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The Exploratory Study of the Effects of Selling Canola by Seed Size on Farmers: Variability of Hybrids and Years

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**The Exploratory Study of the Effects of Selling Canola by Seed Size on Farmers:
Variability of Hybrids and Years**

by

Christopher J. Reed

A creative component submitted to the graduate faculty
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Major: Seed Technology and Business

Program of Study Committee:
Bobby J. Martens, Major Professor
Anthony Townsend, Committee Member

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ABSTRACT

Technological advancements in seed placement for commodity field production has changed how seed is sold for many types of crops. It is becoming more popular among several seed industries to sell seeds by count rather than by weight. Corn, soybeans, cotton, and sugar beets are all examples of crops that have made a switch from historically being sold by weight to being sold by count. Of most recent, companies are now investigating how this change would impact canola. Unlike corn which has a relatively consistent or predictable seed size, canola tends to have greater variability in seed size. This study evaluates the variability in seed count per harvested volume across multiple canola hybrids and across multiple years for a single canola hybrid. This research collects data and evaluates the cost implications of selling canola based on seed count, given the uncertainty in canola seed size. The research provides an exploratory evaluation in seed size, describes the risk that farmers are currently absorbing by buying canola by weight, and outlines future work needed to be done by seed companies before selling canola by seed count.

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