



NEWS & Events

Fall 2019

2019: Challenges...and opportunities

Fall is definitely in the air...or is it winter? Summer? Fall again? Just what season is it anyway?!? It has been a challenging production year to say the least, with Mother Nature throwing us a roller coaster of temperatures and precipitation across the Pacific Northwest all year. Planting, harvesting, spraying, and pretty much every field operation was and is delayed later than most of us can ever remember. Commodity market uncertainties continue to provide another headache for many.

Despite the challenges, there are opportunities out there too, even though those may not always be readily apparent. The Pacific Northwest Canola Association (PNWCA) has been facing challenges as well, but in this inaugural newsletter we are setting those aside for the moment and focusing on the positives of what's happening with canola in the PNW. Here is a



sampling of what we see as a positive momentum shift on the canola front:

- ♦ Canola acreage and production is up from 2018 and is expected to set records again for 2019.
- ♦ The number of first-time canola growers is on the rise.
- ♦ MT Specialty Mills/Columbia Grain will open a processing facility in Great Falls, MT in early 2020.
- ♦ The PNWCA launched a website this week.
- ♦ The U.S. Canola Association is holding their fall meeting for the first time in the PNW in Spokane, WA.
- ♦ We are meeting with USDA-RMA in MT and WA to discuss improvements to existing canola insurance policies and potentially creating new policies.
- ♦ Canola workshops and presentations abound this fall and winter in the PNW.
- ♦ [Joining the PNWCA](#) anytime between now and Jan. 31, 2020 results in membership good until Jan. 31, 2021.

The PNWCA is dedicated to our mission of "Growing the canola industry in the PNW through education, advocacy, and marketing." ***How can you be a part of our mission?*** Attend educational events, provide input to us about issues we can be addressing at the state and regional level, tell your neighbors and friends about canola and the PNWCA, and consider becoming a grower or industry member of the PNWCA. The opportunity is here, and the opportunity is now, to continue the positive momentum shift, and to continue opening doors of opportunity in these challenging times for agriculture.

- Karen Sowers, executive director

PNWCA website has launched

Our brand new website is live! There is a wide range of information for anyone involved in canola production as well as more general information about canola and farming for the consumer. Growers and industry will find production strategies, PNW seed suppliers and markets, links to canola pub-

more. Have you ever wondered where all

www.pnwcanola.org

Check out a [map](#) that shows acreage in

MT, OR, and WA. The website content will be dynamic, so check back often for updated information. A HUGE shout out and

lications and other organizations, and much canola is grown in the PNW, and the U.S.? each state as well as county acreage in ID,

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Growing the canola industry in the PNW through education, advocacy, and marketing.

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bottomless thanks to the crew at [Cougar Digital Marketing & Design](#) in West Richland, WA for their expertise, vision, and especially patience as we pulled everything together. Faith, Diana, Travis, Tayler and the rest of the team, you ROCK!



Got comments and/or feedback? Please send it our way: pnwcanola@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA: You can also find us on [Facebook](#) @pnwcanola, and [Instagram](#) (pnwcanola).

U.S. Canola Association Fall Meeting in Spokane, WA



We're looking forward to having the U.S. Canola Association fall meeting in the PNW for the first time in more than 20 years. The meeting will be held at the Historic Davenport in Spokane, WA, and all canola growers and industry members are encouraged to register and attend. This is an excellent opportunity to network with growers and industry from the U.S. and Canada, and learn a lot about what the USCA is doing on the national scale for canola research funding, policy and legislation to further the canola industry, marketing, and other topics. The event kicks off with a reception late afternoon Nov. 12 at the Historic Davenport in Spokane, WA. The business meeting and a banquet are Nov. 13, with tours of Viterra, Inc, area farms, and a reception/bbq at the Hennings' farm near Ralston on Nov. 14th. We will all be celebrating the 30 year anniversary of the founding of the USCA! Registration includes all of the above activities and meals Nov. 13 and 14. Registration and lodging information can be found on the USCA website: <https://www.uscanola.com/meetings-events/usca-fall-board-of-directors-meeting/>

Canola in Montana: Fasten Your Seatbelts!

Montana has the most acres of canola of the four PNW states at 139,931 (Oct. 1 USDA-FSA acreage report), and growers and industry alike have been very receptive to the PNWCA and the opportunity for more education and advocacy in the Treasure State. December will be a busy month of canola-related activities:

PNWCA Canola Workshop: We will be holding our first-ever canola workshop on **Dec. 2** at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls ahead of the MGGA Convention. Stay tuned to our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for more details as the planning comes together.

Oilseed Listening Session: The MT Department of Agriculture has received a verified petition from 25 MT oilseed growers to create an advisory committee. MDA will hold a listening session **Dec. 3** at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls to receive additional grower input regarding the proposal. Anyone involved in oilseed (e.g. canola, flax, mustard, etc) production, industry, and processing is encouraged to attend.



Presentation at MGGA: The PNWCA will have a panel presentation at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 during the MGGA Convention. Grower member and director Don Nagy from Sunburst, industry member Brad Birch from Dry Fork Ag, and Karen Sowers, PNWCA will talk about canola production and marketing strategies, and outreach/education in Montana.

Upcoming Events

There are multiple opportunities this fall and winter to further your learning and planning for winter canola already in the ground, and spring canola next year. Some events are solely focused on canola, while others feature one or more presentations about canola. Mark your calendars to attend some of these events, all are a great opportunity to network with others involved with canola! These events are also listed on our [website calendar](#), with PNWCA-specific events also on our [Facebook page](#).

- ♦ **Nov. 12 - Roundtable with RMA and growers** - Ritzville, WA (Bronco Inn - time TBD)
- all growers are invited and encouraged to attend and provide input!
- ♦ **Nov. 12 (evening) - Nov. 14 - U.S. Canola Association meeting** - Spokane, WA (Historic Davenport)
<https://www.uscanola.com/about-us/meetings-events/>
- ♦ **Nov. 13-16 - Tri-State Grain Growers Convention** - Spokane, WA (Davenport Grand Hotel)
*** **Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m. - PNWCA presentation**
<http://www.wawg.org/convention/>
- ♦ **Dec. 2 - PNWCA Canola Workshop** - Great Falls, MT (Heritage Inn) - 10am-5pm
- ♦ **Dec. 3 - Oilseed Listening Session MT Department of Ag Listening Session** - Great Falls, MT (Heritage Inn) - 10 a.m.
- ♦ **Dec. 3-5 - MT Grain Growers Assoc Convention & Trade Show** - Great Falls, MT (Heritage Inn)
*** **Dec. 4, 3:30 p.m. - PNWCA presentation**
<https://www.mgga.org/events/convention/>
- ♦ **Jan. 28 and 30 (tentative dates) - WSU-WOCS Oilseed Workshops**
Jan. 28 - Wilbur Community Center, Wilbur, WA
Jan. 30 - Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center, Clarkston, WA



Recognizing Our Producer Board of Directors

This inaugural newsletter would not be complete without acknowledging the time, effort, and dedication of our Producer Board of Directors. These nine producers represent each of the four states that are part of the PNWCA and have faithfully served on the board of directors for almost two years as we've worked through start up challenges, incorporation, establishing bylaws, and seeing the PNW Canola Association become reality. Take a look at the bios of our producer directors on our [website](#) and it will be readily apparent that this group is passionate about canola production in the PNW. THANKS to all of you!

*** We have one opening for a canola producer from Idaho; if you are interested please email your contact information to pnwcanola@gmail.com. Thanks to Tim Dillin for his time and service on the board!

Stay tuned for information about our industry board members in the next newsletter.

Name our Newsletter!

We need a catchy name for our quarterly newsletter—any ideas? Put on your creative cap and email your top choices to pnwcanola@gmail.com. The Board of Directors will vote on a favorite entry and the winner will be featured in the next newsletter.

Membership matters

Why should you become a member of the PNWCA? Your membership dues go towards educational workshops, field tours, website development, promotion of the canola industry in the PNW, advocacy at the state, regional, and national level, and more. A membership form is available on the [PNWCA website](#). Join today!