

## Save The Date – Orangeville Grower Expo Day

**SAVE THE DATE**

Be sure to pencil in the morning of Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> for a can't miss event in Orangeville! We are excited to have a variety of agronomy topics and in field trials. Please contact the Orangeville office to confirm your RSVP today! Formal invitation to follow

## Envita – A New Mode of Action for Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertility has been a hot topic of discussion over the past 6 months covering everything from global markets to nutrient availability to stabilizers to the ideal N:S ratios, ... [Nexus Bio Ag](#) has another topic to add to the nitrogen discussion, a new biological mode of action for nitrogen featuring both flexibility in application and crop type. The biological *Gluconacetobacter diazotrophicus* product works similarly to the nodules in soybeans but;

1. Can fix nitrogen across many different plant species, not just legumes
2. Nitrogen fixation in every cell of the plant, not just the roots
3. Fixation starts right away



It has been registered for use in Ontario since 2021 and has seen good results on field trials including the Holmes Agro Research Farm last summer and we are hoping to build on this success with further trials this season. There are similar products coming onto the market that also allow the plants to utilize the nitrogen in the atmosphere that normally is not accessible to the plants, such as Utrisha from Corteva.

The ideal timing for these biological products is fast approaching if not already here in many areas. Aim to apply Envita on corn between 3-6 leaf, 2<sup>nd</sup> trifoliate in soybeans, and 2-6 leaf on cereals.

Talk to your local rep for more information on how these exciting new inoculants could work on your operation!

## Start Clean, Stay Clean – The Advantage of Early Weed Control

We all understand the impact weeds can have on a crop – reduced yields and the potential for significant trouble at harvesting time. Weeds compete for light, water and nutrients, and, in fact, the presence of weeds can influence the way a crop grows. Plants have the ability to detect competitors, and subsequently, their growth pattern changes to compensate, meaning the crop focuses itself on height, for example, rather than seed production – as it instinctively strives to gain the most resources. Research has established 'critical weed free periods' of crop development, where yields can otherwise be impacted 50-60% by the presence of weeds. For most field crops, this critical period is in the first four weeks post-emergence. Specifically, for corn, the critical period is from emergence until the development of six leaves, and in soybeans, emergence to third trifoliate.

Further studies suggest:

- If the crop is kept weed-free for the [Critical Weed-free Period](#), no yield reduction should occur.
- Weeds emerging after the Critical Weed-free Period will not affect yield.

What to do?

- There are many situations where a fall burn-down is insufficient to control weeds during the critical growth periods, and pre-plant/ pre-emerge residuals may not do the trick either. It is essential that crops are scouted carefully during the critical period so that herbicide decisions can be made in a timely manner to avoid later and less effective applications.

## Fertilizer Tariff & Market Update

We continue to lobby the Federal Government to exempt orders made prior to March 2nd from the 35% tariff that was imposed on fertilizer products of Russian origin. Our suppliers of the sanctioned Russian fertilizer are obligated to pay the custom tariffs charged by the government which in turn is passed along to Holmes Agro, which obligates us to pay it in order to ensure timely access to the products. Sollio, our partner and main supplier continues to meet with government officials to explain the implications including no other countries have applied a similar tariff and therefore Eastern Canadian farmers are uncompetitive in our global market.

We are no longer concerned about fertilizer supply as current supply is good, and the later spring planting in the U.S has helped support some lower costs moving into the fall, specifically on nitrogen. Currently with the support of the grain markets, there has been little pull back today on phosphorus and potash. The goal moving forward is to continue looking at crop removal, yield goals and paying specific attention to your soil tests as we assess summer / fall needs.

## Returns for the 2022 Season

We are still accepting returns this year for any unopened, undamaged seed, skids, bulk bags or unopened chemical jugs. We do ask the following:

1. If we are picking up returns at your site, we prefer if you can be there to help load. If you cannot be, please leave returns out for us, and if required, we will ask for approval to use your equipment.
2. If you are bringing returns back to any of our locations, please ensure all products are on a skid to help ease with the unloading process. Please call ahead to let us know you are bringing back returns.
3. Seed returns are due back by June 10th.



## 'Watch It Grow' Signs



Look out for 'Watch It Grow' signs as they are put up by fields this month, if you would like a 'Watch It Grow' sign by your field let your Holmes Agro rep know!

**Did you know** – If you eat pasta three times a week, it will take 70 weeks to eat all the pasta made from one bushel of durum wheat. Fun fact from <https://wheatworld.org/>

**Scouting update** – The winter wheat across the region is advancing quickly with the heat and moisture received at the end of May. Be sure to check your winter wheat for the ideal heading fungicide timing.

## 4R Nutrients Part 4 - Right Time

When looking at the 4th R of the 4 R's of nutrient management we are considering the 'Right Time.' Consider the core principles behind the right time involve the other 3 principles of source, rate, and placement.

- Apply the nutrients based on when the crop will be uptaking nutrients. Pay attention to the in-season variables such as planting date, growth characteristics, and deficiency sensitivities at each growth stage, ...
- Understand and recognize the dynamics that contribute to nutrient losses such as the increased risk of leaching losses during the historic wet seasons in the spring and fall, or the increased risk of loss via volatilization in the heat of summer.
- Understand the limitations of nutrients naturally supplied by soil organic matter. Are they plant available? Or are they tied up in plant residue? Will they be released in time to meet crop demand?
- Consider the logistics of field operations.

We are continuously learning about soil to nutrient interactions and these principles will continue to evolve as knowledge of soil interactions grows. 'The Nutrient Stewardship 4R Pocket Guide' can be a great resource when looking to learn more about the 4R principles. <https://nutrientstewardship.org/4r-pocket-guide/>

## Clean Farms Spring 2022 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!

## Calendar 2023

It's never too early to start sending in pictures for the 2023 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 [calendar@holmesagro.com](mailto:calendar@holmesagro.com)

## Upcoming Dates

July 21<sup>st</sup> – Orangeville Grower Expo Day

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Food Day Canada 2022

Sept 13-15<sup>th</sup> – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Sept 20-24<sup>th</sup> – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

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

Jeff Shane Nicole Will Laura Greg Taylor Scott John Lydia Dennis Brooklyn Travis