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Oilseed Fact Sheet: The Regional Picture

Introduction

In a regional food system, the development of oilseed growth and processing forms a cyclical system. Every feature of the system can be utilized in multiple ways, as will be discussed in this factsheet. This system is one example of what can be done using oilseed in a regional setting.

The Seed

The starting point of the regional oilseed system is the fields. Regional

farmers may grow canola or other oilseed crops as an alternative crop, or as a cover crop. The harvested seed is stored in bins and moved on to the next step of the process, the oilseed press.

After the cleaning process the oilseed press presses the seed, creating two products. The first of these products is the meal. Meal is the remains of the seed after the oil is extracted. Meal is extruded from the press of the expeller press, and collected, to be used as

feed for cattle and other animals. The meal is high in protein and other nutrients, and makes an excellent addition to the feed ration.

The extracted oil is collected and contained, where it branches out into two uses.

The Uses of Extracted Oil

Oil extracted from the canola seed has two options for continued use. Some of the oil is further refined and bottled for use as cooking oil. The rest is pre-

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pared for use as engine fuel. A number of machines and equipment can be run on straight vegetable oil (SVO), through the use of modified diesel engines. The tractors that harvest the canola seed from the