

December 2019

Thank you for helping to make this year a success. Holmes Agro has donated on behalf of our customers to several local foodbanks to help those less fortunate at this time of the year. We wish all the best to you and yours over the coming holiday season!

Holiday Hours

Monday December 23rd – 8AM – 5PM; Tuesday December 24th – 8AM – 12PM; Wednesday December 25th – closed; Thursday December 26th – closed; Friday December 27th – 8AM – 5PM; Monday December 30th – 8AM-5PM; Tuesday December 31st – 8AM – 12PM; Wednesday January 1st – closed; January 2 & 3rd – 8AM – 5PM

Ready When Nature Strikes!

Did you know that Holmes Agro is a supplier of various ice melt products? We are happy to offer the ProMelt product line for any of your ice melt needs. ProMelt products are more effective at lower temperatures. ProMelt products are less corrosive compared to other options and are pet friendly. Having the product coloured helps for ease in application to ensure efficient use. We also offer a pet friendly ice melt product called ProMelt Enhanced!

Stop by any of our locations or check out our website for more information!

Crop Protection; Year in Review

2019 may prove to be a forgettable year for many growers given the challenges it presented us, however as we bring it to a close it is important to reflect and take stock of what learned and where we need to improve in 2020 and beyond. Weed control seems to be becoming more of a challenge all the time, particularly with glyphosate, group 2, and triazine resistant weed species becoming more prevalent. The seed companies are tackling this issue by stacking more herbicide tolerant traits into today's genetics such as the extend platform and the new E3 platform coming on stream in 2020. Although some of the products are great, it is still up to growers and agronomists to work together in order to come up with a comprehensive plan on where and how to use some of this technology. The fungicide market has become quite crowded as well, with more product coming online for 2020. 2019 did not appear to be a big "response year" in terms of fungicides, but 2020 will be a different kettle of fish no doubt. Finally, insecticides are necessary tools to have in the box as well given the risk of different pests. WBC seems like it's here to stay, and in the short term it appears that foliar applications of insecticides are going to be the most prevalent means of control. The challenging part becomes timing of applications, as there seems to be a disconnect between what we are finding through scouting and trapping compared to the damage we are seeing in some cases later in the season.

In summary, the crop protection business has become more complex in the last several years and has become more intertwined in the seed industry as well. No different than planning crop rotations, and fertility programs, crop protection needs to become a topic of discussion as we approach year end. A plan changed is much better than no plan at all so make sure to chat with your agronomist about your ideas and strategy for 2020 in the upcoming month.

Enlist Vs. Xtend

As weeds continue to evolve, our tried and true herbicide programs are beginning to become less effective. With the prevalence of Glyphosate resistant weeds, and their move into our geographic, it's time to start taking a look at some of the other options. Enlist and Xtend are new herbicide tolerance traits, which offer producers some different chemicals which can be used in their programs to reduce the effect of resistant weeds, and help prevent resistance from occurring. Let's take a look at them

- **Xtend:** The xtend trait is a genetic resistance to dicamba. It allows products such as Engenia to be sprayed on tolerant soybeans, providing very good control of broadleaf weeds. It has the potential to drift, and as such there are certain measures which should be taken if this product is to be sprayed. Xtend trait beans are also Roundup Ready, so glyphosate can still be used.
- **Enlist:** This is a new trait to the market, which gives the E3 trait corn and soybeans tolerance to a new type of 2,4-D, sold under the trade name Enlist Duo. This offers the same group 4 control of broadleaf weeds, and another method of control on resistant weeds. Enlist varieties are also tolerant to Liberty, and glyphosate meaning that producers can rotate, or tank mix several chemistries to manage resistance. In trials it has proven to be a much less drift susceptible product than Dicamba.

Holmes Agro Team

Elissa Deboer, who has worked for Holmes Agro for the past 2 seasons, has joined our team full time as our Crop Protection Admin Lead covering Liz Francis's maternity leave. Elissa is a graduate of the University of Guelph in April of 2019. Elissa is working along side Liz, until Liz takes maternity leave.

Holmes Agro is starting to fill positions for the 2020 season but continue to accept applications for, both full-time (Sales Agronomist, Professional Applicator & Operations), as well as Seasonal – DZ/AZ drivers, Production Workers, Summer Students at all locations. For more details visit our Web-Site www.holmesagro.com/aboutus or contact Archie Wilson by e-mail at archie@holmesagro.com, Office 519-941-0450, cell 519-504-2856

Instant Weather: Forecast for the Rest of 2019

The expected climate throughout the Great Lakes Basin will remain variable through the next several weeks with near normal precipitation expected for most locations within Southern Ontario. The pattern will continue to allow for periods of colder air to invade the region for short periods with the warmer waters off the Atlantic allowing for some variability in temperatures that will likely also allow for rainfall at times through December. There is also the potential for ice storm events through December and potentially into January before a typical colder pattern settles in throughout the Great Lakes.

As we move into December the temperature differences will continue to remain variable from week to week with additional below seasonal temperatures expected, especially as we start off the last month of the year, however the colder temperatures are not likely to remain for longer than a few days at a time. Warm waters off the Atlantic will continue to influence the Great Lakes Basin through December, allowing for warmer temperatures at times.

Precipitation over the next 30 to 45 days looks to remain fairly normal with both rainfall and snowfall expected for most locations throughout Southern Ontario. Snowsquall activity will remain a strong potential with some signals showing strong support for additional activity throughout the first part of December where a few of the lake-bands could be fairly intense. In addition to snowfall, ice could become problematic during the time period before we end the year which could cause localized damage to those communities with the greatest impact.

December Fertilizer Market Update

This past fall has made interesting times for the fertilizer industry. Globally there seems to be good to excess supply of all raw materials with regards to all 3 major nutrients.

- Nitrogen market is stable to soft not having a great deal of fall application applied in Western Canada or the U.S Market. Costing is either equal or slightly lower than this time last year. As the sea way closes up this month, our goal is to make sure we have good supply to get us through the first part of spring season.
- Phosphate market has been extremely soft at the end of fall seeing pricing in a 10 year low. Again with lighter demand and good supply and push a great deal of off shore supply into the Canadian market.
- Potash is very flat over the whole year being soft. Manufacturers continue to slow or shut down production to manage supply with weak demand this fall with delayed harvests over North America. Currently see little strength going into the first quarter of 2020 until demand picks up going into spring seeding and potentially seeing some logistics challenges for those that haven't positioned product early.

Please keep in touch with your Agronomist to make sure you have your fertilizer plans in place for coming spring

Orangeville Grower Meeting

Pencil in Thursday January 9th for the Orangeville Grower Meeting! We are excited to be covering topics such as soybean management, variable rate applications and hearing from an economist. Keep your eye out for a formal invitation soon!

Stayner Winter Grower Meeting

Make sure to mark Thursday, February 27th, 2020 on your calendar! The Stayner Winter Grower meeting will once again be held at the Creemore Legion. More details and agenda to come in the New Year!

Barb Prentice

It is with great sadness to inform you of the passing of Barb Prentice on November 20th. Barb was a key part of our accounting department for 18 years. She has been a valuable employee, a great friend to all those that knew her and involvement in the community. Her smile and compassion will be sadly missed by all.

Upcoming Events

January 7-8th – Southwest Agricultural Conference, Ridgetown www.southwestagconference.ca

January 17th – Farm Smart, Waterloo

January 18th – Farm Smart, Guelph

Jeff Shane Nicole Will Greg Taylor Scott John Lydia Dennis Travis

