



Biodiesel R&D Production System

Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc.

Eastern Plains RC&D assisted the Eastern Ag Research Center with is the Evaluation of Oilseed Crops for Biodiesel Production and Quality. EPRC&D assisted Drs. Bergman and Flynn with in-kind and cash matching funds toward the Biodiesel R&D Production System. This research evaluated oilseed crops for yield performance and agronomic characteristics under irrigated production in eastern Montana, oil extraction from the oilseeds, and biodiesel production from the resulting vegetable oils. Eight different oilseed crops with a history of production in Montana were tested. These oilseed crops were high linoleic safflower, high oleic safflower, high oleic sunflower, flax, soybean, Canola, camelina and crambe. This project demonstrated that oilseeds may be successfully grown in Montana to produce biodiesel. The results of this study document that Montana grown safflower and sunflower will produce more oil or biodiesel per acre in eastern Montana than soybeans in the Corn Belt states and will support biodiesel processing and manufacturing in Montana. The Final Report, completed in July 2009 has been valuable in promotion. The report was recently sent to a group which is investigating the feasibility of locating a biodiesel plant in Eastern Montana.

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