

Farmer's Market Season is off to a great start with record number vendors and attendees for this time of the year. The communities support means the world to us as our success is tightly tied to it. With the high price of fuel; we at the market are giving it our all to ensure that our community and visitors alike have something fun and educational to do on Sat mornings.

As fuel prices keep inching their way past 4 dollars a gallon it seems more of us are willing to at least listen to the conversations about bio diesels and it would seem that there is a new crop on the scene posed to makes it mark in the arena.

Prosser's Farmers Market is honored to have Richard Cooley, Director of Operations - Pacific Northwest for Great Plains Inc. at the market this sat June 14th to share more about their company, the crop and the future of bio-diesel. I have stated several times in this column that I grew up in dry land wheat country so the concept of cover crops and crop rotations isn't a new concept for me, nor are crops like canola. Canola became a part of the wheat countries landscape years ago offering their bright yellow colors to the golden fields, but until recently I hadn't heard much about the crop Camelina.

I am told it has been called the "false flax" and is in the mustard family. More importantly it is being touted as a reliable, inexpensive feedstock for biodiesel production. According to Great Plains' website, "the crop is a low-cost, high margin alternative crop that can be planted behind wheat. Camelina doesn't compete with other crops and is an excellent rotational crop."

We at the market feel it is a privilege to have someone with Mr. Cooley's expertise visit the market to share his knowledge and insight in the changes happening in the world of bio-diesel and products that promote sustainable agriculture. It is our hope that you will come out and learn more about Camelina and meet Mr. Cooley.

We will also have local musician Patrick Byrnes providing live music –Patrick offers a mix of "oldie but goodies" and originals, so I would encourage you to come down and plan on hanging around and soaking it all in.

See you at the market.