



Lynn Ketchum/OSU

A bumble bee and a honeybee pollinate canola flowers. Three January workshops will focus on growing canola.

## Workshops will showcase canola as ‘opportunity crop’

More acres expected after record in 2017

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

Eastern Washington farmers will get the latest information about adding canola to their crop rotations during upcoming workshops sponsored by Washington State University and the Washington Oilseed Cropping System.

The workshops will be Jan. 22 in Hartline, Jan. 24 in Richland and Jan. 25 in Colfax. All begin at 7:30 a.m.

Each workshop will be tuned into local growing conditions, said Karen Sowers, extension and outreach specialist for oilseed crops.

“Whether you’ve never grown a canola or an oilseed crop before or you’ve got 10 or 20 years under your belt, there should be information for everybody,” she said.

Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana had record canola acreage in 2017, totaling 221,000 acres. Sowers

**Online**  
<http://css.wsu.edu/oilseeds/>

ers expects further growth in 2018.

The economics of growing canola are a focus of the workshops, including planting rates, pest and disease management and loss off the combine during harvest, Sowers said.

The workshop includes an expanded hands-on demonstration of live canola plants with residual and drift herbicide injury symptoms, nutrition deficiencies and stand establishment factors, including seed size, planting depth and the effects of planting older canola seed.

“Canola and other oilseeds are an opportunity crop,” Sowers said.

Speakers will include university faculty, growers and others. Kansas State University winter canola breeder Mike Stamm will speak in Hartline and Richland and Dan Orchard, canola agronomist from the Canola Council of Canada, will speak at all three locations.

## Two join Washington Grain Commission board

Carstensen represents wheat, Klein represents barley

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

SPOKANE — Mike Carstensen and Kevin Klein are the newest board members representing wheat and barley farmers on the Washington Grain Commission.

Carstensen farms 10 miles north of Almira. He takes the position left vacant by Mike Eagle of Almira and represents wheat farmers in Spokane, Lincoln, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.

He’s been farming since 1985, raising dryland wheat, primarily soft white and some club wheat.

Carstensen said he joined the 11-member commission to support farmers.

“I think that markets are very important, I think our research is very important,” he said.

Klein, of Edwall, represents barley farmers in Lincoln, Spokane, Ferry, Adams, Grant, Douglas, Okanogan, Chelan and Kittitas counties. He replaces Eddie Johnson of Wilbur.

He’s been farming on his own since 1997, and was part of the family farm growing up. He raises soft white wheat and some barley. He previously went through the leadership levels for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, serving as president in 2016.

Klein said he joined the board because he saw a need for barley representation.

The commission held its board meeting Jan. 4 in Spokane.



Mike Carstensen



Kevin Klein

# Wash. AgForestry Leadership Program chooses its 40th class

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

The long-running Washington AgForestry leadership program has announced the members of its 40th class.

Sponsored by the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation, the leadership program helps participants develop the knowledge and skills needed to address agricultural and forestry issues.

“We have the most diverse group of class participants that I think we have ever had,” said Sheryl McGrath, the foundation president. “That is diversity in commodity sector, different types of natural resources, but also we have a wonderful gender mix as well as cultural mix, this year.”

The program recently adopted a diversity inclusion equity statement, seeking to represent the entire industry, McGrath said.

“We need to embrace everyone and everything, from age, gender, culture, background, ethnicity and religion, because natural resources really do include everyone,” she said.



Washington AgForestry Leadership Program

The Ag Forestry Leadership Program in Washington state has announced its 40th class. Participants will learn about agriculture, forestry and natural resource issues.

**Online**  
<http://agforestry.org/leadership-programs>

Participating in the 40th class are Jason Alves of the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs; Evan Bauder of the Mason Conservation District; Tyler Broetje of Broetje Orchards in Prescott; Jaki Brophy of the Washington Hops Commission; Randy Burke of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Annie Byrley of 5B Farms Inc. in Walla Walla; Kevin Corliss of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates

in Prosser; Ben Cox of Washington Trust Bank; Chelsea Durfey Campbell of Natural Selection Farms Inc. in Sunnyside; Erin Ewald of Taylor Shellfish Farms in Shelton; Kirsten Feifel of DNR; Justin Hall of Nisqually River Foundation; and Jennifer Hickenbottom of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Other members are Paul Jones of Wyeast Timber Services in Hood River, Ore.; Melody Kreimes of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board; Abu Nurullah of DNR; Adam Poush of the Northwest Learning and Achievement Group; Rey Rojas of Empey

Orchards Inc. in Mesa; Jacob Ruland of Northwest Farm Credit Services; Brady Stover of Integrity Ag Inc.; Gareth Waugh of Port Blakely U.S. Forestry; Deborah Wieseler of Flying W Farms Inc. in Mesa; Ryan Williams of the Snohomish Conservation District; and Lindsey Williams with the Agriculture Center of Excellence in Walla Walla.

The program is recruiting for its 41st class, McGrath said. Class members are selected through an application and interviews. Over 18 months, they attend 11 seminars around the state on leadership topics, a one-week seminar in Washington, D.C., and two weeks in a foreign country. Members commit 58 days to the seminars.

Each candidate pays a fee of \$6,000. Payment plans are available. According to the foundation, the program is valued at more than \$26,000 per participant, with more than \$20,000 funded by supporters of the foundation. The foundation is primarily supported by private donors. For every dollar contributed, more than 90 cents goes directly to program services.

## Forest Service signs off on E. Oregon fire protection project

Area encompasses 37,800 acres in Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla forests

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
Capital Press

Forest officials plan to log nearly 8,000 acres in the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests of northeast Oregon to help protect local resources from wildfire within the Granite Creek watershed.

The Ten Cent Community Wildfire Protection Plan includes the tiny towns of Granite and Greenhorn, as well as the popular Olive Lake Campground, historic Fremont Powerhouse and adjacent recreational cabins.

Both forests signed a record of decision for the project Jan. 3, authorizing 7,859 acres of commercial timber harvest, 1,227 acres of small tree thinning, 3,557 acres of hand-thinning in riparian areas and roadside hazard tree removal.

Andrew Stinchfield, project manager and acting district ranger for the North Fork John Day Ranger District on the Umatilla National Forest, said fire safety was the primary driver for the treatments.

“There is a lot of fuel out there, a lot of dead and down (wood) on the ground, a lot of ingrowth of trees,” Stinchfield said. “What we’re trying to do is basically create a series of these strategically placed fuel breaks, ultimately along roads and then in selected stands around private property.”



Photos by EO Media Group

The Ten Cent Community Wildfire Protection Plan includes the tiny town of Granite, Ore. **BELOW:** Olive Lake is within the just-approved Ten Cent Community Wildfire Protection Plan in Eastern Oregon.



high-priority area.

The last large fire to burn in the area was the Vinegar fire in 2013, which torched 1,351 acres about six miles southwest of Granite on rugged Vinegar Hill.

“We’re excited to get the project started,” he said.

Commercial logging is expected to start this summer, and will be done through several timber sales, Stinchfield said. The overall project should take between seven and 10 years to complete.

The project also includes 9,382 acres of controlled burning, though Stinchfield said they will not burn in the North Fork John Day Wilderness Area after objections were raised by Oregon Wild, Wilderness Watch, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and the American Forest Resource Council.

The decision does not include 6,743 acres of non-wilderness burning on the Umatilla National Forest, which Stinchfield said will be determined separately.

Stinchfield said the project was planned over three years in consultation with the Grant County Commu-

nity Wildfire Protection Plan, which ranked the Granite Zone a high-risk,

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