Canola as an Alternative Crop

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A Practical Perspective on Integrating Energy Crops into Traditional Crop Rotations

Traditional Crops on Farm

• Corn
• Corn Silage
• Wheat
• Alfalfa
• Grass Hay
Various crops can be utilized as fuel sources

Under what circumstances do which crops make senses?

Oilseed versus Cellulosic Ethanol
Operating Equipment on Farm Produced Canola Oil (SVO)

Hew Holland 7060 Tractor

Case 621E Loader
Growing Canola

- Winter versus Spring
Planting Canola

- Field Selection – Shading Effects
- Plant Early
- Shallow Seeding Depth
- 5-7 lbs seed/acre
- Varieties
Soil Fertility

- Canola needs nitrogen
  - Some at planting
  - Remainder in spring
  - 3.0 lbs N/bushel yield
- Canola needs sulfur
  - 20 -25 lbs/acre
- Soil test for adequate P and K
Weed Control

- Traited versus Non-Traited Seed
- Seedlings don’t compete well
- Mature plants compete very well
- Pay attention to herbicide rates
- Other Pests – Slugs and Flea Beetles
Harvest Considerations

- Plant Maturity versus Grain Moisture
- Seed Shattering
- Losses from Harvesting
- There will be **VOLUNTEER CANOLA**

Yields have ranged from 38 to 50 bushels/acre
Questions and Comments