



Fall Burndown – There's Still Time!

With the big push of soybean harvest now upon us, hopefully everyone is caught up on burndown spraying for next year. There have been quite a few soybean fields in the area which have had pre-harvest applications put on them which puts us in a good position for planting wheat into clean fields for the best chance of success. The good news is, for those who are a bit behind there is still ample time to catch up and get ahead on spraying for 2019. Mother Nature has given us an exceptional fall to date with much of the area remaining frost free through September. Fall is always the best time of year for perennial weed control as the weeds are translocating sugars to the root for overwintering. This translocating process is a good "piggy back" for herbicides, glyphosates in particular. Be sure to consider other tank mix partners for glyphosate for better weed control and resistance management with a multiple modes of action strategy. Glyphosates are in group 9, look for products that are not within that group. 2-4D Ester remains a viable option being a group 4 product and an economical add in. Results will be strongest on broadleaf weeds like dandelion, sow thistle, plantain, and volunteer alfalfa or clover. Be sure you are using the Ester formulation which is water based and doesn't antagonize the activity of the glyphosate. Provided you can manage the risk of spraying dicamba in the fall, the new dicamba salt found in Engenia is an option as well. It is particularly strong on broadleaf weeds as well in particular red clover for those cover crop burndown situations. If you have missed the preharvest window on the soybeans and need to do a pre-plant burndown for winter wheat, then Eragon is still a good option in these circumstances, particularly when mixed with glyphosate. For no-tillers there is a 0 day wait time between application and planting, however for the tillage guys you still need to wait the minimum 72 hours and preferably up to 7 days before working the ground to allow sufficient time for the glyphosate to translocate.

In summary, there are a lot of options out there for chemical control and still time to complete these applications. If the weather continues to co-operate we may even have an opportunity to spray corn stubble which is virtually unheard of in these parts. Silage fields are great candidates in the short term but depending on weather, HM corn fields could be next. Talk with your Holmes rep about the myriad of product options available and what might best suit your needs and timing.

Assessing Corn Fields for Mold

Ear molds are popping up frequently in our late season scouts this year. The period of approximately 21 days after silking with cool wet weather encourages the development of mycotoxins. Each fungus has unique characteristics which have different quality effects on grain. Although, not all ear molds produce toxins which are a concern for livestock producers. The two toxins that are of particular concern are deoxynivalenol (DON or vomitoxin) and zearalenone. DON levels affect feed intake for cattle and zearalenone can affect fertility of livestock. Both have greater sensitivity in swine. Other molds, such as dipolodia, affect the test weight but do not produce DON levels.

Drying corn below 15% and storing between 35 °F to 45 °F reduces the development of the fungus. However, these kernels are susceptible to spoilage regardless. Check your bins regularly and limit storage of heavier infected grain. Some preventative measures to consider include: crop rotation of non-host crops, selection of resistant varieties, scouting for pests that can damage ears to allow point of entry for fungus, fungicide application to reduce DON and tillage to minimize surface residue of host crops.

Fertilizer Supply Update

With the fall colors starting to change, you will notice our MAP (monoammonium phosphates) is also changing from a brown color to a white/tan color. Brown phosphate has always been our main supply which came from North America. Supply has been an issue this year and we have had to move to off shore supply which is the white/tan product. You may be seeing either color over the next little while. Rest assured the quality is still very good and the analysis remains 11-52-0.

Going through the fall and winter months the overall fertilizer market seems to be staying firm to strong, with the global demand strong and managed supply. Please contact your Holmes Agro Agronomist to keep you informed and get your crop planning and budgets started for the 2019 season!



Winter Wheat 2019 – Are you ready to plant for profit?

For the majority of growers, the wheat crop has had great yield even with the excessive temperature spikes and limited rainfall in June/July. Although wheat harvest has just finished, now we are beginning to think about establishing next years crops. Listed below are several key points which are essential to achieving the right start to a successful wheat crop which promises a lot based on current positive commodity futures:

- ✓ Ask yourself what worked in the previous crop? What do we need to change? How are we going to achieve our yield goals?
- ✓ *Compaction* – there is no doubt that machinery has gotten bigger due to size and scale of farming operations. This increases the pressures to get over more acres during key times, such as planting and harvest, add less than ideal ground conditions to this scenario and it can create yield reductions for multiple years to come. The key here is to select areas which you know have been abused and put in place some remediation plans whether it be mechanical or through roots of cover cropping.
- ✓ Soil analysis – know the fertility status you are starting off with. High yielding crops are only achieved through attention to detail and providing the required nutrition.
- ✓ *Drill maintenance* – is your machinery serviced and ready to go? Downtime can be the most expensive commodity which we fail to account for during key times in the cropping calendar. The optimum time to establish a wheat crop can be missed which can result in higher seed costs and planting into less than ideal conditions. Check all parts that come in contact with your soil. Are you achieving even depth and down pressure across your fields to achieve seed to soil contact/ are the seeds being compacted or consolidated? Have you calibrated your drill?
- ✓ *Planting* – If your drill is equipped with tramlining technology don't be afraid to use it. Controlled traffic farming is much superior to "tramp lines" and over enough acres can amount to considerable savings on seed costs. Planting wheat where it is going to be run over repeatedly promotes two issues which have negative impacts on a good crop. 1) It promotes entry for foliar infection and disease via repeated tissue damage. 2) It can create a lot of green secondary tillers which produce nuisance grain ears that never really amount to anything and in fact affect sample quality.
- ✓ *What variety should I grow?* – Check out the data provided on the Go Cereals website, this data in an independent format can help an agronomist and grower discussion on selecting the right variety for your farm in terms of straw requirements for livestock or test weight and fusarium resistance for the cash cropping enterprise with pure focus on yield. More importantly learn to grow a variety on your farm and constantly tweak its management to strive for higher yields.
- ✓ *Get ready to plant* – Have your seed and starter fertilizer on hand! Have your drill tractor hooked up well in advance and check things even as small as tire pressures as quite often this can be ignored but it still contributes to compaction. When planting, don't be afraid to get out and check if everything is running ok. Lift the drill and spin the land wheel around a few times and check if you are getting live seed/fertilizer feed to each pipe. Planting misses are hard to look at after germination and especially difficult to avoid in the local coffee shop!

Don't be afraid to ask your agronomist for help along the way!

Did you know we are hiring?

Do you or someone you know have what it takes? Holmes Agro is continuously growing to meet and exceed our customer needs. We are always looking for employees to help our team! We are looking for full time staff to fill the positions of Professional Applicator and Sales Agronomist Trainee. We are seeking part time employees to fill the following positions: Professional Applicator, Chemical Warehouse Inventory Assistant, Seed Warehouse Manager, Office Assistant (Stayner location), and Seasonal Warehouse Manager (Stayner location). Please visit www.holmesagro.com to view job opportunities, or contact Archie Wilson at archie@holmesagro.com, or 519-941-0450 office, or 519-504-2856 (cell).

Upcoming Events

October 6th – Open 8am – 12pm

October 8th – Thanksgiving: Open 8am – 12pm (weather dependent)

October 27th – Production Insurance Planting Deadline (Area D)

November 7th – Production Insurance Planting Deadline (Area B)

November 2-11 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

