

Newsletter

December 2024

Thank you for helping to make this year a success. We wish all the best to you and yours over the coming holiday season!

Holiday Hours: Open December 24th & 31st from 8AM-12PM (Orangeville & Stayner) Closed December 25th, 26th, & January 1st Regular office hours will resume January 2nd, 2025 (Orangeville & Stayner)

Top of Mind Agronomic Topics Driving Success in 2025

Looking ahead to 2025, key agronomic trends and challenges are shaping conversations among advisors and growers, from crop protection to fertility management. Here are some discussion points for the year ahead.

1. Crop Protection – Soybean Crop Protection

Choosing the right herbicide program for your soybean crop starts with understanding your farm's specific needs. Whether you choose Enlist or Xtend soybeans, it's essential to tailor a pre-emergence program that addresses your weed species and pressure. The decision between Enlist and Xtend depends on local growing conditions, weed challenges, and the ability to follow strict application guidelines. By evaluating these factors, you can select the most effective program for optimal weed control and crop protection.

2. Crop Rotations – Advancing Sustainability in Agriculture

Crop rotations align well with the principles of 4R Nutrient Stewardship, promoting sustainability and improving nutrient management. Sustainable crop rotation practices help with integrated pest management, improve resilience to climate variability, and boost long-term soil productivity.

3. Soil Sample – Essential for Crop Success

Understanding your soil fertility is crucial for growing high-yielding crops. Soil sampling helps determine the right amount of fertilizer needed, optimizing nutrient application to improve crop health and maximize yields. It not only supports cost-effective fertilizer use but also enhances your return on investment by ensuring efficient resource management.

Contact your Holmes Agro advisor to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Fertilizer Market Update

As of late 2024, the prices of key agricultural fertilizers-urea, MAP (monoammonium phosphate), and potash-have experienced fluctuations driven by global supply chain dynamics, geopolitical tensions, and changing agricultural demands. Urea saw price strength from late August into early September but has since leveled off, with little movement in recent weeks. Among the three major fertilizers, MAP has demonstrated the most significant price increase. Tightened supplies from major producers such as Morocco and Russia, coupled with fluctuating demand from regions like North America and India, along with increased import duties, have all contributed to higher MAP prices. This trend is expected to persist through the winter period. Potash prices have remained relatively stable in recent weeks, but supply disruptions from Belarus and Russia are likely to prevent any significant price reductions through the first quarter of 2025. Overall, fertilizer prices remain highly sensitive to shifts in global crop demand, logistical challenges, and the ongoing effects of the war in Ukraine, which continues to disrupt the global fertilizer market.

Redickville Winter Hours

Effective December 1st, our Redickville location has transitioned to being open by appointment only. Please call ahead (519) 925-3138 to ensure someone is there if you are looking to come to the office. We will resume our regular hours April 1st, 2025.

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*********** Check holmesagro.com for general information and upcoming dates *********

Watch Us Grow – Welcome Husein

Husein Siamwalla has joined our Orangeville team as an Agronomy Intern. Over the winter, Husein will support various business needs before transitioning to our Chem and Seed warehouses for the 2025 season. Please help us in welcoming Husein to our team!

Grower Pesticide Course Offerings

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 <u>www.opep.ca</u> 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 31st – Holmes Agro, Orangeville Friday February 21st – Holmes Agro, Orangeville TBD – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner Friday March 21st – Holmes Agro, Orangeville TBD – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner

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. ProMelt products 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 our website for more information! <u>holmesagro.com/winterproducts</u>

Holmes Agro Credit Update During Canada Post Strike

To ensure timely receipt of your monthly Holmes Agro account transactions, we recommend signing up for emailed statements and invoices. Please reachout receivables@holmesagro.com

Reminder, our account payment terms are net 20th of the following month. Sending payments by mail may incur service charges from becoming lost or delayed. We advise using alternate forms of payment, including online banking, e-transfer or paying in person at our office. Feel free to contact us at 519-941-0450 to set up. Thank you.

Giving During the Holiday Season

We at Holmes Agro would like to thank you for your friendship and partnership over the past year. Wishing you and your family a safe and bright New Year! As a part of our gift, we donate to the following organizations to help during this time of need including 6 local foodbanks across our Holmes Agro communities, local Red Cross, and Meals on Wheels.

Upcoming Dates

December 10th-12th - Great Lakes Expo – Grand Rapids, Michigan December 24th – Operating 8am-12pm December 25th-26th – ALL LOCATIONS CLOSED December 31st – Operating 8am-12pm January 1st – ALL LOCATIONS CLOSED January 7th-8th – Southwest Agricultural Conference - Ridgetown January 8th -14th – Grey Bruce Farmers Week January 17th – Midwest Ag Conference - Waterloo January 31st – Grower Pesticide Course – Holmes Agro, Orangeville

********** Please email <u>emma@holmesagro.com</u> to sign up for our e-newsletter **********

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