

Spreading the Word About Oilseed Production – WSU Extension and Outreach

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After nearly seven years of research and data produced from the Washington State Biofuels Cropping Systems Research and Extension Project (WBCS) team, it remains imperative that the information generated be readily available to WA and PNW oilseed growers, processors, ag industry reps, and state and local agencies.

This is accomplished via canola field tours, presentations at industry and grower events, publications, a WBCS-dedicated website (www.css.wsu.edu/biofuels), on-farm visits, and an annual oilseed conference. Field tours during 2013 included winter canola variety trials located in a wide range of rainfall and elevation; residue management research plots in irrigated winter canola; WSU research farm field days that featured canola and camelina; and canola informational stops during WSU cereal variety trial tours. In the off season, the majority of the Direct Seed breakfasts in Colfax and Lewiston, co-organized by Dennis Roe (funded by WBCS), include presentations about canola and were attended by 345 people in 2013 and 2014. A major component of the Extension portion of the WBCS project is the annual oilseed production conference. In 2014, the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association joined the conference and the event attracted nearly 500 attendees. Along with conference attendees there were 45 vendors, over 40 research posters, and nearly 50 speakers representing Australia, Canada, and 16 U.S. states to provide a wide variety of perspectives and discussion about oilseed production and direct seed cropping systems. Tentative plans are in the works for another joint conference in 2015 with WSU and the PNDSA. Access of the WBCS website continue to increase, with more than 8,835 page views from 48 countries (up 128%), 43 states (up 39%) and 69 cities in WA (up 53%) from April 2013 to April 2014. The annual compilation of PNW oilseed supply and delivery locations is a popular resource, and the content of the website will expand further in 2014 to meet the needs of growers and ag industry learning about oilseed production, including local market prices, insect and disease photos and identification, herbicide plantback information, and more. The Extension and outreach portion of the WBCS project tailors information to accommodate all knowledge levels of producers and crop consultants, and efforts now span a much broader geographic range as oilseed acreage continues to increase annually in Washington state.



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