

CANOLA Digest

THE SOURCE FOR CANADA'S CANOLA GROWERS

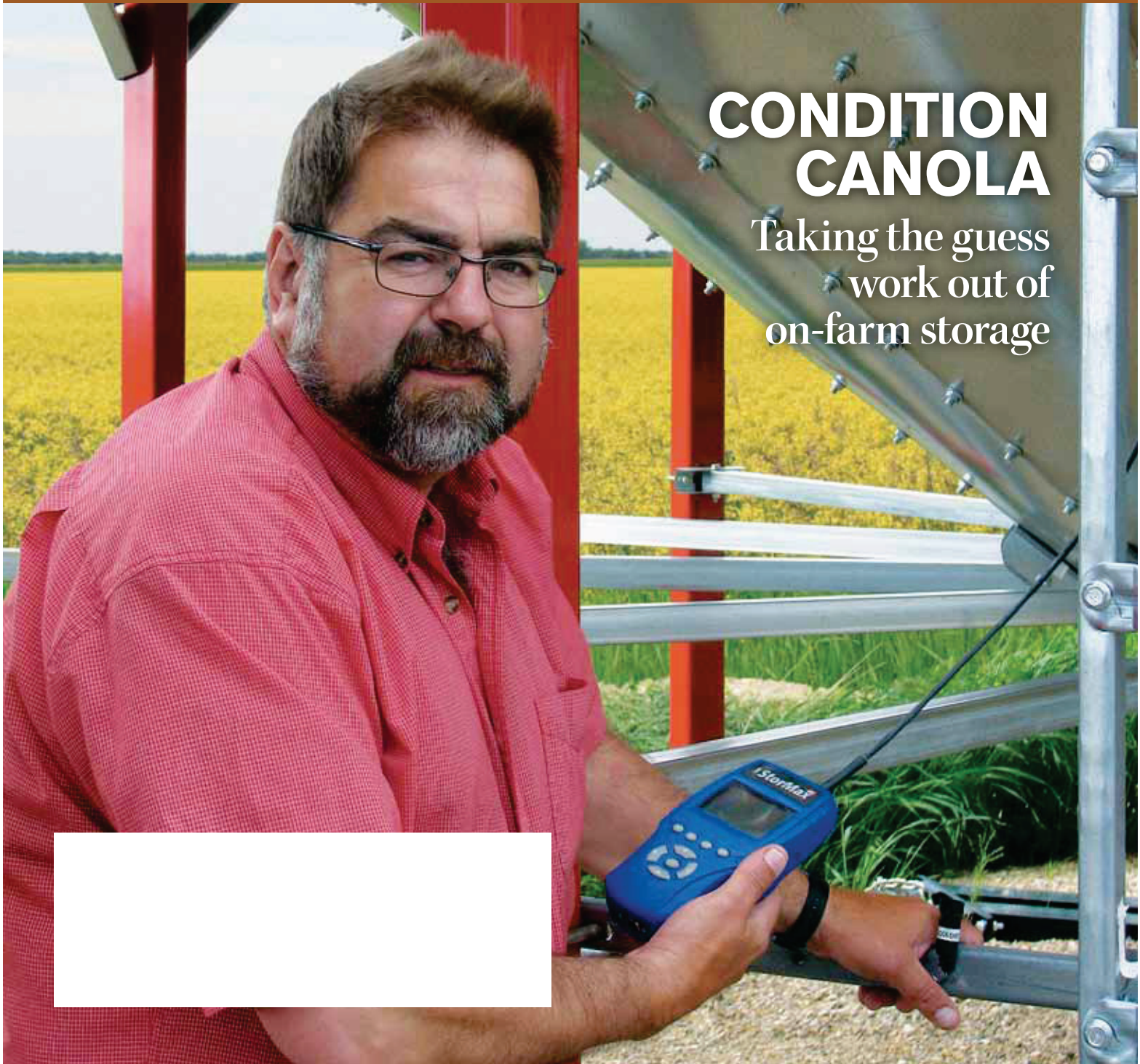
SEPTEMBER 2010

SEED & STORAGE

The war against clubroot • Farmer panel storage tips • Canola Camp

CONDITION CANOLA

Taking the guess
work out of
on-farm storage





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CANOLA digest

Keeping canola in top condition requires diligence in your harvesting practices. This issue is packed with advice about tackling your storage and conditioning challenges.



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Cover photo: François Messier farms 9,000 acres near Alvena, Saskatchewan. Temperature monitoring cables are installed in all his canola bins. He hooks the monitor shown to these cables to get temperature readings, watching for unexpected spikes that can lead to costly spoilage.

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HARVESTING REWARDS

By Kelly Green



It has been a few years since my father entrusted me to operate the combine, but I can still remember the feelings of relief and satisfaction that came from pulling off a field, knowing that another portion of the season's crop had been safely stored in the bin.

Across the Prairies, combines are gearing into action for the 2010 harvest. Some of you may have ideal harvest conditions, while others may be dealing with too much moisture or facing inconsistent crop maturity. Regardless of your harvest situation, within these pages you'll find something that will help you solve a harvest, storage or crop conditioning challenge, so that more of your canola will be ready when the sales opportunities are right.

Your combine is the most important piece of equipment on your farm this season, so we invited Les Hill from the Prairie Agriculture Machinery Institute to give you some tips on getting more out of your harvest equipment to put more quality canola in the bin. Some readers may remember Les Hill from the Canola Council Combine Clinics that ran this summer – I hear they were a great success!

Within these pages you'll find something that will help you solve a harvest, storage or crop conditioning challenge, so that more of your canola will be ready when the sales opportunities are right.

In our cover story, François Messier explains how his \$2 million investment in storage, monitoring equipment and yard site development is adding value for crushers while returning more profitability to his farm. Our farmer panel also talks about the challenges of storing and conditioning canola – from one farmer's experience with storing damp canola in large plastic bags to solutions for keeping canola in condition while under storage in small as well as very large bins.

As you're taking off this year's harvest, you'll be thinking ahead to next year and what you might do differently. The varieties you choose will be impacted by your outlook on the market, your cash flow timing requirements and the condition of your land.

Over the last two years we've welcomed some new clubroot-resistant varieties to the market, and research continues to expand the arsenal against this aggressive plant pathogen. But even with these new defenses, farmers must not become complacent about field management practices. Take to heart some sound advice from experts and help to stop this disease from gaining a foothold in new areas.

Innovation in plant research has been a pillar of achievement for canola, and biotechnology is a big contributor to that. Many of you may not be aware that future innovations in canola could be significantly slowed if a new anti-GM seed bill, Bill C-474, is passed by Parliament. Read *Tech Threat* (page 36) to find out what is at stake for our industry if Bill C-474 passes.

On those harvest days when it's too wet to combine and the repairs are complete, you'll find opportunity to consider how you'll execute this year's marketing plan. As you think about that plan, remember your canola is part of a food value chain that is helping to solve some shocking world health problems.

In *Simple Changes, Profound Effects* (page 28), Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum tells us that, while heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide, 80 percent of heart disease is preventable through lifestyle changes such as regular exercise, moderating stress and switching to canola oil. Find out how the canola industry is partnering with health professionals to share canola's heart-healthy message.

As we wrap up this first issue of the season, I wish each of you a safe and productive harvest. Remember to think and act safely in this busy and sometimes stressful time of year. ●

Malathion and Canola Don't Mix

Educate your farmer customers this growing season with this simple message –

Do NOT use malathion to treat bins destined for canola.

With a new growing season just around the corner, ag-retailers play a critical role in educating canola growers on the importance of keeping malathion away from bins slotted for canola storage. Malathion is a registered product for stored grains such as cereals, however, it is NOT registered to treat bins that will store canola or to control insects in stored canola.

"Using malathion on canola seed or in canola storage bins will result in detectable levels of malathion residue because malathion has a strong attraction to the oil in canola seed," says Denise Maurice, vice president of crop production at the Canola Council of Canada. "Consequently, malathion can move into canola seed from treated grain bins."

As a result, if a bin has been treated recently with malathion it should not be used for canola storage for at least six months. Maurice recommends proper storage management techniques such as designating certain bins for canola storage ahead of time.

It's a mistake that Canadian canola growers cannot afford to make. Detection of malathion residue in canola seed above the allowable limit could cost the industry, including farmers, millions of dollars in business. Last year Canadian canola seed exports amounted to over \$3.1 billion.

"Every country that buys Canadian canola sets limits on pesticide residues, and exceeding those limits can mean rejected shipments and increased testing requirements," says Maurice. Because of Canada's bulk grain handling system, every load of canola delivered needs to meet the requirements of all our export customers.

Japan is the number one customer of Canadian canola seed and they are very concerned over pesticide residues, especially those that are applied to stored canola or to empty bins.

"The recent introduction of new food safety legislation prohibits the entry of any commodity if pesticide residues exceed the allowable limit," says Maurice. "If malathion is detected above the Maximum Residue Limit in Japan, the shipment will be rejected resulting in millions of dollars of losses and increased testing of all shipments to Japan."

In summary, Maurice says to advise growers that, "canola that is sound and reasonably free of chaff, volunteer cereal or weed seeds, foreign material and is stored in clean bins and kept below 15°C and 8% moisture will store well and remain insect-free."

For more information on proper canola storage and keeping canola Export Ready, go to www.canolacouncil.org.



Other Options

There are many things farmers can do to prevent or control stored grain insects in their storage bins without using malathion.

PREVENT

- Adjust combine settings to harvest sound seed and to minimize chaff and weed seeds in the sample.
- Choose bins in good condition and sweep out thoroughly before harvest; make sure the bin is free of chaff, seeds and foreign material.
- Bins must be well sealed to prevent moisture infiltration and be totally insecticide-free.
- Keep canola cool and dry in the bin. For long-term storage, temperatures should be kept at less than 15°C and grain moisture levels below 8%.
- If considering a bin treatment, a registered diatomaceous earth product can be used to treat empty bins but should never be used directly on canola seed as the product will not be effective.

CONTROL

If stored grain insects occur in stored canola, there are effective control options such cold weather aeration, heated air drying and the use of pneumatic conveyors.

- **Heat** – Insects exposed to a grain temperature of 50°C for about 15 minutes will be controlled. If your grain requires drying, this may be an effective option.
- **Cold** – Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures will control most insects. However, grain bins over six metres in diameter will not cool sufficiently on their own to control some insects. To ensure the entire volume gets sufficient cold exposure, aerate or turn the grain while the outside temperature is low.
- **Impact** – The physical impact of traveling through a pneumatic conveyor will control most mites and insects in your canola.



By Jay Whetter

CONDITION CANOLA

This Saskatchewan farmer says on-farm storage that keeps canola safe for at least a year is an essential element in running Canada's canola processing at capacity.

F

rançois Messier has \$2 million invested in storage for his 9,000 acre farm at Alvena, Saskatchewan. He wants his entire canola crop safe in top quality bins and yard sites easy to maneuver with super-B trucks.

This is his way of contributing more to the value chain. "With a marked increase in canola processing on the Prairies, storage on-farm is critical to keep these plants operating efficiently," Messier says. "Mega storages at elevators do not work well for long-term storage."

Canola needs constant monitoring to make sure it's not heating or spoiling. "The oil [which makes up nearly half the contents of a canola seed] contains no moisture. That means canola at 9 percent moisture actually has 17 percent moisture in the meal component," Messier says. It's this moisture in the meal that is subject to spoilage, and once the meal starts to heat it triggers the oil to smoulder.

Dr. Digvir Jayas, vice president at the University of Manitoba and a specialist in grain storage, adds that as oil content increases – and thus the meal content decreases – the moisture level for safe storage falls. He recommends 8 percent moisture for long-term storage.

Temperature is the other key factor in safe storage. Canola should be cooled after harvest and monitored to make

sure it stays cool. If temperature rises, that's a good sign that spoilage could be next, Jayas says.

Messier has one OPI temperature monitoring cable down the middle of each bin. The company, OPI StorMax, will tell you that's not enough cables. It says one cable has a coverage diameter of 20 feet, so one alone can't monitor the outside edge of the bin. Messier's view is that the middle core is where air currents within the bin will deposit the highest moisture readings. If a bin is to spoil, it will most likely start in the middle core.

Jim Bessel, senior agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada, likes the temperature cables because they make it easy to monitor at the same locations each time, which is important for determining if the stored canola's condition is stable or getting worse. "Portable probes can work to monitor

the top layers of a full bin, but do not provide the same precision for repeated monitoring and for taking readings throughout the mass," Bessel says.

Jayas is working on other grain storage monitoring systems, but he says for now, temperature monitoring cables are the best indicators of incipient spoilage available on the market.

Smaller bin size is another benefit to farm storage. Bigger bins mean increased compaction, which reduces air flow. Less air flow can mean more mold growth, and molds generate heat that triggers canola to spoil.

In Messier's experience, the best bins are 5,000 to 6,000 bushels with aeration and temperature monitoring cables. Most of his canola bins are 5,300-bushel galvanized steel hopper bottoms. These bins are big enough to be efficient but

Messier's hopper bottom canola bins are equipped with an aeration fan, an aeration tube that makes a full ring around the bottom of the hopper, and a single temperature monitoring cable runs down the centre of each bin. Messier regularly checks the StorMax handheld monitoring device to monitor the condition of his canola and uses the information to avoid the potential for spoilage.





Francois Messier sees his \$2 million investment in on-farm storage as an important link in the canola value chain.

small enough that conditioned canola keeps cool after harvest, freezes in the winter and stays cold well into summer.

CONDITIONING TIPS

Bessel suggests that growers put canola on aeration immediately after combining. This step lowers canola temperature to match the outside air and provides a consistent temperature throughout the bin.

Messier uses aeration to cool canola and remove moisture right off the combine. Once the temperature has stabilized he turns over the whole bin. "This is critical to even out the moisture level in the grain," he says.

Natural-air aeration will remove no more than two percentage points of moisture from canola. So when Messier needs to remove moisture with aeration, he only fills the bins half full to increase air flow.

Conditioning all canola is a good idea, no matter the moisture level and temperature. Last year, Messier harvested one field November 5. The day was 4°C and canola went into the bin at 9 percent moisture. Five days later, temperatures cables were reading 15°C. "It was really mind boggling that the temperature would rise like that, but we put the fans on for two days and brought the temperature back down, no problem," he says.

When the outside temperature has dropped below the temperature of the stored canola by 5° to 10°C, canola should be cooled again.

Messier monitors his canola intensely – every few days – from harvest to December 20 or so. "When I know the core is below 5°C and staying there, I can ignore it."

He starts monitoring again around June 15. "That's when surprises can happen," he says. Warming grain on the outside edge creates convection currents inside the grain, concentrating moisture at the top of the central core. "If the top sensor gets above 25°C, I will turn on the fan for half a day to make sure the canola is okay."

On June 28, the day the author visited Messier's farm, canola in the middle of the bins was still well below 0°C. Messier likes to keep his canola cold as long as possible without moving air through it. This is okay for smaller bins, Jayas says. The larger the bin, the greater the possibility of moisture migration: Moist air moves up through warm grain on the outside and then cycles down the middle of the core, concentrating in the bottom. "With larger bins, a grower will want to turn on the aeration in the spring to even out the canola temperature and stop this moisture migration," Jayas says.

WORKING WITH PROCESSORS

Messier does not view the risk of storing canola for 12 to 14 months as doing the dirty work for processors. Instead, he makes sure he's compensated for providing this service. "Processors need to develop production agreements with producers that include a storage payment and a delivery schedule," he says. "I've invested in these bins and I want a return on that investment."

To keep that investment as liquid as possible, Messier puts bins on portable steel pads with anchors to hold them down. He doesn't use concrete pads because they're not portable – and do not hold their value. His yards have four inches of small gravel on a nine-inch bed of coarse gravel. They also have a loop for super-Bs to turn around without ever having to back up.

Messier grows 100 percent high-stability canola varieties, including Cargill varieties he delivers to the crush plant at Clavet, and Nexera varieties, most of which go to the Bunge plant at Nipawin. Both plants pick up on his farm. Some of the trucking cost is embedded in the basis that comes off his payment but Messier doesn't think he's paying the whole shot. Since he is selling direct to processors, he also doesn't pay the same elevation fee that elevators charge.

By offering safe on-farm storage and year-round easy access for trucks, Messier is more than a grower. In return for his added role in the value chain, processors provide him with a steady and reliable market for his canola. Exports go up and down but domestic crush plants need a constant supply, he says. ●

Jay Whetter is a communications program manager with the Canola Council of Canada.

COMBINE SKILL BUILDING – A GOOD INVESTMENT

By Carla Pouteau

Combine Clinics are helping farmers properly adjust their combines and gain up to five bushels per acre in yield.

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A recent headline suggested farmers could earn up to an additional \$40 per acre by honing their combine skills. Jim Bessel, senior agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada (CCC), believes he can show farmers a way. “Recent research showed that canola losses at harvest time can be as high as five bushels per acre if the combine is not adjusted properly,” emphasizes Bessel, who is the Council’s lead on combine performance. “That’s a lot of canola that’s not making it into the bin.”

To address this missed opportunity, the CCC has partnered with Les Hill, manager business development and technical service at the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) in Saskatchewan, to offer combine training workshops. “The underlying theme of this training is profitability,” states Bessel. “Farmers will always have some harvest loss but we are trying to help them control loss, to be more efficient, and to gain more return per acre. We believe this is a good example of the value of check-off dollars going back to the farm gate.”

Hill leads the Combine Clinics with three to four hours of classroom instruction. “At PAMI we’ve been field and lab testing harvest equipment for nearly 35 years. The clinics are based on the information gained from that experience,” says Hill.

Safety is discussed first. “We start with safety because many of the tasks farmers must do when checking a combine’s performance happen while the machine is in operation. Loss of life or limb is one loss that is unacceptable,” says Hill.

Next, the clinic introduces and discusses the combine’s basic functions of gathering, feeding, separating, cleaning and material handling. “We deal with the fundamentals that are basic to all combines, no matter what the colour, because all combines do the same thing,” states Hill. “We show the principles that are affecting each operation and explore design and other factors that affect the functions.”

The third topic covered by Hill is combine loss. “We help farmers understand what loss is telling them about

the combine’s performance based on where the loss is coming from,” he says. Then he shows them how to quantify the loss. “Each farm has a different profit margin, so we try to get farmers to think about the value of the loss as a percentage of the bushels left after the expenses are paid. If the ‘profit yield’ is only five bushels per acre, a one bushel per acre loss is one-in-five or 20 percent, and that is significant.”

The fourth area discussed is step-by-step combine adjustment. In this segment, Hill tells farmers what to look for to determine where adjustments are required. “It’s not all about loss,” he says. “Loss behind the combine is important, but we also show farmers that they need to examine what is in the

DID YOU KNOW?

Advice on how to get more canola into the combine and into the bin is available at the Canola Council of Canada website at www.canolacouncil.org and in Chapter 11 of the *Canola Growers Manual*.





CLINIC FEEDBACK

Canola Digest asked three farmers who attended the Vegreville clinic about their thoughts on the day.

Brad Lockhart (Viking, Alberta) harvests 4,200 acres with a John Deere 9750 STS.

"The clinic was offered just prior to the start of harvest so everything is still fresh in my mind," says Lockhart. "I learned why correct placement of filler plates in the concave is important. We heard that no two combines are exactly the same so if you're running two or more machines each needs to be set individually." Lockhart reminds other producers to take time to check combine settings, not only between crops, but also between fields and even between varieties.

Tim Nerbas (Waseca, Saskatchewan) harvests 2,300 acres with a Case IH 2188.

"I've been running the same machine for the past 15 years but I still came away from the clinic with some good information," says Nerbas. "It was good to tap into Les's 35 years of experience and knowledge on every combine." Nerbas liked Hill's suggestion of doing a 'dead kill' (stop the combine mid-thresh) and look at various places in the combine. Then take the necessary steps to correct what you might find.

Nico Rookmaker (Ohaton, Alberta) harvests 5,000 acres with two Lexion 580s and a Lexion 570 R.

"While I was familiar with a number of the combine tips that Les talked about, it was good to hear about them again." Rookmaker really appreciated the practical approach used in the clinic. "It was helpful to see things pointed out while we walked around the machine," he says. Rookmaker also benefitted from meeting a technical representative from the manufacturer, who pointed out updates on the Lexions that Rookmaker was not aware of.

grain tank, tailings return and coming out of the separator and cleaning shoe. What you find in all of those areas will tell you something about the machine's performance."

One of the handouts farmers take home from the clinic is a *Combine Loss Guide* that Hill and Bessel have developed. The new guide provides several ways of measuring loss such as by weight, volume and seed count.

Concurrent manufacturers' workshops follow the classroom session. Each of the five major combine manufacturers sends a technical representative.

"We ask the manufacturers to send a technically-trained individual, not a sales representative," says Bessel. "It's a bit of a rare opportunity for farmers to get to ask a company engineer questions specific to their own machine."

Farmers wanting to attend a Combine Clinic should watch for upcoming notices across western Canada. ●

Carla Pouteau is a freelance writer and farms near Mariapolis, Manitoba.

QUICK TIPS TO CONTROL COMBINE LOSS

1. Feed canola as uniformly as possible into the combine.
2. Don't assume canola is easy to thresh. Seed can be retained in the thin membrane running down the middle of the pod and discharged out of the separator or cleaning shoe.
3. Avoid over-threshing: Yellow and green seed pieces will show up in the grain tank. Correct it by adjusting cylinder/rotor speed or preventing the tailings return from feeding clean grain around.
4. Don't assume canola separates easily. Over-threshing can quickly lead to separating problems and chaff can begin to move through the combine as a mat. If this happens, differentiate between shoe material and separator material and adjust the combine accordingly by either reducing cylinder speed and/or increasing concave clearance.
5. Set the maximum fan speed without blowing seeds over. Start with a small steady feed rate (i.e. one mile per hour) and adjust the fan speed to the point where seeds are just beginning to blow over.
6. Open the chaffer as wide as possible. Larger pieces of stem or pods in the clean grain may mean the chaffer should be closed more to stop them from falling through onto the cleaning sieves.
7. Open the cleaning sieve as wide as you can tolerate, without allowing too much trash in the clean sample. This allows more air to get at the chaffer along its entire length.
8. Measure loss out the back by placing a container on the ground when the combine is in operation. Quantify the amount captured in the container rather than 'eye-balling' it.
9. Loss is a function of feed rate so travel at speeds that match a level of acceptable loss.
10. Machine losses should be less than two percent but try to achieve one percent.



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USE EVERY WEAPON IN THE WAR AGAINST CLUBROOT

By Gail Granger

New seed traits need the backing of a complete integrated management plan.

14

In clubroot-weary regions, many canola growers are hopeful that new resistant hybrids will help them gain the upper hand against one of the most tenacious pathogens to ever confront the industry.

Only time can determine exactly how effective these new hybrids will be. But one thing agronomists and breeders know for sure is that a complete arsenal of management tools will still be needed to keep clubroot spores at bay in the foreseeable future.

“While the new hybrids are certainly a welcome tool, there is no silver bullet when it comes to clubroot,” says Clint Jurke, the Canola Council of Canada’s agronomy specialist for western Saskatchewan. “Our best defence is an integrated management plan that uses every tool in the box, including well-spaced rotations, diligent scouting in the field and proper disinfection of equipment.”

“If clubroot is a problem in your area, the resistant hybrids are definitely worth your consideration,” Jurke explains. “Just be sure you don’t lull yourself into a false sense of complacency that makes you neglect proper stewardship.”

He adds that resistance does not mean 100 percent protection, especially in the very wet years that are ideal for clubroot infection. “Producers can expect

infection rates of two to eight percent in their resistant canola varieties,” says Jurke. “And it’s extremely important to control volunteers, which may not have the resistance.”

Jurke also worries that clubroot resistance could break down quickly if the new hybrids aren’t used correctly. While there is no way of knowing what will happen in Canada, experiences in the European canola and vegetable industries suggest that clubroot can fight back with stunning speed.

In the United Kingdom, clubroot-resistant winter canola varieties were developed through conventional breeding and introduced about ten years ago. Within two rotations, the pathogen had evolved to the point where the resistant trait was no longer functional.

KEEPING CLUBROOT AT BAY

- Practice a one-in-four canola rotation.
- Thoroughly clean soil and crop debris from all equipment as you leave each field, and then thoroughly disinfect as recommended on www.clubroot.ca.
- Minimize traffic flow from infested fields.
- Manage weeds, particularly potential clubroot hosts such as volunteer canola, wild mustard, shepherd’s purse and stinkweed.
- Do not move bales, straw, chaff or manure from infested fields.
- Scout frequently for infected plants and act quickly to control any infestations.
- Consider a clubroot-resistant hybrid the next time canola goes in an infested field.



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“In scientific terms, it’s called the ‘Red Queen Effect,’” says Jurke. “There’s a constant evolutionary arms race between competing species, and proper rotations help us stay one step ahead of the pathogen.”

One grower who is extremely impressed by the new resistant hybrids is Ron Krywko of Morinville, Alberta. By early August he had yet to see any evidence

of clubroot in his fields, even in the two small spots where he knows the spores are present.

Still, he remains vigilant and says the arrival of the new hybrids won't change his practices one bit. Although he sees some farmers growing canola year over year, Krywko is sticking to his four-year rotations. He continues to clean the shanks of his equipment whenever he leaves a field – and even once or twice in operation – and he avoids dust-raising tillage like heavy harrowing.

“It's good to know we have this tool that allows us to grow canola where clubroot has spread, but we also need to be aware that new strains of clubroot may come on board down the road,” he says.

“We're limited in what we can do to control clubroot. We can't stop the flow of water or the deer that cross from field to field. But it's important that we all do what we can.”

Krywko finds that canola simply does better when grown on other crops. Besides controlling clubroot, proper rotations help to control weeds, insects and disease.

When returns for canola are double those of cereal crops, it can be extremely tempting to grow the crop year over year. At first glance, longer rotations may also seem at odds with the industry's goal of producing a 15 million tonne crop by 2015.

But Denise Maurice, the Canola Council's vice president of crop production, says there's plenty of opportunity to reach the goal without sacrificing clubroot stewardship – or the long-term productivity of the industry.

“I say, ‘Don't grow more acres – grow more per acre,’” explains Maurice. “With good crop management and the ongoing improvements in seed, we still have the opportunity to maximize yield on a per acre basis. There's no point in compromising our returns in the years ahead, when canola may be even more profitable.” ●

Gail Granger is a communications consultant and freelance journalist based in Winnipeg.

BAGS SHOW PROMISE FOR SHORT-TERM STORAGE

With last year's long harvest, a lot of canola came off tough and some producers were tempted to use bag storage. They found out that it's important to closely monitor the whole length of the bag and be ready to move the canola out if temperatures inside the bag rise.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Canola Council of Canada, SaskCanola, PAMI and Bunge joined together to monitor canola storage bags at five farm sites in north-central Saskatchewan.

At first, bags were probed twice a week to monitor for flat or rising temperatures – a sign of increased spoilage potential. In all cases, when canola temperatures were seen to increase or remain constant, the producer moved the canola for sale or drying.

One farmer had two bags side by side – one with canola stored at 14 percent moisture and the other at 12 percent moisture. Both were harvested mid-November. The bag with canola at 12 percent moisture continued to cool throughout the winter for stable storage. The bag with canola at 14 percent moisture did not cool even while outside temperatures dropped, so it was removed and dried.

The project confirmed previous recommendations:

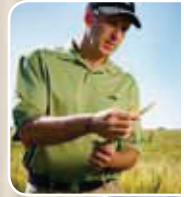
- Monitor all canola at least twice per week until temperatures stabilize or decrease to safe levels.
- Record temperatures and monitor the trends to base decisions for moving and drying stored crops.
- When filling a bag, make notes (even on the bag itself) as to the field location, filling times, and grain and air condition. This may also guide monitoring points within the bag.
- Monitoring every 25 feet may be adequate. Do not assume conditions are similar among multiple bags or within a single bag.
- Separating canola based on qualities such as moisture content or dockage can reduce the risk of spoiling larger quantities.
- Cool air temperatures at the time of combining and storage are of tremendous value to prolonging safe storage of canola.

Tom Boyle and Kim Stonehouse, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture; Tiffany Martinka, Canola Council of Canada; Pat Flaten, SaskCanola.

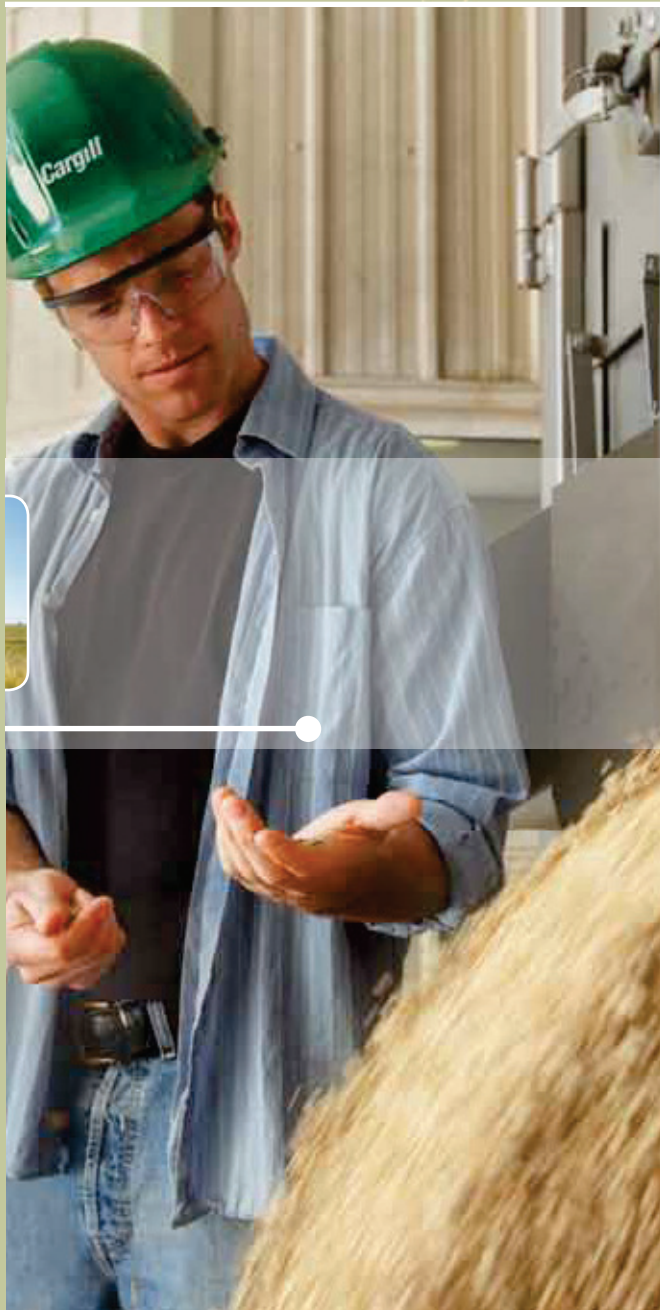


Canola in bags requires regular probing to test the temperature. For each probe site, clean the area then cover it with bag tape (or Tuck Tape). This tape ensures the bag won't rip from the puncture hole. After probing, cover the hole with another layer of tape. Probes used in the study were five-foot rods with temperature sensors.

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FARMER PANEL TALKS STORAGE

By Jay Whetter

Five farmers from across the Prairies talk about storage and conditioning challenges and the solutions that are working on their farms.

MARC HOUNJET

Prud'homme, Saskatchewan

Marc Hounjet, who farms with his brother Eric and father Maurice just south of Prud'homme, Saskatchewan, put 11,000 bushels of tough canola in a storage bag after last year's November harvest. Yields were good for all crops and they ran out of bin space. Rather than put grain on the ground, the Hounjets decided to try the heavy plastic storage bags, which are becoming more popular across the Prairies. They filled three bags – one each of canola, wheat and durum.

The Hounjets bought a Renn bagger for about \$37,000 and Up North bags, which cost them about \$600 each for the 12,000-bushel capacity. Canola went into the bags at 12 percent moisture and 10°C. Hounjet monitored the temperature regularly, with help from Canola Council of Canada agronomy specialist Tiffany Martinka, to make sure the canola wasn't heating. The temperature fell throughout the winter, which is a good sign, and it was down to 3°C when unloaded.

"Bags don't replace bins, particularly for canola... But bags are preferable to putting grain on the ground."
– Marc Hounjet

The Hounjets unloaded the bag in March and delivered the canola, still tough, to Bunge at Nipawin where it was dried before crushing.

In general, Hounjet says they're happy with the bagger. It took some patience to get the first bag on, but it got easier the next time around.

Bags do seem to work for winter storage of tough canola—as long as they're monitored closely for temperature increases throughout the entire length of the bag, Hounjet says. His concern with bags is the potential for holes from wildlife, vandalism or machinery, allowing moisture in and creating a start point for heating.

"Bags don't replace bins, particularly for canola," Hounjet says. "I'd have more peace of mind having canola in a bin. But bags are preferable to putting grain on the ground, if it comes to that."

WAYNE BLEROT

Storthoaks, Saskatchewan

Dwayne Blerot starts combining canola at 12 percent moisture. This gets his harvest going a few days earlier, which means he has a better chance of getting all his canola safely in the bin. He puts tough canola through a continuous-flow dryer, which can take out two percentage points of moisture at a pace of 600 to 800 bushels per hour.

Blerot prefers canola at 8 percent moisture for long-term storage. If canola is at 9 or 10 percent, he'll take the tops off those bins first. He tries to take a few loads out of every bin by November and moves the whole bin when possible.

After drying, he puts canola into 5,000-bushel bins with fans running to cool it off. He likes to get the temperature down to 15° to 20°C fairly quickly. In November, after he's sold the barley in his 28,000-bushel bins, he moves his canola into these large bins. Why? Because he likes to move whole bins, as noted, so having the 28,000-bushel bins empty in November gives him this opportunity.

"As long as the centre stays cool in these big bins, the rest seems to store all right."
– Dwayne Blerot

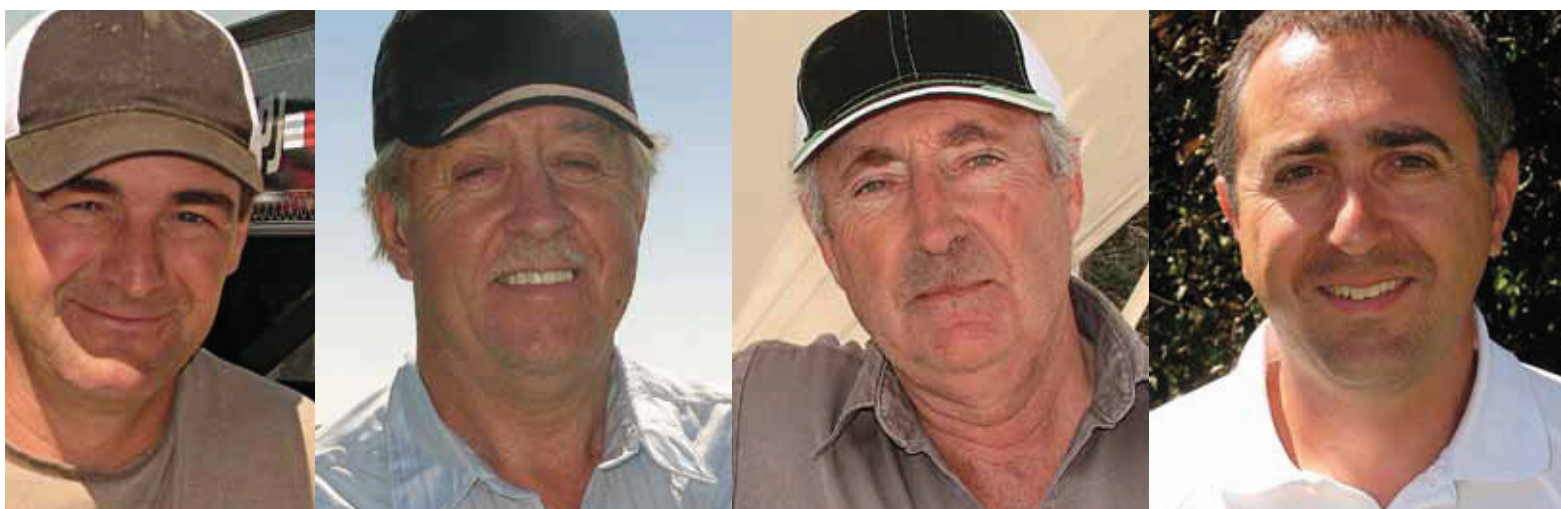
His big bins have moisture monitoring cables and full-floor aeration with 10-hp fans. "As long as the centre stays cool in these big bins, the rest seems to store all right," he says.

FRED POHR

Fairview, Alberta

Fred Pohr of Fairview, Alberta, starts combining as soon as the green count drops below 2 percent. He combines the first test strip about 10 days after swathing. If green counts hit the target, he'll start combining. Canola is often at 13 or 14 percent moisture when he starts, but he runs everything through a U.K.-made Alvan Blanch dryer to bring it down to 8 percent.





From left to right: **Marc Hounjet** stored 11,000 bushels of tough canola in a poly-bag last year; **Dwayne Blerot** moves canola between bins to ensure it stays in condition; **Fred Pohr's** dryer is one of two key additions to his farm; **Ed Rempel** runs his aeration fans twice in the fall and again in winter to cool stored canola; and **Kevin Bender** stored tough canola in a large bin, but kept it in condition with aeration and close monitoring with temperature cables.

The dryer is one of two key additions to his farm, he says. (The other is an 84-foot drill with independent link openers.) With the dryer, he can start combining earlier in the season and work longer each day. The continuous-flow dryer is connected to a cluster of large bins – the biggest is 60,000 bushels. He can dry 500 to 600 bushels per hour.

Every bin has full-floor aeration and temperature monitoring cables. The 60,000-bushel bin has four cables – one down the middle and three spaced evenly apart, 12 feet from the outside wall. After canola leaves the dryer, Pohr turns on the aeration to cool canola to about 10°C below the daytime highs.

An important step in Pohr's canola storage plan is to make the top of the grain mass flat. After filling each bin, he takes out whatever amount is necessary to remove the pointed pile at the top of the bin. This is easy with his system of legs and floor unloaders that connect the bins. With a flat top, depth of canola above the aeration floor is consistent throughout the bin. That way air moves evenly throughout the mass.

ED REMPEL

Starbuck, Manitoba

Ed Rempel has many sizes of bins, and tends to put canola in his smallest ones. "If something should happen, I'd rather it happen in a 3,700-bushel bin than in a 10,000-bushel bin," he says.

Rempel will put dry canola in a large bin if green counts are low and if weed control has been successful. "Weed seeds tend to stay green longer than

canola seeds and these weeds are often where the trouble starts," he says.

He has temperature cables in most of his bins. "I have a phenomenal amount of money invested in temperature cords alone, but I wouldn't be without them," he says.

Does he put canola on aeration?

"Always, always," he says. He leaves dry canola to steep in the bin for a couple days to get moisture to the surface and then he puts the fans on.

Canola often comes off above 30°C, so with the first round of cooling he wants to get it down to 20°C. When that round is done, he turns the fans off in the morning before the daytime temperature warms up.

Two or three weeks later, he'll turn the fans on again. "This is when growers can get fooled into thinking their canola is safe," he says. "But canola can keep sweating at 20°C, and canola can heat up again."

"I have a phenomenal amount of money invested in temperature cords alone, but I wouldn't be without them." – Ed Rempel

If necessary, he'll also take a truckload from each bin, which removes the top cone where heating will often start in the fall and winter.

Finally, if canola is to stay in the bin long term, he'll run the fans one more time in winter to cool it right down. Then in the spring, when outside

temperatures warm up again, he'll put the fans on a fourth time to warm the canola to around 10°C. This reduces the risk of moisture migration: As the canola warms on the outside of the bin, air cycles up the outside and down the middle, depositing moisture at the core bottom.

KEVIN BENDER

Bentley, Alberta

Kevin Bender and his brother Mike filled a 25,000-bushel bin with tough canola last year. The new bin has full-floor aeration and a temperature monitoring cable. Most of the canola went in at 13 percent moisture, but one load was over 15 percent. They didn't dry the canola, but turned on the aeration immediately and left it on until the whole bin was at a consistently cold temperature. The canola was harvested in late October and early November, so it was cool going in. They emptied the bin from March to May and most of it was close to dry.

A huge bin of tough canola might seem like a recipe for disaster, but Bender says the key is to keep it cold and move it before temperatures warm up again the following spring. "I'd be more concerned with storing 8 percent moisture canola at 30°C than I would storing 14 percent moisture canola at 0°C," he says.

In that big bin, Bender took temperature readings regularly to make sure it was okay. He didn't have any problems. ●

Jay Whetter is a communications program manager with the Canola Council of Canada.

SETTING SIGHTS ON 2015

The canola industry is on track to reach its *Canola – Growing Great 2015* targets.

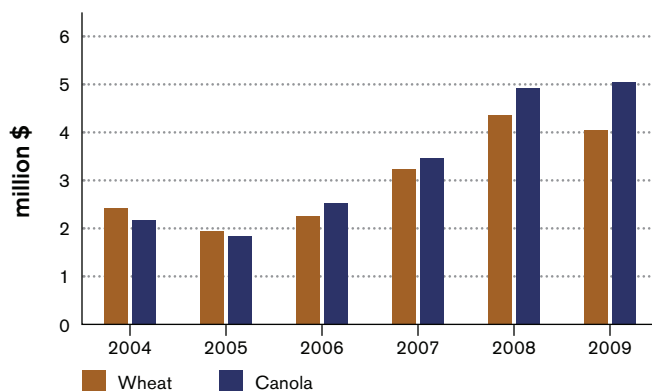
In the fall of 2002, following three consecutive crop years of declining acreage and production, the Canadian canola industry determined that to ensure its continued development it would be necessary to achieve sustained production and market demand of 7 million tonnes. With rapid demand expansion for healthy oils, the industry exceeded the *Seven by Seven* (7 million tonnes of production by 2007) targets by 2006. The industry then moved on to establish *Canola – Growing Great 2015*, an aggressive industry-wide vision to create 15 million tonnes of sustained market demand and production by 2015.

Now in year four of its plan, the canola industry is on track to achieve the 2015 targets. Let's find out how.

INCREASING VALUE FOR PRODUCERS

Canola has become the number one field crop for farmers, generating more than \$5 billion in farm cash receipts in 2009.

Farm Cash Receipts Comparison



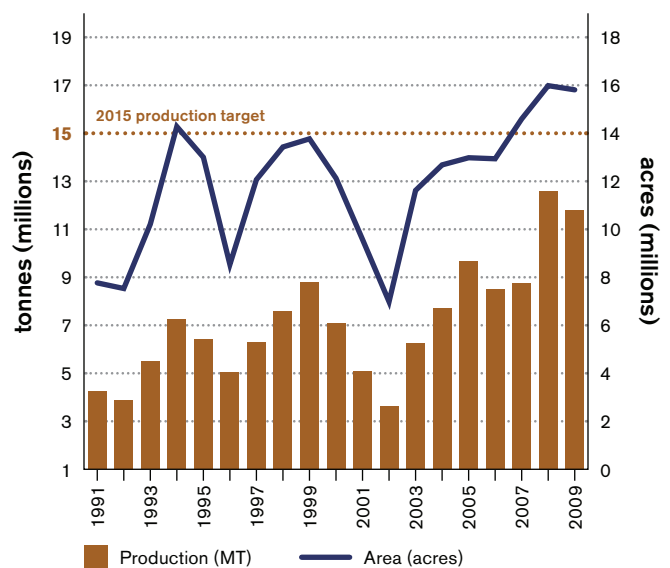
Source: Statistics Canada

INCREASING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

In 2009, Canada produced almost 12 million tonnes of canola from nearly 16 million acres.

Investment in research and development is supporting the 2015 goals through initiatives such as the Canola/Flax Science Cluster and the Clubroot Risk Mitigation Initiative. New research facility investments by private industry are also contributing to these goals.

Canola Acreage and Production

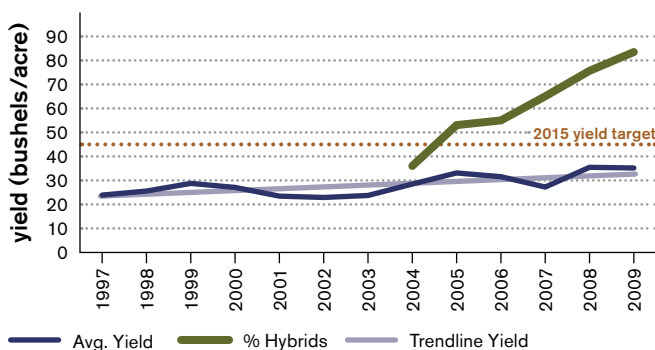


REALIZING YIELD POSSIBILITIES

Back in 2006, the industry determined that a 35 percent yield increase over 2006 was needed to achieve an average 40.5 bushel per acre yield target. Since that time, average yield has improved by more than 13 percent from 30.5 to 34.6 bushels per acre.

The shift to hybrid varieties has contributed to yield improvements, while continued work in herbicide tolerance and improved disease resistance will help to maintain existing gains. In addition, farm management practices like better seed and fertilizer placement, improved stand establishment and minimizing harvest losses during combining will help put more canola per acre in the bin.

Average Yield and Hybrid Uptake



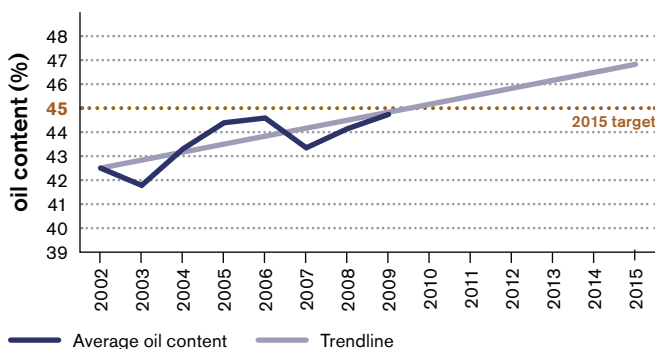
IMPROVING QUALITY

Research underpins efforts to achieve the 2015 quality targets for canola oil, seed and meal. Through research, the canola industry is moving closer to achieving an oil content of 45 percent, and a 10 percent increase in meal energy content from 2006.

In 2009, the Western Canadian Canola/Rapeseed Recommending Committee raised the bar by increasing the requirement for oil content in new varieties by 0.3 percent, giving growers high-yielding varieties coupled with higher oil content for the entire value chain.

Research in meal energy is helping to increase the metabolizable energy and inclusion levels of canola meal in livestock rations.

Canadian Canola Seed Oil Content



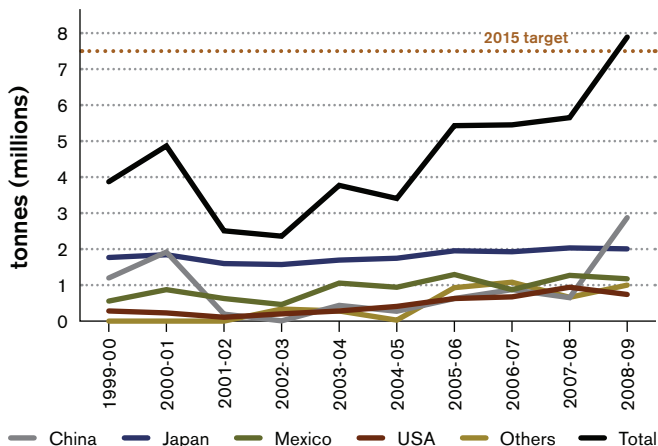
Source: Canadian Grain Commission, 8.5% moisture basis

EXPANDING MARKETS FOR SEED, OIL AND MEAL

Roughly 85 percent of Canada's canola crop is exported as seed, oil or meal. As the world embraces healthier cooking oils, the industry is working hard to demonstrate that canola oil offers the best possible value in its class. In 2009, American consumption of canola oil increased by 12 percent, while Japan continues to be a consistent buyer of about 2 million tonnes of canola every year. The industry also continues to support the growth of new markets such as Mexico and is actively engaged in market access discussions with China.

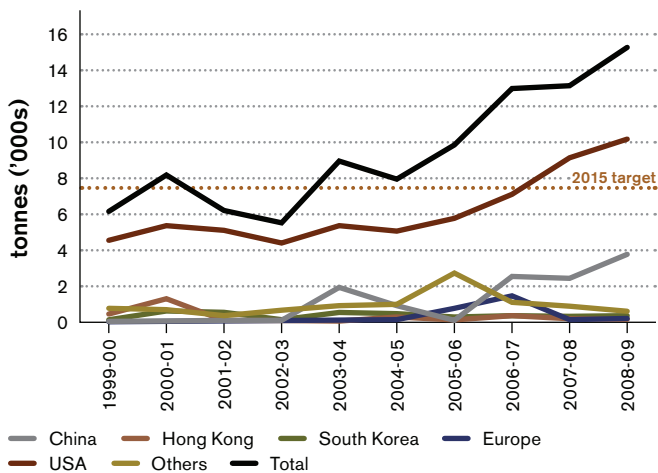
When it comes to seed exports, the industry has already realized the 2015 export target of 7.5 million tonnes, achieving nearly 8 million tonnes of seed exports in 2008/09.

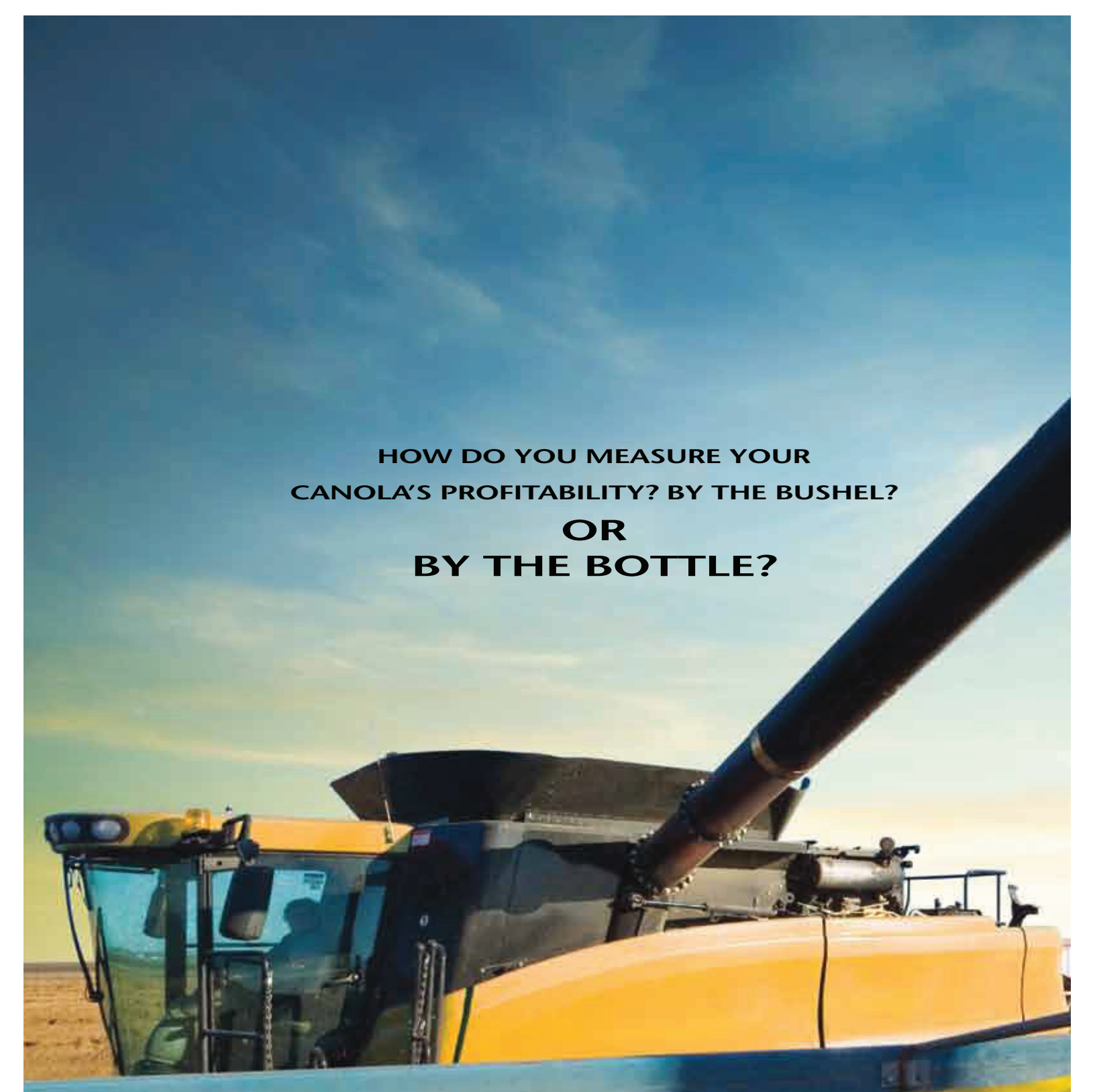
Canola Seed Exports



Expansion of the domestic crushing industry is providing new export opportunities for canola oil in both the food and biodiesel markets. With recent investments in new plants and the expansion of existing plants, the industry now has the capacity to crush more than 8 million tonnes of canola, exceeding the 2015 crush target of 7.5 million tonnes.

Canola Oil Exports



A yellow combine harvester is shown from a low angle, moving across a field. The sky is a clear, deep blue with some light, wispy clouds. The harvester's large black auger is prominent on the right side of the frame.

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Canola campers and farmer-mentors pause for a group picture as they take a first hand look at how canola is grown in a field near Saskatoon.

CANOLA CAMP AND BEYOND

By Angela Dansby

Building canola ambassadors through field to fork experiences.

24

Don't be misled: Canola Camp has no tents or sleeping bags. But it does have mosquito repellent for walking through canola fields and enjoying supper under the big Saskatchewan sky. It also has educational seminars and fabulous meals made with canola oil to show off the oil's health and culinary benefits to an eager group of canola campers.

Taste, tour, touch and teach. That's what Canola Camp is all about as an annual agricultural tour in Saskatoon, sponsored by the Canola Council of Canada. It combines entertainment with education, providing hands-on experience with canola.

About 15 public influencers – such as nutrition journalists, culinary experts and health professionals – are invited to attend each July, when canola fields are blooming. Their four-day field trip includes participating in interactive seminars, walking through fields with farmers, working with canola oil in the kitchen and tasting an array of dishes made with it. This year, seminars

covered the health and culinary benefits of canola oil through a live cooking demonstration, discussions on nutrition and modern biotechnology, a make-your-own vinaigrette workshop, oil tastings and a “Jeopardy” game about everything canola.

“What a rewarding experience to be able to see the canola fields of Saskatchewan, learn about the latest plant biotechnology, hear from the farmers themselves and then taste canola oil in a wide variety of applications,” said Canola Camp alumnus Rachel Quinlivan, R.D., *Cooking Light* magazine. “Everything was so well organized...thanks for the hospitality, great information, collegiality and just plain FUN!”

Canola Camp was started over 10 years ago by the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission. Today, there are well over 100 Canola Camp alumni throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. They serve as “canola ambassadors” of sorts, sometimes as spokespeople, recipe developers or speakers for the CanolaInfo program and always as fans

of canola oil. Whether they recommend the oil to their patients as dietitians or diabetes educators, mention it in a newspaper or magazine article as journalists, or include it in their cookbooks or kitchens as culinary experts, the campers are significant influencers. They help spread the word that canola oil really is ‘good for every body’.

“WOW – the only word for what the weekend was like... I’m speechless...a million times thank you.” – George Geary, cookbook author and pastry chef

“I have been working with canola oil for years because it gives me great flexibility with cooking techniques,” said alumnus Almir DaFonseca, chef-instructor of The Culinary Institute of America (CIA). “Its high smoke point allows for high-heat cooking without any problems, and canola oil’s neutral flavour is perfect for recipe development because it does

continued on page 26

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not affect the flavour profiles of other ingredients. Canola oil is also cost-friendly, so it's ideal for professional chefs and food service operations as well as for the home cook."

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Recent examples of Canola Camp alumni working with CanolaInfo include:

- Chef Almir DaFonseca creating online "cooking lessons" with canola oil in a CIA e-learning module for professional chefs.
- Culinary expert Nancy Hughes developing all 151 recipes for the cookbook, *The Heart-Smart Diabetes Kitchen: Fresh, Fast, and Flavorful Recipes Made with Canola Oil*, from CanolaInfo and American Diabetes Association.
- Former U.S. food television stars Carolyn O'Neil and Tori Ritchie emceeding CanolaInfo events at health professional meetings and doing online videos about sautéing with canola oil.
- Canadian authors Mairlyn Smith and Anita Stewart and several other alumni calling for canola oil in their cookbooks.

These are just a few of the ways that campers have enriched the canola promotion program.

"Developing recipes for the cookbook was fun and easy because I had no limitations with canola oil, and I could focus on the natural goodness of whole foods, herbs and seasonings," said culinary expert Nancy Hughes. "Canola oil just wakes up the flavours of other ingredients!"

Canola campers are recruited by invitation only based on interaction with or research by CanolaInfo staff and referrals from previous campers. Their common denominators? They have a sincere interest in learning about canola and are in positions to influence the public with their knowledge about the crop and its oil.

"Canola Camp was so heartfelt and educational – from nutrition to a farming standpoint," said alumnus Karen Jull, unique product developer, food,



From left to right: Longtime Canola Camp mentor **Tim Wiens** discusses the economics of growing canola on his farm near Herschel, Saskatchewan; **Jody Klassen** from Mayerthorpe, Alberta, talks about the importance of innovation to canola farming – from biotechnology to GPS and autosteer; and **Brian Chorney** from East Selkirk, Manitoba, shares his knowledge about sustainable farming practices and dispels some common misconceptions about conventional agriculture.

FARMERS MAKE IT REAL FOR CANOLA CAMPERS

Each year at Canola Camp, a few Canadian canola farmers serve as mentors to explain how they grow the crop and answer questions related to agronomy. Their expertise is invaluable.

"I love connecting non-farmers to agriculture," said Jody Klassen, 2010 Canola Camp mentor from Mayerthorpe, Alberta. "It's a joy to share my knowledge about modern biotechnology, crop management and other issues that people have questions about. Innovations like plant biotechnology and equipment run by GPS allow us to be even more efficient and produce healthy food that is good for the world in a sustainable manner."

Not only are the farmers able to explain complex topics like biotechnology in a consumer-friendly way, they can share what canola means to their livelihood. Crop profitability is key, but growing a crop that makes healthy food and feed ingredients is also rewarding.

"Canola has turned into one of the most profitable enterprises on my farm," said Tim Wiens, longtime Canola Camp mentor from Herschel, Saskatchewan. "In the last five or six years, I've made the most money growing canola over and above all other crops. It's an important part of my rotation and economic plan. An added benefit is that I produce a heart-healthy oil which can help combat heart disease."

Farmers are adept at linking people to agriculture in a personal and meaningful way.

Interacting with canola campers gives farmers insight into how the public understands – or in some cases, misunderstands – the origins of food. Farmers are adept at linking people to agriculture in a personal and meaningful way.

"As farmers, we have an important job to do in connecting what is in grocery stores to the earth and in dispelling misconceptions about the tools we have to maximize crop quality and quantity," noted Brian Chorney, 2010 mentor from East Selkirk, Manitoba. "Ultimately, what is important is to farm the land sustainably, leaving it productive for future generations."

Loblaw Brands Ltd. "I really enjoyed the creativity of how we learned and the graciousness of the staff."

"WOW – the only word for what the weekend was like...I'm speechless... a million times thank you," added alumnus George Geary, cookbook author and pastry chef.

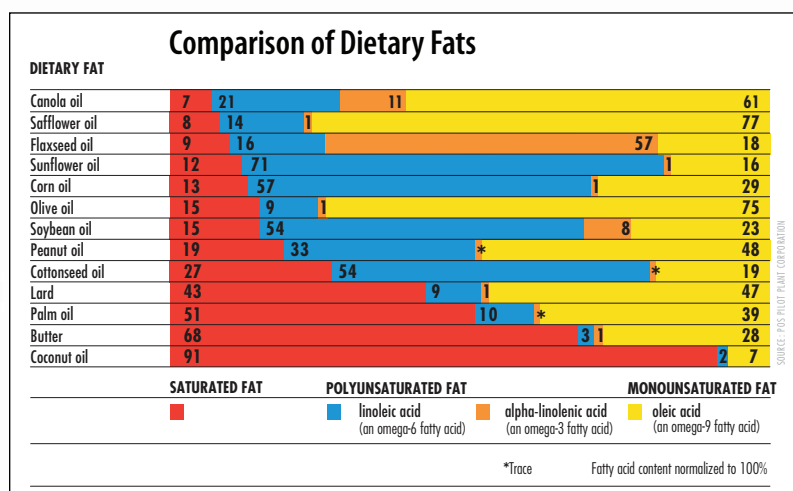
His words were the icing on the cake made with canola oil, so to speak. Indeed, this experience is quite a way to "camp" and tell the story of canola – truly from farm to fork. ●

Angela Dansby is communications manager of CanolaInfo in Chicago, Illinois.

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*"Limited and not conclusive scientific evidence suggests that eating 1 ½ tablespoons (19 grams) of canola oil daily may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease due to the unsaturated fat content in canola oil. To achieve this possible benefit, canola oil is to replace a similar amount of saturated fat and not increase the total number of calories you eat in a day." — U.S. Food and Drug Administration qualified health claim, October 2006.

SIMPLE CHANGES, PROFOUND EFFECTS

By Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum

Preventing heart disease one healthy habit at a time.



28

A cartoon I include in presentations has a doctor saying to an unhealthy patient, “I want you to quit smoking and drinking, cut back on red meat and sweets, don’t snack between meals and just enjoy life.” The irony, of course, is how can you enjoy life if you’re giving up your favourite indulgences? But the truth is, trading cigarettes and frequent steaks for wellness, longevity and prevention of chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes is well worth it.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for more than one-third (17 million) of all deaths each year. But what’s even more shocking is that heart disease is preventable 80 percent of the time and even reversible with a healthy lifestyle. Modifiable risk factors for heart disease include diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, tobacco use, alcohol abuse, stress, obesity, physical inactivity and unhealthy diets. Taking care of your heart includes eating nutritious foods low in saturated fat, exercising regularly, managing stress and not smoking.

EATING OUR HEARTS OUT

One of the most important parts of this “heartfelt recipe to success” that the majority of Americans struggle with is diet. About 70 percent of U.S. adults are overweight and among them, 30 percent are obese.

That’s a 75 percent increase in the last 20 years. Obesity can often lead to metabolic syndrome followed by type 2 diabetes, which significantly increases one’s risk of heart disease. In addition, almost one-third of American children are now overweight, prompting a “Let’s Move!” initiative by the U.S. government to promote healthier school lunches and exercise among kids and teenagers.

It’s clear our high-saturated fat, high-sodium, fast food-driven diet isn’t doing us any favours when it comes to diabetes or heart health, but there are simple adjustments that have a proven effect on wellness. According to the World Heart Federation, a diet low in saturated fat and high in fresh produce amounts to a 73 percent reduction in

cardiovascular disease risk compared with the typical American diet.

Where to begin? Trade butter or margarine for canola oil, white starches for whole grains, red meat for chicken or fish, and fried foods for grilled, baked, broiled or steamed dishes. A popular model is the Mediterranean diet, which is associated with a lower risk of coronary heart disease and cancer that is rich in produce, fish and monounsaturated fat from healthy oils like canola oil. This diet is also high in omega-3 fatty acids, anti-inflammatory substances that may help protect the heart, due to fish and canola oil.

Cholesterol also impacts heart health. The body produces cholesterol to help form cell membranes and produce hormones. But too much LDL or “bad” cholesterol can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. Intake of saturated fat, found in animal products,



DID YOU KNOW?

In Canada, someone dies from heart disease or stroke every 7 minutes, accounting for about 30 percent of all deaths. Heart disease and stroke cost the Canadian economy more than \$22 billion annually in physician services, hospital costs, lost wages and decreased productivity.

Source: Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

raises LDL cholesterol, whereas the mono- and polyunsaturated fats found in canola oil can help lower this bad cholesterol in conjunction with fibre from fruits, veggies and whole grains. Artificial trans fat from partially hydrogenated vegetable oils not only increases LDL cholesterol, but also decreases “good” HDL cholesterol. Fortunately, the food industry has been replacing partially hydrogenated oils with zero trans fat oils such as high-stability canola oil.

OUNCE OF PREVENTION, POUND OF CURE

In addition to making good dietary choices, exercise is critical for maintaining a healthy weight and helping prevent cardiovascular disease. According to the Nurses’ Health Study, a long-running investigation of more than 238,000 women by Harvard Medical School, exercise reduces the incidence of obesity and diabetes. Even a low level of physical fitness, such as walking, is associated with decreased mortality.

High blood pressure or hypertension, often referred to as the “silent killer,” is another risk factor for cardiovascular disease that affects one in three adults, but can easily be kept under control. Getting regular blood pressure checks, having a healthy weight and monitoring sodium intake and stress levels are everyday ways to help stay in the normal range.

While it may not be news to many consumers, smoking remains the most important and preventable source of premature mortality worldwide. The probability of living to age 90 is reduced to a mere 22 percent for smokers and even one cigarette a day equates to three times the risk for heart disease.

The bottom line: heart-smart eating coupled with exercise and smoke-free living can greatly prolong your life. That said, sacrificing your daily cheeseburger and fries doesn’t seem so bad. ●

Suzanne Steinbaum, D.O., is the director of Women and Heart Disease at the Heart and Vascular Institute of Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. She is also a spokesperson for CanolaInfo in the U.S.

WORLD HEART FEDERATION AND CANOLAINFO PARTNER TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT GLOBAL HEART HEALTH AND DIETARY FATS

By Angela Dansby

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the world, accounting for about a third (more than 17 million) of all lost lives. The good news is a healthy lifestyle can save the majority of these lives by preventing heart disease in the first place. To this end, the World Heart Federation and CanolaInfo have joined forces to promote global heart health.

“It’s easy to forget that heart disease is not just a problem in one’s own country but also around the world,” says World Heart Federation senior science officer Kathryn Taubert, PhD. “Diet plays a significant role in protecting or predisposing people to heart disease, so we hope to inspire them to eat more healthfully and make simple changes that may reduce their risk of the disease.”

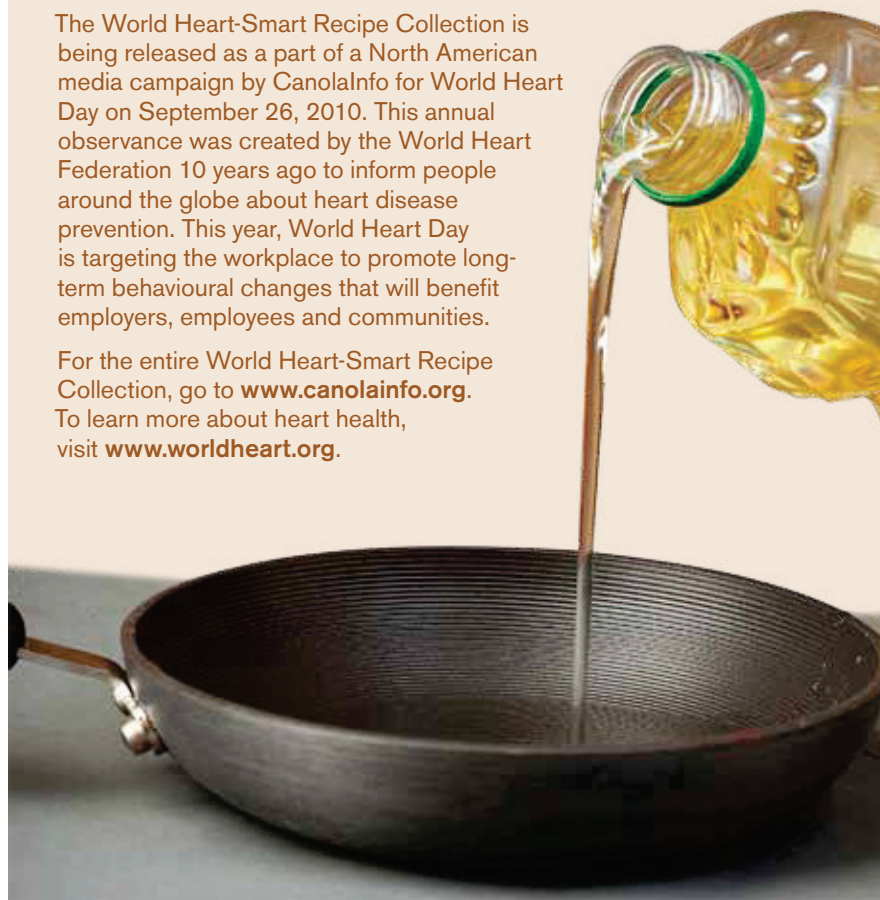
Six culinary experts from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, China, Japan and India created for CanolaInfo a World Heart-Smart Recipe Collection that creates a “passport to healthy eating” using traditional, yet mainstream, ethnic ingredients.

Each recipe is made with canola oil, which has the least saturated and most omega-3 fat of all cooking oils. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized a qualified health claim for canola oil on its potential to reduce the risk of heart disease when used in place of saturated fat.

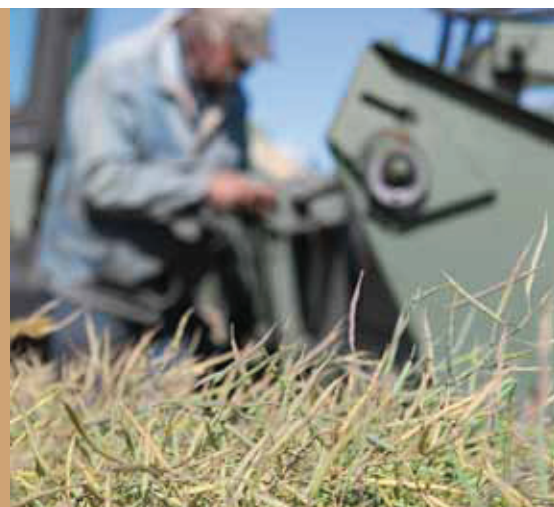
“These recipes were designed to show home cooks how ‘nutritious is delicious’ and to empower them to look after their hearts,” said Robert Hunter, vice president of communications, Canola Council of Canada. “Simple changes like switching to canola oil and other healthy ingredients can help combat heart disease one step at a time.”

The World Heart-Smart Recipe Collection is being released as a part of a North American media campaign by CanolaInfo for World Heart Day on September 26, 2010. This annual observance was created by the World Heart Federation 10 years ago to inform people around the globe about heart disease prevention. This year, World Heart Day is targeting the workplace to promote long-term behavioural changes that will benefit employers, employees and communities.

For the entire World Heart-Smart Recipe Collection, go to www.canolainfo.org. To learn more about heart health, visit www.worldheart.org.



ABreport



Jack and Sharon Moser from Killam talk canola with consumers during the Calgary Stampede.

CONNECTING WITH CONSUMERS AT THE CALGARY STAMPEDE

The Canola Learning Centre, which featured a huge interactive screen, lots of bright visuals and engaging activities for kids, was a highlight for many visitors to the "Ag-tivity in the City" tent at this year's Calgary Stampede.

ACPC Directors, staff and volunteers engaged thousands of consumers in meaningful discussions about the bright yellow crop they saw on their way to Calgary and the healthy benefits of canola oil. Many visitors left with a commitment to use canola oil and a better understanding of agriculture. ●

LEADERS WANTED FOR THE ALBERTA CANOLA PRODUCERS COMMISSION

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission (ACPC) is seeking four canola growers to serve as directors. Directors are needed for **regions 1, 4, 7 and 10** this year.

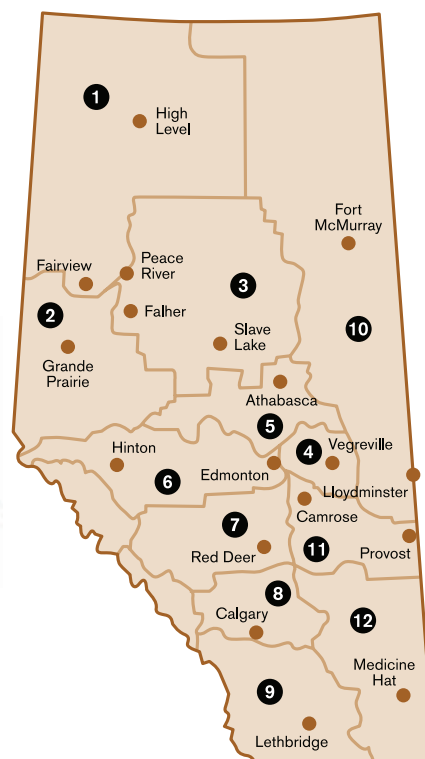
All decisions regarding the Alberta Canola Producers Commission are made by the Board of Directors. Alberta is divided into 12 regions and each region elects a director to represent the growers of that region. The Board of Directors meet as a whole four times each year. The board is guided in its decisions by recommendations from four committees: Agronomic Research, Market Development, Grower Relations and Extension, and Administration.

Who may become a director of ACPC?

Anyone who has paid the ACPC a service charge on canola sold since August 1, 2008 is an eligible producer and can stand for election as a director. An eligible producer can be an individual, corporation, partnership or organization. Eligible producers must produce canola within the defined region in order to be nominated but do not have to reside within the region. For detailed descriptions about the ACPC regions where elections are being held visit www.canola.ab.ca or call the ACPC office at 1-800-551-6652.

Nominations for the position of director must be filed in writing at the ACPC office at #170, 14315-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6, or by fax to 780-451-6933 on or before October 29, 2010.

For more information, contact Ward Toma, ACPC General Manager at 1-800-551-6652 or by email ward.toma@canola.ab.ca. ●



NEW MOBILE WEBSITE PUTS CANOLA PRICES IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

The Alberta Canola Producers have launched a mobile version of their website that is optimized for viewing on a small screen like a Blackberry, iPhone or other smartphone.

"Producers want the ability to monitor the canola futures as they are traded during the day," says Rick Taillieu, ACPC's grower relations & extension coordinator. "Market information is the most visited section of our main website, so we designed a mobile version to allow growers to easily watch the prices when they are in the field."

The site features the ICE futures on a 10 minute delay, daily grain prices from crushers and elevators, weekly feed grain prices and the current exchange rate. Also formatted for your handheld device are agronomic bulletins, *Canola Watch*, coming events and news items.

M is for mobile – stay connected in the field at m.canola.ab.ca.



Scan this barcode using Blackberry Messenger 5.0 or any QR code reader application like Scanlife on your Blackberry or iPhone to get there fast.



"Market information is the most visited section of our main website, so we designed a mobile version to allow growers to easily watch the prices when they are in the field." – Rick Taillieu

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SASKCANOLA NEWS

Through *Canola Digest*, SaskCanola is pleased to provide our readers with information and highlights about key program areas and achievements within the Saskatchewan canola industry and at the Commission.

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As we begin a new season of *Canola Digest*, we thank those registered producers whose levy contributions to SaskCanola are supporting world-class crop research, important market development and market access initiatives for canola products. Your contributions also support communication and education programs for all canola producers.



In the coming months, SaskCanola will launch a new series of producer meetings. The meetings will be held throughout the province to provide producers with the latest in crop production and industry development information. Producer information is also available and updated regularly on our new website: www.saskcanola.com. Board and staff contact information is also listed at the site.

Have questions or inquiries about SaskCanola, its programs or services? Contact us at 1-877-241-7044 or email: info@saskcanola.com.

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Two positions on the Board of Directors are up for election this autumn. Only registered growers* may vote, nominate directors and/or be elected to the Board of Directors.

Why become a director with SaskCanola?

Most board members agree that participation on producer boards has many benefits: working with a team of producers who want to see farmers be successful; learning about current issues in agriculture that need farmer input for better solutions; improving planning, presentation and chairing skills; and meeting new friends around the board table and from other farm organizations in Canada.

Who can be nominated to the board?

Registered canola growers can be nominated for positions on the board. If you wish to run in the election please contact SaskCanola toll free at 1-877-241-7044 or at info@saskcanola.com for a Director Nomination Package. The forms must be completed and received by the returning officer no later than noon October 20, 2010.

What can I expect as a board member?

SaskCanola directors attend six board meetings per year, participate on committees, and attend industry and grower meetings to ensure canola growers' interests are voiced. This requires about 40 days annually.

Directors are elected for a three-year term and are eligible for election over three consecutive terms – a maximum of nine years of service. As a director, you can expect to learn more about the canola industry and affect decisions that are made within.

When does the election occur?

Ballot packages will be mailed to all registered producers after nominations have closed on November 12, 2010. Registered producers will choose up to two nominated growers on the ballot and then mail their ballots to the returning officer by December 3, 2010. The election results will be announced on January 12, 2011 at SaskCanola's Annual General Meeting held during Crop Production Week.

Critical dates

September 10, 2010	Nominations open – packages available from SaskCanola
October 20, 2010	Nominations close at 12:00 pm (noon)
November 12, 2010	Ballots mailed to each registered producer
December 3, 2010	Last day for ballots to be received by returning officer
January 12, 2011	SaskCanola Annual General Meeting

*Who is a registered grower?

A registered grower is any grower who has sold canola in either of the previous two crop years and did not request a refund.

SaskCanola thanks all registered growers for their support of this producer led organization.

FLATEN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED AGROLOGIST AWARD

SaskCanola congratulates Pat Flaten, PAg, on receiving the Distinguished Agrologist Award from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (SIA).

The Distinguished Agrologist Award recognizes Professional Agrologists for outstanding accomplishments provincially and nationally.

"SaskCanola is indeed fortunate to have Pat Flaten manage and lead our research program," Wayne Bacon, chair of SaskCanola stated. "Pat's extensive knowledge of agronomy and key research needs is benefitting SaskCanola's research investments, which are essential to the long term success of our producers and the industry. She is most deserving of this recognition."

Pat has been a member of the SIA since 1986, serving as its president from 2007 to 2008. "She is known by the SIA and her colleagues as a passionate professional who has actively supported many agriculture related initiatives, both on the agriculture scene and as a volunteer," said Les McLean, SIA executive director/ registrar.

Pat joined SaskCanola in October 2008 as research manager. The Board of Directors along with the staff congratulates Pat on achieving a career milestone and wishes her many more accomplishments. ●



Pat Flaten, research manager, SaskCanola



Dr. Keith Downey

DR. KEITH DOWNEY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

In honour of the tremendous contributions made by Dr. Keith Downey to the research and development of the Saskatchewan and Canadian canola industry, SaskCanola has established four new undergraduate scholarships in Dr. Downey's name. Each scholarship carries a value of \$2,000.

To be eligible, you must be an immediate family member (child or spouse) of a registered Saskatchewan canola producer or a registered producer who is enrolled in undergraduate agriculture education at a recognized Canadian university or college.

Application packages must be received in the SaskCanola office by 4:00 p.m. on October 1, 2010.

Scholarship details and application forms can be downloaded from the SaskCanola website at www.saskcanola.com. ●

CHANGES SOUGHT IN ELECTION REGULATIONS

SaskCanola is seeking a change to its regulations under the *Agri-Food Act* related to the terms of office for its directors and the number of directors elected to the board. These changes would occur after the 2010 election. For more information and/or to comment on the proposed changes, go to www.saskcanola.com or call 1-877-241-7044. ●

NEW WEBSITE FOR SASKCANOLA

On May 12, 2010 SaskCanola launched a redesigned website featuring new content for producers, stakeholders and the public. The newly configured home page allows producers to check the latest in crop production information as well as industry and SaskCanola news, updates and canola radio programming from CJWW and CJVR stations.

A new navigational bar at the top of the home page directs producers, buyers and consumers to research, production, industry, health and nutrition (including the latest recipes) and SaskCanola information.

"Our website is an important component of our communication services to producers and the public," Catherine Folkersen, SaskCanola executive director stated.

"It is updated almost daily with news and information so we hope producers as well as consumers and other stakeholders take the opportunity to make it their reference point for 'all things canola'."

The website is referenced on all SaskCanola print materials (brochures, ads, reports and signage) as well as radio advertising and programming.

Access the new site at www.saskcanola.com where you can use the programming feature at the top of the home page to make SaskCanola your Internet browser home page.

We do appreciate feedback on the site. ●



SaskCanola's new home page.

MBreport



DRAKE JOINS MCGA BOARD



The Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA) would like to welcome Hugh Drake to the Board of Directors. Hugh was appointed at the June 2010 board meeting to fill Barry Chappell's remaining term. Barry resigned from the board in April 2010.

Hugh lives near Elkhorn, Manitoba and farms with his wife Myrna and their two sons. They operate a grain, oilseed and livestock farm.

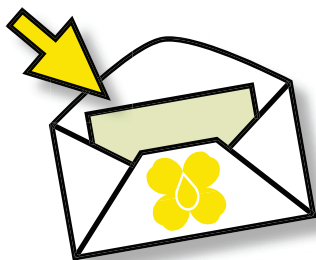
Previous experience for Hugh includes having served on the district board of Keystone Agricultural Producers for a number of years as well as being a delegate for Manitoba Pool Elevators. He was elected director for Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1993 and continued as director for Agricore and Agricore United until 2007. Hugh served on the Human Resources, Risk Review and Agriculture Policy committees at Agricore United. He received the Institute of Corporate Director Designation from the Haskayne

School of Business at the University of Calgary in 2005.

"It is important that MCGA encourage the research and development of disease resistant varieties, as well as continue to promote the health benefits of canola oil and the advantages of canola meal in livestock rations," says Drake.

"The Board of Director looks forward to working with Hugh. He will be a great addition to the board," stated Rob Pettinger, MCGA's president.


MCGA would like to thank Barry Chappell for his years of service to the association and welcome Hugh Drake to the Board of Directors. ●



The **Manitoba Canola Growers Association** knows that your time is precious. That's why we don't want you wasting it searching for the latest news on canola marketing, research and agronomy information.

With our **Canola Growers E-Update**, we send the news to you, delivering instant access to local and national canola reports direct to the email of your choice.

To sign-up, visit:
www.mcgacanola.org/growers_eupdate.

Growing healthy for you.

The **Manitoba Canola Growers** are proud to support the extraordinary efforts of **Curl Manitoba** as the title sponsor for the **Junior Men's and Junior Women's Curling Championships**. Curling is a great activity that promotes a healthy lifestyle for all ages—we encourage everyone to hit the rink and **Hurry Hard for Heart Health!**

For more information about event dates and locations go to www.mcgacanola.org

Manitoba Canola Growers **CurlManitoba**



the future of agriculture is in the hands of our youth

Bringing Canola to the Classroom

Manitoba Canola Growers understands the need to educate our children on the importance of agriculture and has been a key supporter and partner to **Agriculture in the Classroom–Manitoba** for the past 14 years. We value and support the work that AITC-MB does in reaching out to students and teachers in Manitoba through top quality, experiential educational programming on agriculture. The Manitoba Canola Growers are involved in AITC-MB's **Made in Manitoba Breakfast** program, **Amazing Agriculture Adventure** in Brandon and Winnipeg, and many other programs that reach over 15,000 students and teachers every year.

Made in Manitoba Breakfasts are one of AITC-MB's flagship events. The program travels across Manitoba connecting students to growers and where their food comes from. Students enjoy a Manitoba-made breakfast served by local growers. This program reaches approximately 14 different schools across the province every year and may be in your community in the near future.

Connect with Your Community

As volunteers are always needed, and appreciated, MCGA would love to have you, our local canola growers, participate in an upcoming breakfast. In addition to enjoying a healthy meal of Manitoba sourced products, you'll be able to connect with the students and teachers in or near your community.

Share Your Stories

If you have not had the opportunity to volunteer for past AITC-MB events, we invite you to do so. We're confident that you will enjoy the experience of being part of these positive, uplifting initiatives that are successfully cultivating an interest in agriculture! As one of the many faces of agriculture, we encourage you to share the stories, passions and excitement of this dynamic industry.

If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, email info@mcgacanola.org, call 204-982-2122 or visit www.aitc.mb.ca



Manitoba
Canola Growers



Photos Courtesy of Agriculture in the Classroom – Manitoba Inc.

TECH THREAT

By Cheryl Mayer

New legislation could jeopardize genetically modified canola innovations and affect competitiveness in the future.

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B iotechnology. How important has it been to the development of the Canadian canola industry and to the profitability of canola on your farm? The answer becomes clear when you read the statistics – over 90 percent of Canada's canola crop is grown from varieties that benefit from biotechnology.

But any future innovations derived from the science of biotechnology could be in jeopardy if a bill is passed that is now nearing the final stages of review by Parliament.

Bill C-474 “will introduce a barrier to future innovations, ultimately affecting my ability to compete and to remain profitable,” wrote Ed Schafer, president of the Canadian Canola Growers Association, in a recent submission to the House Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Most canola growers would agree that biotechnology has contributed to better profitability on their farm and helped canola become competitive on a global scale. Canola is now the number one source of farm field crop cash receipts

in Canada, contributing over \$5 billion in 2009.

Biotechnology has facilitated the development of most herbicide-tolerant canola varieties, which spearheaded the adoption of minimum and no-till systems. According to a 2007 study from the University of Saskatchewan, growers experienced an average benefit of \$15 per acre from herbicide-tolerant compared to conventional canola. Reduced herbicide applications, less passes over the field and improved weed control (which has contributed to crop establishment and yield gains) all contributed to this financial benefit.

While most of biotechnology's contribution so far focuses on herbicide-tolerant traits, in the future genetic modifications (GMs) could be used to develop new agronomic characteristics as well as important end user traits, all contributing to the long-term competitiveness of Canada's canola industry.

continued on page 38

THE BUZZ AROUND THE TABLE

Opinions on Bill C-474 vary widely. Read some viewpoints that have been presented in a variety of public forums:

“It [Bill C-474] would be like giving me a wage freeze, but not my competitors.”

– A Canadian canola farmer

“A move away from a science-based framework for biotech is an invitation to other countries to deny our science and eliminate our competitive advantage in world markets. It's a huge gamble with our industry, and we strongly oppose it.”

– JoAnne Buth, president, Canola Council of Canada

“New and innovative traits will be key to expanding our domestic and export industries. Without them, we'll be left behind.”

– Ed Schafer, president, Canadian Canola Growers Association

“There have been no yield increases basically in the world, with maybe the exception – 2% or 3% – of corn in the United States, that are based on GE technology.”

– Alex Atamanenko, sponsor of Bill C-474 and MP from British Columbia

“Canola is not at risk here. Canola is arguably not even relevant to this question.”

– Western Producer article written by Lucy Sharratt, Canadian Biotechnology Action Network

“Finally MPs are taking steps to protect farmers from the economic chaos that GM crops can cause.”

– Terry Boehm, president, National Farmers Union



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- 3 Fill out an application at your local elevator



A LOOK AT BILL C-474

Bill C-474 is a private members' bill introduced by NDP agriculture critic Alex Atamanenko that would add an analysis of market harm to the regulatory approval process for new GM seeds.

Canada's current approval process for new seed varieties is science-based, predictable and safety-oriented – ensuring new seeds are safe for food, feed and the environment. This regulatory process is internationally recognized and it works well. It is the same regulatory process that facilitated the commercialization of GM canola over 15 years ago, bringing herbicide-tolerant technology, and the resulting financial and environmental benefits, to the forefront for canola growers.

However, the type of subjective criteria this legislation seeks to implement would introduce uncertainty and unpredictability into the system. With many new innovations in the pipeline that would benefit farmers, consumers and the environment, the injection of non-science based requirements into the approval process would put future innovations at risk. At best, this would delay regulatory approval of promising new plant varieties. At worst, these new varieties could be commercialized somewhere other than Canada.

Recently, the Standing Committee on Agriculture released a report entitled *Competitiveness of Canadian Agriculture*, which stated that “technological

MARKET ACCESS POLICY

The canola industry has been a front runner in dealing with market access for GM varieties. The Canola Council of Canada's *Market Access Policy*, a voluntary industry agreement that ensures new GM seed traits are only introduced commercially when they have been approved in key export markets, has always been respected since its inception in 1995. This policy is a strong reflection that the industry recognizes and respects the importance of being responsible about the introduction of new technologies and does not require regulation to police itself.

innovation is one of the best ways of improving Canadian farmers' competitiveness through efficiency gains, higher yields and new product development.” Bill C-474 clearly contradicts this direction.

We can all agree on the importance of protecting market access, and while this bill was intended to protect it, creating an unpredictable environment for Canadian crops, including canola, is an unacceptable consequence of this legislation.

STATUS OF THE BILL

Bill C-474 passed second reading in the House of Commons in April and was then referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture for consideration and the hearing of witnesses. The committee, which has until late October to report back to the House with its final recommendation for the bill, held two hearings on Bill C-474 before the House recessed for the summer. When Parliament resumes in September, the Agriculture Committee will resume its work on the bill. A final vote is expected to reach Parliament in late fall.

There has been a lot of interest in Bill C-474 from a diverse set of groups, with approximately 30 interested parties requesting to appear as witnesses. Prior to the April vote in the House of Commons, it was reported that over 9,000 letters were sent from constituents to members of parliament asking them to support the bill. The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, an environmental group, facilitated many of these letters through an online form on its website.

Given the importance of this bill to the canola industry, it is crucial that MPs hear about the detrimental effects of this legislation from as many canola growers as possible. ●

Cheryl Mayer is a policy analyst with the Canadian Canola Growers Association.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

MPs need to hear from canola growers. Contact your MP and ask him or her to defeat Bill C-474 and instead support innovation in crop research in Canada.

Find your MP's address at webinfo.parl.gc.ca.

Also contact:

Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture at RitzG@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Wayne Easter, Liberal Agriculture Critic at EasteW@parl.gc.ca



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