

# Holmes Agro-Nomic Newsletter

## October 2024

Thanksgiving Hours: Open Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> 8am-12pm;

Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> 8am – 12pm



### Improving your Yields and Soil Health with Crop Rotations

As opposed to continuous cropping or having a tight rotation, there are many benefits of having a strategic crop rotation as part of your farm operation, which include but are not limited to:

**Improved soil health** – Different root systems and crop residue can help with overall soil health and maintain or improve soil structure, thus helping with water and air infiltration.

**Prevent soil erosion** - Maintaining or improving soil structure will help prevent soil erosion. Crops such as alfalfa or winter wheat keep the ground covered and actively growing a crop. Winter wheat also allows for a cover crop strategy to be part of the crop rotation.

**Interrupt pest and disease cycles** - Continuous cropping can lead to a buildup of pests over time. Having a crop rotation breaks up the life cycle of these pests.

**Weed management** - By following a crop rotation, a herbicide rotation can also be implemented, which will allow for different herbicide groups to be applied, or a window for fall burndowns.

**Allow for soil amendments** - Having a cereal as part of the crop rotation creates an opportunity for soil amendments such as lime to be applied, as well as additional fertilizer applications and cover crops.

**Increase crop yields** - The overall benefit is to maintain or leave the soil in better shape than when we started and thus improve crop yields and profitability.

### Aspire Fertilizer: Unlocking Crop Potential

With fall fertilizer applications well underway and the importance of potassium on everyone's mind it's a good time to think about the differences in the products we have available in today's market. The most common and economical means of applying fall potassium remains in the form of muriate (red) potash which offers the highest concentration of potassium in the most economical form. Applying potash is great for strictly building k levels where the balance of magnesium is in check (10-15% Mg Base Saturation) and boron readings are adequate (0.8-1.2ppm). Growers on lighter soils trying to build potash levels while also requiring magnesium need to look at K-Mag either as an alternative or as part of a blend with red potash. If your base saturation of Mg is less than 8% then you should be examining these options. Most growers are aware of Aspire at this point which is a newer entrant to the potassium fertilizer market. This product contains 0.5% B which is great for soils with low boron tests, which is becoming more and more common as soil boron levels decline across the province. Aspire® is a single granule with potassium and two forms of boron—quick-release, and gradual-release. This provides uniform nutrient distribution at the root level all season long. This approach has proven to be far superior than a traditional blend of red potash and 10% boron products which at low application rates do not provide adequate coverage and distribution of boron. For more information on Aspire you can visit [www.cropnutrition.com/crop-nutrition/aspire/](http://www.cropnutrition.com/crop-nutrition/aspire/) where they have a plethora of product information and trial results showing increased yields across various crops. Make this a discussion point with your crop advisor this fall and heading into spring 2025.

### NK Seed Update – Written by Emma Dieleman, NK Seeds Agronomist

The NK seeds team is super excited to get into another harvest season and have some awesome new genetics to offer customers for the 2025 seed selling season. We are incredibly excited to be introducing our biggest hybrid launch class in 10 years bringing 8 new corn hybrids to the market from the 85-108RM. Here's a look at a few of the new genetics to watch out for this season:

**NK8558-AA** is a great early season emerger, giving it a jump start in early-planting situations or in cool soils. Along with superb emergence, this hybrid dries down well allowing placement north of its zone. NK8558-AA excels in medium to fine textured soil types with high organic matter and can perform well across yield environments.

**NK8711-V** is a great new hybrid filling the gap in NK's portfolio between 85 and 89 RM hybrids. This hybrid offers exciting yield potentials and yield stability across environments. NK8711-V was one of the first out of the ground this season, with amazing emergence and excellent early season growth. It has great grain quality and test weight with excellent late season plant health.

The new **NK9044-AA** hybrid is an excellent fit for fine textured, clay soil types and excels in low-yielding environments. With great late season standability and roots and excellent emergence and seedling vigor, this hybrid is an excellent choice for the stress- prone and variable acre. This hybrid responds well to late season fungicide applications to maintain plant health.



NK8711-V vs. Competitor

## Safety Doesn't Happen by Accident

With the fall harvest and planting season gearing up, there comes long days of late nights, early mornings, and tired workers. Here are the top 5 safety tips to ensure a secure and productive harvest:

1. **Equipment Checks:** Prioritize equipment inspections before harvest. Ensure safety guards are in place, and all machinery is in good working condition.
2. **Training Matters:** Equip your team with proper training and regularly conduct safety sessions to reinforce best practices.
3. **Field Awareness:** Assess field conditions for slope, terrain, and moisture levels. Adjust operations accordingly.
4. **PPE Essentials:** Mandate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including helmets, gloves and hearing protection.
5. **Additional Safety Tips:**
  - o **Working in Low Light:** When working in the dark, ensure all lights, flashers, and reflective tape on your equipment is functional. Be especially cautious during twilight and nighttime operations.
  - o **Cold or Wet Conditions:** Dress appropriately for cold or wet weather. Wear layers, waterproof gear, and insulated footwear to stay warm and dry, reducing the risk of cold related illnesses.
  - o **Bin Safety:** When working around grain bins, be cautious of suffocation hazards. Never enter a bin without proper safety measures and equipment. Train your team on proper grain bin safety procedures.

Wishing everyone a safe harvest and fall planting season from the Holmes Agro Team!

## My Soybeans are too dry, what is the impact of this?

Soybeans are considered dry at 13% moisture. What is the impact when they are at 10%? This moisture difference means we don't get back the weight lost from water, which can drop yields by 3%. These losses are purely from moisture and don't include additional losses from shattering. The rule to keep in mind is you lose 0.11bu per 10bu yield for every point of moisture below 13%. Another point to consider in setting the combine for harvest is your tolerance for soybean seed loss at the header and the spreader. Depending on seed size, we can lose one bushel for every 4 to 5 seeds per square foot on the ground. Poorly set sieves and high fans can lose many seeds out the rear. Header loss can account for significant loss, especially as the fields dry out or go through several wet-dry cycles. Target seed loss should be less than 3%.

## Clean Farms Last Day – October 18th

Clean Farms collections are still open, we are accepting returns until **October 18th, 2024**. Jugs must always be triple rinsed, with lids and labels removed. If there is product remaining in empty jugs, the bag will be rejected as improperly cleaned jugs and cannot be recycled. Please call the office to be directed to the drop-off area when on-site. Thanks for your participation!

## Returns For 2024 Season

We accept returns for any unopened, undamaged seed, skids, bulk bags or unopened chemical jugs. We do ask the following:

1. If we are picking up returns at your site, we prefer it if you can be there to help load. If you cannot be, please leave returns out for us, and if required, we will ask for approval to use your equipment.
2. If you are bringing returns to any of our locations, please ensure all products are on a skid to help ease the unloading process. Please call ahead to let us know you are bringing back returns.
3. Winter Wheat seed returns are due back by **November 11th**.



## Did You Know – Soybean Edition

As we are in the thick of soybean harvest, here's a look at some of the facts of this versatile crop! SoyCanada.ca says, soybeans are the fourth largest in seeded acres, third in cash receipts of the principal field crops and were over 5.6 million seeded acres in 2023. Only in the last 50 years have they been produced in substantial volume outside of southern Ontario, with a 13% growth in overall production in the last 10 years. Ontario accounts for 58% of total production, with Manitoba at 22%, Quebec at 18% and Maritimes at 1%. Two-thirds of the soybeans grown in Canada are exported for high quality food-grade, or for processing into a range of feed and industrial products. The largest market for Canadian soybean is China (34.7%).

## Upcoming Events

October 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo, Lindsay, ON

October 14<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving – Holmes Agro offices open 8am-12pm

October 18<sup>th</sup> – LAST DAY Clean Farms Collection

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Winter Wheat seed return deadline

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