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## Canola Biodiesel Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions Canola Oil Benefits Alternative Fuel and Plastics

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Canola oil meets the 50 percent greenhouse gas reduction requirement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a raw material (feedstock) for biodiesel production under the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2). Its ability to create a high-quality biodiesel that can take cold temperatures will be discussed at the National Canola Research Conference at the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting on Nov. 2, 2010, at 3 pm at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, Calif.

“Canola biodiesel will play a significant role in fulfilling the volume requirements of the RFS2, providing advantages over other feedstocks for cold weather use,” says Doug Scoville, president of the U.S. Canola Association. “Canola biodiesel reduces emissions, improves air quality, furthers sustainable agricultural practices, and provides jobs and additional economic benefits.”

In addition, canola oil has the greatest ability to remain free-flowing at cold temperatures of any feedstock used to commercially produce biodiesel in the U.S. Plus, canola provides greater yields because it has reduced impurities – low presence of moisture and other components – that may affect yield and the efficiency of biodiesel production.

“North American canola production – concentrated in the U.S. in North Dakota and Oklahoma – is very efficient, with lower energy inputs than many crops,” Scoville notes. “A lot of canola production is done through no-till farming and as a rotational crop, canola allows for less fertilizer and water use. Canola also benefits other crops, such as wheat, in rotation. For example, wheat yields have been shown to increase when it follows canola due to increased weed control.”

Canola oil can also be used to produce resins for fiber-reinforced composites used to create strong, light-weight shields for machinery. Researchers at the Long Beach canola conference will present on Nov. 2 how they produce canola oil-based resins.

“From the gas tank to plastics, canola oil has value in industrial applications, extending its usefulness beyond that as a healthy, versatile cooking oil,” Scoville concludes. “What’s good for the heart is also good for the engine due to the oil’s low saturated fat content.”

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*Based in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Canola Association is a non-profit commodity organization whose mission is to increase domestic canola production to meet a growing demand for healthy oil. It promotes the establishment and maintenance of conditions favorable to growing, marketing, processing and using U.S. canola.*