoculant options as well. Although pre-inoculated soybeans (i.e Optimize) have become more the standard than the exception the past few years, there are instances where this strategy may not be sufficient enough on its own. If you are planning on growing soybeans on "virgin ground" or even ground that hasn't seen soybeans in several years, the general recommendation is to add a second source of inoculant to ensure that you're introducing sufficient bacteria into the soil for proper nodulation and nitrogen fixation by the soybean plants. There are several "standard" products that can be used such as cell tech, and nodulator that are available in both liquid and peat-based materials. Gaining more momentum in the marketplace are some new products which introduce the aspect of increasing the availability of soil nutrition. Names like JumpStart, TagTeam, and Quickroots will become more prevalent in years to come.

- **JumpStart** is an inoculant containing the naturally occurring soil fungus *Penicillium bilaiae* (*P. bilaiae*), which grows along plant roots, releasing phosphate bound in the soil, making it more available for the crop to use. JumpStart promotes greater phosphate availability, which results in early vigour, greater stress tolerance and earlier, more even maturity and ultimately higher yield potential.
- **TagTeam** is a dual-action inoculant that provides the balanced nutrition of phosphate and nitrogen by combining the active ingredient from JumpStart® with a nitrogen-fixing bacteria. This unique combination results in improved nodule formation, increased nitrogen fixation, improved phosphate availability and enhanced nutrient availability that leads to improved yield potential.
- **QuickRoots** technology is a new microbial seed inoculant for corn, soybean and wheat that can improve nutrient availability and uptake. The *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and *Trichoderma virens* based treatment helps increase availability and uptake of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium. Its ability to release nutrients from the soil helps maximize the effectiveness of your inputs and improve your yield potential. As you can see this product category and marketplace are becoming much more complicated then ever before. Not all products are best for all situations either so make sure to ask your agronomist which ones might be worth trying on a small scale comparison basis or large scale field production.

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

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

May 13th – Mother's Day

May 21st – Victoria Day

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 *****