



Have a safe spring!

May 2019

Office Introductions

We have added some additional staff to serve our customers. Will Kell has joined our Orangeville location as a full-time Sales Agronomist Trainee. Initially he will operate our seed warehouse, and lead operations of our Research Farm, as well as crop scouting after the spring push. Will worked at our Redickville location the past 2 summers, assisting operations in the spring and crop scouting in the summer. Elissa DeBoer has joined our Orangeville location for the next 6 months as a Sales Agronomist Trainee. She will assist in customer service for the spring and then assist agronomy services such as crop scouting when the summer progresses. Elissa worked out of the Stayner location last year. We have summer students as follows; Jordan Elshof – Flamborough, Cindy Ammerlaan – Orangeville, Mackenzie Rutledge, Grace Squires, & Brad Kuepfer – Redickville, Aylyssia Deneau & Brooklyn Hughes – Stayner.

Scouting Winter Wheat and Making Plans

This year is showing our agronomy team excessive variability in winter wheat fields. Starting in the fall, delayed harvest and later planting gave a disadvantage to many wheat fields. The following winter was no friend to these fields with frost heaving, ice, and now sitting in water being some of the struggles for this crop. NOW is the time to get out and dig. Early assessment gives you the opportunity to plan your next move. Whether we are getting on some early fertility, waiting, or making a tear up decision, the best practice is to have your plan A/B/C in place. Evaluate stands by looking for new white root growth. Take plant stand counts ONLY including plants with viable roots to determine yield potential. The truth is at this point there are areas of fields we can now see that are not coming back from substandard to essentially zero yield potential. Decisions can be made now on what your next actions will be. Now, there are some fields we may be on the fence still, specifically those that got in late and may not have come up in the fall and are just getting started this spring. Continue to monitor these situations field by field. Areas that are decent sized with zero yield potential can cause unneeded weed pressures and affect your yield averages. Talk to your crop insurance representative for guidance and get a second opinion. In areas where the populations are present for success, early management can make THE difference for keeping these fields maximized for potential. Total nitrogen and the benefits of sulphur will be dependent on field specifics and can be discussed with your agronomist. Spring grains can be a good way to fill in holes in patches that didn't make it. Or perhaps, we can look at an early bean variety to get wheat back into that field in good time this fall. We have options, let's make a plan.

Keys to Early Season Weed Control

With mother nature delaying the planting season into May again this year, there will be an inevitable log jam of activities to complete in a compressed amount of time. Some growers will be facing the prospect of greener fields at planting resulting in an increased volume of pre-plant burndown applications required in order to get the crop off to a successful start. As always, the start clean and stay clean approach is highly recommended and almost always results in the best highest yielding crops. Starting clean means controlling emerged weeds at planting and also adopting the foundation acre approach. For wheat growers it may have started already with a glyphosate + Eragon application last fall which does tend to keep fields cleaner into the spring. With the critical weed free period on corn and soybeans being V1-V3, adding residual herbicides to pre-plant burndown programs should be a no brainer. Products like Accuron, Converge XT and Integrity for corn are all compatible with glyphosate while Guardian, Boundary, and Authority Supreme are some viable options for soybean growers both glyphosate tolerant and conventional. The key to successful programs is timing and MMOA (multiple modes of action) to manage resistance going forward. Being proactive with weed control programs is the difference between managing weed species and pressure versus typical "revenge spraying" after yield losses have already been incurred. Keep in mind that you must allow a minimum of 72 hours after application before tillage with glyphosate applications, and in cool wet conditions the product will be slower to translocate so 96 or 120 hours (4-5 days) will be even better. Let us know if you need help deciding on product options or require some assistance with custom application.

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



Manage Your Nitrogen

AGROTAIN® ADVANCED 1.0 nitrogen stabilizer is designed to protect urea-based fertilizers from ammonia volatilization and may be used on any crop that requires nitrogen fertilization. This product is recommended for surface, shallow-placed, shallow-banded or shallow-incorporated (less than two inches) application of urea and urea-containing fertilizers (UAN) as pre-plant, pre-emergence, sidedress, topdress or other post-planting applications.

The benefits of AGROTAIN® ADVANCED 1.0 stabilizer as a urease inhibitor are a result of its ability to retard the hydrolysis of urea and control volatilization, preventing ammonia loss while the urea is on the soil surface or less than two inches deep in the soil. Research data over the last 20 years has proven that growers can benefit the grower up to 10X their investment in positive yield results.

Optimize your yields by protecting your valuable investment (Nitrogen) and minimize environmental impacts (Good Stewardship) by mitigating N volatilization. Good stewardship protects yourself and the environment and provides positive ROI opportunity. Talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist for further details about including a nitrogen stabilizer system into your cropping plans

Orangeville Location Update

The weather will straighten around in the next few days and the rush will be on. Our last tender box is being mounted today, Seed, Crop Protection and Fertilizer (Tote bags and small bags) continue to move out to customers to ensure everyone is ready to roll when the ground is fit. We are looking forward to spring with increased delivery and airflow capacity as well as the new fertilizer blending system. We have been running the High-Speed Mixer for 6 weeks now and are impressed with the speed and accuracy of blending it provides. Millwrights, electricians, and automation programmers are putting the finishing touches on the project and we expect to have all functions fully operational by the end of this week. We have several 3,000gallon poly Tanks for sale. Please contact Archie in the Orangeville office for any questions.

Stayner Location Update

The Stayner fertilizer facility is now up and running! On April 11th we shipped out our first load of fertilizer from the new tower system. The automated blending system is much faster than the old one, and the quality of blended products is excellent. The unloading/intake process has become much more efficient with a pit inside and outside of the building. We still have a few minor items to finish up, which will be completed once the spring season is over. We have also added a new Simonsen spreader and a new fertilizer tender to our fleet to assist us in the spring rush. We are looking forward to spring deliveries and utilizing our new facility to its fullest potential to serve our customer's needs.



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!

Upcoming Events

May 20th – Victoria Day

July 3rd & 4th – South Western Ontario Diagnostic Days, Ridgetown Campus (www.diagnosticdays.ca)

July 9th – Ontario Canola Growers Crop Tour, Holmes Agro Orangeville (www.ontariocanola growers.ca)

July 11th – Farm Smart Expo, Elora Research Station (www.farmsmartconference.com)

September 10,11,12 – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, Woodstock (<https://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/>)

September 17-21 – International Plowing Match – Verner, West Nipissing (<https://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2019/>)

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