

What's Next with Wheat

As we patiently wait for a herbicide application window on winter wheat, many are wondering about second pass nitrogen applications as well with the crop progressing as it is. Don't forget to add a T1 fungicide to the tank on winter wheat with your herbicide to ensure plant health before we add more nitrogen to the system. Early reports of powdery mildew and septoria in wheat further emphasize the importance of fungicides and with warmer weather hopefully on the horizon, disease pressure will continue to escalate. With second pass nitrogen applications always comes the question of how much to apply. The answer to this question often depends on several factors and the reality is there probably isn't one answer in terms of pounds per acre for all your wheat or even for wheat in the same farm/field. Enter, the concept of variable rate nitrogen based off of a data layer such as satellite imagery. For the second year now, Holmes Agro has partnered with the team at Granular to deliver high quality imagery at regular intervals throughout the growing season. This technology along with our ability to write prescription based applications and apply using our new high clearance Rogator equipped with a new Amazone fertilizer box allows us to apply nitrogen to the crop with a degree of accuracy we have never seen before. These techniques are all a part of our precision acre program at Holmes Agro and are designed to deliver high yielding, high quality nutrient program with both economics and environmental sustainability in mind. Talk with your crop advisor about our program and take your wheat production to the next level. There's no time like the present!



Managing your Nitrogen on ALL CROPS for best results – Considerations

Although there are many factors involved in fertilizer planning, decision making and logistics, the following are some considerations as a reminder that managing your N is important. Just applying higher rates of Urea or UAN than years previous, isn't a best management decision.

- Understand the physical properties of different nitrogen products. N is volatile and can be easily lost to the atmosphere. Protect your investment with stabilizers, split apply your N needs or include PurYield.
- Manage and monitor your soil health as part of your everyday stewardship as water and nutrient holding capacity are correlated to soil structure, soil fitness and organic matter.
- Match your N rates to your yield goals – ROI happens when a \$1 investment returns greater than \$1 in yield response. Matching your nitrogen rates with proper ratio of sulphur inclusion is becoming standard practice and is good agronomy. A 7:1 ratio of N:S is a good starting point. Sulphate S helps stabilize N for a longer period and provides crops with the sulphur component required to maximize yield opportunity.

Continue to have discussions about N management strategies with you Holmes Agro crop advisor.

Research Farm Update

The Holmes Agro Team will once again will be running a series of trials at the Orangeville location focused on improving crop performance, and economic yields. In corn, we will be focusing on tools surrounding nitrogen management, such as different specialty products and timings to determine what will give the best yield response and help protect your fertilizer investment. With soybeans, this year will be all about intensive management. With soybean prices going through the roof, what can we throw at them to make sure that we get the best ROI. Is it foliar nutrients? Biologicals? Fungicides? In wheat, the big story of the year is crop health. With new entrants to the fungicide market, which one is going to provide the best plant health response, and therefore yield? There are also some new entrants to the growth regulator market that we will be looking at as well. On top of that, we will be running trials looking at split application nitrogen, and the ideal ratio of up-front versus top-dress rates. As always, growers are welcome to come and tour the plots and keep an eye on our trials all season. Contact your agronomist if you have any questions or would like a "guided" tour.

In Season Nitrogen Management Tool

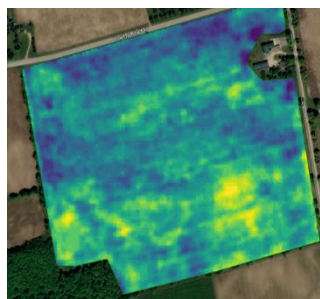
We have added a fertilizer placement tool for in season application of nitrogen and other soluble nutrients. This new tool will allow for even distribution of nutrients on the ground near the root zone and eliminate the risk of leaf burn. The tool can be used in any row crop; however, the main area of focus will be in corn fields in the knee to shoulder height range. The tool will allow for a 120' boom width application to minimize trips in the field. This tool is fitting with the spirit of the 4R's of Nutrient Stewardship allowing for flexibility in rates and timing based on weather and crop potential.



Clean Farms Empty Chemical Jug Collection

Clean Farms collections are now 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. When on site, please call the office to be directed to the drop off area. Recycling these jugs truly makes a difference, as the plastic is reused to make agricultural products such as farm drainage tile. Since the program started in 1980, 131.5 million jugs have been returned, enough to stretch from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, BC and back three times! Thank you to all our growers for their participation!

Precision Ag Corner



Now that the second application of nitrogen will soon be in full swing on winter wheat, it is important to know where the high producing areas are in order to push them to their full potential. One tool that helps us find those high producing areas is satellite imagery (as seen in the photo). When we have farms with this kind of variability, we can variable rate the nitrogen and sulphur application based off the health index image from the satellite. By doing this it helps put fertilizer in areas that will utilize it the most and reduce the amount spread in areas with thin stands or winter kill sections of the field.



Watch it Grow Signs



Look for Watch It Grow signs as they start to be put up by fields this month! This sign can be found just north of our Orangeville location on Dufferin County Rd 11.

Did you know – There are 1 million grain kernels in a bushel of wheat!

Scouting update – Be sure to check your wheat fields for herbicide timing as early planted wheat in the area is at, or gets close to, the 1st node stage. Also, check your early planted corn and soybean fields for pre-emergent herbicide application timing.

Keep An Eye Out For Our New Summer Students

Holmes Agro is excited to have the following summer students join our team this summer. Flamborough - Cody Armstrong Operations and Scout. Orangeville – Brianna Giger Fertilizer Blending and Scout, Nolan Robichaud Seed Warehouse and Scout, Brittany Lacasse Operations Support, Scout and Sustainability, Chris Dixon-Pirzas Customer Service Lawn & Garden, Ryan Hawley Crop Protection Warehouse. Redickville – Alex Issac Operations and Scout, Cindy Ammerlaan Admin, Blending & Scout, Jeremy Burns Operations and Scout. Stayner – Grace Millsap Customer Service and Scout, Brooklyn Hughes Fertilizer Blender and Scout. Alex is back with Holmes Agro for her second summer, while Brooklyn and Cindy are back for their third summers. We are looking forward to having these students join our team for 2021.

Calendar Pictures 2022

It's never too early to start sending in pictures for the 2022 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 laura@holmesagro.com

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

Jeff Shane Will Laura Greg Taylor Scott John Lydia Dennis Travis

