

(USDA-NASS, Mar. 31, 2017). The report shows increased canola acreage in all PNW states with Washington at 50,000 acres (up 152%), OR at 10,000 acres (up 250%), ID at 34,000 acres (up 162%), and MT at 110,000 acres (up 177%). With a significant number of first-time canola producers, continued education and outreach with relevant information is critical. The success of both goals will require widespread collaboration between the WOCS team, producers, industry, agency, and university personnel in all four states. Since collaboration has been a foundation of the WOCS project since 2007, we are confident that by this time next year not only will those goals be achieved, but that canola and other oilseed acreage will again experience record gains in Washington and the PNW.



Fall Grazing on Winter Canola

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Dual-purpose canola can be a viable strategy for an integrated crop-livestock farming system. Fall grazing on winter canola can provide additional income to farmers. Studies in Australia have shown that grazing winter canola can be feasible in areas with greater than 18 inches of rainfall. And, if grazing is managed appropriately, yield penalties associated with grazing can be minimized or avoided. Appropriate grazing management includes practices such as an earlier planting date, strict grazing start and termination times, and proper grazing density. Our preliminary data on fall grazing of early-planted (June 28, 2016) winter canola near Ritzville, WA, indicated that livestock grazed approximately 1 ton dry matter/acre. Furthermore, we found that the canola had high moisture content (Fig. 1) and high nutritional value (Table 1). Compared with corn silage, canola has higher protein, lower neutral digestible fiber (NDF), and lower acid digestible fiber (ADF). When grazing canola, managing nitrogen (N) and sulfur (S) fertilization is important so that nitrate (NO_3^-) and S concentrations in the canola remain at safe levels for feed. Research has shown that safe concentration levels for NO_3^- and S are 1,012 ppm and 0.4%, respectively. Providing other feed sources to livestock when grazing canola, such as wheat straw, can reduce the risk of NO_3^- toxicity while supplying high-energy feed to enhance weight gain.

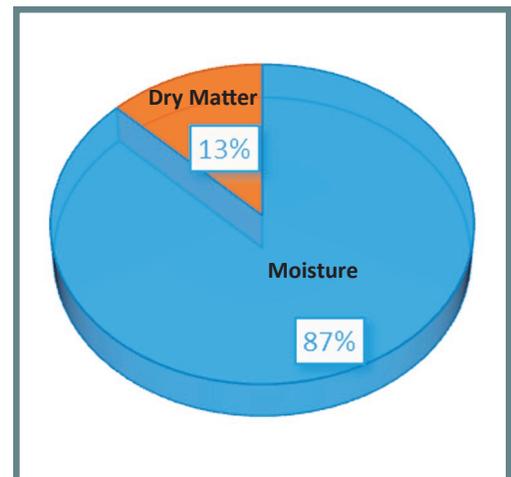


Figure 1. Moisture and above-ground, dry matter biomass in winter canola, sampled on the grazing start date.

Table 1. Comparison of nutrient content between winter canola grown near Ritzville, WA, and corn silage grown near Wapato, WA, in Fall 2016.

	Crude protein	NDF	ADF	Crude Fat	Ash	RFV	NO_3^- -N	S
	----- % -----						- ppm -	- % -
Corn silage 1 Sampled in 09/2016	6.3	50.3	33.5	2.3	6.6	116	<70	0.07
Corn silage 2 Sampled in 09/2016	4.9	68.8	45.2	1.3	9.88	73	<70	0.07
Canola 1 sampled on 09/14/2016	31.9	22.9	15.4	3.6	20.3	313	9856	0.88
Canola 2 sampled on 09/20/2016	27.5	23.8	18.6	3.0	21.5	291	3779	0.96

Note: NDF: neutral detergent fiber; ADF: acid detergent fiber; RFV: relative feed value; NO_3^- -N-nitrate-nitrogen; S-sulfur.