



### Aspire Fertilizer

A balanced supply of essential macro and micronutrients is one of the most important factors to achieve higher crop yields. Boron (B) is one of 8 micronutrients needed for proper plant growth. Lack of B in plant tissue can reduce cell wall function and stability, cell elongation, root growth, nutrient uptake and crop yields. Plants with low B supply undergo significant physiological and morphological changes. Root and shoot growth are severely reduced under low B supply. A reduction in root and shoot growth has a negative effect on water and nutrient uptake and limited B availability impacts the uptake of other nutrients, like potassium (K). When B supply is low, K uptake is significantly reduced!

Aspire (manufactured by Mosaic) offers uniform distribution and balanced nutrition in a single granule product that combines K and B together. Aspire (analysis 0-0-58+0.5B) utilizes 2 forms of B – quick release sodium borate and gradual release calcium borate - delivered at the root level (vs foliar) and providing season long nutrient availability throughout the plant's life cycle.

Alfalfa has a high micronutrient response to Boron, so plan to include Aspire as a component in your balanced fertilizer program on HAY fields this fall. Talk to a member of the Holmes Agronomy Team for further details and remember to put some B in your fertility plans this fall.



### Lime Applications

It is that time of year again for wheat harvest, soil sampling and lime applications where required. You may think lime applications are just for correcting pH, but we think of lime applications for balancing soil nutrients (cations specifically) enabling you to get the most out of every acre. Cations are the positively charged elements in soil, potassium, magnesium, calcium, hydrogen and sodium. Soils can be incredibly different in their balance of these elements but there is a general range where soils are considered to have a good balance and you have the maximum potential for yield.

#### Optimum % Base Saturation Ranges

- Calcium 60-80
- Magnesium 10-20
- Potassium 3-5
- Hydrogen <10
- Sodium <1

If you do have a low pH generally considered below 6, then calcium and magnesium are likely both low with hydrogen and aluminum both high. An application of dolomitic lime which usually contains 23% calcium and 12% magnesium will increase both these elements while decreasing both hydrogen and aluminum. In potato production due to scab concerns we use calcitic lime containing 30% calcium and k-mag as the magnesium source.

There are some areas where soils have very high magnesium levels 30% and calcium levels only 60% with very high pH levels (8). Here we can use calcitic lime to increase calcium and inversely reduce magnesium levels and actual lower the pH. In this situation it is also very feasible to use K lime to supply calcium and potassium.

With some crops like potato and blueberries, we don't actually need to increase the pH but we need more calcium for storage quality. In this situation we would use gypsum which is 21% calcium and 17% sulphur with a neutral pH.

Remember when you apply lime you will affect all the cations so watch your potassium level if not using K lime. Applications of lime can also induce a manganese deficiency. Make sure to only apply lime based on soil sample results you have reviewed with your Holmes Agro agronomist.

### 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](mailto: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. Holmes Agro bill payments are available at the following financial institutions: Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Meridian Credit Union, National Bank, RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust.

**Newsletters:** Please email Nicole to sign up for electronic newsletters: [nicole@holmesagro.com](mailto:nicole@holmesagro.com)



## Innovation Corner: Soil Sampling

As we integrate more precision ag into planting, fertilizer and spraying applications we need to make sure the soil is still part of the base when making those management decision zones. To involve soil more accurately in variable rate applications a zone or grid soil sampling format can be helpful when determining nutrient levels in high low and medium producing areas of the field. A zone sample is taking soil cores of the high yielding zones as one sample, low yielding zones as another sample and the moderate yielding zones for a third sample. A grid sample is placing a grid over top of the field (normally in 2.5 acres cells) and taking a sample at each point. By using these types of soil samples, we can make variable rate applications have a higher return on investment than a blanket application.



## Winter Wheat 2020

As fall slowly approaches, it is time to think about choosing a winter wheat variety based on management practices and yield expectations. Here are the leading wheat varieties for 2020:

- 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.
- Blaze – with top level yield performance, strong fusarium tolerance this variety can perform well across all soil types
- Pro 81 (HRWW) – has very strong yield and class topping protein. Medium height with great standability and good performance on all soils

### Get serious about wheat.

There are so many reasons to keep wheat in the rotation and it helps maintain a sustainable cropping system. Wheat improves soil health and structure when in a diverse rotation; wheat spreads out your yearly workload; wheat can break disease cycles and help lower risk of compaction; cover crop systems can be easily implemented, and wheat can increase soil biological activity and help for better water infiltration.

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

## We are Hiring!

Holmes Agro is looking to hire a professional applicator for our Stayner and Orangeville locations. The right candidates should have the following qualifications: positive attitude, continuous learner, dedicated team player, strong time management and organizational skills. Ideal candidate will have a DZ or AZ license, strong mechanical aptitude, confident with computer technology and operating equipment. For more details go to [www.holmesagro.com](http://www.holmesagro.com). Please send resumes to [archie@holmesagro.com](mailto:archie@holmesagro.com)

## CLEANFarms 2020

CleanFarms collections are still open, with Holmes Agro now getting regular pickups. To keep ahead of the volume of recycling bags growers MUST call ahead when they have jugs/bags to return. As always, jugs must be triple rinsed, with lids and labels removed. If there is product remaining in empty jugs, the bag will be rejected as improperly cleaned jugs cannot be recycled. When on site, please call the office to be directed to the drop off area. Thanks for your participation!

## COVID-19 Update

At Holmes Agro we continue to prioritize the health of our customers, employees, and their families. We have included additional health and safety protocols at all our locations. Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high-use areas, as well as diligent hand-washing and social distancing practices have been implemented. We continue to request that customers and other visitors do not enter any of our buildings, but use the order windows available at each location, where employees will use face coverings to serve you. We will keep you updated on any changes as more information is released from our public health authorities. Your health is important to us. Stay safe.

## Important Update!

Please note that all locations will be closed at noon on Friday, August 28 for our annual inventory count. We request that you please plan ahead if you think you will need product that day and we will be happy to work with you to ensure your needs are met ahead of closing.

## Calendar 2021

It's never too early to start sending in pictures for the 2021 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](mailto:nicole@holmesagro.com)

\*\*\*\*\* Please email [nicole@holmesagro.com](mailto:nicole@holmesagro.com) to sign up for our e-newsletter \*\*\*\*\*