

January 19, 2007

Special points of interest:

- Update on OKFREE
- N top-dress on winter canola
- Spring weed management for winter canola
- Winter Peanut Production Meetings

Useful Links:www.soybean.okstate.eduwww.canola.okstate.edu<http://alfalfa.okstate.edu>www.wheat.okstate.edu<http://forage.okstate.edu>

Cropping Systems Newsletter



OKFREE Changes Name

Gene Neuens, Project Manager for Plains Oilseed Products

Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Energy Enterprise, LLC has changed its name to Plains Oilseed Products, LLC. The name change was needed to better define our purpose. This company was started with the help of Oklahoma Farmers Union. Oklahoma Farmers Union members are investing in Oklahoma agriculture. OKFREE/POP was first funded by a grant from USDA Rural Development and by contributions of time and facilities from many different companies, Universities, state agencies and individuals.

Plains Oilseed Products' purpose is to provide agriculture producers a new market for current and future oilseed crops. POP will be an Oklahoma owned company. Oklahoma producers will be able to invest in, and be part of, a value added company to enhance their profitability. This project will also add to the economic development of rural Oklahoma.

POP is just finishing an updated business plan with the help of Oklahoma State University. Dr. Phil Kenkel, Dr. Rodney Holcomb, and Dr. Nurhan Dunford have been great help on this project. We hope to have our project ready to present to Oklahoma in a short time.

POP's process will be able to crush many different oilseed such as Canola, Sunflowers, Peanuts, Soybeans and any other oilseed that we may grow in Oklahoma.

POP's proposed plant will use a type of mechanical extraction technology called an extruder/expeller. We will compress the oilseed to very high pressure using friction as a source of heat. The heat deactivates the enzymes and destroys microorganisms that might serve as a negative factor in meals. This technology provides high quality meal and oil products. By not using harsh chemicals we will produce quality oil for the human food industry. Our product will also be available for use in the bio-fuel industry. The meals will be a high quality product to enhance the feed industry.

Plains Oilseed Products, LLC is looking forward to the future of Oklahoma Agriculture. Our Board of Directors is made up of Matt Gard from Fairview, Terry Detrick, VP of OK Farmers Union, Mark Holder from Altus, Walt Grabow from Omega, Jerry Hedges from Vici, Clay Pope from Loyal, Pete McDaniel from Apache. Our Project manager is Gene Neuens.

For information please contact us at 405-218-5753.

Top-dressing Nitrogen on Winter Canola

Chad Godsey, Cropping Systems Specialist

The time of the year has come to start thinking about top-dressing your winter canola. Soil fertility and fertilizer management play a major role in the winter survival, yield, and quality of canola. Fertilizer recommendations for canola are similar to those for winter wheat, with two exceptions. Canola uses slightly more nitrogen and sulfur than comparable yields of wheat, and high nitrogen applications in the fall should be avoided, as they can lead to excessive fall growth and reduced winter survival. While some wheat growers apply all the nitrogen for wheat in late summer before planting, only a third of the total nitrogen for canola (roughly 30 to 50 pounds per acre) should be applied prior to planting. In addition, all phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, and other soil amendments before the final tillage operation.

Canola, similar to wheat, responds to nitrogen fertilizer applied in late winter while the plants are still dormant. The majority (two-thirds) of the nitrogen should be applied when ambient temperatures are still low and just as plants begin to show increased growth. Top-dress applications should be based on an updated assessment of yield potential, less profile residual nitrogen, and the amount of N

applied in the fall. Either solid or liquid forms of nitrogen can be used before green-up in the early spring. Once the weather warms and growth begins, solid materials are preferred for broadcast applications to prevent/avoid leaf burn. Following is the general formula to calculate top-dress nitrogen application:

Top dress nitrogen application (lbs/acre)
 $= 0.05 \times \text{Yield Potential (lbs/A)} - \text{pre-plant profile soil test nitrogen (lbs/A)} - \text{Pre-plant N applied (lbs/A)}$

It is important to avoid crushing winter canola with applicator tires after it bolts. Crushed plants will lodge and maturity will be delayed, which can slow harvest and increase the risk of shattering losses. For this reason, applicators with narrow tires are preferred.



Winter canola growing this past fall in SW Oklahoma.

“Top-dress applications should be based on an updated assessment of yield potential, less profile residual nitrogen, and the amount of N applied in the fall.”

Spring Weed Control in Winter Canola

Mark Boyles, Extension Assistant and Tom Peeper, Weed Scientist

Winter canola growers who have not yet sprayed their canola for weeds need to be checking their fields as soon as weather permits. We have seen a few fields that should have been sprayed much earlier than now, and they need to be sprayed very soon. Volunteer wheat is often the main weed problem, and it often comes up in strips that were behind the combine or spots where wheat was lodged at harvest, so look carefully across the field for weeds, not just in one spot by the gate. If you have winter annual grasses such as rye, volunteer wheat, and cheat, they will probably need to be controlled, but that depends on how thick they are and how thick the canola is, and your personal tolerance for weeds in your crop. We suggest that you determine how many weeds and how many canola plants you have in a square foot. If the canola plants don't outnumber the grass plants by at least 20 to 1, you have a weed problem and you need to spray it.

Most summer annual broadleaf weeds are problems only when canola stands are poor and areas of the field are open. The vigorous growth habit of the canola plant aids in competing against late germinating weeds. In general small winter broadleaves like henbit and chickweed are not a serious concern because if you have a good canola stand it will out grow the smaller broadleaves very quickly.

All currently labeled herbicides must be applied prior to the canola bolting in the spring. In the central part of the state this means applications need to go out prior to the first of March.

For the control of cool season grasses in conventional canola (Wichita, Sumner),

apply Assure II or Select herbicide or generics. Assure II should be applied at 8 to 10 fluid oz of product per acre plus 1% by volume of crop oil concentrate. Select should be applied at 6 fluid oz per acre plus 1% by volume of crop oil concentrate. Do not substitute nonionic surfactant for the crop oil concentrate. Again grassy weeds should be actively growing at application for best performance. Good control is expected on grassy species such as cheat, downy brome, rescuegrass, feral rye, jointed goatgrass, ryegrass, wild oats and volunteer wheat. Refer to the product labels to determine whether your target species is listed.

For the control of cool season grasses and broadleaf weeds in Roundup Ready® canola (glyphosate tolerant) apply 16 to 22 oz of Roundup Original Max®. No additional adjuvants are required. This will provide good control of winter annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. If ryegrass is the target species the 22 oz rate of Roundup Original Max® is recommended.

Before making an application of any pesticide to canola always be sure that the sprayer filters, spray tip screens, and herbicide handling equipment are free of herbicide residues that may injure canola. Residue from herbicides like 2,4-D, Banvel®, Beyond® and Finesse® and other sulfonylurea herbicides can cause significant injury when applied to canola. Also remember that wheat is very sensitive to herbicides applied to canola and canola is very sensitive to herbicides applied to wheat.

When using pesticides, please read and follow all pesticide label directions.



Picture of volunteer wheat.

“If the canola plants don't outnumber the grass plants by at least 20 to 1, you have a weed problem and you need to spray it.”

2006 Soybean Variety Trial Results Available

Summaries of the 2006 Soybean Variety Trials are now available on the web at

<http://www.soybean.okstate.edu/varietytrials/index.htm>

Upcoming Events/Meetings

Jan. 31 -Partners in Research Conference, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

- The purpose of this conference is to establish an on-farm research network that will consist of farmers, OSU Extension Educators, Specialists, and Researchers. A cooperative effort will provide timely answers for on-farm questions. You are encouraged to participate in this exciting new cooperative effort. Contact your local Northeast County Educator.

Feb. 13—Winter Peanut Production Meeting, Quartz Mountain Lodge (see following page for more information).

Feb. 28—Winter Peanut Production Meeting, Caddo County (see following page for more information).

Subscription information

The *Cropping System Newsletter* is published in electronic format on an as needed basis throughout the year. To receive an electronic copy in pdf format, send an email with **subscribe** as the subject line to chad.godsey@okstate.edu

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Winter 2007 Peanut Production Meetings

“Better Outlook for Peanut Producers in 2007?”



Locations:

February 13, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – Quartz Mountain Lodge, Lone Wolf, OK
February 28, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center, Fort Cobb, OK

Meeting Highlights include:

- Review of research results from the growing season of 2006. Results will be presented on variety trial studies, disease studies, rotation and tillage studies from the past year.
- Information will be also presented on economics of peanut production in today's world, subsurface irrigation in peanut production (Fort Cobb location only), and recommendations will be highlighted for the 2007 growing season.



A meal will be provided at each location free of charge, and no registration fees will be charged.



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