OILSEED & WATER MANAGEMENT

THE MORE I LEARN THE MORE I REALIZE HOW LITTLE I KNOW...
A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF

Kurt Melville: raised in Enterprise Oregon.

Met my wife Heather while attending U of I

Four wonderful kids, Aubrina, Maclane, Alisha, and Case.

Farm from 3900 to 4700′ elevation, both dry and irrigated.

Formed Cornerstone Farms J.V. with my father Tim in 2010.

Will add my brother Kevin and his 600 acres into our operation sometime in the next year.

Get to live in one of the most beautiful places in America!
Cornerstone Farms

**CROPS**
*Wheat
*Peas
*Alfalfa
*Barley
*Timothy
*Canola
*Mustard
*Oats
*Grain Hay
*Clover

**STATISTICS for 2015**
*About 2100 acres
*About 25% dryland 12-18”
*About 900 acres wheat
*About 150 acres RR canola
*About 70 acres mustard
*About 300 acres of peas
*Remainder in alfalfa and timothy hay
Direct Seeding and Water Management

This picture shows the home farm where I was raised, 12” to 36” of soil down to bedrock.

We pump river water ½ mile to our property and raise it over 250 feet in elevation.

As a kid my brother and I would play in the creek caused by the runoff water from the pivots traveling on 100% travel, .15” every 8 hours and the crops burned.

Now the pivots make a 48 hour rotation putting down .66” in a pass and nothing runs off.

Why? **30 years of direct seeding**
Water Management

NO RESIDUE

RESIDUE
My Experience with Canola/Mustard
Started growing spring canola in the early 90’s

Hated the weeds, swathed everything... conventional canola before GMO

Now I use 4-5lbs of RR Canola or Beyond tolerant seed, 40#N dryland and 120# N on irrigated, 20# S, and 30# P with soil testing.

I have lost some early seeded canola to frost, I like the end of April.

Irrigate up if needed and minimal water until bolting, then give it everything you can until too tall for irrigation system – usually around 3.5” water. Under pivots we watch the evapotranspiration rate and continue adding accordingly. Maybe another 2” during bloom and pod set. 6” total

Over watering can be bad, weed pressure and stems stay green

Have tried winter canola for 4 years on about 6 fields...

Tried April planting with RR canola/oats and took hay off in July and pasture in September... winter kill

Tried July 20 planting RR canola, almost to bolt going into winter irrigated up and 3” rain September... winter kill

Tried August 5 and 12th seeding RR canola, large rosets going into winter... winter kill

Tried Athena conventional planted end of August, some late pasture, it did best, still 50% winter kill.

Usually around 50 units of N and 20 of S with intention to add in spring.

The deer and elk love it! But nothing left come spring.

Condiment: Ida Gold white
6lbs/acre. Yields 1000-1500 same nutrients.

Stand establishment important!

Same watering methods, give it all you can at bolting
Irrigation systems

CENTER PIVOT IRRIGATION

WHEEL LINE IRRIGATION
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE!
Future Plans

More cover crops
*better weed control
*more residue/carbon in the system
*incorporate more grazing
*produce nitrogen or use up nitrogen accordingly

More center pivot systems

Find a way to make winter canola work!

Try several new crops like flax, safflower, sunflower, and maybe lentils again.

*Increase diversity
*Improve soil health
If only farming were always this easy!