



Holmes Agro-Nomic Newsletter

August • 2026

Integrating manure in your Nutrient Plan

Manure applications can be a great way to build organic matter and nutrients long-term in the soil, which allows us to use a whole-systems approach to nutrient management planning.

What is your manure source?

Different livestock have different manure values based off their feed rations, physiology, and the typical storage setup (liquid vs. dry etc). These values can be derived from a manure sample or estimated using the Ontario average analysis factsheet

(<https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-available-nutrients-and-value-for-manure-from-various-livestock-types-21-077-en-2022-11-24.pdf>). We use these values to determine how much nutrition the crop can expect from this manure.

Type	Sub-Type	DM	Available Nutrients ¹					Value ^{2,4}			Lab Analysis				Samples
			Nitrogen		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	Year 1		Year 2-4	N	NH ₄ -N	P	K	
			Fall	Spring	Total	Immediately		Fall	Spring						
			Applied ¹	Applied	Available	Available		Applied	Applied						
		%			kg/m ³				\$/m ³		%	ppm	%	%	#
Hogs	composite	3.2	1.4	2.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	9.9	12.7	2.9	0.37	2,452	0.11	0.19	3,558
	0%–2%	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.4	1.4	5.6	7.4	1.1	0.21	1,600	0.04	0.13	1,251
	2%–4%	2.9	1.4	2.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	9.8	12.8	2.9	0.37	2,433	0.11	0.19	1,165
	4%–6%	4.9	2.0	3.5	2.9	1.5	2.7	13.8	17.8	4.3	0.53	3,330	0.16	0.25	573
	6%–10%	7.8	2.5	4.1	4.3	2.2	3.2	17.9	22.1	6.3	0.66	4,054	0.24	0.30	358
	10%–18%	12.3	3.1	4.6	6.0	3.0	3.7	22.2	26.2	8.7	0.81	4,634	0.33	0.34	94
	nursery	3.0	1.2	2.1	1.9	1.0	1.9	9.0	11.5	2.8	0.32	2,005	0.10	0.18	67
	farrowing sows	1.7	0.9	1.6	1.1	0.6	1.2	5.8	7.7	1.6	0.23	1,654	0.06	0.11	497
	weaners	1.9	0.8	1.5	2.1	1.1	2.5	9.3	11.0	2.9	0.22	1,455	0.12	0.23	159
	finishers	4.7	1.9	3.2	2.6	1.3	2.9	13.4	17.0	3.8	0.49	3,321	0.14	0.27	897
	farrow to finish	3.5	1.5	2.6	1.9	0.9	2.3	10.5	13.5	2.8	0.40	2,717	0.10	0.21	179
	dry sows and boars	1.9	1.0	2.0	1.3	0.7	1.4	6.9	9.4	2.1	0.28	1,700	0.07	0.13	204

What is your application source and time?

How and when your manure is applied will not change the nutrient value, but it will change the nutrient availability to the crop. Manure application methods can influence the uniformity of application, but also the susceptibility of nutrient loss before plant interception. Liquid manures generally contain higher amounts of inorganic nitrogen, which means they are more readily available to the plant, but also should be incorporated to reduce loss. Fall application is a common manure strategy for logistical reasons, but also because it allows time for organic-N, P, and K to become available in the soil for the following crop. Liquid manure applied in the fall can expect significant N losses over the winter.

What is your cropping system?

Soil type, crop rotation, tillage system, and longevity of the field may influence the realized benefits of manure. No-till systems offer limited opportunity to incorporate manure, so injecting is the most feasible method of application. Soil compaction from application equipment can be a concern, depending on the soil type and time of year. Legacy effects of consistent manure application can be detected 10 to 20 years later, so manure fits more economically on owned farms vs rented farms (although accessible manure is still a great fit on rented land as well).

Starting with the Soil

4R Nutrient Stewardship allows Ontario farmers to reduce fertilizer emissions by using the 4R's: Right Source (of fertilizer), at the Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place. Utilizing these practices also increases yield, optimizes plant nutrient uptake, and maximizes profitability while maintaining soil integrity for generations to come.

Soil sampling is a fundamental component of 4R Nutrient Stewardship and requires updated sampling at least every four years in zones no larger than 25 acres! There are several options for soil sampling; a Soil Optix scan, collecting 335 data points per acre, versus 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, soil sampling, P incorporation are great tools that your Holmes Agro agronomist can help you reach your crop goals and develop a fall fertility plan!

Calendar 2026

The 2026 Holmes Agro calendar is well underway and we want you to be apart of it! Keep sending in your submissions to calendar@holmesagro.com so we can have the calendar full of all your pictures for next year's calendar.

***** Check the website holmesagro.com for general information and upcoming important dates *****

Last Day of Clean Farms Collection – October 16th, 2026

Clean Farms collections are still open, we are accepting returns until October 16th. 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 cannot be recycled. Please call the office to be directed to the drop-off area when on-site. Thanks for your participation!

Summer Fertilizer Market Update

As we look ahead, the fertilizer market in Ontario remains firm and somewhat unsettled. Nitrogen and phosphate continue to carry the most price risk, while potash appears comparatively more stable. A few factors are still influencing the market, including global energy costs, export policy, freight, currency movement, and North American crop demand.

Potash positions have been secured for the fall needs and are favourable on a standpoint of affordability to grain values. Phosphates are currently elevated and will be important to review soil sample tests and management of placement to reach using the 4R Nutrient stewardships for the best value for a wheat starter. We continue to monitor Nitrogen market and are starting to layer in needs for the 2027 growing season. Please keep in open discussion with our agronomy team with regards to crop planning and soil sample strategy to optimize your nutrient needs and optimize your dollars.

Mental Health is Farm Safety

The agricultural community continually supports both local food security and the overall economy, but who supports the mental wellbeing of that community? There are a number of organizations that have been founded with farmer mental health as their mission. One organization in particular is Agriculture Wellness Ontario, which provides Ontario farmers and farm employees, as well as their families, with free and unlimited mental health counselling. This counselling is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, reachable at 1-866-267-6255 for calling, 988 for call or text. Another program is the Guardian Network, a volunteer suicide prevention program that was created to provide support for the farming community. Guardians are trained individuals who are connected to the farm community through work, volunteer activities, or their place in the community. Each Guardian is equipped with tools and strategies to identify mental distress, react to farmers at risk and connect them to mental health and crisis resources.

***New Product Alert* – MicroBoost**

Holmes Agro has partnered with LaSalle Agri to bring you the best of the best new products! We are now carrying MicroBoost. MicroBoost is a cost-effective phosphorus product designed to compliment your existing fertilizer program and help you build or maintain the phosphorus levels of your soil. With the rising cost of fertilizer, we want to help you get the most bang for your buck, with this powdered fertilizer waiting to be applied after your wheat harvest this fall!

Watch it Grow – Scouting Update

Growing conditions across Dufferin County remain positive heading into August, with corn and soybean crops showing good yield potential where rainfall has been timely. Corn is progressing through tasseling and pollination, making this a critical period for yield development.

Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) moth activity has increased across Ontario, and producers should continue scouting corn fields in the tassel to early silk stages for egg masses and larvae. Peak flight typically occurs from late July into early August. We have traps set around the county, keep up to date with counts on the [Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network!](#)

Soybean growers should also keep an eye out for spider mites, particularly in fields experiencing hot, dry conditions or moisture stress. Early detection is key to preventing significant yield loss.

Overall, crop conditions remain favourable as we move into the critical grain fill and pod set period.

Pre-harvest Consideration

As we kick start harvest, there are a few considerations to take into account, including if your fields need to be sprayed before beginning harvest. A pre-harvest burndown can have many benefits such as combining ease, grain cleanliness and consistency of dry down. There are a few different options you can choose from depending on the current conditions of your fields and your field cleanliness goals.

Glyphosate – Group 9 chemistry targets broadleaves and grasses. A 7 day preharvest interval

Eragon Plus – Group 14 chemistry for fast control of key broadleaf weeds including glyphosate, triazine and Group 2 herbicide resistant species. 2 – 3 day pre-harvest interval, 7 days when mixed with glyphosate.

Mark Your Calendar!

Aug 27th – Closed for inventory

Sept 15th to 17th – Outdoor Farm Show – Woodstock

Sept 22nd to 26th – International Plowing Match - Walkerton

Nov 4th – Livestock Meeting

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