

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

Collaborative Camas Prairie winter canola tour brings industry knowledge to farmers

AT A GLANCE

Collaborative programming between University of Idaho Extension and industry partners brings large turnout and impact.

The Situation

Canola is an integral commodity within the Pacific Northwest's agricultural sector. In Idaho in 2023, canola acreage increased 43%; Lewis County was the largest producer with 22,000 acres. While many farmers are adding canola into their crop rotations, it is a relatively new crop that requires very specific management practices.

Industry organizations, including the Pacific Northwest Canola Association (PNWCA) and agronomy companies have been the go-to for farmers' planting and management inquiries. University of Idaho is involved in canola development and research; specifically with a winter canola variety trial on the camas prairie outside of Craigmont in Lewis County. Crop tours are offered through UI Extension offices looking at various variety and agronomy trials and provide an opportunity for farmers to connect with the research coming out of the University of Idaho. PNWCA provides very similar hands-on learning experiences for farmers with their programming. With common stakeholders/participants and program outcomes, UI Extension and PNWCA saw an opportunity to work together and provide one immersive educational



Canola producers and other interested individuals learn from University of Idaho personnel and PNWCA presenters.

experience for canola farmers and other interested individuals.

Our Response

In early spring 2024, University of Idaho Extension and PNWCA personnel began discussing how to tie our efforts together to maximize program reach and outcomes. The first annual Camas Prairie Winter Canola Tour was hosted on May 23, 2024. The crop tour harnessed the expertise of research and Extension personnel within University of Idaho, industry partners and local farmers who have experience growing canola. The crop tour included stops at U of I winter canola variety trial and an industry sponsored winter canola variety trial. Participants got to hear from local

impact University of Idaho Extension

agronomists about, pest management, local farmers about their practices, and from U of I personnel and industry representatives about variety trial data. The tour concluded with a sponsored lunch and updates from University of Idaho Extension, PNWCA and Idaho Oilseed Commission.

Program Outcomes

The first annual Camas Prairie Winter Canola Tour had 58 attendees from four states: Idaho, Washington, Montana and Kentucky. Survey evaluations were provided at the conclusion of the tour and lunch. Together, respondents reported they make management decisions for over 34,000 acres. Eighty-one percent of respondents indicated that they learned new information that will be used in their operations. Respondents also reported that their knowledge of variety trial

data increased by over 30%. The response to the Camas Prairie Winter Canola Tour was overwhelmingly positive from attendees, presenters and industry partners.

The Future

The Camas Prairie Winter Canola Tour will be offered again in 2025 in collaboration with industry partners.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

Thank you to the Pacific Northwest Canola Association for helping plan and host this event. Another thank you to the industry sponsors: Idaho Oilseed Commission, Camas Prairie Insurance, HillCo Technologies, Bell Equipment, North Pine Ag Equipment, Viterra, CJ Air, Croplan and Photosyntech.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Klae O'Brien, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Lewis County • 208-937-2311 • kdobrien@uidaho.edu

Doug Finklenburg, Area Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Nez Perce County • 208-799-3096 • dougf@uidaho.edu

Meranda Small, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Idaho County • 208-983-2667 • msmall@uidaho.edu

7-25-kobrien-canola-tour • 3/25