



Maximizing your Nitrogen and Early N Applications in Winter Wheat

The infamous early spring question for winter wheat growers.....what is the correct N rate to apply to achieve maximum economic yield response, and when should I apply N to my winter wheat fields? Of course, the answer is simple.....it depends. Primarily it depends on "mother nature" and the environmental conditions she instills during the spring and summer of 2018. Though environmental conditions are beyond our control, there are many other factors that have an impact on maximizing wheat yields and are within our management control.

Based on 4-R principals no nutrients can be applied when soil is frozen. But frost shouldn't be considered frozen ground. A fertilizer application on frost would be allowed if the nitrogen source is in a protected form such as ESN. With such an early N application, a split application would be recommended to reduce the risk to the environment and improve the nutrient use efficiency. An early application is only recommended when soils have low residual N levels (sandy soils generally or soils low in O.M.) and if the wheat was planted late it can respond to early N. The window of opportunity to apply N early on frost but not frozen ground is quite small and takes planning and co-ordination and most importantly a willing operator because the risk of getting stuck is usually quite high.

Some things to consider in balancing your fertility program:

- Nitrogen availability is enhanced with the addition of Sulphur and we find a minimum 8:1 ratio as a good agronomic balance. It is no secret that the atmospheric deposition of Sulphur has been greatly reduced as we move towards more "green initiatives." Considering products like Ammonium Sulphate with Urea and ATS with UAN will not only help correct potential S deficiencies but will include an ammonium form of nitrogen to stabilize and stretch the availability of N over a longer time frame. Fertilizer technology has advanced in the last few years and Yara offers a premium homogeneous Amidas (Urea/Ammonium Sulphate) product. This product has been implemented into wheat programs the last few years with excellent results. ESN is another ideal product to consider in managing nitrogen release and maximizing nitrogen utilization by your wheat plant. Wheat needs approximately 60% of its N requirement from the start of stem elongation to maturity. ESN technology controls the N supply through this time frame and has been shown to increase both yield and grain protein.
- A split application program where nitrogen would get applied (spoon fed) to the crop 2 or 3 times throughout the growing season helps with risk mitigation from weather events and offers ability to fine tune each pass with crop demands and yield potential opportunities, but would need to be justified with extra trips across the field. The technology in new dry products such as Amidas and Axan is an opportunity to offer a constant feed approach to your wheat with excellent crop safety (vs UAN late) and enhanced spread pattern that matches spray tracks already in the field from herbicide/fungicide passes.
- Consider adding Potassium to your dry broadcast blends to help supplement the Potassium that will be harvested this fall with straw removal and equally important, for the inclusion of Chloride. Chloride is an essential micronutrient involved in photosynthetic reactions and the suppression of infections and disease.

As we move closer into spring this year there will always be things we will have no control over, why not utilize and manage what you DO have control over so you can maximize your yield potential in 2018. Visit with your Holmes Agro rep for further details about winter wheat nutrition and be a step closer to executing your plans towards a profitable wheat harvest.

Spreader Safety Reminder

With the spring rush hopefully just around the corner, please keep in mind some important points when using fertilizer spreaders.

- Complete a circle check – tires, safety chains, in/out of gear, monitor tightness of drive belts.
- Check High/Low speed.
- Cleanliness – Ensure that spinner blades and flow divider are clean and not damaged.
- Check gate height, density and rate.
- Run at optimum tractor PTO speed (most tractors should be run around 2200 RPM), at a 40 or 50-foot interval, depending on the spreader. Avoid turning sharply as damage to the PTO shaft may occur.
- Slow your ground speed as rates increase, for optimal pattern.
- Ensure that while parked, the jack is secure.
- Do not exceed 30 mph when towing a spreader on the road, and make sure that the spreader is out of gear.
- Loads should not exceed 2.500mt when being towed behind a pickup truck. Towing more than 2500 kg with a pickup truck requires a Class A license!

Please contact Holmes Agro as soon as you are finished with your spreader - your neighbour may be waiting for it!

Red Clover

There has been a lot of discussion this winter about the use of cover crops and their importance to healthy soils. A favourite has always been red clover, with the benefits of nitrogen fixation, reduce soil erosion, improve soil tilth and weed competition. There are two different "cuts": single and double. Double Cut (medium) will flower in the seeding year and has vigorous regrowth after cutting. Single Cut (mammoth) is slower to establish and will mature about 2 weeks later than double cut but is more drought tolerant. It also requires an overwintering period in order to flower. Red Clover does best on well drained soils with a pH of 6.0-7.2, but will also tolerate slightly acidic or poorly drained soils. There are several different ways to get Red Clover on your field. The most common way is to frost seed red clover by broadcasting with a four-wheeler. Another option is to blend with urea and apply with an Airflow unit once field conditions allow. Typical seeding rates for red clover range from 4-10lbs/ac depending on application equipment and stand of wheat. Currently Holmes Agro has good supply of DC red clover at all locations. As the weather forecast often only gives us a few ideal opportunities to apply red clover to our fields, it is recommended to get your seed needs ordered and into your possession, to allow for timely application.

Agricorp 2018

Adjustor Robin Wallace will be at the Holmes Agro, Orangeville, office March 7th & 21st, and the Stayner office on March 6th, 13th, and 20th, from 12:30PM – 2PM each day. Please bring your crop insurance renewal for 2018, mailed to you in early March. New customers are welcome for information and to ask questions about your policy. Be sure to inquire about unseeded acres and your spring acres, risk management plan, and the forage rainfall program. You are welcome to call anytime in March or April, but changes are required to be made before May 1st, 2018. Please call 1-888-247-4999 for more information.

Seed Deliveries 2018

It's that time of year again! We will be starting deliveries this month with your seed orders. Please let us know if you are able to take an early delivery. Delivery will be free of charge up to April 1st, 2018 for all completed deliveries.

Happy planting!

Social Media



Holmes Agro is pleased to announce the continuation of our social media contests for the 2018 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 2018! Upload them to social media (Twitter & Facebook) and tag **@Holmesagro** with **#Watchitgrow18**. For our lawn and garden customers we have **#DrDirt18**.



We 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 pick the best photo's, and they will win a Holmes Agro prize pack! Be sure to check out Holmes Agro website for updates as well!

Holmes Agro Credit Policy

Our credit terms are net 20th day of the following month for eligible charge accounts, as per our credit application and agreement.

- On-Line payments are available at the following financial institutions: RBC Royal Bank, TD Canada Trust, CIBC, Scotiabank, Bank of Montreal and **New!** Meridian Credit Union – Orangeville branch.
- Holmes Agro can assist customers with setting up third party financing to FCC (Farm Credit Canada) and Scotiabank YieldMore Financing – please contact your crop advisor representative for more information.

MyFarm Training Days

We are offering MyFarm training sessions again this year! Mark your calendar March 20th for the Orangeville office and March 21st for the Stayner Office, 9AM – 11AM each day. Stop by for one on one support to help better understand how to use the MyFarm program to enhance record keeping on your farm. Please RSVP to nicole@holmesagro.com for the Orangeville location and lydia@holmesagro.com for the Stayner location. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Upcoming Events

March 7th- 9th – London Farm Show
March 20th – MyFarm Training, Orangeville Office
March 21st - MyFarm Training, Stayner Office.
March 7th & 21st – Robin Wallace at Orangeville office, 12:30PM - 2PM
March 22nd – Grower Pesticide Course, Orangeville
April 7th – Grower Pesticide Course, Orangeville

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