



Importance of Fall Wheat Starter Fertilizer

As Harvest begins we are already looking ahead to next years potential by updating soil samples from wheat stubble fields. In order to grow a high yielding high quality wheat crop a starter fertilizer is required and the best way to do the best job is by knowing your soil levels. Trials have proven the advantages of starter fertilizer, it is crucial to the establishment of a healthy vigorous crown and root system, which can increase winter survival and yield potential. In fact research shows an average increase yield of 7.5 bushels with results exceeding 20 bushels in low testing fields.

Starter fertilizer for wheat is comprised mainly of phosphorus with some potassium, sulfur and magnesium depending on soil test results. The amount required will depend on soil test and yield levels. Phosphorus is most important as it encourages early root growth and being placed in the root zone as uptake occurs mainly through root interception. Potassium aids in winter hardiness and disease suppression but the amount applied near the root system is limited by the salt index of our potassium sources. Sulfur included in the starter fertilizer helps acidify the root zones as phosphorus is more readily available in a more acidic environment.

The application rate limits the amount of nutrients you can apply so we focus on phosphorus first, an average recommendation of plant food would be 10-50-20+10s or if you have a low magnesium level 10-50-10+5mg+10s. Both of these recommendations are equal to 142 lb/ac but always use soil sample results and your crop advisor to help fine tune your recommendations.

Winter Wheat Options

As fall slowly approaches, it is time to think about choosing a wheat variety based on management practices and yield expectations. Here are leading wheat varieties for 2019:

- Branson – Proven variety with excellent disease resistance, good standability, very high yield potential and great grain quality..
- B654SRW – Outstanding yield potential with great winter survival and test weight.
- Hilliard – excellent standability and yield potential, a racehorse variety with average fusarium tolerance and quick emergence in the fall
- DS572SRW – Shows above average yields, excellent winter survival, good overall disease tolerance. Excellent seed and test weight too.
- Drew – Featuring small seed sizing, Drew fits into all soil types and has a very good disease package. It is a short variety that responds well to management.
- Gallus (HRWW) – Excellent protein levels along with good fusarium and leaf disease tolerance. Is short, stands well and yields well!

Benefits of Certified Seed

Wheat in rotation has the potential to increase corn and soybean yields in the first cycle. Investing in certified seed allows you to benefit from genetic advancements, glyphosate tolerance weed control and seed treatments. Seed treatments improve winter survival and germination, create stronger root systems, and control seed or soil-borne diseases. Adding wheat into your rotation benefits your farm by minimizing erosion and reducing compaction. Adding wheat to your farm can help in advancing your fertility plan—remember the concepts of 4R Nutrient Stewardship.

Speak to your agronomist today about your options for Winter Wheat.

Soybean Harvest Management

With September now here and cereal harvest wrapping up, the focus is turning to soybeans. As leaves begin to fall off the crop the inevitable presence of either weed escapes or late germinating weeds brings on the question of harvest management and desiccation. Some reasons to consider preharvest applications even in Roundup Ready soybeans include being able to harvest 1-3 days sooner than if no burndown by having a ripe, even crop, increasing combine efficiency by not fighting weeds and green stems so you can harvest more acres per day, earlier wheat planting with less pinning of residue by drill, perennial weed control, and residual fall weed control for winter annuals like chickweed and resistant fleabane. Gone are the days whereby glyphosate alone is considered a viable solution, particularly in GM soybeans. Also the concerns over glyphosate residue being tested for and showing up in food grade beans has resulted in some processors adopting a zero glyphosate policy. Growers should check with their contract holders to verify what is and isn't acceptable before making any desiccation decisions. In the absence of glyphosate, consider Eragon + Merge as one of the best combination alternatives. Rates range from 30-60 mL per acre in conjunction with 400 mL of Merge in 15-20 gal of water. Timing is approximately 80% leaf drop and 90% of the pods have changed colour. Check with your rep regarding proper application timing and what options you have based on your individual situation.

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



Stayner Open House



The Stayner location held the Grand Opening for the Fertilizer Storage and Tower on August 15th. We had a great turnout with over 200 people in attendance. There were tours of the new facility which began with discussing our automated blending system and the components of the 300T tower which included the HIM blender. The functionality of the building and technology used for unloading trucks and filling the

tower were discussed, highlighting the added efficiencies it provides to our customers operations as well as our own. Rob Saik was the guest speaker for the evening. He delivered a great message on feeding the future, sustainable agriculture and how modern farming practices and technology help support an increase in food production. We would like to thank all who were able to attend!



Orangeville Open House

August 22nd brought many growers together for a hearty breakfast and a few hours of interesting talks and interactive stations! Sevita started the day with a discussion regarding opportunities for producers growing non-GMO soybeans for Asian and other markets, in which the speaker encouraged growers to consider these varieties based on potential returns and market opportunities. Following this, we broke into smaller groups to explore the stations that had been prepared. Topics discussed were as follows; soil compaction, weed/harvest management, variable rate management and new planting equipment. In the soil compaction station representatives from OMAFRA discussed the importance of mitigating compaction, through methods such as crop rotation, usage of cover crops, and addition of organic matter/amendments. For harvest and weed management, we discussed harvest aids, reiterating the point that harvest aids don't speed up maturity, instead they speed up harvest by 2-3 days. Further, the importance of optimal spray conditions was mentioned, and growers were reminded that testing water hardness can be a useful tool for achieving good spray results. Additionally, when discussing variable rate management, it was concluded that combining variable rate data with multiple hybrids could lead to maximized yield. Following these three stations, growers and staff looked at new planting equipment with features such as the ability to set multiple parameters. The representatives reminded growers that all of the technology on the new machines can be retrofitted on older planters based on what you as the grower may want. This educational day concluded with a discussion of the grain market, current prices and marketing opportunities.

CleanFarms – Returns and Obsolete Days

As the fall approaches, there are a couple Clean Farms reminders: triple rinsed jugs with booklets and caps removed, paper seed bags and the seed totes bags are all still being collected until October 15, 2019. Please bundle the totes in no more than 6, and there are lots of free bags at the locations for jugs and paper seed bags.

Obsolete Chemical Collection – 2019 is a collection year and this year Holmes is proud to support the program by having 2 locations available to the agriculture community. Our Flamborough location will be hosting a day September 20 from 9 am to 4pm and the Redickville location will both be hosting one September 30 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Please visit www.holmesagro.com for location addresses.

WHAT'S IN	WHAT'S OUT
- Unwanted (or "obsolete" agricultural pesticides (identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label). - Livestock medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, Ser. Number or Pest Control Product number on the label).	- Fertilizer, diluted solution, large quantities of unopened product, and treated seed. - Needles/sharps, medicated feed, aerosol containers, premises disinfectants/sanitizers, veterinary clinic waste and medications, ear tags, and aerosols - Any other household hazardous waste.

For more information visit

<https://cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds/#unwanted-whats-in-out>

Upcoming Events

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/>)

September 20th – Obsolete Chemical Day, Flamborough location

September 30th – Obsolete Chemical Day, Redickville Location

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