

Minnesota Canola Council

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CANOLA ACREAGE IN MINNESOTA SHOWS A 37% INCREASE

USDA's National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) Crop Production Report, which tracks yield, acreage, and production of crops, estimated a 37% increase in Minnesota's harvested canola acreage for 2024. Acres increased from 79,000 in 2023 to 108,000 in 2024, the highest since 2000 and third highest on record. Yield per acre also increased from 2,470 lbs/ac in 2023 to 2,500 lbs/ac in 2024, a 1.2% increase. Nationally, yield rose just over 1%, going from 1,763 lbs/ac in 2023 to 1,811 lbs/ac in 2024. Harvested canola acreage in the U.S. was up 17%; 2,319,200 acres in 2023 to 2,720,500 in 2024.

JOINT RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MCC and NCGA have a research advisory committee to determine the most productive allocation of available research dollars, including North Central Regional NCRP and Sclerotinia Initiative funds.

'23-'24 JOINT COMMITTEE

Eric Kukowski, MCC - Farmer
Kevin Severson, MCC - Farmer
Jordan Varberg, MCC - Industry
Brian Jenks, NCGA - University
Tim Mickelson, NCGA - Farmer
Kristie Sundeen, NCGA - Industry
Devin Wert, NCGA - Farmer

2024 CANOLA PRODUCTION CENTRE (CPC)

The 2024 Canola Production Centre (CPC) was located across from Northern Resources Co-op in Roseau, MN. Trials were spearheaded by Nancy Ehlke, Donn Vellekson, and Dave Grafstrom of the University of Minnesota and included seven different trials, all planted by May 29 (*see CPC Field Day article on back*).

2023-2026 NCRP PROJECT FUNDING

Researcher	Project	2024
NDSU (<i>del Rio</i>)	Identification and Characterization of New Sources of Resistance Against Clubroot and Transfer of Clubroot Resistance into Modern Canola Lines	\$65,977
NDSU (<i>Johnson</i>)	Evaluation of Planting Dates and Variety Effects on Canola Production in North Dakota	\$57,463
NDSU (<i>Chapara</i>)	Survey, Quantification of Resting Spore Population of <i>Plasmodiophora</i> from Soil, Patch Management and Implementation of Awareness Program of Clubroot of Canola in North Dakota	\$63,321
UM (<i>Ehlke</i>)	Minnesota Canola Production Centre Research	\$63,219

COUNCIL RECEIVES \$90,000 MDA AGRI CROP RESEARCH GRANT

The Council was awarded a \$90,000 grant by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program to study direct harvest canola strategies intended to increase harvest efficiency and profitability. Nancy Ehlke, Donn Vellekson, and Dave Grafstrom will serve as the project's lead investigators. Project objectives: 1) documenting LL and RR canola variety responses to direct harvest methods; 2) evaluating various rates, timing, and water volumes for desiccants used in direct harvest; and 3) documenting and evaluating scope of late season flea beetle damage in direct harvest canola.

SCLEROTINIA RISK IN CANOLA FORECAST PROGRAM

The program began June 21 and ran through July. It was developed by the NDSU canola pathology program with support from the Sclerotinia Initiative, Northern Canola Growers Association, and Minnesota Canola Council. Information, based on research data, is a guide for farmers. The program has two components: 1) a general risk map; and 2) a risk calculator. The map uses weather information to estimate disease development risk and is updated daily starting mid-June. The calculator combines cultural practice information and field history of sclerotinia with weather information from the nearest NDAWN station to estimate disease risk for a specific field. *Maps were available at mncanola.org or through the NDSU Canola Doctor app available for both Android and iPhones.*

2024 CANOLA-SPECIFIC SCLEROTINIA INITIATIVE RESEARCH FUNDING

Researcher	Project	Funding
NDSU (<i>Rahman</i>)	Introgression and Pyramiding of Sclerotinia Stem Rot Disease Resistant Gene(s) into Canola Cultivars	\$46,150
NDSU (<i>del Rio</i>)	Improving Resistance of Spring Canola to Sclerotinia Stem Rot	\$37,185
NDSU (<i>del Rio</i>)	Development of RNA Fungicides for Management of Sclerotinia Sclerotiorum on Canola	\$40,566
Total		\$123,901

MINNESOTA CANOLA COUNCIL JOINS AG GROUPS FOR COMMENTS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

The Council submitted comments to EPA on the draft Herbicide Strategy Framework for ESA requirements. Framework describes analyses conducted to estimate endangered species' exposure to herbicides, assess potential impacts of pesticides, and determine mitigations necessary to protect endangered species. The strategy proposes a mitigation menu to reduce herbicide exposure to listed species from spray drift, run-off, and erosion. It identifies the geographic extent of mitigation measures and describes an implementation plan.

2023-2024 SPONSORS

DIAMOND: \$2,000+

BASF
Bayer Crop Science
CHS - Hallock

SILVER: \$1,000 - \$1,999

AgCountry Farm Credit Services
Bunge Canada
Cargill, Inc.
CROPLAN
DEKALB
Pioneer
Syngenta

BRONZE: \$500 - \$999

Border Bank
Citizens State Bank
Hefty Seed - Roseau

ALLIED: \$250 - \$499

American State Bank of Grygla
AURI
BrettYoung
CHS Ag Services
Farmers Union Oil - Grygla
Helena Agri Enterprises
ICE Futures U.S.
KQ92
Northern Ag
Northern Farmers Co-op Exchange
Northern Resources Cooperative
Nused
Nutrien Ag Solutions
Proseed
Roseau County Co-op Association
Titan Machinery-Roseau
True North Equipment
Weinlaeder Seed

MINNESOTA CANOLA COUNCIL

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Canola Council is dedicated to the canola industry through leadership, research, and education, providing a competitive edge to Minnesota's producers and the canola industry.

2022/2023 EXPENDITURES AND YEAR-END GAIN

Income		
Checkoff (6¢ per cwt)	\$110,460.00	
Interest; Grants; Donations; Misc.	<u>53,715.00</u>	\$164,175.00
Expenditures		
Research	20,190.00	
Regulatory; Legislative	15,926.00	
Promotion; Education; Public Relations	26,204.00	
Administrative/Board	<u>19,861.00</u>	<u>-82,181.00</u>
Net Gain		\$ 81,994.00
2023/2024 Ending Fund Balance		\$298,906.00

CROP INSURANCE EXPANSION

The Council continues to work with USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) to expand canola crop insurance coverage to the following Minnesota counties: Becker, Clay, Grant, Hubbard, Otter Tail, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin. The expansion of the program will give a greater number of farmers flexibility to incorporate canola into crop rotations without the added burden of going through a written agreement process. The expansion will encourage farmers in these counties to grow canola as an alternative to disease prone small grains in order to diversify rotations. All counties requested for inclusion have been included in the program previously.



(L to R) MCC Director Jeff Mortenson, Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, MCC President Beth Nelson, MCC Ex Officio Director Andy Smith.

COUNCIL REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Representatives of the Council attended the U.S. Canola Association's (USCA) annual meeting in Washington, D.C., March 18-20. The meeting gave canola representatives the opportunity to meet with lawmakers regarding its 2024 Federal Policy Priorities: crop insurance enhancements, including increased premium support; equitable treatment of canola in commodity programs (reference prices, loans); research funding (\$10 million NIFA-SAC, \$2.4 million sclerotinia); incorporating canola into GREET modeling to determine tax credits for biofuels; science-based regulation of pesticides by the EPA; streamlining and expanding H-2A temporary worker program; and improving the plant biotechnology regulatory framework.

2023 CANOLA SYMPOSIUM

The Council's 2023 Canola Symposium was held November 30 in Roseau. More than 80 farmers, industry representatives, and university personnel enjoyed a diverse lineup of educational sessions, while socializing and winning prizes – *thanks sponsors!* The educational sessions can be viewed online by clicking Annual Winter Meetings under the Events tab at mncanola.org:

- **Canola Spotlight** – Brandon Setterholm, Syngenta; Mick Miller, CROPLAN; Ryan Fisher, DEKALB; Jerod Hanson, Pioneer; Sara Swenson, BASF; Andy Smith, CHS
- **Sclerotinia Stem Rot: Research Updates & Management in Canola** – Megan McCaghey, University of Minnesota
- **Renewable Fuels: Past, Present, Future** – Randy Martinson, Martinson Ag Risk Management
- **CPC Research Results in 2023** – Dave Grafstrom, University of Minnesota
- **Canola's Role in Renewable Feedstocks** – James Arneson, Marathon Petroleum Corporation
- **Canola: Best Pest Management of Flea Beetles** – Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University
- **Trade Battles, COVID, Drought, War, Interest Rate Hikes, Drought Again: What's Next for Farmers** – Brian Voth, IntelliFARM

CPC FIELD DAY & GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Council's 27th annual CPC Field Day and Canola Hacker's golf scramble were held July 17 in Roseau. Research plots were located across from Northern Resources Co-op. Participants heard from CPC Project Manager Donn Vellekson and Site Agronomist Dave Grafstrom: variety and systems comparison; direct harvest vs swath/combine comparison of selected LL and RR varieties; pre-harvest desiccation treatments for direct harvest; pre-plant weed burn down treatments in no-till planting; evaluation of current and novel insecticide seed treatments; late-season flea beetle control and monitoring; and biological control treatments for white mold. The 21st Scramble followed the tour with 108 golfers. Taking home 1st place was the RB Farms team, and 2nd place went to AgCountry Farm Credit Services. Additional prizes were awarded for longest drive, longest putt, closest to the pin, 'wiffleball drive wearing oven mitts,' and 'bowling with a golf ball putt.'



1st Place: Andy Foster, Garrett Ravndalen, Bryce Ravndalen, Milo Ravndalen.



2nd Place: Aaron Olafson, Ben Vatnsdal, Conner Millner, Joe Vatnsdal.