

Hello,

My name is Ben Miller. I farm along French Prairie Rd near Gervais.

While I'm not for telling my fellow farmers what to grow, trying to lean over the fence and wag my finger I am still torn by what their growing of canola would mean for my farming operation (primarily vegetable seeds), my neighbor's farming operations that also grow vegetable seeds and the financial impact growing canola would have on the state, which affects us all. So here is a brief explanation of those concerns.

- I. Canola grown here in the valley will affect my vegetable seed crops both now and in the future.
 - a. Canola being a brassica species will cross pollinate with some the other brassica crops that I grow such as mustard and cabbage. The problem has a large potential to grow over time as seed inevitably spreads from canola zones to non-canola zones.
 - b. Canola harbors a bug known as the pollen beetle. Once its done eating canola pollen in the late spring early summer it will come to eat the pollen off my radish.
- II. Canola grown here will affect my neighbors for the above mentioned reasons
 - a. Additionally, the opportunity cost for my neighbors will rise since they could have grown a more valuable vegetable seed crop.
- III. Canola will cost the state of Oregon millions of dollars in subsidies
 - a. In 2007 just before this issue began to heat up Oregon paid out more than \$1.2 million dollars in subsidies to crushers who produce oil from canola and to farmers to grow it.
 - b. According to an attached article (see link below) the return for the dollar on canola is not very high. If the whole valley were planted to canola, the oil produced would only be enough to meet Washington state's current requirement that their diesel be E5, what about when they want to raise the standard?
 - c. Canada already produces millions of acres of canola why not import seed/oil from them?

Link: [Growing our own biodiesel, the future, or false hope?](#)

Bottom line: I think the economic issues facing the state dictate the need for high profit industries versus low profit industries. Furthermore, if the state is low on funds where is the money coming from to subsidize this crop and the oil produced? Would the state do better to save its money?

Thank you for your time and for carefully weighing the issues.

Sincerely,

Ben Miller