



Oilseed Producer Meeting Minutes

Comfort Inn, Berlin, Vermont February 2, 2010

Heather Darby, UVM Extension Agronomist and Nutrient Management Specialist welcomes the group of oilseed producers

half dozen bags of seed. Third year got them in middle of June, harvested them end of October, yield not good but we have a 1952 McCormick pull behind combine, son has 1962 self-propelled. Needs help with combine adjustments. Someone at the farm show said he should have 2 ton yield, perhaps it is too windy and the seed is blowing out. He thinks there is not enough wind and the seed is falling straight through to the ground. Not sure what is happening but hopefully he'll learn. Larry Scott noted that it took 2 rolls of duck tape to plug the holes in his combine when he did canola. Heather thought that perhaps he is harvesting the canola too late. The pods are dry and they shatter upon contact when they are over ripe, he might just be losing the canola on the ground. Stan said he can very well stand behind the combine to see what is going wrong while he's driving the tractor. Heather commented sarcastically, "You can't?" Stan said, "well it's hard to do, I haven't developed enough of a split personality". Hopefully this self propelled combine will do the trick for me. Paul Bovin mentioned that you can put a sheet behind to see the seed on the ground, so you can tell what you are losing.

Nick Cowles, Shelburne Orchards, apple growers, two 5 acre fields, keep planting buckwheat year after year. Rototilled buckwheat under and keeps coming back, has a seeder, harrows, and need combine –

Jon Satz, Woods Market Garden in Brandon. fruit and veggie growing, first year of oilseeds, planted 7 acres of sunflowers and one acre of soybeans. Not certified land raised organically from a fertilizer and cultivation standpoint, had been corn the last 5 years. Sunflowers did decent, some bird damage, about 10% bird damage happened over a course of a day or two when the birds decided that that was the field they were going to visit. 6 ton off the 7 acre piece. Would have been a ton/acre but there were culverts and drainage issues, spots of the field that were oversaturated. Weed control – collaborated with VSJF work on cultivation efficiency. Has a lot of 2 row cultivation equipment for his vegetable business. The

sunflowers into his vegetable land and Heather warned him that if the field is high in fertility, lodging may be a problem. In South Dakota when soil testing sunflower fields, they probe down 2-3 feet because sunflowers are such good scavengers, and they perform a fall nitrate test. Researchers in South Dakota said that sunflower maggots are not responsible for lodging. Fields have had 30-40 maggot



bigger heads, very wet, very little bird damage until right before harvested. We lost 40% of the crop in 2 days. 1200 lbs total for the 2 acres. 5 acres of soybeans, 5 acres winter canola (drilled). Deer problems used electric fence. Want some non GMO canola. Packed down path from people walking in field to take pictures. Kodak moment box for donations. Will include vetch this season, different winter rye such as Aroostook rye, found more than double biomass and faster emergence in fall. Feed mill equipment that the group is working on, Kelly Duplex feed milling system that UNH had, hammermill, vertical horizontal mixers, roller mill, hammer mill. For feed processing. Buhler seed cleaner is our next purchase. Setting up a single pass system for planting. Focusing on crops and less on fuel at this point because biodiesel is available locally. Mobile Oilseed press set-up with direct drive off 13 hp diesel engine, needed to put in reverser gear box, set up on trailer to be mobile is now coming together. Low-till, and no till establishment of cover crop. Soil type is Scantic sandy loam.

Paul Boivin – No-Mon

