

Northern Canola Growers Association Hosts Annual Meeting

The sixth annual Northern Canola Growers Association Annual Meeting/Canola Day was held in Langdon, North Dakota recently. Over 200 people were in attendance as speakers from North Dakota State University provided information on recent research findings that show yield advantages to split applications of nitrogen fertilizer, and methods of disease and insect control.

Featured speakers for Canola Day were Mike Jubinville of *Pro Farmer Canada* and Joe Jobe of the National Biodiesel Board. Mr. Jubinville is president and lead analyst of *Pro Farmer Canada*, a market analysis and advisory service for farm commodities based out of



Joe Jobe, Executive Director of the National Biodiesel Board addresses Canola Day attendees.

Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mike formerly was employed as senior market analyst with Growers Marketing Services of United Grain Growers, an analyst and market reporter with Resource News International and Bridge

Financial News out of Winnipeg and Chicago. Mr. Jubinville presented his outlook on the canola market in 2003 and strategies growers can use to maximize their profit.

Joe Jobe is the Executive Director of the National Biodiesel Board. The National Biodiesel Board is the national trade association representing the biodiesel industry as the coordinating body for biodiesel



Kevin Black presents Tom Borgen, past NCGA president, with an award for serving on the NCGA Board.

research and development in the United States. Its members include feed-stock producers, commodity boards, and biodiesel producers. Jobe discussed the outlook for biodiesel and how canola and other vegetable oils may benefit from increased biodiesel use.

Elections for the NCGA board were also held during the Annual Meeting. Kipp Johnson of Rugby was re-elected by the membership as a director on the NCGA board. Two new members were nominated to the board of directors. Kevin Waslaski, a canola grower from Langdon, was chosen as a producer director,



Kevin Black presents Curt Stern, past director, with an award for serving on the NCGA Board.

Gehrtz First Recipient of NCGA Excellence Award

During the sixth annual Canola Day held on February 5 in Langdon North Dakota, Dave Gehrtz of New Rockford was presented with the first Northern Canola Excellence Award.

The award was established to recognize those individuals that have significantly contributed to the success of the canola industry, within North Dakota and nationally. Gehrtz was nominated by his peers and chosen by a selection committee for the award.

As one of the original members of the NCGA, Gehrtz' knowledge and expertise in the canola industry has been invaluable to producers. Gehrtz currently serves as a director on the Northern Canola Growers Association Board.



Tom Borgen presents Dave Gehrtz with the first NCGA Excellence Award.

replacing Tom Borgen, whose term expired. Eric Mack, merchandising manager of ADM in Velva, replaced Curt Stern, whose term also expired, for the industry position.

During the NCGA board of directors meeting, officers elected for 2003 were Kevin Black of Glenfield as President, Mike Roark of Berthold as Vice President and Jason Hanson of Webster as Secretary/Treasurer. Additional members of the NCGA board include: Barry Rongen, Devils Lake; Brian Jenks, Minot; Steve Kakela, Langdon; Richard Lutz, Regent; and Mark Winter, Valley City and Dave Gehrtz, New Rockford.

Revenue Assurance Available For Canola

In addition to the standard MPCI (APH) insurance plan, the Revenue Assurance (RA) insurance plan is available in all North Dakota counties for canola. The RA insurance plan protects against revenue losses by setting a minimum revenue guarantee. Consequently, in addition to protecting the producer from yield losses, this plan also can protect the producer from fluctuations in market price. Participation in RA for canola has increased substantially in North Dakota over the last several years. In fact, while only 55 policies were sold in 2001, this number dramatically increased to around 3,800 policies sold in 2002. The following is a brief overview regarding the RA insurance plan for canola:

Price Election:

There are two published prices for RA: the projected harvest price and the fall harvest price. The projected harvest price is the average of the daily settlement prices in February for the November canola futures contract on the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange (this price is usually announced in early March of each year). The fall harvest price is the average of the daily settlement prices in September for the November canola futures contract on the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange. RA has a fall harvest price option which, if elected, can increase the dollar amount of the insurance guarantee if prices go up during the crop year. If the fall harvest price option is not elected, the dollar amount of the insurance guarantee remains a constant based on the projected harvest price.

Unit Structure:

The RA plan of insurance offers both basic units and optional units similar to the standard APH plan. Additionally, RA offers enterprise units (all insurable acreage of the insured crop in the county) and whole farm units (all insurable acreage of the insured crops in the county).

Coverage Levels:

You can elect to insure 65-75 percent of your production for basic and optional units, and 65-85 percent of your production for enterprise and whole farm units. The same APH methodology is used for both the RA plan of insurance and the standard APH plan of insurance. NOTE: The Coverage Enhancement Option (CEO) is not available for RA. As far as the price election, you must use 100 percent of the price (there are no 60-100 percent price elections as in the case of the standard APH plan).

Premium Rates:

Premium rates can be estimated based on your individual circumstances using the Risk Management Agency's Premium Calculation Software located at the following internet site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/premcalc/>. NOTE: RA offers additional premium rate discounts when enterprise or whole farm units are elected.

Indemnity Payment Example:

Assume the following: 1,500 lbs./A. APH, 65% production and 100% price coverage, 100% share, the actual production in the unit was 100 lbs./A., the projected harvest price was \$.092/lb., and the fall harvest price is \$.123/lb.

- The indemnity payable for the unit if the harvest price option was not elected would be **\$77.40/A.** calculated as follows: the actual revenue of \$12.30/A. (100 lbs./A. multiplied by \$.123/lb.) subtracted from the revenue guarantee of \$89.70/A. (1,500 lbs./A. APH multiplied by .65 multiplied by \$.092/lb.).
- The indemnity payable for the unit if the harvest price option was elected would be **\$107.63/A.** calculated as follows: the actual revenue of \$12.30/A. subtracted from the revenue guarantee of \$119.93/A. (1,500 lbs./A. APH multiplied by .65 multiplied by \$.123/lb.).

Final Conclusions:

Based on your individual circumstances, the RA plan of insurance may be a viable risk management tool for your canola production in 2003. If you have further interest you should consult with your insurance agent to find out more about this plan of insurance, and whether or not it is a good fit for your operation. Also, additional information about RA is available through the Risk Management Agency's Internet site (<http://www.rma.usda.gov/>) including: the RA Insurance Policy Basic Provisions, the Canola and Rape-seed RA Policy Provisions, county-by-county Special Provisions of Insurance, etc.

Will The Cold Winter Weather Freeze Out Some Insect Pests Like Grasshoppers, Bertha Armyworms And Crucifer Flea Beetles?

—Jan Knodel, Crop Protection Specialist, NDSU

In general, insects that overwinter in the region have successfully adapted to the North Dakota climate, including the ability to survive the very cold weather of these northern climates. There are three strategies by which insects survive cold. First, insects alter physiological factors, such as secretion of cryoprotective ice-nucleating agents. Another strategy that insects use is “freeze avoidance” by supercooling tissues. Supercooling is the phenomenon by which water and aqueous solutions remain unfrozen below their melting points. Many insects secrete chemical proteins similar to the substance found in antifreeze, which protect them from freezing – thermal hysteresis. For the third strategy, insects increase their general “cold-hardiness” to avoid cryoinjury or death at temperatures below which normal growth and development are possible. Some examples of cropland insect pests are listed below.



Cropland Grasshoppers (for example, two-striped grasshopper, red-legged grasshopper) overwinter as eggs in the soil about 1-6 inches deep to avoid freezing, and can tolerate soil temperatures down to 5°F (or -15°C) before substantial mortality occurs. However, these temperatures do not usually occur in our in North Dakota soils, because the snow cover acts as insulation.



Bertha armyworms overwinter as a hibernating pupae 1-6 inches (or 2-15 cm) deep in the soil with winter supercooling points between -0.4°F and -7.6°F (or -18°C and -22°C). Research studies on Bertha armyworm also indicate that prolonged exposure to low temperatures of 14°F (or -10°C) and low snow fall cause high mortality of overwintering pupae. Pupal survival was higher than 90% under snow depths greater than 8 in or 20 cm and negligible when there was no snow cover.



Crucifer flea beetles overwinter as hibernating adults in the leaf litter of shelterbelts and grassy areas. Research indicates that its overwintering survival does not appear to be related to temperature or snowfall during the period

December to March, but may be related to low degree day accumulation (base 32°F or 0°C) from June through September. These low temperatures could retard flea beetle oviposition and development of immature stages.

In summary, most of the soil temperatures from across North Dakota have not been at low enough levels to cause mortality to these insect pests due to insulating protection from snow cover and turf / leaf litter (see table below). Some areas like Langdon have low snow cover and the lowest recorded temperatures for the state, so there may be some insect mortality. However, temperatures usually need to be below the insect’s temperature threshold for an extended period of time to cause mortality. In summary, most of the insect pests should survive our very cold temperatures this winter so far!

Region	Site	Bare Soil Temp (°F)			Turf Soil Temp (°F)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Maximum
North West	Crosby	18	9	28	22	13	30
	Bowbells	19	10	31	24	19	31
	Mohall	26	21	31	25	18	32
	Minot	28	24	32	23	14	33
	Williston	22	13	31	23	17	32
North Central	Bottineau	28	26	30	23	15	29
North East	Langdon	12	-3	29	19	10	29
	Grand Forks	30	29	31	30	29	32
East Central	Fargo	28	17	31	28	20	31
Central	Carrington	23	13	31	25	17	31
West Central	Turtle Lake	25	15	31	29	24	32
South West	Dickinson	29	25	32	28	20	32
	Beach	24	17	31	24	18	31
	Hettinger	22	11	32	25	19	32
South Central	Mandan	25	20	31	25	18	32
South East	Wishek	22	16	31	20	11	32
Montana	Sidney	28	21	32	26	22	32

Two New Board Members Elected To The Northern Canola Growers Association Board



Kevin Waslaski, a canola producer; Langdon, North Dakota was elected as a producer director to the NCGA board. Waslaski is pictured with newly elected NCGA president, Kevin Black.



Eric Mack, merchandising manager of ADM in Velva, North Dakota was elected to the industry director position on the NCGA board. Mack is pictured with newly elected NCGA president, Kevin Black.

Canola Briefs is published by the Northern Canola Growers Association. Funding is provided by grower memberships, industry sponsors and canola checkoff funds collected by the ND Oilseed Council.

Phone: (701)223-4124

Fax: (701)223-4130

northerncanola.com
