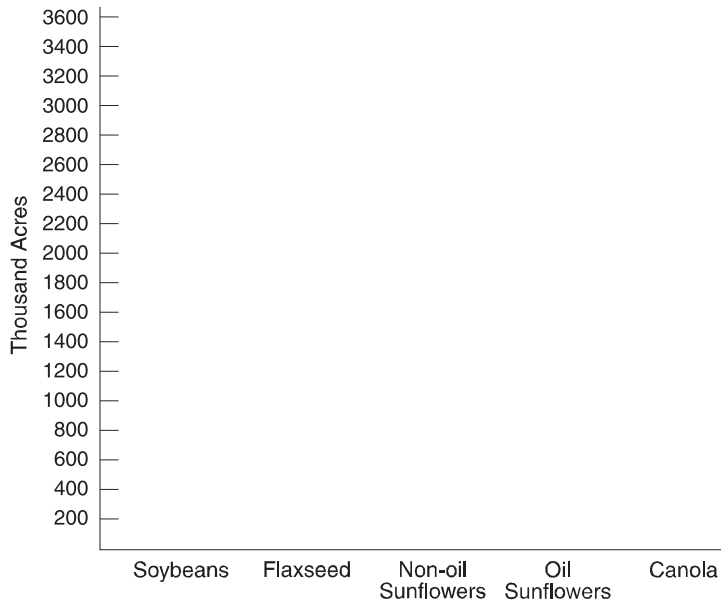


Acres and Acres of Oilseeds

An acre is an area of land about the size of a football field, and there are thousands of acres of oilseed crops planted and harvested in North Dakota each year. Use the chart from the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service at www.nass.usda.gov/nd/cropintro74.pdf to fill in the bar chart to show how many acres of soybeans, flaxseed, non-oil sunflowers, oil sunflowers and canola were harvested in North Dakota in 2004.



Think About It

Are olive oil, sesame oil and peanut oil on your grocery store shelf? Why aren't olives, sesame plants and peanuts grown in North Dakota? Where are they grown?

Corn oil is also at your store. Corn isn't considered an oilseed since only the germ of the plant (the tiny part of the kernel that sprouts and grows into a new plant) is crushed for its oil. Most of the corn kernel is used for livestock feed, starch, sweeteners, corn flakes and other products.

Oilseed Processing

Where Does That Oil Come From?

They may not feel oily, but oilseeds may be up to 50 percent oil: oil sunflower seeds are about 44 percent oil, canola 40 percent and soybeans 20 percent.

The oil is usually removed by pressing – literally squeezing the oil out. Sometimes chemicals are also used to extract the oil. The product that's left after pressing is called meal, and it's an excellent protein source for livestock. Look at a bag of dog food, and you'll probably see soybean meal as an ingredient.

Many oilseeds are processed in North Dakota. Identify on the state map where these processing plants are located.

- Northern Sun, Enderlin** – oil sunflowers, soybeans, crambe
- Cargill, West Fargo** – oil sunflowers, flax
- CHS, Grandin** – non-oil sunflowers
- Minn-Dak Growers Assn., Grand Forks** – non-oil sunflowers
- Red River Commodities, Fargo** – non-oil sunflowers
- SIGCO Sun Products, Wahpeton** – non-oil sunflowers
- ADM, Velva** – canola
- Sun Valley Products, Horace** – non-oil sunflowers, soybeans
- Dahlgren, Fargo** – non-oil sunflowers

