

Holmes Agro – 25th Year in the Making

From 5 to over 25 employees, 2 to 4 locations, Holmes Agro has grown into an industry leader. We are extremely proud of the communities and growers that we support and work with year over year, along with new faces over time. We have made many changes and improvements over the years, but most importantly we have developed a team of people at Holmes Agro that continue to be fully engaged and proactive with customers as their main focus. It is amazing the power of knowledge sharing within our organization and we look forward to the years to come helping our growers to be the most efficient and profitable, along with bringing value to your operation.

Thank you everyone, our customer and suppliers, our partners for helping us get to where we are today, we could not have grown and achieved our goals without the support of our Holmes Agro community. We thank you for your support over the last 25 years and we are looking forward to many more opportunities in 2019 and beyond.

4R Nutrient Stewardship – 4 Part Series 4th R: The Right Rate

After all the decisions have been made regarding nutrient source, time and place, the rate needs to be determined. Several factors should be used when determining the rate. What are the soil nutrient levels from a soil sample? Should fertilizer be applied based on crop removal and soil maintenance or should more fertilizer be applied than the crop requires to build the soil levels? Also, historical yields, yield expectations and goals, as well as local crop averages should be used in determining what rate should be applied to meet crop demands. A good practice to follow, is to split apply nutrients to ensure that there are always nutrients that are plant available and therefore the crop is never deficient. One such example is nitrogen and sulphur. If a portion of the total nitrogen and sulphur is applied upfront, then a pass can be applied in-season, and the rate can be determined by the current weather, weather forecast, as well as soil nitrate tests to determine how much nitrogen is still left in the soil.

The 5th R to the 4R Approach: Rotation

Right product, rate, time and place are all important steps for us to take in reducing nutrient risk to the environment while trying to produce food efficiently but without the inclusion of the 5th R “rotation” we will never achieve long term sustainable agriculture production.

- Good crop rotation is the first step we can easily add to our production system to start improving our soil health. Perfectly balanced soil nutrients following the 4-R values are useless in unhealthy soils because of poor nutrient use efficiency.
- Soil health has been defined as “the capacity of soil to function as a living system”
- Healthy soils have a good balance of nutrients, air, water and organic matter that create an environment for beneficial organisms to live and thrive, cycling crop residues, creating better soil structure allowing for more available water and nutrients to help plants grow.
- “Healthy soils maintain a diverse community of soil organisms that help control plant disease, insect and weed pests”.

The more we degrade soil health with poor crop rotation the more we need to rely on pesticides to solve our problems therefore increasing our cost of production.

Holmes Agro – Custom Application Update

Well – Spring is coming, slowly but surely. As we look ahead to our custom application season, we would like to remind our valued customers that we have a minimum application charge as well as a rough ground charge. For the minimum charge – anything under 29 acres for dry fertilizer application, or 25 acres of liquid product application this would apply. The rough ground surcharge is noted by the applicator at the time of application. Please have a look at the fields before calling in for an order – if you can't comfortably drive across it in your pickup truck, odds are the ground is going to qualify under “rough”. Our goal here is to maximize our efficiencies with our equipment as well as keep potential damage/excess maintenance to a minimum.

New this year we have one of our sprayers updated to run at a boom height of 106.5” – this will better equip us to help with corn fungicide spraying at tassel. We will be looking to have entrance clearances at 14 ft wide and 15 ft tall.

If you have any questions about the application of a dicamba based herbicide, please call the office and we have lots of information to help make sure it will be handling properly and safely.

Any questions or concerns please speak with your Holmes Agro Agronomist or call the office and someone will be happy to help you out.

Infinity FX - New Cereal Herbicide For 2019!

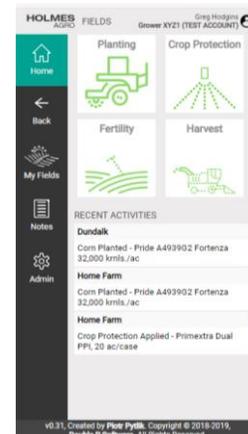
For the 2019 growing season, Bayer has introduced a new broadleaf weed control product, called Infinity FX. Infinity FX is Infinity plus Fluroxypyr. The addition of Fluroxypyr enhances Canada Fleabane control, Vetch, Field Violet, and improved control on the chickweed family. The product, combining three modes of action (group 4,6 and 27) is registered for use on wheat and barley crops. Infinity FX has demonstrated strength in controlling Canada Fleabane, Common Ragweed, Cleavers, Kochia and Wild Buckwheat. It is important, as a producer to recognize the efficacy of 'multiple modes of action' in your herbicide program to reduce the chance for developing resistance on your farm. This product brings new groups of chemistry to the cereal market, while providing very cost-effective management of tough to control weeds. Herbicide timing is from two-leaf to flag-leaf stage and earlier application is recommended.

Performance Acre Program

This growing season we are launching our row crop field management program "Performance Acre" to complement our already successful horticulture scouting program. The MyFarm scouting platform will be used in conjunction with imagery allowing your agronomist to track walks, provide in depth scouting reports, and include pictures & pinpoints on field maps. We are excited to include NDVI imagery in 2019 to compliment the in depth reports our growers will receive. These reports include plant stand assessments, nutritional evaluation, pest/weed/disease identification, and staging of crops for ideal application windows of pesticide products. We feel these scouting recommendations are a win-win for growers and our business by providing products that are going to be the most effective in field specific situations for our success in treatment, control, and health promotion. Performance Acre is the next step in timely precise applications to provide the most economical gains in your field. Talk to your agronomist to sign up today!

Introducing MyFarm Mobile

As of April 1st, we are excited to announce that MyFarm subscribers will now have access to their account through a new web based mobile app which has been in development for several months now. The system is available on all major hardware and operating systems including IOS, Android, and Windows. All of the cropping recommendations made in the MyFarm system are accessible and editable in the new mobile version. Currently we are offering seeding, crop protection, and fertilizer application modules, with a revamped field scouting and harvest module coming soon as well. All of the recommendations can be viewed, changed, and date stamped to provide better field records and an increased level of traceability. We are also working on incorporating weather data at time of application for the upcoming 4R nutrient requirements. We see the MyFarm system continuing to be an important part of successful and sustainable crop production moving forward and continue to invest in this platform for the benefit of ourselves and our customers. Please speak with your local agronomist regarding getting set up on the MyFarm system with access to the new mobile version.



Orangeville Location Update

March 13th was a big day at Holmes Agro – Orangeville, as the first fertilizer blend was mixed through our new tower and sent to the bagger. The blender is very fast, and blend quality is excellent. We still have some items to finish such as spouting to the loadout bins and installation of the Procote – fertilizer impregnation system, which will be happening in the very near future. We appreciate the hard work by our suppliers and contractors to get this equipment installed and operational. Our new Airflow and Tender Trailer have both arrived and are ready to go to work. We are looking forward to spring and seeing this equipment in action serving our customers.

Social Media



Holmes Agro is pleased to announce the continuation of our social media contests for the 2019 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 2019! Upload them to social media (Twitter & Facebook) and tag **@HolmesAgro** with **#WatchitGrow19**. 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 winner, and they will win a Holmes Agro prize pack! Be sure to check out Holmes Agro website for updates as well!

Upcoming Events

April 3,4 – Canadian Dairy XPO, Stratford Rotary Complex.

April 21st – Easter Sunday

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