Managing Chem Fallow For Oilseeds

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Direct Seed, Chem Fallow and Canola – That will only work somewhere else

• They have better soil
• They get more rain
• They get rain at the right times
• They don’t have clay, they have sand
• They don’t have sand, they have clay
• They don’t have sand or clay
• Tried it here, didn’t work (30 years ago)
• They were successful because they are all
Why direct seed and crop rotation with canola?

• Break disease cycles
• Break chemical use cycles
• Begin to breakdown plowpan
• Improve fertility placement and timing
• Increased cereal yields
• Farming moisture
  • Greater water infiltration
  • Greater water holding capacity

• Number #1 Reason??
• Soil Health
Double P Ranch

7”-9” rainfall (4”-5” last year) – We farm Moisture!!

Mainly sandy soil

100% Direct Seed
- Starting 3rd year

Summer fallow rotation:
- Winter Wheat (soft white)
- Winter Canola (Hybrid and Round-Up ready)
- Spring wheat
- Will be adding spring barley, spring triticale, winter peas and sunflowers
- Testing the incorporation of cover crops in the rotation
John Deere 1870 ConservaPak Hoe Drill
¾” Fertilizer Knife with a 3.5” paired row opener
John Deere 4930 120’ Self Propelled
Sprayer Setup:

• TeeJet Air Induction nozzles
• 5 gallons/acre
• 8-11 mph
Timing:

Fall Application:
- RT3 – 10-12 oz.

Spring & Summer Application(s):
- RT3 – 20 oz., Unison – 16 oz., Hellfire 3 pints/100 gallons of solution
Keys to Successful Chem Fallow:

**Timing:**
- If converting from conventional tillage... when would you have tilled??
- Weeds are small
- Spray when plant is actively growing or open for uptake of chemical
- Weather – Windy, Inversion, Temperature
- Should I spray the entire field???
- Be prepared to act fast!

**Scouting:**
- Scout the entire field – Don’t be a road scouter!
Keys to Successful Chem Fallow:

**Speed:**
- Corners
- Circling field obstructions
- Lifting over obstructions
- Dust mitigation

**Chemical Quality and Quantity:**
- Name brand vs. generic
- Tank mixes being antagonistic – not a great time to be a “Mad Scientist”
- Use labeled rates
- Water quality (pH) – water conditioner, ammonium sulfate, etc
- Be mindful of effect on a brassica crop
Keys to Successful Chem Fallow:

Sprayer Performance:

- Clean Nozzles
- Clean Screens
- Clean Filters
- Minimum pressures
- Nozzle check often
Future Tools to Successful Chem Fallow:

Direct Seed, Crop rotation and Cover Crops need to be thought of as a system

Row Spacing/Crop competition

Residue Management
Why Scout??
Timing: A little late
Reasons for canola in rotation

- PowerMax
- Assure II or Beyond
Questions??