Title: Canola and Mustard Production and Outreach

PI: Aaron Esser

CoPI’s: Scot Hulbert

Funding term and duration: $7,500

Graduate students: n/a

Technical support: n/a

Background: The process to get producers to change or modify their cropping system to include oilseed crops can be difficult in today’s environment for multiple reasons.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to assist producers to successfully incorporate oilseed crops into rotation with cereal grain production. This is accomplished with large on-farm trials, developing relevant outreach materials, and utilizing the WSU Wilke Research and Extension Farm to further inform producers about oilseed production.

Methods: Stand establishment is the most limiting factor impacting winter canola production in the low to intermediate rainfall zones. Two outreach tours were organized to help producers learn from other producers and University researchers how to improve stand establishment and improve their ability to profitably produce winter canola. In the fall of 2009 the tour focused on early seeded winter canola to improve stand establishment (Figs. 1 and 2). Early in the spring a winter canola tour was organized to further evaluate early seeded canola production and winter survivability. The agenda included the University of Idaho variety plots; Scot Hulbert talking about early seeded winter canola plots at the WSU Wilke Farm; Tom Zwainz winter canola stand; and Hal Johnson’s field at Mondovi. This was a follow up meeting after the first tour.

The WSU Wilke Research and Extension Farm field day in June 2010 focused on canola production and included early seeded winter canola variety selection, fertilization, and spring canola and mustard variety selection (Fig. 3). The field day also highlighted the WSU pickup and tractor which continue to be run on a 20% blend of biofuel (B20) purchased at Inland Empire Oilseed in Odessa (Fig. 4).

Results and Discussion: n/a

Impact/Potential Outcomes: The impact of this project has grown as oilseed production continues to increase in Lincoln County and should continue to increase in subsequent years. In Adams County dry seeding conditions during 2009 have limited production but winter canola production has increased this fall (2010) with improved moisture conditions.

Publications: Esser, A.D. and R. Hennings. Winter Canola Feasibility in Rotation with Winter Wheat. Adams County OFT 10-1. This publication summarizes the results from the on-farm test at Ron Hennings’, examining winter canola in rotation with winter wheat vs. a continuous winter
wheat summer fallow cropping system. This publication has been distributed via handouts and is available on the web. An applied research poster was presented at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents Annual Conference and will be displayed at area workshops across the area.

**Proposed Future Research/Extension:** A series of biofuel workshops are being organized to distribute the latest research findings and grower experiences to producers across the area. The agenda will include presentations and discussion focused on incorporation into a cropping system, disease, economics, agronomy, and marketing.

Outreach on the WSU Wilke Research and Extension Farm goes beyond simply running equipment on a biodiesel blend. Specifically the long-term goal is to grow our fuel on the farm and produce more food through improved crop rotation. Research efforts will continue to address limiting factors that will lead to greater grower adoption.

**References:** n/a

![Figure 1](image1.jpg) **Figure 1.** Lincoln Co. winter canola tour October 2009.

![Figure 2](image2.jpg) **Figure 2.** Early seeded winter canola (6 lbs/acre seeding rate) October 2009.

![Figure 3](image3.jpg) **Figure 3.** Dr. Scot Hulbert discussing canola production at the Wilke Farm field day.

![Figure 4](image4.jpg) **Figure 4.** Aaron Esser answering questions about using B20 biodiesel blend in the Wilke Farm pickup.