

Farm Bill Finalized

On Tuesday, Congress finalized the details of the next Farm Bill, called the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The U.S. Canola Association, along with the Northern Canola Growers Association and the Minnesota Canola Council were successful in solidifying the necessary support for canola. The following provisions apply specifically to canola:

Loan rate: \$9.60 for years 2002-2003. This is an increase of \$.30 per hundredweight from the last farm bill. The canola associations provided ample evidence to our Congressional staff on the importance of the minor oilseed loan rate. This increase will allow the average county loan rate for canola in North Dakota to increase to \$9.84. For crop years 2004-2007, the minor oilseed loan rate will come back to the present level of \$9.30, which can result in an average canola county loan rate in North Dakota of \$9.54. This is far better than the \$8.70 proposed by the House last summer.

Minor oilseed growers will also receive a fixed payment of \$.80 per hundredweight for their minor oilseed production. The acreage base will be the average planted minor oilseed production for 1998-2001. The payment will be based on historical production. We anticipate the direct payment will be approximately \$8 - \$9 per base acre for minor oilseed growers. Producers are allowed to retain their current AMTA base acres and add oilseed acres, or to update base acres using 1998-2001 acres planted and prevented planted to all covered commodities. A special thank you to Senator Conrad for his hard work in protecting the minor oilseed industry in this region.

	Loan Rates		Direct Payment	Target Price	
	2002-2003	2004-2007	2002-2007	2002-2003	2004-2007
Minor Oilseeds (cwt)	\$9.60	\$9.30	\$0.80	\$9.80	\$10.10
Corn (bu)	\$1.98	\$1.95	\$0.28	\$2.60	\$2.63
Barley (bu)	\$1.88	\$1.85	\$0.24	\$2.21	\$2.24
Oats (bu)	\$1.35	\$1.33	\$0.024	\$1.40	\$1.44
Wheat (bu)	\$2.80	\$2.75	\$0.52	\$3.86	\$3.92
Soybeans (bu)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.44	\$5.80	\$5.80

Canola Growers Are Spreading the Word

Hopefully you have noticed the inclusion of the *Northern Canola News* in the last four issues of the *Canola Grower* magazine. The board of directors and staff of the NCGA have been searching for an efficient and effective method to share as much North Dakota canola information with growers throughout the state as possible. Our most recent attempt is using the *Canola Grower* magazine as the medium for getting information out. The *Canola Grower* magazine is mailed to over 4,000 readers throughout the US.

The *Canola Grower* is not published every month. During months in which the *Canola Grower* is not published we will be sending our NCGA members monthly updates through this publication, *Canola Briefs*. We may also use the *Canola Briefs* in months when we are unable to fit all of the news into the magazine or a quick message needs to be sent to our members.

We are also negotiating with two internet companies to make improvements to our website, making it even more user friendly. Please watch for changes in the website in the next few months. The new website will be found at the same location at northerncanola.com, and will be updated daily with news and market information.

We are always looking for ways to keep you informed. If you have any comments, positive or negative about the information you are receiving from the NCGA or the way you are receiving it, please call or send us a note with your suggestions.

Minot Canola Day and Golf Tournaments

This year the NCGA is once again teaming up with the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot to give canola growers an in-depth tour of canola research projects and findings. The Minot tour will be held from 9 am to Noon on Wednesday, June 26th. Various topics will be covered including insect and disease management as well as review of new rotation and large plot canola research. Free lunch will be provided. Following the tour the NCGA will be hosting a golf tournament at the Minot Country Club. Please pre-register for the golf tournament on the enclosed form. The NCGA will also host a golf tournament at the Langdon Country Club on Thursday, July 11. You can pre-register for this tournament also by filling out the enclosed form.

Sclerotinia Risk Maps to be Provided Again in 2002

The Northern Canola Growers Association will once again provide a sclerotinia risk forecast on its website this year. This tool was developed in Canada by Dr. Gary Platford, Provincial Plant Pathologist. The program will consist of a set of sclerotinia risk maps meant to be a management tool farmers can use to help them decide if their fields need to be sprayed with a fungicide for control of sclerotinia. The risk maps are created using surface soil moisture, canola growth stage data and a canola water-use and phenology model. The forecast maps will show regions where environmental conditions are favorable for the development of sclerotinia.

Data to be incorporated into the map will be collected from NDAWN weather stations around the state. Dr. Art Lamey of North Dakota State University, the lead U.S. research scientist responsible for gathering the data for the risk maps, says the risk maps will provide growers with a good indication of how serious the threat of sclerotinia is in their particular area and help them to decide whether an application of a fungicide is needed. Presently, canola growers in the U.S. have two fungicides registered for use on canola to control sclerotinia; Ronilan, manufactured by BASF, and Quadris, manufactured by Syngenta.

The sclerotinia risk maps will be provided on the Northern Canola Growers Association website at northerncanola.com and the NDSU Extension Service website. The Northern Canola Growers Association also intends to disseminate the maps in as many other media forms as possible, including the NDSU Weekly Crop and Pest Report, farm publications, through county and area extension agents and by direct emails to interested individuals.

Many canola growers have indicated they do not always know with certainty when to spray or even if to spray their canola to control sclerotinia. This risk map will assist growers with their decision. Growers can obtain a copy of publication PP-1201 produced by NDSU, titled "Sclerotinia Stem Rot of Canola" on the growers section of the NCGA website or by calling the NCGA office.

The Sclerotinia Risk in Canola Forecast Program will be an ongoing program providing a service to canola producers in North Dakota and Minnesota. Completion of the risk maps will be made possible by funding from the Northern Canola Growers Association, the National Sclerotinia Initiative, BASF Corporation and CerexAgri.

The risk maps will be available beginning in June and continuing through July. Growers interested in using the maps are encouraged to view the maps on the NCGA website or call the NCGA office toll-free at (877) 585-1671.

Oilseed Expert Advises Farmers to Grow Canola

By Adrian Ewins

The guru of world oilseed markets has a message for Canadian farmers.

Grow canola.

The world needs a four million tonne increase in canola production in 2002, says Thomas Mielke, editor of the influential magazine *Oil World*. It is looking to Canada to provide a good portion of it.

"Some will come from Europe and some from China," he said. "But the world will need two million tonnes more Canadian canola next season."

However, based on the February forecast of planting intentions by Agriculture Canada, that is unlikely.

The department projected farmers here will grow 5.8 million tonnes of canola in 2002, up just 700,000 tonnes from the 5.1 million tonnes grown in 2001.

Mielke said farmers might miss a good bet if they pass on canola, given the tight supply and demand balance in the coming year.

There are lots of bullish signals,

he said. World stocks of rapeseed and canola will fall to 2.8 million tonnes this summer, down from 5.6 million two years ago.

Stocks of palm oil, a major influence on world oil supplies and the price of canola, are expected to decline sharply to a two-year low of 3.3 million tonnes as of September 2002.

Mielke offered no specific price predictions, but said those numbers should lead to rallies in the second half of this year and into 2003.

"The timing is difficult to say, but prices will appreciate the remainder of this season and continue into next season due to problems on the supply side of palm oil," he told the annual convention of the Canola Council of Canada.

In an interview, he urged Canadian growers to think seriously about putting more acres into canola. "If the rotation allows it, this is a good

opportunity to expand plantings in Canada sizably this year."

The slowdown in the growth of palm oil production, reflecting the natural biological yield cycle of palm trees and the effects of drought in Malaysia, should boost the value of oilseeds with a high oil content, such as canola and sunflower seed.

World production of rapeseed and canola fell to 36.6 million tonnes in 2001, down from 42.6 million tonnes two years earlier.

Meanwhile, global consumption of the 10 major oilseeds will rise to 322 million tonnes in the coming year, outstripping production of 320.7 million tonnes.

Mielke said that despite generally bullish signs, oilseed markets have been slow to respond due to several factors, including uncertainty about future Chinese imports, India's reduced imports of vegetable oil, a tendency among buyers to operate with reduced stocks and big oilseed harvests in South America.



Canola County Estimates, North Dakota, 2001 ^{1/}

District and County	2001			
	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Acre	Production
	Acres	Acres	Lbs	Lbs
Burke	31,500	31,400	1,472	46,220,000
Divide	21,000	21,000	1,246	26,170,000
Mountrail	49,000	48,000	1,452	69,710,000
Renville	76,000	76,000	1,429	108,590,000
Ward	100,000	98,400	1,432	140,860,000
Williams	7,500	6,500	1,146	7,450,000
Combined Counties				
Northwest	285,000	281,300	1,418	399,000,000
Benson	35,500	35,400	1,444	51,130,000
Bottineau	110,000	109,800	1,457	159,950,000
McHenry	39,000	37,900	1,380	52,290,000
Pierce	38,000	37,100	1,359	50,420,000
Rolette	47,500	47,500	1,432	68,010,000
Combined Counties				
North Central	270,000	267,700	1,426	381,800,000
Cavalier	186,000	186,000	1,463	272,070,000
Grand Forks	9,200	8,300	1,283	10,650,000
Nelson	34,000	33,800	1,278	43,180,000
Pembina	7,000	6,300	1,200	7,560,000
Ramsey	59,500	59,400	1,351	80,270,000
Towner	84,000	83,900	1,325	111,190,000
Walsh	15,300	15,300	1,247	19,080,000
Combined Counties				
Northeast	395,000	393,000	1,384	544,000,000
Dunn	3,900	3,300	1,379	4,550,000
McKenzie	10,600	8,400	1,375	11,550,000
McLean	88,500	87,700	1,400	122,790,000
Mercer	9,000	9,000	1,337	12,030,000
Oliver	3,000	2,700	1,400	3,780,000
Combined Counties				
West Central	115,000	111,100	1,392	154,700,000
Eddy	4,600	4,500	1,200	5,400,000
Foster	7,400	7,400	1,399	10,350,000
Kidder	5,000	5,000	1,024	5,120,000
Sheridan	18,400	18,300	1,384	25,320,000
Stutsman	21,900	21,800	1,279	27,890,000
Wells	27,700	27,500	1,150	31,620,000
Combined Counties				
Central	85,000	84,500	1,251	105,700,000
Barnes	14,400	14,300	1,590	22,730,000
Cass	600	600	1,350	810,000
Griggs	5,000	5,000	1,388	6,940,000
Steele	3,000	3,000	1,283	3,850,000
Traill				
Combined Counties				
East Central	23,000	22,900	1,499	34,330,000
Adams	5,500	5,500	1,342	7,380,000
Billings	1,000	900	856	770,000
Bowman	4,000	4,000	1,313	5,250,000
Golden Valley	5,800	5,100	1,000	5,100,000
Hettinger	54,000	53,800	1,599	86,000,000
Slope	7,300	7,300	1,651	12,050,000
Stark	12,400	12,400	1,464	18,150,000
Combined Counties				
Southwest	90,000	89,000	1,513	134,700,000
Burleigh	13,000	12,500	1,195	14,940,000
Emmons	3,000	3,000	1,313	3,940,000
Grant	5,300	4,700	1,313	6,170,000
Morton	2,600	2,600	1,450	3,770,000
Sioux	1,100	1,000	1,300	1,300,000
Combined Counties				
South Central	25,000	23,800	1,266	30,120,000
Dickey	800	800	1,300	1,040,000
LaMoure	1,200	1,200	1,383	1,660,000
Logan	4,500	4,200	1,098	4,610,000
McIntosh	4,700	4,700	1,345	6,320,000
Ransom				
Richland				
Sargent				
Combined Counties	800	800	1,275	1,020,000
Southeast	12,000	11,700	1,252	14,650,000
Combined Districts				
STATE	1,300,000	1,285,000	1,400	1,799,000,000

^{1/} Data published in combined counties or districts to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

~ Compiled and Published by ~



Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and AAFC Launch the First Canola-Quality Brassica Juncea Varieties

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) have broken new ground, introducing a new crop to western Canada that can be grown in hotter, drier regions of the southern prairies.

Arid and Amulet, two new canola-quality Brassica juncea varieties, are available to producers this growing season at Pool locations throughout southern Saskatchewan. Since 1991, the Pool and AAFC scientists at the Saskatoon Research Centre have worked closely to develop these new products using selective breeding techniques. Originally derived from mustard plants, these new non-GMO varieties are more drought-resistant and produce canola-quality oil and meal.

Arid and Amulet received registration and final regulatory approval on April 19, 2002.

The Pool's Chief Executive Officer, Mayo Schmidt says, "Brassica juncea will take its place alongside Argentine and Polish canola as a profitable oilseed crop for western Canadian farmers. Brassica juncea adapts well to the southern Prairie climate providing better heat and drought tolerance and higher yields than traditional canolas. We are extremely proud of our research team, which has maximized its strategic partnership with AAFC and its research scientists. It is these kinds of partnerships that Canada needs to keep our farmers competitive in a tough international marketplace."

Dr. David Wall, Acting Director of AAFC's Research Centre in Saskatoon says, "This breakthrough underlines the importance of Canada's agriculture and agri-food research, which supports the development of new and innovative production methods and cropping options. We are providing options to prairie producers to promote growth in the agricultural sector, even in the face of challenges regularly presented by Mother Nature, such as drought."

The new crop expands the range of land suitable for canola cultivation, providing an improved and expanded crop rotation to farmers located in the brown soil zone, known as the Palliser Triangle, which stretches from Weyburn to Saskatoon to Lethbridge, the large southwest corner of Saskatchewan and southeast Alberta.

"We're very excited about moving this program forward. It's a perfect example of how government and industry can work together to take projects of this size to market," says Monte Kesslering, the Pool's Manager, Seed Business Unit. "Originally Brassica juncea was intended primarily for producers in the brown soil zones, but the crop is proving so adaptable that, in the future, it may spread into traditional canola growing areas, particularly since it has a tremendous yield potential."

—SOURCE: Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

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