

Time Flies – “Celebrating 25 years” on April 1st

I would like to take this opportunity to show appreciation for everyone, including our Growers, suppliers, and employees for the support and friendships over the past 25 years. Holmes Agro has passed many milestones, some rewarding and some more challenging. What the past 25 years has done is develop a tremendous depth of people throughout the business to make sure we continue to see that our growers are successful and manage challenges the coming year. Here's to the next 25 years!

COVID 19 Update

With the sunny weather today, spring feels like it will be upon very soon, and at Holmes Agro we are prepared. Our new bagger bin has been in use for 6 weeks and it is performing great. Our new liquid fertilizer storage tanks are full, and ready to serve our customers. We have added a new triaxle deliver tender unit to our fleet and upgrade the truck under another unit. All the Airflows and Spinners are ready to improve your efficiency this spring.

With the current COVID 19 situation, any deliveries of product that you can take prior to being in the fields will make logistics flow smoother this spring. Please let us know if you are in a position to take delivery of Seed, Crop Protection products or Fertilizer before planting hits and we can get the product on your farm.

We have filled most job roles but could still use a DZ driver and a production worker for spring rush. IF you or someone you know is interested in working with Holmes Agro, please contact Archie Wilson at 519-941-0450 or e-mail at archie@holmesagro.com

Precision Agriculture – 4 Part Series Field History

Over the last 3 months we have covered the value of different parts of precision ag like Satellite Imagery, Yield Maps and Soil Maps. They each have great individual strengths to help us make better decisions on our farm, but some of the best results can come from the ability to reflect on multiple layers of data to find consistencies. When we find consistencies among different layers we have collected in the past we can improve the accuracy of both the zones we are managing and the requirements they might have. For example, overlaying a combine map with a site-specific soil sample map, we can get a better representation of an area and better understand our limiting factors in the zone. As technology continues to improve and adopted into more of the equipment in our fields it creates more opportunities than ever to better manage our fields, like variable rate manure to spot treatment liming or magnesium applications. The deeper we look at what we have collected it will only help us make the best decisions in the future.

Assessing Wheat Stands:

As we move from the winter months into early spring there are a few factors to consider when assessing winter wheat stands to determine if they are sufficient to keep for the 2020 crop year. The plant stand should be between 7-10 plants per foot of row to capture 90-95% of yield potential. The 7-10 plants must be in good health. To determine good plant health, dig several plants with as many roots attached as possible. Cut the crown at the base of the plant. If the crown is a white/light green colour the plant is still alive, if the crown is brown the plant is dead. (See photos below). Planting date also is used when assessing plant stands. An early planted field with 7 plants per foot of row can be kept. While a late planted field needs a minimum plant stand of 9-10 plants/foot of row to be kept. Very rarely is a winter wheat field completely uniform so the percentage of winter kill in the field should be taken into consideration as well. If 30% or more of the wheat crop is affected by winter kill the field should be replanted to another crop. A simple way to scout for total winter kill in a wheat field is for every 100 paces record the number that have no/very poor wheat stands and repeat several times across the field. Then tally the total number of paces with no/very poor stands to know if the field is above or below the 30% threshold.



Wanted: Spring Forage, Grass and Pasture Fields

Fertilizer applied in the early Spring Season and late summer are two of the best times to add increase yield and quality to your hay production. Benefits can include higher density crop, a more even maturity across the diversity of forage species, improved quality and feed value and an improved opportunity for bigger yields. Fertilizer applications (commercial or manure) to growing pastures will also help extended your season.

Forage inventories across the province are tight. Good agronomy in 2020 will be important to improve yields and create some buffer supplies on farms.

At Holmes Agro, we have many traditional blends in place to meet your needs or can custom blend for your specific needs and budget. Please contact the office or one of our agronomy team to get your forage fields greened up and growing strong.

Safety on the Road!

As we approach spring, here are some reminders while equipment is on the move!

Key Points of the Highway Traffic Act

- You MUST give up one half of the roadway when being overtaken or passed in the opposite direction. If you cannot fit on only half of the roadway have a plan to either pull over in a laneway or have escorts blocking the road ahead.
- When traveling always stay on the road, all four tires on the pavement. If you are ½ on the shoulder and ½ on the road and you swerve around a mailbox and someone is hit, the farm operator is deemed at fault.
- You must be able to see a vehicle approaching from the rear to make safe turns. This can be done with the use of cameras or mirrors
- You must be able to signal intent to turn. If you are towing anything, these signals MUST be duplicated on the implement. Do a circle check before you leave the field or yard – make sure all the lights are working properly.
- The use of a cell phone in tractors or any other farm equipment are subject to the same fines and demerit points as cars/trucks. Tractors are defined as a vehicle while on the road.
- Slow Moving Vehicle Sign
 - o Sign MUST be highly reflective. If it is faded, worn or chipped it must be replaced.
 - o You are only legally allowed to go up to 40km/hr. If you are traveling over that you are speeding. If you removed the SMV sign you will need to have proper licensing.

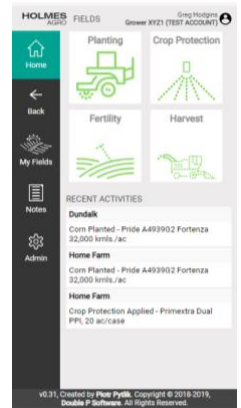


To read more about the rules and regulations on the road please look at the following website.

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/trucks/pdfs/farm-guide-farm-equipment-on-the-highway.pdf>

Introducing MyFarm Mobile

For the past year now, MyFarm subscribers have had access to their account through a new web based mobile app which has been in development for the past couple of years. 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. We hope to have a revamped field scouting module available by the end of the month, and a 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.



Going Paperless

Going Paperless conserves valuable resources and is more efficient than regular postal mail. Sign up for any of the following options available for Holmes Agro customers:

- **Invoices and Statements:** Contact our office staff to set up your account for paperless billing: micheller@holmesagro.com
- **Payments:** Setting up online or telephone banking is simple. Select Holmes Agro as the payee and use your 5-digit account number, which is listed next to your account name on invoices and statements.
- **Newsletters:** Please email Nicole to sign up for electronic newsletters: nicole@holmesagro.com



Social Media

Did you know that Holmes Agro is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube? Here is what to expect from us in the following months!

- #HolmesTeamTuesday – we will introduce one of our fantastic employees!
- Tidbit Thursday – sharing moments from over the last 25 years at Holmes Agro
- Agronomist Week Takeover – follow along one of our Agronomists to see a 'week in the life' of their job!
- Operations Staff Week Takeover – follow along one of our Operations Staff or Customer Applicator as they show you what they do in a week
- Lawn Care Tips – learn about the different products lawn care products
- Lawn Care Product Contests! – follow our Facebook page for more

Follow us @HolmesAgro to stay up to date on product information, and what we are up to all year round!

Jeff Shane Nicole Will Greg Taylor Scott John Lydia Dennis Travis