



[Holmes Agro will be closed Monday February 19th for Family Day](#)

Save The Date – Next Level Ag Discussion

Holmes Agro & Collwest Grain Ltd are excited to host the 2024 Next Level Ag Discussion at the St. Patrick's Hall in Stayner, ON on March 7th from 10 am - 3 pm. The day will include a variety of agronomic & marketing topics as well as keynote speaker Jill Heinerth. **Click here to register** <https://forms.gle/gB4zvxAy6GBF9SCTA> by February 29th.

Foundation Herbicide Programs

Now more than ever we know the importance of building strong herbicide programs with multiple modes of action is critical for high yielding crop production. With glyphosate resistant fleabane now in full swing, and waterhemp on the horizon we need to be more rigorous than ever on our herbicide program choices and resulting level of control. One resistant plant in year 1, becomes a patch of resistant weeds in year 2, and becomes a field full of resistant weeds in year 3. Weed seeds travel by wind, with equipment, through wildlife and livestock manure, and can even travel in seed. What we do as individuals on our own operations will impact surrounding farms, townships, counties, and our province.



The good news is our toolbox for managing resistant weeds continues to evolve. As always, the best strategy in weed control is a foundational approach with pre-plant, pre-emerge or early post emerge applications. Products like Acuron on corn and Triactor EZ on soybeans give multiple modes of action activity with strong residual. On enlist or extend beans, products like Boundary alone, or Bifecta provide an application of metribuzin which is the foundation for fleabane control. The reality of the world today is that “one and done” herbicide programs are becoming a thing of the past, so be ready for 2nd pass applications and/or even pre-harvest applications that target escaped weed species effectively.

Talk to your agronomist about the abundance of choices available and good luck out there in 2024!

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.opep.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 during regular office hours. Please make sure you have this in place before the upcoming year!

Refresh and Renew: Friday February 9th – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
Saturday February 24th – Holmes Agro, Orangeville
Friday March 8th – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
Friday March 22nd – Holmes Agro, Orangeville

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 and submit your resume by email to WatchUsGrow@holmesagro.com or by fax at 519-941-0931, attention Michelle Lillie.

Seed Deliveries

The first day of spring is just over 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.

4R Nutrient Stewardship – Right Rate

The right 'rate' is the 2nd principle of nutrient management of 4R nutrient stewardship. Accurately assessing the nutrients supplied from the soil and demanded by the plant based on realistic and meaningful yield goals, crop residue credits, and manure application credits is important to determining the overall nutritional needs of the crop and the rate of additional fertility needed. The use of routine soil sampling is helpful to estimate soil nutrient levels and check that the soil is not being depleted over time. Variability in the field is another consideration, be aware of the inconsistencies in soil type and texture and adjust the yield goal to be realistic of the soil/field conditions.



Be sure to discuss how you can continue to implement 4R principles by recording your yield goals and continuous soil sample discussions in your 2024 crop plans with your agronomist!

New Technologies to Look Out For

From self-testing soil and tissue technologies to AI for combating misinformation. 2024 seems to be the year for new commercialized technology that has immediate value, and we're excited to take a deeper look.

Picketa Systems LENS – A company out of New Brunswick has created an automatic tissue tester which simultaneously uploads data to its software. The LENS can test potato tissue confidently and are building their data pool for other crops including carrots, onions, and field crops. This technology allows growers to get tissue results in real time to ensure you are applying the right products at the right time. The LENS provides an opportunity to improve precision ag, enhance our sustainability and increase yields, we are excited to learn more from Picketa Systems.

Precision Planting: Radicle Agronomics – Everything starts with the soil. Precision Planting has created an in-house soil testing lab to improve the soil testing process and in turn, our ability to make recommendations based on soil data. As seen at Agritechnia this year, Radicle Agronomics is powered by a lab, Geotubes, and Geopress technologies to test 100's of soil samples daily. The Radicle Lab is a fully automated soil laboratory that is relatively small scale. Once tested, all soil data is uploaded to its own cloud software to be further analyzed by Agronomists.

KungFu AI: Artificial Intelligence Use in Potato Industry – We've all heard of AI becoming more commonplace in our lives, whether for better or worse. KungFU AI uses their AI filters to search the internet looking for posts, news articles and blogs that discuss information related to the potato industry and craft responses to lower the impact that false information has on the industry. This software uses fact-based articles to respond and is then checked by a human for accuracy before being posted. This is a great example of how Artificial Intelligence can be used to benefit the Ag industry.

Third Party Loan Due Dates

All eligible crop input purchases between Sep 01 /22 and Aug 31 /23 have a repay date by **Feb 23, 2024, for Scotiabank Yield More financing. FCC Crop Input financing is due by March 15, 2024.** New feature - you can now pay directly through your FCC Online Services account: onlineservices.fcc-fac.ca. There is no penalty if you pay early, and funds become available once again.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (519) 941-0450

Upcoming Dates

February 9th – Grower Pesticide Course, St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
February 24th – Grower Pesticide Course, Holmes Agro, Orangeville
March 7th – Next Level Ag Discussion, St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
March 8th – Grower Pesticide Course, St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
March 19th – March Classic, RBC Place, London gfo.ca/about/2024-march-classic/
March 22nd – Grower Pesticide Course, Holmes Agro, Orangeville

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

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