

## Meeting Soybeans Sulfur Needs

Sulfur is a key nutritional player for increased soybean yields. Often overlooked in a nutritional plan, sulfur can increase pod set and pod fill, leading to higher yields. There are a few different options available to feed a soybean crops sulfur hunger such ammonium sulfate (AMS) (21-0-0-24S), ammonium thiosulfate (ATS) (12-0-0-26S), and elemental sulfur (S85XP) (0-0-0-85S). Industrial emissions processing changes have resulted in a decrease in atmospheric sulfur. Crops can no longer rely on atmospheric sulfur (S) to meet crop S needs.

Balanced crop nutrition is critical in the early, mid-season and late growing phases of soybeans. The most effective sulfur management plan should include early and late-season availability. Sulfate sulfur (AMS or ATS) is available immediately to the crop while elemental sulfur (S85XP) oxidizes for late-season availability. In Southern Ontario, a general rule of thumb suggests that “early plantings” (before May 20) are likely to experience a positive yield response when co-applying available nitrogen and sulfur sources like AMS and ATS. This is because cooler soils in the early spring slow/limit the amount of N and S available from soil mineralization and even though soybeans supply most of their own nitrogen through nodulation this does not occur till the 2<sup>nd</sup> trifoliolate stage.

Talk to your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor and check out these articles for more information on maximizing the sulfur in your soybean fertility program [sylvite.ca/revolutionizing-soybean-production/](http://sylvite.ca/revolutionizing-soybean-production/) [www.agriculture.com/crops/soybeans/sulfur-surprise-in-soybeans](http://www.agriculture.com/crops/soybeans/sulfur-surprise-in-soybeans)

## Grower Pesticide Renewal

We have dates set for the new year for the Grower Pesticide Safety Courses at our Orangeville and Stayner locations. Please have a look at your existing cards and make plans for renewal. The course will still be offered online with multiple dates currently listed and more dates to become available in the future based on demand. Bookings can be made online at [www.opec.ca](http://www.opec.ca) or by calling 1-800-652-8573. Payments must be made ahead of time as course instructors are no longer accepting payments at the courses. Books are available at our offices for pick up anytime. Please make sure you have this in place before the upcoming year!

**Refresh and Renew:** Friday January 26<sup>th</sup> – Holmes Agro, Orangeville  
Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick’s Parish Hall, Stayner  
Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> – Holmes Agro, Orangeville  
Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick’s Parish Hall, Stayner  
Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Holmes Agro, Orangeville

## 4 R Nutrient Stewardship – Right Source

Holmes Agro is a strong believer in the “4R” approach to nutrient management. One of these components is using the “Right Source”, a key decision in any fertilizer recommendation and a current soil test will help identify areas of strengths and improvement required. Understanding how different nutrients are available within the soil (mobile vs immobile) and how this impacts plant uptake impacts decisions on what products are best suited for that field and crop. The ability to apply micronutrients either as a coating or within a homogeneous peril allows for a more even distribution of key micronutrients for all plants, and often at a lower rate of application because of placement. There are several strategies available for nitrogen applications to include inhibitors and slow-release products for risk mitigation of off sight movement and environmental losses. Technology advancements in fertilizer products and application offer an improved system management.



Talk to your Holmes Agro Agronomist to discuss what solutions best suit your needs! Check out [fertilizercanada.ca/our-focus/stewardship/](http://fertilizercanada.ca/our-focus/stewardship/) for more information and resources on the 4 R Nutrient Stewardship Program and Principles.



## Pre Spring Planter Setup Checklist

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.

## Ready When Nature Strikes

Did you know that Holmes Agro is a supplier of various ice melt products? We are happy to offer the ProMelt product line for any of your ice melt needs. ProMelt products are more effective at lower temperatures and are less corrosive compared to other options. Having the product-coloured helps with ease in application to ensure efficient use. We also offer a pet friendly ice melt product called ProMelt Enhanced!



Stop by any of our locations or check out [www.holmesagro.com/winterproducts](http://www.holmesagro.com/winterproducts) for more information!

## We're Hiring

Want to work in an energetic and positive environment surrounded by a team of people helping you learn and grow? We're hiring for the 2024 season!

Visit our website to check out employment opportunities [www.holmesagro.com/employment/fulltime](http://www.holmesagro.com/employment/fulltime) and submit your resume by email to [WatchUsGrow@holmesagro.com](mailto:WatchUsGrow@holmesagro.com) or by fax at 519-941-0931, attention Michelle Lillie. #WatchUsGrow

## 2025 Calendar Submissions

It's never too early to send in pictures for next year's 2025 Holmes Agro calendar. We want to see your winter scenes! Every year we are proud to be able to provide a calendar of grower pictures, all thanks to your great submissions. Send your calendar picture submissions to [calendar@holmesagro.com](mailto:calendar@holmesagro.com).

## Upcoming Events

- January 3, to 5 – Southwest Agricultural Conference
- January 3 to 9 – Grey Bruce Farmers Week
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, Holmes Agro, Orangeville
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, Holmes Agro, Orangeville
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, Holmes Agro, Orangeville

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

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