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that perhaps would “fly below the radar” of the biotech giants and not be subject to contamination concerns. I have, however, recently learned that GMO camelina varieties are being developed to exploit the high omega-3 properties.

CROPP provided camelina seed for experimental plantings on 5 farms around the country. On our farm we planted a small half acre plot on May 5th with a seeding rate of 10 lbs/A. The seed is tiny, resembling alfalfa, but it emerged very quickly and competed well with weeds.

We harvested the crop in late August and had a yield of about 1200 lbs/acre. There was considerable amount of seed lost due to the small field size and combine adjustment losses. Some of the seed was pressed for oil at Stateline Farm in North Bennington, Vermont. John Williamson (owner of Stateline Farm) has been growing different oilseed crops on this farm for a few several



camelina seed heads
millet

years. John was happy to try pressing the camelina. He was pleased with the oil yield and pressing characteristics of camelina and is going to grow some himself next year.

The cows at our farm have recently been trying out the high protein camelina meal as a supplement. They find it palatable and we hope to have a sample tested for nutrient composition in the near future. The humans on the farm are also trying out the camelina oil for salads and cooking.

We are encouraged by the camelina experiment and have enough seed saved for a much larger planting in 2008. We are happy to share more specifics about our experiences related to these crops to anyone with interest.

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