

U.S. Canola Association

A Golden Opportunity for Our Nation's Health



July 2008

Canola Quick Bytes

A Supplement to *U.S. Canola Digest*

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Capitol Hill

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has published an article that **reviews criticisms about the World Trade Organization** in its June 2008 issue of [Amber Waves](#). It examines the trends in the globalization of agriculture and the WTO process for rule-based trade.

The European Union has launched an investigation into the **effect U.S. subsidies are having on the European biodiesel industry**, according to a June 13 [EU release](#). Anti-subsidy and anti-dumping investigations commenced to determine if the European biodiesel industry has been adversely affected by imported U.S. biodiesel. The European Commission will determine what measures will be taken under EU trade rules based on its findings.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is threatening to **fine drivers who use vegetable oil as fuel in their cars** up to \$32,000 per day because it is not an approved fuel. Amid crippling gas prices and studies that show more environmentally-friendly emissions, New York City drivers don't seem to care about the EPA's threat, according to the May 18 [New York Post](#).

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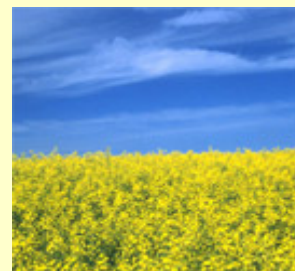
The USDA released an [extensive report](#) on the **effects of climate change in regards to agriculture**, biodiversity and land and water resources on May 23. The study found that critical problems are likely to arise, some specific to oilseeds. Temperature increases are expected to increase the risk of oilseed crop failure, cause more rapid weed growth and allow for northward migration of weeds.

Agronomy

Canola farmers in Oklahoma were given a **crisis exemption to use the pesticide diquat** by the Environment Protection Agency, according to the June 10 [Associated Press](#). The decision came after heavy rainfall caused canola fields to become overgrown and difficult to harvest. The pesticide is not currently labeled for canola use in the U.S.

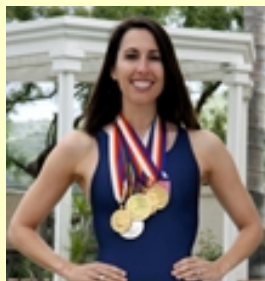
Biotech crops are helping to ease the world food crisis, according to a June 5 report by [PG Economics](#). The [10-year study](#) concluded that biotech crop use has led to significant economic and environmental benefits. Pest-resistant crops have led to less use of harmful pesticides and higher yields, the study found.

Canola acreage has reached an all-time high in Canada, according to [Reuters Canada](#) on June 24. Statistics Canada said there are 15.8 million acres of canola in Canada, up 7.4% from record-setting numbers in 2007. That could result in up to 10.4 million tons of harvested canola, edging closer to an industry goal to produce 15 million tons of the oilseed by 2015.



Nutrition

Olive oil is not as healthy as canola oil, according to the May 2008 [Reader's Digest](#). Although the article does say olive oil is healthier than most cooking oils, canola oil is better because it contains less saturated fat. *Reader's Digest* also cited canola oil's protective omega-3 fatty acid content and dispelled false rumors about the oil.



Canola oil has a new spokesperson promoting its nutritional benefits, said the June 18 [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal](#). Four-time **Olympic gold medalist Janet Evans recommends the use of canola oil** to help support a healthy lifestyle. A legendary U.S. swimmer and world-record holder, Evans provides her own healthy recipes that call for canola oil.

Oil for the Environment

A town in New Hampshire will be **replacing hydraulic fluid with canola oil** in all city vehicles, according to the [Associated Press](#) on June 1. A greener option, canola oil will not harm the environment if a spill occurs, unlike previously used hydraulic fluid. Canola oil will be used in the Keene's plow trucks, city sweeper, riding lawn mower and tractor, which will require 1,500 gallons to initially changeover.

Canola oil may be joining Her Majesty's navy. Scientists are testing the use of biodiesel in British warships and canola oil is among the best options because of its ability to withstand low temperatures, [The Journal](#) said on May 14. The ships are run on gas turbines derived from jet engines, which could also lead to biodiesel use in aircraft.



Canola oil could soon be replacing petroleum but not in the way you might think, noted a June 19 news release by the [University of North Dakota](#). A group of UND researchers received a \$367,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to explore using canola oil to produce several polymers commonly used in building materials, coatings, adhesives and other products traditionally derived from petroleum or natural gas.

A festival promoting alternative energy in upstate New York on May 18 showed visitors how to heat their house with vegetable oil, cook French fries with it and then use the oil to power a car. [Greasestock 2008](#) was held in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. and was featured on ABC-TV's "[Good Morning America](#)."

Gas isn't the only fuel being siphoned by energy-hungry thieves. Reports are emerging of bandits **stealing used cooking oil to fuel their vehicles**, according to the May 27 [Associated Press](#). The used oil, once viewed as worthless, is now coveted as a means of free fuel. The thefts are causing problems for small biodiesel operations that have contracts with restaurants to pick up the oil.

Latest Industry News

Researchers from [DowAgroSciences](#) and [Sangamo Biosciences](#) have found a way to **better control genes and traits involved with canola**, noted a June 19 [Dow news release](#). Through a joint collaboration, the companies were able to precisely regulate traits such as seed quality, yield and resistance to environmental stresses. The findings will help to speed up the process of trait stacking and increase the availability of crops like canola containing the new traits.

Canada will now be required to use a [set level of biodiesel](#). The Government of Canada passed [Bill C-33](#) which **mandates the 2%**

inclusion of biodiesel in heating oil and diesel fuel by 2012. Canola is likely to be the primary feedstock with one million tons being required to meet 70% of Canada's required biodiesel production.

About New Canola Areas

Iowa has its first canola processing plant, according to a June 24 report by [KTIV-TV](#). Owners of the crushing facility expect canola to be an excellent rotational crop and one that will grow in popularity in the area. A \$2.3 million project, the plant will crush 150 tons of canola daily.



When your family has been farming since the 1700s, you might be reluctant to try new crops. But Keith Sink, a 7th generation farmer, has decided to **grow canola for the first time on his Davidson County, N.C., farm**, according to [The Dispatch](#) on May 28. Sink will sell his crop to [Red Birch Energy](#), a Virginia company that produces biodiesel.

Farmers in Kansas were given the opportunity to tour and learn about canola fields, thanks to [Kansas State's Southwest Research-Extension Center](#). Area farmers are looking for a rotational crop and **canola is a viable option for breaking disease and insect cycles**, according to the May 28 [Garden City Telegram](#).

Bringing Heart-Healthy Canola to Consumers