**Oilseed Flax As a Dryland Broadleaf Rotation in the Pacific Northwest**  
**Tomas Endicott**  
Willamette Biomass Processors, Inc., Rickreall, Oregon

---

### Planting
- Conventional tillage or no-till  
- 50 lbs per acre planting seed  
- Fall planted, dormant seed planted or spring planted  
- Earlier planting = higher yields

### Fertilization
- 80 lbs N for 2,000 lb target yield  
- 40 lbs N for 1,000 lb target yield  
- (Oilseeds do not like N in the furrow)  
- Levels of P and K should be fine if rotating with grass or grain

---

### Benefits of Oilseed Flax
- Can grow in dryland areas where not enough moisture for canola  
- Frost-resistant down to near 0 degrees Fahrenheit  
- In-crop control of grassy weeds AND broadleaf weeds  
- Same planting and harvesting equipment as wheat or grass seed

### Challenges of Oilseed Flax
- Good stand establishment and adequate moisture at flowering are most critical to yield  
- Can be a challenge to get seed clean in combine. 10% FM is not uncommon.  
- Straw requires management depending on timeline for succeeding crop  
- Sensitive to sulfonylurea (SU) compounds that have long residual times in the soil

---

### Registered Chemicals for Flax

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-emergent Weeds</th>
<th>Grassy Weeds</th>
<th>Broadleaf Weeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calisto</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Buctril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartan 4F</td>
<td>Assure II</td>
<td>MCPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trifluralin</td>
<td>Poast</td>
<td>Buctril M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dessicants**
- Valor  
- Sharpen

**Grassy Weeds**
- Select  
- Assure II  
- Poast

**Broadleaf Weeds**
- Buctril  
- MCPA  
- Buctril M  
- Curtail M

---

### Marketing
- Several regional buyers  
- Primary markets are for livestock feed  
- Pricing generally $0.04/lb to $0.08/lb better than canola

---

### Harvest
- Typically harvest in late July / early August  
- Most simple to direct cut like wheat  
- May require swathing or desiccating if crop receives late season moisture  
- Limited shatter  
- Thrashes well without rub bars  
- Can be a challenge to clean in combine; 10% FM not uncommon

**Post-Harvest**
- Straw management options:  
  - Flail mow stubble  
  - Bale and sell straw  
  - Windrow and burn straw  
- Straw will break down if allowed to stay in field over winter.  
- Straw provides good soil cover over winter.

---

### References
- Flax Council of Canada, Growing Flax: Production, Management and Diagnostic Guide  
- Oregon State University, Flax Guide, EM 8952-E, February 2008  
- Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook