CANOLA SYMPOSIUM 2026

DECEMBER 3

Northland Community
& Technical College
1101 State Hwy 1, Thief River Falls, MN







Symposium organizers:

Minnesota Canola Council

University of Minnesota Extension

AGENDA & PREREGISTRATION • December 3, 2026

- Agenda subject to change -

8:30 a.m. Registration & Exhibits

8:45 a.m. Canola Spotlight

Bunge Canola Opportunities
Jeffrey Elias, Bunge





30 Years of InVigor Canola
Sara Swenson, BASF

Genetics That Deliver, DEKALB 2027
Ryan Fisher, DEKALB





New Pioneer 100-Series Canola Hybrids
Kevin Sinner, Pioneer Seeds

9:35 a.m. Nutrient Amendments, Canola Health, & Plant Disease: Exploring Their Interactions



Megan McCaghey, University of Minnesota – St. Paul, MN

Megan is an assistant professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research is centered on soil-borne fungi causing crop diseases. She wants to understand the ecology/epidemiology of soil-associated fungi and oomycetes and enhance crop disease resistance.

10:05 a.m. Canola Insights: Key Findings from Minnesota's 2026 CPC



Jesse Bealsburg, University of Minnesota – St. Paul, MN

Jesse has a B.S. in agricultural sciences from Cornell University NY, an M.S. in plant science from North Dakota State University, and has been running research trials for the cropping systems lab at the University of Minnesota for the last six years, including in Roseau, MN.

10:35 a.m. Break & Exhibits

11:05 a.m. US Canola Association – Washington Update



Tom Hance, U.S. Canola Association – Washington, DC

Tom has 29 years experience on Capitol Hill, including 17 with Gordley Associates. He served four years as Federal Policy Director and head of the DC office for Maryland's Governor. He spent seven years as a congressional aide, including three as Chief of Staff to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He earned his B.A. from the University of Richmond and M.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

11:35 a.m. Canola Insect Pest Management: What's New & What's Next



Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University – Fargo, ND

Janet is a Professor and Extension Entomologist at North Dakota State University in Fargo. She has provided statewide leadership for Extension Entomology, the ND IPM Program, and coordinates/co-edits the NDSU Crop & Pest Report. Her extension outreach/applied research focuses on insect pests of field crops and IPM strategies for wheat, barley, canola, soybean, pulse crops, and sunflower.

12:05 p.m. Lucky Doubles Lunch *sponsored by BASF, Bayer Crop Science, & CHS - Hallock*

Prizes Galore!

12:45 p.m. Canola Market Update: The Importance of Biofuels



Andy Smith, CHS – Inver Grove Heights, MN

Andy graduated from the University of St. Thomas and has worked at CHS for 18 years. His career has covered various roles within the Ag Business department including trading, risk management, and accounting. He has worked within the oilseed product team for 8 years and assumed the role of Commercial Manager for the canola product line at CHS.

1:15 p.m. Integrate Meal Fermentation in Canola Oilseeds Processing to Produce High-Nutritional Animal Feed



Bo Hu, University of Minnesota – St. Paul, MN

Bo is a professor and the Director of the Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering undergraduate program at the University of Minnesota. His main research areas are biomass utilization, fermentative conversion, and waste management. His team is working to convert agricultural residue to value-added bioproducts.

1:45 p.m. Developments in Canola Production in the Upper Midwest



Jacob Jungers, University of Minnesota – St. Paul, MN

Jake is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota. His research group's objective is to improve the profitability and sustainability of cropping systems. He works closely with the Forever Green Initiative to lead agronomic research on perennial crops such as Kernza® and strives to disseminate research to various agricultural stakeholder groups to support and promote alternative crop production.

2:15 p.m. A Climate Game Changer: How One Volcano Has Changed Everything



Mark Ewens, Home on the Prairie Weather – Grand Forks, ND

Mark has lived in the Red River Valley since 1979. He retired from the National Weather Service in Grand Forks in 2014 after a 40-year USAF/National Weather Service career. He was the Climate Service's focal point and the North Valley Area Data Manager. He is the Staff Meteorologist at KNOX Radio in Grand Forks where he hosts a show discussing agriculture-related issues. He also operates Home on the Prairie Weather LLC providing climate outlooks and forecasts.

3:00 p.m. Funny Money Auction • Prizes Galore



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Canola Symposium

Preregistration Form

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MN/ND Farmer University Personnel MCC Annual Sponsor *On-site registration lunch fee $10*	FREE *includes lunch & prize auction*	$ 0.00
Other *On-site registration $150*	$100 *per person*	$

TOTAL ENCLOSED $

Mail completed form and payment by Nov 18:
Minnesota Canola Council
4630 Churchill St., #1
St. Paul, MN 55126
651.638.9883
Online preregistration: www.mncanola.org

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