



Holmes Agro-Nomic Newsletter

February • 2026

Get More from Every Pound of Phosphorus

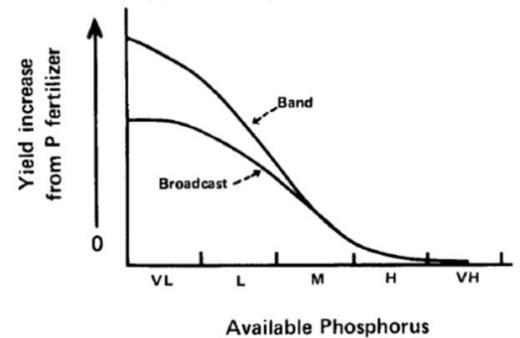
If you want more from every acre, it starts with getting phosphorus in the right place at the right time. Phosphorus is essential for energy transfer, root development, and early plant growth—making it one of the most important nutrients for setting yield potential early in the season.

When crops have access to an available supply of phosphorus at emergence, they establish faster and more uniformly. This leads to larger leaf area, stronger tillering, and deeper, more efficient root systems that are better equipped to capture water and nutrients throughout the growing season. Phosphorus also drives the movement of sugars, fats, and proteins within the plant, supporting strong flowering, seed set, and grain or fruit fill as crops move toward maturity.

Proper placement is what turns phosphorus from an input into an investment. Starter fertilizer applications—whether seed-placed or 2x2 banded—put phosphorus exactly where developing roots can find it early. This targeted placement boosts early vigor, accelerates root growth, and improves nutrient efficiency before plants fully explore the soil profile.

To help you capture these benefits, we offer a proven lineup of phosphorus products and customized starter blends designed to fit your operation. For added flexibility and ease of application, liquid phosphorus options are also available—providing fast uptake and seamless integration with liquid planter systems.

The right phosphorus source, placed correctly, helps crops get off to a strong start and maintain momentum all season long. Work with your crop advisor to build a phosphorus placement strategy tailored to your fields, equipment, and yield goals—and make every pound of phosphorus work harder for your operation.



#WatchUsGrow – We’re Hiring

Holmes Agro is hiring seasonal AZ/DZ Driver-Operators for the growing season. We’re looking to add to our team of dedicated and reliable individuals who provide excellent customer service and represent Holmes Agro. In this role, you’ll not only drive but also serve as an ambassador for Holmes Agro, ensuring great service for our valued customers. The position offers flexibility, making it ideal for those combining it with other seasonal work. Explore exciting career opportunities at www.holmesagro.com/careers or submit your resume to WatchUsGrow@holmesagro.com.

Amazone Boxes

To provide your farm with the custom application services you need, we’ve invested in state-of-the-art equipment, including the Amazone ZG-TS fertilizer spreader. The Amazone is a precise broadcast fertilizer spreading machine, capable of spreading rates as low as 20lbs/ac to more than 1000lbs/ac. It’s adjustable working width allows us to precisely match sprayer track widths from 80 to 120 feet across most fertilizer blends and products.



The Amazone ZG-TS is designed to deliver consistent, accurate coverage even in changing wind conditions. It’s built-in wind-sensing technology detects wind speed and direction and instantly adjusts spinner speed and spread pattern to maintain uniform application across the field. With 16 control sections to manage half passes or odd shaped fields and headlands, plus scale cells that continuously adjust the spreader settings in real-time to ensure the correct rate is always being applied.

Calibration on the Amazone spreader is quick and efficient, allowing us to calibrate frequently and ensure every application is completed accurately and effectively.

Grower Pesticide Renewal

In person dates are set in for the Grower Pesticide Safety Courses, please have a look at your existing cards and make plans for renewal. The course is also offered online with multiple dates currently listed on the website. Bookings can be made online at www.opep.ca or by calling 1-800-652-8573. Payments must be made ahead of time as course instructors no longer accept payment. Books are available at our offices for pick up anytime. Please make sure you have this in place before the upcoming year!

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| Refresh and Renew: | Thursday February 5th – St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, Stayner Friday February 20th – Holmes Agro, Orangeville Thursday March 5th – St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, Stayner |
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| Full Course: | Friday March 25th– Holmes Agro, Orangeville |
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***** Check the website holmesagro.com for general information and upcoming important dates *****

Making Nitrogen Work Smarter

Nitrogen management remains a key driver of both yield and efficiency, and tools such as nitrogen stabilizers, enhanced-efficiency fertilizers, and biological products continue to play an important role in pushing performance further. When used strategically, these technologies help protect your nitrogen investment and improve availability during critical growth stages.

Neon Air is designed to reduce losses and extend nitrogen availability in the field. Neon Air uses an above-ground urease inhibitor to slow ammonia volatilization by limiting urease enzyme activity. It also helps reduce denitrification by inhibiting *Nitrosomonas* bacteria, keeping nitrogen in the ammonium form longer before it converts to nitrate. The result is improved nitrogen stability and increased access for the crop when it needs it most. Research continues to show that across application methods—broadcast, side-dress, or injection—the use of nitrogen stabilizers can significantly improve yield and reduce environmental losses. Multiple studies have demonstrated a yield advantage in corn of up to 8 bushels per acre when a stabilizer is added to urea, along with a 30–50% reduction in nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions.

By combining the right application method with proven nitrogen stabilizers, growers can improve nitrogen use efficiency, protect yield potential, and reduce losses to the environment. Talk with your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor about incorporating nitrogen management tools such as Neon Air into your 2026 crop plans.

Seed Deliveries

The first day of spring is just over a month away! Our office team will be calling to schedule delivery times for your seed orders this month. Please let us know if you can take an early delivery.

Soil Optix

Advances in precision agriculture are giving growers more opportunities to get greater value from every acre. By using better data to understand field variability, farmers can make smarter input decisions that improve consistency and capture more yield potential across their land.

One example of this technology is Holmes Agro's adoption of SoilOptix. SoilOptix uses a specialized sensor to measure the natural gamma radiation emitted from the soil. Different soil components emit unique signals that cannot be seen by the human eye but can be accurately detected and mapped. Think of it as each soil property having its own radio station. SoilOptix identifies where those signals occur across the field and translates them into a detailed soil map.

These sensor readings are then paired with targeted soil samples to create accurate, actionable data. By scanning a single acre, SoilOptix collects approximately 335 data points, generating detailed maps of key soil characteristics such as pH, nutrient levels, soil texture, water-holding capacity, and more. To achieve similar resolution using traditional bulk soil sampling, a 100-acre field would require more than 21,000 soil cores—an approach that is both impractical and costly.

With SoilOptix, only a limited number of physical soil samples are needed, yet the resulting information is comparable to hundreds of conventional soil tests. This data can be directly converted into variable-rate application scripts, allowing fertilizer and soil amendments to be applied precisely where they are needed—and reduced where they are not.

By identifying and managing field variability, SoilOptix helps improve consistency across acres, reduce unnecessary input costs, and ultimately increase the return on every acre.



Third Party Loan Due Dates

All eligible crop input purchases between Sep 01 /24 and Aug 31 /25 have a repay date by February 23, 2026 for Scotiabank Yield More financing. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Crop Input financing is due by March 15, 2026. There is no penalty if you pay early, and funds become available once again.

Note: **FCC no longer accepts customer payments through traditional online banking platforms.** Payments must be made directly through **FCC Online Services**, the **FCC Mobile App**, or in person at an **FCC office**. Alternatively, we can process payments in person (cheques payable to Holmes Agro) during **regular business hours** at Holmes Agro.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact: Holmes Agro 519-941-0450; Scotia Yield More financing 1-866-603-4188; FCC Crop Input financing 1-888-522-2555.

Upcoming Dates

February 3rd & 4th – Ontario Soil & Crop AGM – Elora

February 10th – Canada Agriculture Day

February 18th – Dufferin County Soil & Crop Meeting

February 18th & 19th – Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Conference – Niagara Falls

February 26th – Stayner Winter Grower Meeting

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

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