



July 2022

Grower Expo Day

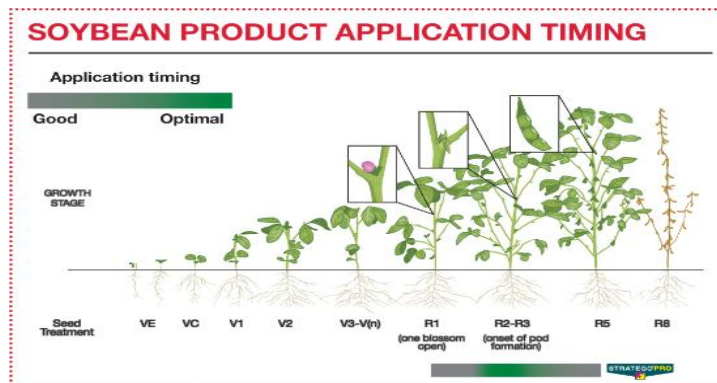
Join us for the Holmes Agro Customer Appreciation Day on July 21st. The day will kick off with breakfast at 8 am followed by an exciting tour of the Holmes Agro Research Farm in Orangeville featuring; managing your nitrogen efficiency, how to get the most out of your spring cereal crop, automation in action, and Andrew Campbell of Fresh Air Farmer.

RSVP by Friday July 15th to 519-941-0450 or stefani@holmesagro.com

Fungicide Considerations on Soybeans

Early planted soybeans are beginning to enter the reproductive stage. Now is a good time to consider the factors that may affect the disease pressure in your soybean crop:

- 1) **Weather** – is there consistently wet/humid weather forecasted?
- 2) **Field History** – have you had white mould pressure before? Is there potential increased risk of infection?
- 3) Soybean **population** (final stand count) and **row width** – is there a thick canopy and stand which limits air movement?
- 4) **Rotation** – bean on bean vs corn-soy-wheat rotation.
- 5) **Genetic package** of your soybean seed – what is the level of tolerance for the variety planted?



Application timing for fungicide on soybeans is from R1 (beginning of bloom) to R5 (beginning of seed formation). For best results, apply between R2 (full bloom) and R3 (onset of pod formation). The use of satellite imagery can be a useful tool to observe plant canopy differences and aid in field scouting along with adding the option for variable rate (VRT) application map be created for the fungicide application.

A fungicide application also provides an excellent opportunity to apply added foliar nutrition. For more information on the proper timing and considerations talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist!

Cover Crop Options

Cover crops can help improve soil structure, protect the soil from erosion, feed soil life, suppress weeds, cycle nutrients, provide feed for livestock and much more. Cover crops are not a magic solution for your soil problems, but when combined with other soil management practices they can help improve soil health. The first step towards success is having a plan. That plan should include details on what you will grow and when; important to consider establishment, rotation, and soil type. Holmes Agro offers the following as cover crop options:

- **Oats** – the rapid fall growth paired with winterkill will provide stored nutrients from the fall to be readily available for next season
- **Oats/Peas** – combines soil building/nitrogen fixing benefits of both species. Competes with weeds, deep fibrous root system helping reduce erosion potential.
- **Fall Rye** – has 5 times the potential root mass of oats to help with erosion control. A burndown application is required.
- **Crimson Clover** – provides N to the following crop, and can help with building soil and preventing erosion
- **Tillage Radish** – long taproot able to bust through soil alleviating compaction

Talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist to discuss which one is best suited for your management practices!

'Watch It Grow' Signs

As many of you might have seen in your travels Holmes Agro has "Watch It Grow" signs to help promote awareness of local agriculture and education about the crops grown in our Southern Ontario. This sign can be found on near Marsville, ON.

Did you know – Soybeans are a complete protein and are one of very few plants that contain all eight essential amino acids. Fun fact from Sygenta.ca

If you would like a sign, please let us know and we can set something up for you!



Boots on the Ground – Scouting Update

Crops across the region have been off to a good start, even though the amount of precipitation received in June has varied across the area. As we move into July, now is an important time to continue to monitor fields for problem pests and crop staging.

Corn – has advanced nicely with most fields meeting the saying of ‘knee high, by the first of July’ along with 2nd pass N applications wrapping up. Now is the time begin planning for a preventative fungicide application.

Soybeans – are beginning to flower, now is the time to check staging for a foliar fungicide also keep an eye out for insect pressure including aphids and spider mites. Spider mites typically move in from the field edges during dry weather.

Cereals – spring cereals are entering the stage for T2 and T3 fungicides while winter wheat will soon be nearing the harvest timing.

Forages – alfalfa weevil has caused damage in some forage stands. Timely cutting is the main preventative tool against yield loss from the pest. But as the adult beetles overwinter in the plant residue the pest is likely to be present in sequential years. It is good to note which fields have shown feeding damage to ensure timely scouting for the larvae pressure in future years.



Obsolete Chemical Day

Holmes Agro is once again hosting an Obsolete Chemical Day with the Clean Farms Program! It will be one day in the last two weeks of September; official date will be released closer to the event. Eligible materials are old, obsolete, or otherwise unwanted pesticides (anything with a Pest Control Product Number on the label) and animal health medications (anything with a Drug Identification Number on the label). Liquid fertilizers are ineligible for this program.

Please only bring pesticide products on the day of the event, no drop offs in the time leading up to the event date.

Straw Talk

The true value of cereal straw is the rotation, the fibrous root system, the breaking of disease cycles, the ability to increase soil organic matter and improve soil structure as well as the ability to diversify weed control and the opportunity to plant a cover crop and or manage tillage operations to accommodate future years of cropping.

The price of wheat straw is whatever someone is willing to pay for it BUT the value of straw is in the eyes of the beholder. If we had to put a number on the ‘break even value’ it would be close to \$0.05/lb, keeping plant health, straw integrity (environment influence/variety/...) in consideration. You need to decide what benefits you more in your operation, the cash value of straw (and replace with equal fertilizer credits this fall) or spread it and reap the residue rewards.

AgPhD Fert Removal App is a great tool to understand removal values per bushel (or tonne) harvested and the breakdown between grain and stover (including straw).

Per Tonne Wheat Straw

<i>P</i>	4 lb
<i>K</i>	32 lb
<i>S</i>	6 lb

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

Upcoming Dates

July 6th – AgRobotics Demonstration – University of Guelph Much Crops Research Station

July 21st – Orangeville Grower Expo Day

July 30th – Food Day Canada 2022

Sept 13-15th – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Sept 20-24th – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

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

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

