

Canola Bits

Bringing Canola Rotation to Winter Wheat Producers

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In cooperation with the Great Plains Canola Association

FFA Roundup Ready Winter Canola Yield Contest

This fall an excellent education and fund raising opportunity will be available to FFA Chapters in Oklahoma, southern Kansas, and north Texas. This opportunity is the 2009-10 winter canola yield contest. Details are below.

Monsanto would like to extend FFA chapters the chance to participate in the 2009 Roundup Ready winter canola FFA yield contest. This program will provide students with an interest in agriculture the opportunity to learn about winter canola production while working directly with growers and earn some money for their chapters. Educational opportunities and materials will be offered to those chapters interested in participating in this program.

How the Program Works:

- Participating chapters are to identify wheat growers that have never produced a winter canola crop.
- Students are to learn about winter canola production and then apply this understanding with selected growers to plant, manage and harvest the winter canola crop.
- Each chapter can conduct up to two trials with two different growers.
- A maximum of 75 chapters within the contest geography will be eligible on a first come first serve basis
- Cash prizes will be rewarded on a trial by trial basis only if the chapter successfully manages their winter canola trial(s) to completion and submits all required information.
- Growers participating in these trials will be provided free of charge 2 fifty pound units of treated Roundup Ready & sulfonyl-urea residue tolerant (RRxSURT) winter canola seed from Dekalb or Croplan genetics.

High Yields Pay off:

The three highest Roundup Ready winter canola yields in the contest will receive:

- \$5,000 – First place
- \$4,000 – Second place
- \$3,000 – Third place
- \$1000 – Chapters will be eligible to receive a minimum cash prize of \$1,000 for completed trials.

Qualifiers:

- No single trial is eligible for more than one prize
- Chapters conducting two trials are eligible to win only one of the top three prizes
- See Contest Rules and Regulations for further detail on participation and prize money rewards.

Key Dates

- **FFA Chapter Enrollment forms** must be **postmarked by June 15, 2009**. Space limited to 75 chapters.
- **Grower Enrollment Forms** must be **postmarked by July 24, 2009**. Chapters may enroll a maximum of 2 growers.

Why Winter Canola?

DEKALB and Cropland brand Roundup Ready winter canola offers growers one of the best crop rotation solutions. Monsanto field trials and third-party research over the last several seasons has shown that rotating this cool-season, broadleaf crop with hard red winter wheat has several potential benefits including:

- Breaks the continuous wheat/pest cycle
- Produces a profitable alternative oilseed crop
- Potentially enhances wheat production through natural benefits of crop rotation
- Cleans up difficult-to-control broadleaf weeds and grasses in current wheat production areas
- Provides excellent crop safety with a wide window of application
- Reduces U.S. dependence on foreign oil using canola as feedstock for biodiesel production
- Successfully produces winter canola using existing small grain equipment
- No recropping restrictions

Monsanto and Land O' Lakes have been long time supporters of the FFA and they continue to create opportunities to benefit both the FFA and growers. With increasing global demand for high quality vegetable oil, winter canola has become a viable option for growers in the Southern Plains. Through this program, your students will have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice by working directly with growers and demonstrating the agricultural benefits of winter canola. For example, winter canola is a profitable cropping option but can also enhance subsequent wheat yield by helping break weed, disease and insect pest cycles.

Contest Geography

To be eligible to participate in the Roundup Ready Winter Canola FFA Yield Contest, FFA Chapters must be associated with schools located within the Contest Geography. Contest Field locations must be within the same county or adjacent to that participating county. The Contest Geography is limited to all counties in the state of Oklahoma and the following counties of Kansas and Texas.

| Kansas Counties | Texas Counties | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Stanton | Dallam | Wichita |
| Morton | Hartley | Archer |
| Kerny | Oldham | Young |
| Grant | Deaf Smith | Stephens |
| Stevens | Sherman | Clay |
| Finney | Moore | Jack |
| Haskell | Potter | Palo Pinto |
| Seward | Randall | Montague |
| Gray | Hansford | Wise |
| Meade | Hutchinson | Parker |
| Ford | Carson | Hood |
| Clark | Armstrong | Cooke |
| Edwards | Ochiltree | Denton |
| Kiowa | Roberts | Tarrant |
| Comanche | Gray | Johnson |
| Stafford | Donley | Grayson |
| Pratt | Lipscomb | Collin |
| Barber | Hemphill | Dallas |

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| McPherson | Wheeler | Ellis |
| Reno | Collingsworth | Navarro |
| Kingman | Childress | Fannin |
| Harper | Cottle | Hunt Rock Wall |
| Harvey | King | Kaufman |
| Sedgwick | Hardeman | Lamar |
| Sumner | Foard | Delta |
| Marion | Knox | Hopkins |
| Butler | Willbarger | Van Zandt |
| Cowley | Baylor | |
| Elk | Throckmorton | |

A formal program announcement and enrollment information will be forth coming in the next couple of months. See Monsanto's booth at this summer's FFA convention. Or contact your local seed dealer, COOP, or county extension agent. Or see program details at www.canola.okstate.edu

Bill Weeks, Professor of Agricultural Education at Oklahoma State University is heading up a Monsanto funded project to develop teaching materials on winter canola. Staff are currently working with FFA chapters participating in a pilot program to write lesson plans that teachers can use to teach students how to scout for canola pests and weeds, calibration of a grain drill to seed canola, and to understand how canola is processed. As an emerging crop, current curriculum materials do not cover winter canola. The teaching materials will be distributed at the Canola Growers Workshop this July in Enid.

Tailgate Talk - Oklahoma State University Extension:

Newer improved varieties have shown much more winter hardiness and canola plant survival. This is especially noticeable with the later planted canola with small plants. Winter canola fields in Oklahoma and southern Kansas are bolting and plants should be in the flowering stage, depending on variety and location.

Cabbage Aphids in the flower clusters:

As flowering begins, continue to monitor fields for cabbage aphids, they tend to colonize the terminal buds. Cabbage aphids will have a gray and fuzzy appearance and will be in the canola plants inflorescence.

During flowering, cabbage aphids reproduce on the stalk inside the cluster of flower buds making it difficult for Ladybugs to penetrate this cluster and eat aphids. Pushing the flower cluster open with your fingers is often necessary to find these aphids. Damage to flower buds and flowers prevents pod set and can severely reduce yields. If these aphids are present on most of the stalks, insecticide treatment is recommended. Cabbage aphids can reproduce and spread quickly so it is important to scout your fields for these aphids several times during flowering. Controlling cabbage aphids in flowering is generally done by aerial application.

Current 2009 Canola Tours.

For updated list see local county extension agent or www.canola.okstate.edu

| Date | Location |
|------------------------|---|
| April 14 th | Major Co. 10:00 a.m. |
| April 15 th | Custer Co. 10:00 a.m. |
| April 16 th | Woods Co. 9:00 a.m. Alfalfa Co. 1:30 p.m. |
| April 17 th | Garfield Co. 9:00 a.m. |
| April 21 st | Blaine, Dewey Co 9:00 a.m. Kingfisher Co. 2:00 pm |
| April 22 nd | Grant Co. 10:00 a.m. |
| April 23 rd | Winter Canola Field Day Kansas KSU |
| April 28 th | Noble Co. 1:00 p.m. Winter Crop Stops; |

Canola Equipment Digest:

OSU is providing a free contact point for people that have equipment useful to canola growers that is for sale or lease. This includes seeding equipment, draper type swathers, pushers, combine pickup heads, and direct harvesting equipment. We will also list growers and companies offering custom planting, swathing, and harvesting, consulting or new farm equipment. The information will be listed on the Oklahoma State University web site www.canola.okstate.edu. If you have something to list or that you are looking for, something you want to sell or a custom service you can provide in your area send an e-mail to mark.boyles@okstate.edu. Please include description, general location, phone and e-mail address. We will not be listing prices or any advertizing. The objective of this project is to assist growers in locating the custom services they would like to have or the equipment they are looking for.

For more information on winter Canola visit these web sites:

<http://greatplainscanola.com/> Subscribe to online GPCA newsletter.

<http://www.canola.okstate.edu>

<http://uscanola.com/>

Or Contact your local OSU, KSU or Texas County Extension Office.