



February 2022

Holmes Agro will be closed Monday February 21st for Family Day

Virtual Next Level Ag Series

NEXT LEVEL AG SERIES I&II

Save the date for Holmes Agro's 2nd Annual Next Level Ag Series happening on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022, via Zoom. We can't wait to share what is new and exciting in agronomy along with some cool innovations for technology/equipment.

Stay tuned for more details or check our website and social media pages, a registration link will be sent out in early February!

Fertilizer Market Update & Trends

I am sure you're aware of the volatility in the major nutrient supply of fertilizer over the last 12 months. We continue to see bullishness and volatility through the winter months. The majority of our product has been positioned for spring with little opportunity to take further position through the winter months due to the seaway coming into Hamilton being closed until spring. There have been large swings in the past few weeks in the global urea market with large demand in the dips, but this is still not getting us back to our fall positions. With tight supply and import duties into the U.S market, phosphates are staying strong. The potash market is currently staying firm with the sanctions on Belarus and high global demand for our Western Canadian potash. Our procurement team has done an extraordinary job locking down positions that are still making application this spring very viable.

If you haven't already, please contact your local Holmes Agro Agronomist to have your crops plans completed and budgets established well ahead of spring. Stay tuned for our Next Level Ag Series featuring a Fertilizer Market Update with Josh Linville of StoneX on March 3rd, 2022.

Start Clean, Stay Clean with the Foundation Acre

Starting the season off on the right foot, with a clean field, is the first step to a successful crop. The easiest time to control a weed is when it is small, or even better, if you cannot see it! In applying a pre-emergent herbicide, you are setting your crops up for success!

Using a pre-emergent herbicide is both a proactive and rewarding decision. Allowing weeds to germinate and establish costs you time and money. On average, corn yields can be reduced by up to 50% if weeds are not properly managed and soybean yields can be reduced by up to 36%. Creating a clean, weed free foundation will contribute to improved stand uniformity, reduced plant variability and higher yields. When weeds are controlled early in the season you are also setting yourself up for success in future years by reducing the weed seedbank.

Syngenta's Acuron provides superior control of tough to manage weeds like ragweed, Canada fleabane, redroot pigweed, and lamb's-quarters, all while providing long lasting residual control. With 3 modes of action and 4 active ingredients, you are able to manage resistant-type weeds and mitigate future resistance concerns. While Acuron is safe to apply up to 6 leaf, maximum ROI comes from applying the product pre-emergent.

Looking toward the 2022 growing season, pre-emergent herbicides make even more sense economically. Syngenta's research shows that when a pre-emergent program is not used, nitrogen accumulation in corn can be reduced by 50%. Weeds compete with your crop, rob your fields of essential nutrients, and impact yield! Including products such as Acuron or Boundary in your pre-emergent weed control system will ensure you start clean, stay clean, and maximize your yield potential and ROI for the long term!

Check out <https://www.syngenta.ca> for more information or ask your Holmes Agro Agronomist!

Written by: Jess McCann, Syngenta

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: Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Meridian Credit Union, National Bank, RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust.

Third Party Loan Due Dates: All eligible crop input purchases between Sep 01 /20 and Aug 31 /21 have a repay date by Feb 23, 2022, for Scotiabank Yield More financing, and March 15, 2022 for FCC Crop Input financing. There is no penalty if you pay early, and funds become available once again. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (519) 941-0450.

Precision Technology - Amazone

From the confidence that our operators gained with our Amazone high clearance spreader in 2021, Holmes Agro has added a 2nd Amazone high clearance to our application fleet for the 2022 season. The advancement in technology with this machine starts at calibration. Compared to the old tray system where fertilizer is collected and manually measured, calibration is conducted with 16 easy check mats and a smart phone. Once fertilizer is applied over the mats, a picture is taken of each mat, and the app calculates what changes need to be made if any. When it comes to application, no density is required, just the application rate. The machine inputs a starting density based on the blend and stored calibration data; within the first 2 acres, it self-calibrates from the onboard scales. Throughout a job, the scales are automatically recalculating and readjusting fertilizer application rates to ensure that fertilizer is not over or underapplied. For large jobs with the same blend and multiple farms, the intelligent fill management system alerts the tender driver when the required amount for the job is on board so they can stop filling, and the operator has on only what they need for that field or farm. The multi-section control allows for variable-width swath control on narrowing field passes and odd shapes. A perfect spread pattern up to 175 feet can be achieved from the large overlap zones, regardless of wind, topography, humidity, and changing fertilizer qualities. The double vein spinner allows for precise placement of fertilizer when making the first pass on the headlands. The operator can select to spread slightly over the field boundary, right at the field boundary, or back an area of 1-3m for areas such as watercourses. In addition to the initial calibration, the Argus twin system consists of 14 radar sensors to monitor the spread pattern as application is occurring. If it detects an uneven spread pattern, adjustments are made on the fly. A new feature moving forward is a new high-frequency wind sensor that measures wind speed and direction, which is then relayed directly to the operator.



With current fertilizer input values, this application technology ensures that fertilizer is placed exactly where it needs to be.

Planter Setup

Wondering about other means of boosting your yields this season? Look no further than your planter and consider the yield advantages to some preparatory maintenance and a tune up! Research studies clearly show that planter condition affects the quality of stand establishment, and superior stand establishment is critical to optimizing yield. The seed meters, monitors, drop tubes, row units and drive train should all be carefully examined. Here are some things to consider:

- ☐ **Tire Pressure** - under-inflated tires require more revolutions per acre, resulting in higher seeding and fertilization rates. Overinflated tires can cause the opposite!
- ☐ Make sure your planter is level to ensure **consistent depth**.
- ☐ **Parallel Linkage Arm Wear** - check for bushings wear which can result in shallower seed planting depth.
- ☐ **Seed Drop Tubes** - these tubes need to be clean with no rough edges which can impact seed drop accuracy.
- ☐ **Disk openers** - look for signs of wear. As openers wear and become shorter, they can no longer create a consistent cut into the soil for seed placement and depth.
- ☐ **Depth Gauge Wheels** - make sure that they turn freely and move up and down easily to prevent soil from flowing into the seed trench causing inconsistent planting depth.
- ☐ **Seed Drop** - Calibrate your planter. Consider planting speed in correlation to seed drops, ensure all chains, and wear parts are within the manufacturer's specifications.

Seed Deliveries

The first day of Spring is just over a month away! Stefani will be calling to schedule 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 March 31st, 2022, for all completed deliveries. Happy planting!

Upcoming Dates

February 15th – Dufferin SCIA Annual Meeting
February 22nd – Canada Agricultural Day
February 23rd – Scotiabank Yield More Financing 2021 loan due date
February 26th – Grower Pesticide Course, Orangeville
March 3rd – Holmes Agro Virtual Next Level Ag Series
March 15th – FCC 2021 Crop Input Financing Loan Due date

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