



The Spring Seeding Rate Limbo – How Low Can You Go?

As we begin gearing up for spring and thinking about setting up the planters/drills, one thing that may come to mind is your seeding rate. Your final plant population has a big influence on final yield and spending some time finding the right seeding rate for your field is worthwhile.

Here are 3 key things to think about when choosing your population:

- 1) **Hybrid/Variety:** Consult with your agronomist on what works best with your soybean variety or corn hybrid (seed companies test seeding rates out!). Based on the genetic architecture of the plant (branchy vs skinny soybeans, upright vs droopy corn leaves), some yield better with higher or lower populations.
- 2) **Soil Type:** Your soil type (OM, CEC, etc) plays a big role in your field's water holding capacity: heavier soils hold water better than lighter soils. As we all are well aware, crops love water. Adjusting our seeding rates accordingly can pay off so the crop is not limited in resources.
- 3) **Fertility Levels:** Much the same as water, crops need nutrients. If you know your soil test levels are on the lower end, you want to ensure your individual plants do not have to compete for nutritional resources. Pulling back on seeding rate can help in the interim while focusing on building soil levels (or if it is an area of the field where the soil type proves difficult to build soil levels).

When creating variable rate seeding scripts, corn and soybeans do respond differently in lower production areas (i.e. low water or nutrient availability). Corn has the ability to flex its cob and compensate in low yielding areas if you drop the population, whereas soybeans require more plants to improve yields of lower production areas.

As always, consult your Holmes Agro agronomist if you want to dive into further discussion on the seeding rate for your farm. There is no one right answer! If you are interested in conducting a seeding rate trial for your farm to find the perfect fit, contact Holmes Agro's precision ag team, we would love to work through this type of trial with you!

Welcome Orangeville New Hires!

We would like to introduce our newest Team Members at our Orangeville location: Makyla Porter has taken on the role of Customer Service and Agronomy Support. She brings a passion for Agriculture and Business as well as experience in livestock farming. Isabella Mauti is working with our Agronomists in a Junior Sales Agronomy position and will be operating our seed warehouse through the spring. Her field research of IPM in horticulture crops will be a great asset to our team. Ehrin Frid has joined us as our Maintenance Lead and will be keeping our equipment primed for all your growing needs. We also have 2 new employees at our fertilizer operations in Orangeville, Jacob Wunder and Tanner Myers-Priddle, who have already proven to be great additions. Welcome to the Holmes Agro Team!

Soil Sampling With Precision - Soil Optix

Traditional bulk sampling, grid sampling, and zone sampling have been a main focus for many years, but new technologies are once again raising the bar for what we can achieve through soil sampling. Want to take your decision-making to the next level? Explore the option of soil mapping with soil optix from our partner Deveron. This form of mapping uses sensor technology and soil cores to offer the most in-depth look at your soil. The result is a highly detailed map of soil variations within the field that can then be used for variable rate applications and management decisions. Check out this month's MyFarm email blast on soil sampling for more soil sampling info. [Click Here](#)

'Watch Us Grow' Construction Update

Our current construction project at the Orangeville location is a new 80' X 160' seed warehouse. With the footings already in place, the crew was able to start framing the second week of January. The roof went on the first week of February with walls following shortly behind. Currently the warehouse is nearing completion with the cement floor being poured. We are well on our way to meeting our goal of having the building move in ready by early March! This will allow us to expand our seed storage, and expand our storage space for bagged fertilizer and equipment.



2023 Service Rates

The Holmes Agro team continues to pride ourselves on providing positive customer experiences for all of our growers! We strive to maintain a high level of service that both our customers and our Holmes Agro team expect from ourselves by providing a safe working environment with a fleet of reliable & updated equipment along with a professional & credible workforce. To continue forward and build on customer expectations while maintaining our vision we find ourselves in a position to increase our service fees for the 2023 crop year to keep up with cost pressures such as labour, repairs/maintenance, and equipment, all of which are expenses that have steadily increased industry wide. We look forward to servicing your crop needs again for 2023 and continuing our motto of 'Working to Grow With You'.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (519) 941-0450 or talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist.

What's New with Dicamba? Tavium & RoundupXtend2

We are excited to offer Tavium from Syngenta in our crop protection line up for 2023. This chemistry combines 2 well known actives of Dual II Magnum and dicamba. The Dual II Magnum provides control of the majority of annual grasses and the dicamba portion improves your control of broadleaves and perennial weed pressure. This will be one of our custom application products of choice for 2023, be sure to ask your Holmes Agro crop advisor if this is a good fit for your Xtend soybean acres.



The Bayer RoundupXtend premix of glyphosate and dicamba and Xtendimax formulation of dicamba has been on the market for many years. As of 2023 we will be supplying the new RoundupXtend2 and Xtendimax2 formulations which provide the same benefits of the original product formulation with an increased active ingredient concentration allowing for a lower application rate.



Setting Up Your Planter

The importance of planting in ideal conditions, using the optimal seed variety, and treatment for your ground is emphasized in many agronomic conversations. **Preparatory planter maintenance and tune up** should not be overlooked during these conversations! Studies show that planter condition affects the quality of stand establishment, and superior stand establishment is **critical to optimizing yield**.

- ☐ **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.

Stop and check your depth, seed drop, and row closure throughout the planting season! Make sure what is happening in the cab matches the field conditions.

Seed Deliveries 2023

The first day of spring is less than a month away! Our office team will be calling to schedule delivery times for your seed orders this month. Please let us know if you are able to take an early delivery.

Upcoming Dates

March 2nd – Grower Pesticide Course, Refresh & Renew – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner

March 4th & 23rd – Grower Pesticide Course, Refresh & Renew – Holmes Agro, Orangeville

March 8-10th – London Farm Show londonfarmshow.com/

March 21st – March Classic gfo.ca/

September 19-23rd – International Plowing Match, Bowling Green, ON plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/