



Reminder Holmes Agro will be closed Friday, March 29th, for Good Friday

'Watch Us Grow' – Orangeville Open House

Mark your calendars for the Orangeville Open House & Plant Tour! On Thursday, April 4th at 10 am, we're throwing open the doors to the new fertilizer plant at the Orangeville location for guided tours and lunch. Be sure to RSVP by calling the Orangeville Office at (519) 941-0450 or using the QR code below before March 31st.

We will be collecting non-perishable food bank donations to be donated to our local food bank.



Stabilizing Your Nitrogen

Best management practices for nitrogen along with nutrient stewardship continue to be a hot topic of discussion. The use of nitrogen stabilizers, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and biological products remain a very viable and achievable strategy when continuing nitrogen management conversations.

Holmes Agro continues to work with industry partners to provide tools and strategies to best align with the 4R Nutrient Stewardship of Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place and Right Source. For 2024 we are excited to continue to offer Neon Air as our main nitrogen stabilizing product. Neon Air offers both above and below ground protection against nitrogen losses and can be used on both dry (urea) and liquid (UAN) nitrogen fertilizers.

Ask your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor about how we can incorporate nitrogen management tools including nitrogen stabilizers such as Neon Air into your 2024 crop plans.

4R – Achieving 4R Principles with Through Crop Planning

As a 4R certified retailer with all 3 locations of Orangeville, Redickville, and Stayner achieving 4R certification, Holmes Agro is committed to continuing to uphold the 4R principles of right source, right rate, right time, right place. This requires fertility recommendations that are economically, agronomically, and environmentally sound along with improved record keeping. The MyFarm record keeping system continues to be a great resource for maintaining the accurate and up-to-date records that 4R requires. Growers can continue to support the 4R nutrient stewardship program through their 2024 crop planning by:

- ✓ Creating & reviewing your fertility plans with your agronomist (be sure to sign them)
- ✓ Managing for in field variability and recording the differences in yield potential between fields.
- ✓ Maintaining up to date soil sample records with samples updated at least every 4 years.
- ✓ Identifying environmentally sensitive areas within your fields.
- ✓ Continuing to use 4R practices of cover crops, nitrogen stabilizers, and enhanced efficiency fertilizers (ESN)

Want to know more about the 4R program? Check out the fertilizercanada.ca website for more information.

Custom Application Etiquette

In preparation for the upcoming spring, we would like to remind growers of the impact they have on the efficiency of the Holmes Agro custom application equipment. Operators and drivers work long hours during the peak season to ensure the product is being applied as accurately and efficiently as possible. Even though technology has increased the productivity of machinery and applicators, ensuring the following is done before machinery arrives at the field can reduce machinery idle/down time.

1. **Fields are easily accessible** – Sprayers and terrigators need 15 ft height and 14 ft width clearance to get into fields. Trim overhanging branches.
2. **Open gates** – Reduces time spent by operators waiting for gate keys or lock codes.
3. **Accurate acres** – Allows operators to be prepared with sufficient product to complete the field and reduces downtime waiting on additional product.
4. **Communication is key** – Understanding the hybrid & variety placement for custom spraying applications allows spray applications to be bundled based on herbicide trait packages.

The Holmes Agro team continues to pride ourselves on providing positive customer experiences for all of our growers! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (519) 941-0450 or talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist.

Seed Deliveries

The first day of spring is almost here! 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.

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.

2025 Calendar Pictures

It's never too early to send in pictures for next year's 2025 Holmes Agro calendar. We want to see your winter and spring 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.

Upcoming Dates

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
April 4th – Orangeville Open House & Tour, Holmes Agro, Orangeville

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

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