



The Start of Good Things to Come – Winter Wheat Starter

Planting is considered by many to be the most important pass of the season- making sure that the crop gets off to the best start that it can is critical if we want to be able to capitalize on the rest of the season. A key piece of this is the starter fertility program that we use. A good starter program should focus on phosphorus as the main ingredient. This allows for early season availability to the young plants, promoting good fall growth, and winter survival. A seed placed starter program is also a great time to make sure that the proper balance of micronutrients like sulfur, zinc and boron are available to the plant. This can be done with products such as Tiger S85 elemental sulfur, and Yara's Procote micronutrient coatings.

There is years' worth of [Ontario data](#) showing the economic return on investment to using seed placed starters on cereal crops! Using a recent soil test can also help to determine a blend that will work for your farm.

Talk to your Holmes Agro Advisor today about building a starter program for your needs this fall!

Soybean Pre-Harvest Applications

Soybean harvest is just around the corner! The dry spring led to reduced herbicide performance and a 2nd flush of late germinating seeds in many fields. In these situations, the use of a preharvest aid can improve combine efficiency by encouraging the weeds to dry down. It also provides the opportunity to control perennial weed pressure such as dandelions and sow-thistle ahead of fall seeded crops. During the fall plants draw nutrients back down into the roots, which is the optimum time to apply a systematic herbicide such as glyphosate. If your goal is to apply a desiccant for the soybean crop in addition to the added weed control the use of Eragon (along with Merge) can be a great choice as applying glyphosate on a Roundup Ready crop of soybeans will not affect the dry down of the soybean crop.

The timing of a preharvest aid of either [Eragon](#) and [Glyphosate](#) should be timed for 30% seed moisture. The plants should be at 90% leaf drop and have the stem and pods beginning to brown. Another method is to inspect whether the seed has detached from the pod membrane in the upper third of the plant, if so, a preharvest aid can be applied to the registered crop. Both methods are an indicator that the seed should be close to 30% moisture. You want to make sure you do not apply too early as it could negatively hurt your yield potential by reducing seed size and seed weight.



It is important to be proactive with this management tool to ensure timely application and check with your end marketer before applying a preharvest desiccant on your soybean crop!

Talk to your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor about a preharvest aid application and check out this OMAFRA crop update [click here](#) for more information!

Obsolete Chemical Day – Sept 20th, Orangeville

Holmes Agro is once again hosting an Obsolete Chemical Day with the Clean Farms Program on Tuesday September 20th, 2022, at our Orangeville location. Eligible materials are old, obsolete, or otherwise unwanted pesticides (anything with a Pest Control Product Number) and animal health medications (anything with a Drug Identification Number). 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. For more info check [cleanfarms.ca](#) or call the Orangeville Office (519) 941-0450.

Keep Sending Your Farming Pictures! – Calendar 2023

The deadline to submit pictures for the Calendar is fast approaching, please email your pictures to calendar@holmesagro.com before September 30th. We are proud to be able to provide a calendar full of grower pictures – all thanks to your great submissions!

Why Soil Sample?

Have you lined up your soil samples for this fall? Soil sampling is a great tool to find baseline fertility and limiting soil nutrients. In addition, it can be used to find variability across a field or farm. The decision of which fields to sample can be based on each individual farm management plan. Typically, it is recommended to sample the fields that were in winter wheat or soybeans as the early harvest allows ample time in the fall to receive the soil test results and make any appropriate recommendations.

Reason for soil sampling this fall

1. Know your soil 'bank account' levels
2. Identify soil differences, variability, and best management practices for each soil type to better manage for future years and learn the long-term trends
3. Avoid over fertilization
4. Maximize your profitability and minimize your environmental footprint by applying nutrients at the right rate, the right time, the right place, using the right source
5. Keep samples up to date for various programs/grants such as Nutrient Management plans and the On Farm Climate Action fund which typically require a maximum sample size of 25 acres per sample and updated samples at least every 3-4 years

Talk to your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor about the strategy for updating your soil samples!

Winter Wheat Seed Bed Management

Wheat planting is on our doorstep and many growers will be gearing up to plant wheat following their soybean crop. The job we do this fall ensuring our wheat gets off on the right foot is directly responsible in determining our 2023 wheat yield. With current market values there are significant opportunities for growing wheat. Maximizing the spread of residue is very important, particularly in no-till situations, and can be challenging to incorporate properly, even in conventional systems.

Now is the time to start thinking:

- ✓ It may be required to make a pass of tillage to meet our seedbed needs.
- ✓ Seed placement and promoting a strong germination environment will help ensure we maintain top end yield.
- ✓ Making sure our planting equipment is set up to properly place the seed can be a field-to-field decision.

Spending a few minutes behind the drill or seeder this fall to dial in the seed could help ramp up production!

Stop Accidents Before They Happen

With fall harvest gearing up, there comes long days of late nights and early mornings and tired workers. Be sure to follow proper lockout procedures on all equipment before doing any daily maintenance.

- ✓ Make sure equipment is fully shut down and remove the key to avoid unintended start-up of machinery.
- ✓ Let other workers know of your intent to perform any type of work to a machine.
- ✓ Be sure to check all equipment, and ensure that brakes, tires, mirrors, lights, and chains are in safe and working order.
- ✓ Check that fire extinguishers are full, working, and accessible on all equipment.



In Canada 13% of farm related fatalities are from traffic related accidents most of which involved tractors and almost half of all collisions occurred in the period of July to September. **Safety Doesn't Happen by Accident** – Avoid busy roads wherever possible; ensure operators are trained and licensed; travel at a speed that will allow you to always maintain full control; if possible, move equipment in daylight periods during light traffic; obey all traffic laws and signs; **You must** use visible light signals or hand signals if lights are not available/visible. This may require the use of additional escort vehicles or lighting.

Upcoming Events

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

Sept 20th – Obsolete Chemical Day in Orangeville

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

Sept 30th – Deadline for 2023 Holmes Agro Picture Submission

Oct 1st – Dufferin Farm Tour www.dufferinfarmtour.com

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

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