

Advice to producers

Beyond the rotation issue, there are other steps producers should take to avoid canola contamination. Most of these are common sense, but common sense isn't always as common as you'd expect.

- Keep good records on cropping rotation and match stored grain records with field location.
- Use certified seed or at least seed that you are sure has no contamination.

- Pay attention to controlling canola volunteers.
- Clean out augers, trucks and combine hoppers when moving from one crop to another.
- Try to avoid planting mustard adjacent to canola crops, even if it's your neighbour's canola crop.
- Remember that quality, purity and tracing are only going to become more important in the years ahead. ♣

Marketing Report

By: **Steve Foster, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool**

Since my last report back in early September we have seen answers to many of the unanswered questions. Growers ended up harvesting around 345,000 acres of mustard with a yield in the 700/lb range. That gave 116,000 MT of production to add to the 190,000 MT carry over (as per Ag Canada) which resulted in 306,000 MT of product to market. Keep in mind a good percentage of the carry over product is low quality mustard. Demand looked to be similar to previous years. In late October though it became evident that Europe was coming in for a good supply of yellow mustard. The Eastern European mustard crop had some challenges causing a short fall of production. In my estimation, 10,000-12,000 MT of yellow mustard was picked up from Canada from late October through February. This was the reason we saw the spot price of yellow mustard increase to values in the 22 –23cents /lb range. The balance of this years values will continue to trade in the mid to high teens for oriental and brown mustard. Yellow mustard indications look like we will see values ranging in the 20-23 cents/lb unless we have a weather scare during the early summer.

New crop mustard acres are forecast at 400-450,000 acres of all mustard types. The values are up sharply from last year due to the ethanol and bio-diesel industries starting to take off in Canada. This new market demand is having an impact on all commodity values and mustard is no exception. If the values to the grower do not increase, acres would suffer and prices going forward would increase even more.

Most end use mustard customers are very concerned with the increase in values for the coming crop year. Their concern is that a 50% increase over last year's values is difficult to pass off to their customers. In my opinion, as an industry, our efforts going forward will need to be focused on how we can continue to keep mustard a sustainable crop. That means for both the growers and the end use customers combined. The peaks and valleys on pricing are not good for anyone. With the strong competition from other commodities we will have our work cut out for us. ♣

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