

Fertility Management

Over the past ten years, Ontario agriculture has experienced dramatic advancements in crop performance. From 2003 - 2007, the Ontario corn average was 137.5bu./acre. From 2013 - 2017, the average increased 19% to 163.5 bushels. During the same time periods, soybeans grew from 38.3bu./acre average, to 45.7 bu./acre, also a 19% increase in crop yields. This growth can be attributed to many factors, among them, genetics, management and technology. However, this growth has also resulted in greater fertility demands on our soils.

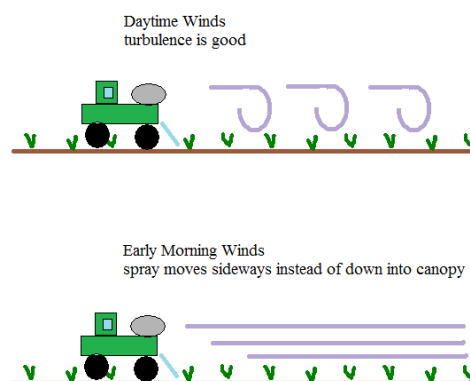
Long term research trials, completed by the University of Guelph, have identified yield responses to base fertility requirements. 120 ppm potash and 20 ppm for phosphorous are the basic requirements in a soil test, to adequately support crops. The trials have generally indicated an 11bu./acre yield advantage for wheat, 4bu./acre for soybeans, and 13bu./acre for corn, with soils at the base fertility requirements or higher. This in return means that soils testing below that are, naturally, at a yield disadvantage.

Many producers are focusing and indeed, relying, on technology in the fields, to advance yield. However, it is really important to manage soil tests and understand crop removal - as soil quality and management is still a top factor in production. Producers need to realize that yield advantage, through base fertility, has among the highest payback over any technology

The Down-low on Drift

With the increasing use of dicamba, it is increasingly important to manage potential drift. This is not a “new chemistry” issue – products like Distinct and Accent have had the same concerns over the years. It is the responsibility of the user to make sure the products being applied stay on the land they are being applied to, regardless of the specific product. We have no control over the weather, but we can be informed on how wind, temperature and humidity have an impact on different products to make educated decisions about application timing. With wind it is important to know direction and speed – plan your spray routes according wind direction and neighboring fields, and measure the wind speed at nozzle height as this can be very different than looking at the flagpole or the trees. “Daytime wind” can actually be beneficial as it is turbulent and can mix the air and bring the fine droplets down to the canopy. “Early morning wind” tends to be parallel to the ground surface and calmer, which allows fine droplets to be carried sideways and creates a higher risk of drift injury to surrounding areas. This can also happen close to sunset, and this early/late day parallel wind is what contributes to temperature inversions.

There are products available to help reduce the risk of drift – ask your Holmes Agro Agronomist for more information on best management practices and remember to always follow product labels.



Weed Facts: Jimsonweed

Jimsonweed is an annual reproducing only by seed. It loves heat and travels north with corn purchased from southern Ontario. Therefore it is found in and around fields where cattle manure has been applied. Because of its love for heat it can germinate later in our growing season and escape herbicide applications. Removing plants or more importantly the seed pods before they open is an effective way to stop its spread. All parts of the plant contain dangerous levels of tropane alkaloids atropine, hyoscyamine and scopolamine that are considered a hallucinogen and potentially fatal.

Orangeville Expo Day – Save the Date!

Be sure to pencil in August 22nd into your calendar for a can't miss event in Orangeville! We are excited to have variety of topics ranging from soil fertility, equipment, market updates. Please contact the Orangeville office to confirm your RSVP today! Formal invitation to follow.

Stayner Expo Day – Save the Date!

Please join us at our Stayner Location on August 15th for our New Fertilizer Facility Open House! Take a tour of our state-of-the-art Fertilizer Storage and Tower. Enjoy Dinner and our guest speaker Rob Saik for some evening entertainment. Formal invitations to come!

Mental Health Affects Us All

Mental health and wellness discussions are on the rise and with good reason. As producers, we experience depression, anxiety, burnout and suicide at a higher rate than the rest of the world's population. So much of our livelihood depends on factors completely out of control, and traditionally a reluctance to seek help compounds the issue. Fortunately with different awareness campaigns such as the Bell "Let's Talk" day, the negative stigma associated with mental health is being broken down and people are more willing to seek help. The challenge with the agricultural industry is having a support system that understands the root causes and how to help producers manage these stresses and issues. Please know that if you struggle with any issues, you are not alone. Talk to someone if you think you might be struggling with mental health; the resources listed below exist to help people.

- Ontario Mental Health Helpline 1-866-531-2600
- Ontario Telehealth 1-866-797-0000
- Crisis Services Canada **CrisisServicesCanada.ca** 1-833-456-4566 or text 45645
- Do More Agriculture Foundation **domore.ag/resources**
- Farm Credit Canada **fcc.ca/Wellness**

"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 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 winners, and they will win a Holmes Agro prize pack! Be sure to check out Holmes Agro's website for updates as well!



CLEANFarms 2019



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 2020

It's never too early to start sending in pictures for the 2020 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

August 14th-16th – Canadian Beef Industry Conference, London Convention Centre
August 15th – Stayner Expo Day
August 22rd – Orangeville Expo Day
September 11th-13th – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
September 18th-22nd – International Plowing Match & Rural Expo, Pain Court, Chatham-Kent

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

