

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 22nd & 29th from 8AM-12PM
Closed December 25th, 26th, & January 1st
Regular office hours will resume January 2nd, 2024.

Top of Mind Agronomic Topics

As 2023 comes to a close, there remain many agronomic discussion points going into 2024. We could write an entire article on each of the topics below but here are some short thoughts that have been top of mind for our advisors and growers going into the new year.

1. **Crop Protection** – Pre-emerge chemistry popularity is increasing; how does this effect our application/sprayer and planting logistics in the spring?
2. **Crop Rotations** – Winter wheat stands looked great going into dormancy, how may this affect your management strategy in the spring? Could the use of growth regulators be more relevant to manage the standability and yield potential of these winter cereal stands.
3. **Soil Sample Results** – Organic matter is typically one of the 1st discussion points of a soil sample, why is this? How does your soil's organic matter compare to others? Do you have an organic matter build strategy?
4. **Fertility** – Nutrient stewardship is becoming a foremost concern when applying macro nutrients (N, P, K) both as commercial fertilizer and manure. Are you working within the stewardship guidelines and maximizing farm yield potential?

Want more information? Talk to your trusted Holmes Agro advisor to discuss topics further.

Watch Us Grow – Orangeville Fertilizer Construction Update

We want to thank everyone for your support and patience and getting through to December. The project was staged in two parts. We are excited to announce that stage one of the bulk storage is completed to allow us to start receiving products the week of December 4th; meeting our timeline to allow us to start taking products as the last vessels arrive prior to freeze up. Stage Two, the bag production area and warehouse are to be completed by end of March and is on schedule that we can start packaging by mid-February. Look forward to having an open house ahead of spring to provide a tour to all who are interested!



First load of potash into the new plant

Fertilizer Market Update

After spring markets had seen significant resets which were well needed to align with the grain market with small escalation over the summer with all products. Currently -

The nitrogen market, both global and domestic, is staying soft waiting for buyers to start movement over the winter months for spring needs. Seems to be a slight discount for Urea over UAN. Some concerns going into winter are the conflict in the Middle East and higher gas prices in European production areas.

Phosphates had had some rebound over the summer months and today reflect higher than fall application values. There has been tight inventory over the fall months globally with good ground application right across North America.

Potash prices remain steady with three small increases since summer when we booked our fall needs which has been good value for those that have completed their fall work. There has been strong demand and record sales for both Nutrien and Mosaic this past season. This has created tighter supply going into fall as we wait for winter fill programs. We would suggest you stay connected with your agronomist over the winter months and keep your crop budgets updated.

Welcome Isaac & Claire

We would like to welcome our new Operations and Customer Service Manager, Isaac Postma to the team. Isaac hails from the Georgetown area and brings with him hands-on experience in operations management and a passion for efficiency and teamwork. Welcome to Holmes Agro, Isaac!

We are pleased to announce the addition of Claire Horan to our Agronomy team in Stayner. Claire joins us from the Mitchell area, bringing valuable farming experience and expertise in agronomy. With her strong passion for agriculture and dedication to working with growers, we are excited to work with her starting January 2nd!

Watch Us Grow – Employment Opportunities

Looking for an exciting career in Agriculture? Want to work in an energetic and positive environment surrounded by a team of people helping you learn and grow? We are hiring for the 2024 season!

We are currently seeking motivated and dynamic individuals to join our Sales Agronomy Team. If you enjoy working with growers to develop successful crop plans alongside some of the top agronomists in the area, send your resume to WatchUsGrow@holmesagro.com and let us know. Check out all our employment opportunities at Holmesagro.com and click on our Employment Page. Now hiring for seasonal spring and summer employment too!

Grower Pesticide Course Offerings

We have dates set in 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 www.opep.ca or by calling 1-800-652-8573. Payments must be made ahead of time as course instructors are no longer accepting payments at the venues. 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: Thursday January 26th – Holmes Agro, Orangeville
Friday February 9th – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
Saturday February 24th – Holmes Agro, Orangeville
Friday March 8th – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
Thursday March 22nd – Holmes Agro, Orangeville

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 of 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!
holmesagro.com/winterproducts



CLEAN Farms 2023

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Clean Farms program over the past year. We have wrapped up empty jug collection for the 2023 year and will start up again in April of 2024 ☺

Upcoming Dates 2024

January 3 to 5 – Southwest Agricultural Conference
January 3 to 9 – Grey Bruce Farmers Week
Thursday January 26th – Grower Pesticide Course Refresh & Renew - Holmes Agro, Orangeville
February 9th – Grower Pesticide Course Refresh & Renew - St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
February 24th – Grower Pesticide Course Refresh & Renew - Holmes Agro, Orangeville
March 8th – Grower Pesticide Course Refresh & Renew - St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner
March 22nd – Grower Pesticide Course Refresh & Renew - Holmes Agro, Orangeville

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

Jeff Nicole Laura Greg Taylor Scott John Lydia Dennis Brooklyn Travis

