



Reminder Holmes Agro will be closed Monday, August 5th, for the Civic Holiday;
Wednesday, August 28th (in the afternoon) for Inventory Count;
Monday, September 2nd, for Labour Day

Bringing Diversity to Your Rotation – Winter Wheat

There are many reasons to keep winter cereals in the rotation as it helps maintain a sustainable cropping system, improve soil health and structure when in a diverse rotation, spreads out your yearly workload, can break disease cycles and help lower the risk of compaction, cover crop systems can be easily implemented, and wheat can increase soil biological activity and help for better water infiltration. The use of certified seed for your winter wheat crop can come with various benefits such as:

Seed quality – uniform seed size, germination tested, fewer damaged kernels; **Clean seed** – free of weed seed; **Genetic purity**; Increased disease resistance and is typically treated which can help **improve emergence and vigor**.

Our highlighted varieties for this fall include:

Blaze (SRW) – Top-level yield performance, strong fusarium tolerance this variety can perform well across all soil types [Click here](#)

Hilliard (SRW) – Strong yields with great standability [Click Here](#)

Swoop (SRW) – Excellent winter survivability with top yields. [Click Here](#)

Pro 81 (HRWW) – Very strong yield and class-topping protein. Medium height with great standability and good performance on all soils [Click here](#)

Adrianus (HRWW) – Perfect combo yield and protein, good disease package, great standability with a short-statured plant [Click here](#)

The suggestion for most soils in Ontario is to use a seeding rate of 1.6 million seeds per acre when planting at the optimal time. If planting wheat past the optimal timing it is recommended that the seeding rate be increased by 100 000 seeds for every 7 days that pass. [Click Here](#) to find your optimum wheat planting date. Early order deadlines are fast approaching. Speak to your agronomist today about your options for fall-seeded cereals.

Setting Your Field Up for Success – Soil Sampling & Cover Crops

Soil sampling is a fundamental component of all fertilizer recommendations and nutrient management! Holmes Agro offers several options for soil sampling; soil mapping using Soil Optix takes your decision-making to the next level using sensor technology and soil cores to offer the most in-depth look at your soil, a zone sample is taking soil cores from predetermined high, moderate, & low yielding areas, versus a grid sample is placing a grid over top of the field (normally in 2.5 acres cells) and taking a sample at each point, versus a bulk sample which gives a general overview.

Wheat, canola, soy, corn, barley rely heavily on base fertility, which is why it is important to adjust rates to appropriate levels based on soil samples, yield goals, crop removal, and future planning! Utilizing 4R Nutrient Stewardship, soil sampling, and cover crops are great tools that your Holmes Agro agronomist can help with to reach your crop goals and develop a fall fertility plan! Utilizing these practices also increases yield, optimizes plant nutrient uptake, and maximizes profitability while maintaining soil integrity for generations to come.

Check out Holmes Agro (holmesagro.com/agronomy/soil-sampling/) and Soil Optix (soiloptix.com/what-is-soiloptix/frequently-asked-questions/) websites for more information or ask your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor how to get the most out of your soil sampling practices this summer/fall.

SHAP Program – Soils At Guelph

Did you know Soils At Guelph & OMAFRA have a [Soil Health Assessment and Plan \(SHAP\) tool](#) available. They are looking for participants in the program. With your help, the Soils At Guelph SHAP Ground-Truthing Project will help to populate the SHAP database with more agricultural soils from across Ontario. This is critically important to building scoring functions to compare individual samples to other soils. They aim to refine scoring functions based on texture.

To register to participate, please email soils@uoquelp.ca with your **name**, **county**, and the **number** of fields/orchards/vineyards you'd like to sample. The project can cover the cost of one sample analysis per field/orchard/vineyard for Ontario Farms.

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Empty Bin
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Don't let insects get a foothold in your grain bins. Apply “Protect-It” to your empty grain bin or mix it with your grain going into storage. Nobody wants a rejected load of grain because of bugs so be proactive and treat your bins today. The unique patented formulation leaves no chemical residue, eliminating insects by “super dehydration”.

Be sure to check your bins for insects and stop the problem before it becomes an issue and protect your grain and your profits for pennies a bushel with “Protect-It”. Contact us today to get yourself covered.

Important – Temporary Location Closure – All Locations

As we look towards the end of one growing cycle and move to the next, it is important that Holmes Agro take the time to ensure accuracy. **We will be CLOSED at all locations Wednesday, August 28th at noon for our annual inventory count**, and will resume regular operations Thursday, Aug 29th.

Please plan ahead and make arrangements to have your requirements fulfilled prior to noon on the 28th, as we will be unable to move inventory during this period. If you have any concerns or would like to place an order in advance, please reach out to your Holmes Agro agronomist, or to any of our three locations.

We appreciate your understanding as we strive to provide excellent service!

Watch It Grow

Keep an eye out for ‘Watch It Grow’ signs throughout the area this summer. Let your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor know if you would like a ‘Watch It Grow’ sign by your field this summer!

Did you know – Ontario grew over 1 million acres of winter wheat in 2024 which is close to 70% of Canada’s total winter wheat acres. The majority of Ontario wheat is utilized domestically primarily through domestic milling, and animal feed. Swine and poultry consume the highest amount of wheat in feed rations. (Source: Statistics Canada & Grain Farmers of Ontario).

Scouting update – The stretch of nice warm weather at the end of July also pushed the total crop heat unit accumulation to above the long-term average in many areas as well as helped winter wheat harvest to progress. Early to mid-planted corn has begun to tassel, now is the time to get out and scout for Western Bean Cutworm egg masses, along with checking fields for disease pressure, corn rootworm pressure, and nutrient deficiencies.

Calendar 2025

Keep sending in pictures for the 2025 calendar. We are proud to be able to provide a calendar full of grower pictures year after year – all thanks to your great submissions! Please email your photos to calendar@holmesagro.com.

The last day to submit your pictures for the 2025 calendar will be September 27th

Upcoming Dates

August 1st – OSCIA On Farm Climate Action Fund Application Window Opens www.ontariosoilcrop.org/cost-share-programs/

August 5th – All Locations Closed for Civic Holiday

August 28th (afternoon) – All Locations Closed for Inventory Day

September 2nd – All Locations Closed for Labour Day Monday

September 10 to 12th – Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show

September 27th – 2025 Holmes Agro Calendar Picture Submission Deadline

September 28th – Dufferin Farm Tour dufferinfarmtour.com/

October 1 to 5th – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo, Lindsay ON

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

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