



# Holmes Agro-Nomic Newsletter

December 2025



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)

## Driving Success in 2026

The 2025 season was characterized by variability! A cool spring, hot summer, and long fall harvest have growers excited to turn the page to 2026.

### What are your operation's goals for 2026 and how are you going to achieve them?

At Holmes Agro, we have the privilege of working with hundreds of different operations across a variety of environments. The key themes that always seem to drive success involve going back to the basics. Think about yield gains like a ladder or a pyramid: you must work on the fundamentals before you can move to the next level. To fine tune your 2026 crop plan, focus in on getting the basics right: address your base fertility, be strategic with your crop rotation, and refine your weed control plan. Studies show that more diverse crop rotations create resilient soils and cushion yields in a bad year, but also drive yields in a good year ([Field Crop News - Crop Rotation](#)).

Reactionary agronomy and in-season decisions are important, but real change is driven by plans implemented before the crop goes in the ground. Talk to your agronomist this winter about what your biggest hurdles are for 2026 and how we can set you up for success!

## Fertilizer Market Update – Winter 25/26

Overall, the fertilizer market has been pretty stagnant the last few months. The nitrogen market has not been able to reset to the lows of the past winter with tighter supply globally. With China limiting exports and countries like India on an aggressive buying pattern, the market has been kept from further weakness. We have seen improved values the last month with imports creating some opportunities to start layering positions for the 2026 season. In regards to the phosphates, it has been a struggle and we continue to wait on the sidelines for further softening. With high tariffs in the U.S, phosphates have stayed elevated with tight North America supply. Potash has been one commodity that has provided decent value this fall and see small increases over the winter months based on seasonal global demand. As always please reach out to your agronomist to review your crop budgets for 2026. I expect we will see decent value and affordability on fertilizer with a well-prepared crop plan.

## Crop Protection Update

As decisions are being made about what soybean seed varieties you will be growing in the 2026 season make sure you have all the information you need about the herbicides you can use for each variety.

Consider what herbicide tolerance makes the most sense for your operation. Some questions to ask yourself would be as follows: What stubborn weeds am I trying to control? Do I want to do split applications? Am I comfortable spraying dicamba? How am I going to control volunteer corn? These questions and more can help you choose your varieties and help plan your crop protection program for 2026. Reach out to your Holmes Agro agronomist for more information and help with your 2026 planning!

Herbicide Tolerance	Enlist E3 SOYBEANS	POWERUP READY 2 X TEND SOYBEANS	X TEND FLEX SOYBEANS	LIBERTY LINK	Roundup Ready 2 SOYBEANS	Conventional
Glyphosate	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
24-D	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Glufosinate	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Dicamba	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

\*\*\*\*\* Check the website [holmesagro.com](https://holmesagro.com) for general information and upcoming important dates \*\*\*\*\*



## Watch us Grow – Welcome Travis

Travis Buffinga has joined our Orangeville team as of September full time providing support to our growers in Orangeville and to the south. Travis joins us from the Clinton area, bringing valuable farming experience and a four-year business management degree. With his strong passion for agriculture and dedication to working with growers, we are excited to have him as a part of our team!

## ProMelt – Ready When Nature Strikes



Winter is just around the corner – make sure you are ready to beat the ice! Holmes Agro carries ProMelt with a variety of ice melt products to best fit your ice melt needs. ProMelt products are ideal throughout the whole harsh winter season as they are effective down to -20 degrees C. With less corrosive and coloured formulations, ProMelt ensures easy application and efficient use. Consider using ProMelt Enhanced, our pet friendly option! Stop by any of our locations or check out our website for more information!



## 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, 2026.

## 4R Nutrient Stewardship – What Does it Mean for You?

Holmes Agro is proud to have all three of our locations certified as 4R Retailers – but what does that mean for you and your operation? Many of the 4R Principles are fundamental things we work towards already with regular soil testing, rotation, crop planning, cover crops and fertilizer recommendations. Using tools such as our MyFarm software can help to keep track of this important rotational and fertilizer information. This software program is specifically designed for farm operations and is in full compliance with 4R best management practices. We all know that a happy, healthy soil is what supports our best crops, and no one wants to waste money where they don't need to. Working with your Holmes Agro agronomist helps ensure the decisions we make are environmentally sound while maximizing your economic benefits. Ensuring the fertilizer applied is used with the crops in the field in available forms gets you the returns on your investments, reduces fertilizer movement into environmental pollution and improves the long-term care of your land.

Thank you for being part of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship in Ontario!

## Holmes Agro Credit Update During Postal Service Negotiations

To ensure timely receipt of your monthly Holmes Agro account transactions, we recommend signing up for emailed statements and invoices. To enroll, simply reach out to us at [receivables@holmesagro.com](mailto:receivables@holmesagro.com). **Reminder:** our account payment terms are net 20th of the following month. Mailing payments may incur service charges if lost or delayed due to a disruption. We suggest using online banking, e-transfer, or paying in person at our office. Feel free to contact us at 519-941-0450 for assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

## Upcoming Dates

December 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> - Great Lakes Expo – Grand Rapids, Michigan

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Operating 8am-12pm

December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – ALL LOCATIONS CLOSED

December 31<sup>st</sup> – Operating 8am-12pm

January 1<sup>st</sup> – ALL LOCATIONS CLOSED

January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – Southwest Agricultural Conference - Ridgetown

January 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> – Grey Bruce Farmers Week

January 16<sup>th</sup> – Midwest Ag Conference – Waterloo

January 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Guelph Organics Conference

January 30<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Safety Course Refresh and Write – Orangeville

February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Ontario Soil & Crop AGM - Elora

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Grower Pesticide Safety Course Refresh and Write – Stayner

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Safety Course Refresh and Write – Orangeville

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Stayner Winter Grower Meeting

March 5<sup>th</sup> - Grower Pesticide Safety Course Refresh and Write – Stayner

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Safety Full Course - Orangeville

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

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