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Dry Bean Fact of the Month:

Research shows that breakage susceptibility of pinto and navy beans is affected by bean moisture content and temperature. The amount of navy bean breakage was constant at moisture contents of 19% to 16%, then increased dramatically at moisture contents less than 16%; 4% at 16 - 19% moisture, 15% at 15% moisture, 22% at 14% moisture, 37% at 13% moisture, and 49% at 12% moisture. The amount of pinto bean breakage was minimal and increased slowly as moisture contents decreased from 19% to 16%, then increased more rapidly at moisture contents less than 16%. The amount of pinto bean breakage was 2% at 19% moisture, 3% at 18% moisture, 5% at 17% moisture, 6% at 16% moisture, 9% at 15% moisture, 16% at 14% moisture, 20% at 13% moisture, and 26% at 12% moisture. (NDSU extension ag engineer Ken Hellevang)

COVER: Don Streifel (left) and son-in-law Jeff Kulzer, among producers who grow dry beans along Highway 1804 between Bismarck and Washburn, N.D. *photo: Tracy Saylor*

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BeanBriefs

Bean Day 2007

Mark your calendar for Bean Day 2007 set for January 18-19, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND. More details will be included in future issues of "The Bean Grower."

Mayo Clinic: Beans Among Top 10 Healthy Foods

Beans were listed among the ten top picks for healthy foods, in the August issue of Mayo Clinic Women's HealthSource. *"Small red, pinto and dark red kidney varieties are an excellent low-fat source of antioxidants, protein, dietary fiber and copper. They're also a good source of iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and thiamin."* Other foods on the list: apples, almonds, broccoli, blueberries, salmon, spinach, sweet pota-

toes, wheat germ, and vegetable juice.

No Changes to Corn and Beans in NAFTA

Governments of Mexico and the United States ratified this summer that they will not modify the terms of the North Free Trade Agreement on corn and dry beans, whose tariff liberation is scheduled for January, 2008. Nevertheless, both governments said that they will contemplate changes to their national sugar programs. Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Francisco Mayorga, and the USDA Undersecretary, J. B. Penn, said that neither partner has any interest in renegotiating the corn and dry beans provisions of the agreement, but they are beginning discussions of technical collaboration in both grains.

Collaborative initiatives to improve productivity, transfer post-harvest technology and seek opportunities together in third country markets are being considered. Ideas on technical cooperation, research and development, conversions, infrastructure, equipment and programs, might be the start of a permanent agenda in the frame of an agreement or a consultative committee on agriculture between Mexico and the United States.

Mayorga stated that with this technical collaboration, there are some trade projects that could propitiate the specialization of the production of corn types per country. "In the United States, yellow corn is a commodity that is part of the professional stock market, and the white corn is a specialty produced by contract. In Mexico it happens exactly the opposite

way: white corn is a commodity, and yellow corn is produced only by contract. So there is the potential for each country to specialize in those crops that perform more efficiently."

USDA FAS Mexico: www.fas-la.com/mexico/index1.html

Texas Firm Accused of Selling Regular Beans As Organic

A Texas company that sold regular beans as organic to customers all over the nation has been cited for breaking several federal rules and could face criminal charges, The Dallas Morning News reports. Sel-Cor Bean & Pea, near Lubbock, sold tens of thousands of dollars worth of pinto and garbanzo beans to customers who were told they were organic. But investigators with the Texas De-

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partment of Agriculture determined that owner Basilio Coronado sold them regular beans instead. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which enforces organic laws, could issue fines up to \$10,000 for violating use of the USDA Organic label. "We need to protect the integrity of the organic certification program, not only among organic growers but for the general public," said Texas Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Beverly Boyd. "Consumers need to know when they see the organic label they are buying an organic product."

"Mighty Little Bean" Great Example of Functional Food

The "mighty little bean" is a great example of a functional food, writes Lenore Greenstein,

a Naples, Florida, registered dietician. Functional foods are so named since they have extra health benefits that can function to improve your well being, she wrote recently in the Napa Daily News.

Greenstein writes that there are plenty of reasons why beans are a great example of a functional food: A great source of protein and complex carbohydrates, beans are low in fat and contain zero cholesterol. They are a rich source of the B-vitamin family and are high in fiber, both the soluble and insoluble type. Their high fiber content is an important aid in elimination and gastrointestinal problems. Beans also function to lower the LDL (bad) cholesterol and help to improve blood sugar or glucose levels, thereby helping to control diabetes.

Beans are a complete plant protein, which means they sup-

ply all of the essential amino acids necessary for our biological functions. They contain substances called phyto (or plant) chemicals, which have been shown in studies to have anti-cancer activity. Some of the phyto-estrogens are weak plant estrogens, which may help to reduce menopausal symptoms in women and afford protection against certain types of cancer.

Market Development Funding For Canadian Pulses

Chuck Strahl, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, recently announced C\$525,800 in funding to assist the international marketing strategy of Canadian pulses (dried peas, beans, lentils and chickpeas) until the end of March 2008. The federal con-

tribution will be made to Pulse Canada under the Canadian Agriculture and Food International (CAFI) Program, a five-year, C\$175 million program implemented by the previous government that is designed to fund activities to reduce and remove trade barriers as well as increase the international competitiveness of Canadian agricultural exports.

Pulse Canada is the national industry association that represents provincial pulse grower groups. The organization will attempt to increase the demand for pulses in new or emerging markets. In addition to annual bilateral trade in pulses exceeding \$100 million, U.S. and Canadian pulse growers compete for important pulse markets in India, Spain, the U.K. and China. ■



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"Acreage Stability"

Those two words sum up what the dry bean industry wants most from the next farm bill

By Tracy Saylor

The U.S. dry bean industry strongly favors retention of fruit and vegetable (FAV) planting restrictions for non-program crops – such as dry beans – on program crop acres. And because of the unique situation of growing dry beans, any change in the present status quo would require establishing offsetting direct economic compensation to historical dry bean producers.

That's the key message Mike Beltz gave on behalf of the U.S. Dry Bean Council, in testimony before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, which held a field hearing recently in Great Falls, Mont., to gather input in drafting the new farm bill.

Beltz, from Hillsboro, N.D., is vice chair of the USDBC agricultural issues/government affairs committee, chair of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council, and serves on several committees of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association.

While the FAV planting restriction has been beneficial to all non-program and specialty crops, it is most important to dry bean growers, said Beltz, since dry beans are typically grown in rotations with, or in areas where, major program crops are grown.

Beltz said that while dry beans represent nearly 20% of non-program or specialty crop acreage, dry bean acreage is only a fraction of the acreage of major program crops, about 2% of soybean acreage, for example.

"So even a small percentage shift in program crop acreage to a non-program crop with an existing delicate supply/demand balance, such as dry beans, will lead to overproduction and price erosion," Beltz testified.

He further pointed out that unlike other non-program crops

or specialty crops, there are very few, if any, economic barriers to entry in converting program crop acres to dry bean production.

Other non-program or specialty crops, most of which are perishable, typically require high levels of investment in equipment to plant, maintain, harvest, and store the crop, along with technical expertise, marketing channels, and specialized labor needs. Such economic barriers to entry do not exist with dry bean production. Beltz explained to the Senate panel that any existing farmer with equipment to plant and harvest grains, such as soybeans and corn, can use the same equipment to plant, tend and harvest dry beans.

"Eliminating the planting restriction would disadvantage

the historical dry bean grower by subsidizing a likely new significant level of dry bean production on program acres, a result which would be neither fair nor equitable," Beltz testified.

Stripping the farm bill of the fruit and vegetable provision would permit unfair competition from subsidized program crop acreage against unsubsidized non-program crop acreage, and would likely result in a severe disruption of the present delicate supply/demand balance and the present open and competitive market for dry beans.

"As such, dry bean growers across the U.S. oppose any legislative, administrative, or any other action that would eliminate the present restrictions on planting non-program crops,

such as dry beans, on program crop contract acres for producers who receive program crop subsidy payments on such contract acres," Beltz testified.

The issue of WTO compliance

The FAV provision is a carry-over of the 2002 Farm Bill from the 1995 "Freedom to Farm Act." The planting flexibility provision permits any commodity to be grown on contract acreage, except fruits and vegetables, including dry edible beans and potatoes. Some exceptions are made for fruits and vegetables, with an acre-for-acre loss of payment.

Some believe the FAV provision in the current farm bill may be challenged as trade distorting in the World Trade



Mike Beltz, Hillsboro, N.D., testifying on behalf of the U.S. Dry Bean Council before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, which held a field hearing recently in Great Falls, Mont. to gather input in drafting the new farm bill. Photo: Tim McGreevy

Organization, since it restricts the planting of certain crops on direct payment acreage, thus influencing production decisions.

A WTO panel concluded that, because of planting restrictions, U.S. direct payments were not consistent with "green-box" support (subsidies permitted by the WTO because the effects on trade are minimal). Still, "there are no immediate compliance issues associated with the ruling," the USDA Economic Research Service pointed out, in an April, 2006 report.

Beltz said in his testimony that there is no determinative ruling about planting restrictions within the WTO. How rules applying to the farm bill concur within the context of the WTO is further muddled by the collapse of the Doha Round of negotiations, scuttled primarily by disagreements which couldn't be resolved concerning agriculture.

In the event that the U.S. FAV would be challenged within the WTO, "equity will demand that offsetting actions must be

taken to minimize the harm to growers of other commodities, such as dry beans, that will be impacted," Beltz said, such as offsetting direct economic compensation to dry bean producers with a proven history of production.

Beltz pointed out in his testimony that dry beans is one of the few ag commodities to appear twice on the USDA's new Food Pyramid, and is a food that is increasingly being recognized for its nutritional qualities. This heightens the need for enhancing existing, and establishing effective new, federal programs that are annually funded devoted to dry bean research, nutrition information, consumer education, promotion, conservation practices, risk management, and other dry bean related activities.

Adequate funding is also needed for block grants set out in the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004. These grants can help conduct valuable dry bean research, promotion, nutrition, and information

activities tailored to state and local needs. The program has only been funded at minimal levels (\$7 million), while the program was envisioned to have annual funding of about \$50 million.

Since dry bean growers and the industry are heavily dependent on exports, which account for as much or more than one-third of annual domestic production, the USDBC strongly supports continuation of the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program as administered by USDA, at full funding levels as provided in the 2002 Farm Bill, Beltz testified.

The USDBC also favors continuation of in-kind U.S. commodity donations and full funding levels for highly successful overseas food aid programs—specifically PL 480 Title II, Food for Progress, and the Global Food for Education Initiative.

Since worldwide demand far outstrips present donations,

USDBC opposes any proposals that would reduce or transfer the present base level of funding for these programs, Beltz said.

"Although the future of the present negotiations of the WTO is in limbo, USDBC believes that food aid is humanitarian assistance, and should not be used as a negotiating tool in the WTO or other trade negotiations," Beltz testified. "As such, the USDBC strongly supports the efforts of the U.S. Trade Representative to exclude food aid from such negotiations; to reject the "cash only" approach of the European Community to food aid; to maintain the world leading U.S. in-kind commodity donation food aid programs as they have been successfully developed and delivered for years; and to continue the dual objective of U.S. food aid programs – to provide in-kind commodities for humanitarian relief for emergencies, and for continuing development relief efforts." ■

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The 2006 Dry Bean Harvest

Dry and hot – that pretty much sums up the growing season for many edible bean producers in the Northarvest area

By Marlene Dufault

Dry and hot – that pretty much sums up the growing season for many producers in the plains, from Texas to Manitoba, as well as dry bean growers in between.

USDA's August production forecast indicates that national dry bean yields, which have been trending higher by about 11 pounds annually, are expected to be more than 150 pounds below their 35-year trend (1970-2005).

As of mid-August, about half of U.S. dry bean acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, down from 65% a year ago. This year, about one-third of the crop was rated in fair condition, and nearly one-fifth was rated less than fair.

In North Dakota, where the

crop is ahead of schedule, yields have been affected by dry soils (both topsoil and subsoil moisture is predominantly short or very short), with more than one-quarter of the acreage in poor or very poor condition. With dry soils and less than 3% of the state's dry bean crop under irrigation, the first estimate of dry bean yields in North Dakota indicated about a 30% decline from a year earlier.

Soil moisture conditions are similar in Minnesota, with one-third of the crop in poor or very poor condition and yields projected to decline 21% from last year's record high.

In Michigan, conditions have been generally favorable; soil moisture is largely in the adequate range, and the dry bean crop is ahead of schedule with yields expected to be up 6%.

From the windshield, the dry edible bean crop in many areas of North Dakota and Minnesota looked fairly good and stayed green longer than one might expect. But rows that didn't close gave a hint of trouble, and in walking the fields, it was evident that conditions took a toll on many bean fields. "Pods are just not on the plants and if there are pods, you're looking at one to three beans," Dean Nelson, Colgate Commodities, Colgate, N.D., said on the Red River Farm Network.

"As far as the quality, it looks OK with hardly any disease out there. But absolutely, yields will be lower than last year," says Nick Shockman, manager of Larson Grain, Englevale, N.D.

Other observations as of the fourth week of August, from the Northarvest bean growing area,

including a few comments from Nebraska and Colorado:

Some beans stunted, some decent -- Here in Stutsman, most of the county was pretty dry. We are actually seeing beans stunted. Some areas got rainfall, so some of the beans look decent. Where ever it rained, it is OK, where it didn't, those are problem areas. We did have some blossom drop and early pod drop, but the ones that hung on seem to be filling. There will be beans to harvest, but it won't be like our track record. If we were to get rains at this point (latter half of August), it will help some fields, but not a great deal.

I don't know how these beans will react to the dry-down with drought. I think there is enough

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beans there so when they knife them in the windrow, there will be enough there to pick up. It won't be what it used to be, there will be a lot more dirt flying.

If I was to guess on quantity (yield) at this point, I would have to say it would be in that 6-700 pound range for pintos. – *Thomas Olson, extension agent, Stutsman County, N.D.*

Quality of early beans should be fine; green pods in later beans

-- We have beans that have been knifed already (latter half of August). We have had beans that have been destroyed. A lot of our beans are turning yellow and maturing. The number of seeds and pods are way down. We are shooting at 800-900 pound figure with our pintos, ranging from some fields that will have to be destroyed and some in the 1,400-1,500 pound range. On average, I would bet about one third of our crop is damaged.

Quality on the early beans is going to be fine. When we get into these later beans, I think we are going to be struggling with green pods in some of them. We have bean fields that have emerged over the course of six weeks because of the dry ground the seed was planted into. I have a field east of Park River that has emerged about 50% around the 1st of June, and then 30% emerged around the 10th of July and then I have 20% that never emerged at all, because of the dryness.

A lot of the beans are turning yellow early and starting to dry down earlier than usual. Harvest will bring problems. You see a lot of greens in there, lots of small pods and there isn't a lot of foliage. I don't think there is going to be any real bin buster beans out there. – *Brad Brummond, extension agent, Walsh County, N.D.*

Navies seem to be hurt more than other bean types

-- I range about a 20-mile radius of Crookston, so the crops are different, depending on the rainfall. I did a lot of deep soil probing to see what the moisture was south of Crookston, and I had very little moisture in the entire soil profile. Honestly, I didn't know what the plants were growing on, it's that dry. When I went north of Crookston, I can find areas of moisture, in the lower profile, in the three and four foot depth. Some areas got some rain, which was very helpful. If I had to generalize, I see the navy beans maturing very quickly, with an early harvest.

I work with a number of classes of dry beans. Dark red kidneys seem to be taking this heat a little bit better. But, even those fields are showing stress. I have some Great Northerns and small red varieties that are taking the heat OK but still have some stress. But definitely, the navy beans seem to be hurting the most.

As far as quality, I have had some fields that are filling very well, and then I have had some fields that the beans inside the pods were already shriveled up. It really depended on what the moisture was in the ground. I don't know what the yield will end up being – it could be all over the board. I can see that some fields that have had good rains easily making 2,000 pounds and I think that some will end up with 800-1,000 pound range. It will all depend on how we fill out. But I think the navy beans are going to be hurt, regardless.

If the beans are really dry, the problem with harvesting is that they could split very easily. You may have some parts of the field where there were still some green and other parts where the

seed is going to be very dry. – *Dave Genereux, crop consultant, Centrol, Crookston, Minn.*

A lot of small beans because of the heat -- I have heard yield estimates from 300 lbs to 1,600 lbs, depending on whether or not you got showers, plus other different variables. It really is a mixed bag around here. We may average 1,000 lbs. We got real dry this past summer in this area. Our small grain crops are pretty good but the row crops really got hurt. As far as quality, the comments around here, it is that there are going to be a lot of small beans because the heat got to them. That is what is going to be the problem. The area will have a below average crop. – *Dan Webster, pinto producer, Penn, N.D.*

Good yields anticipated in Walhalla area

-- In our area, it looks like we will have an above average crop. We got our first loads in yesterday. It looks like everything is on time. The southern area of Walhalla got hit by dry conditions while the northern, western and eastern part of Walhalla seem to have better crop conditions. We haven't had a crop here in the past two years so we are happy that this year's crop is looking good. The last few years have been terrible with it being too wet and then the early frost that hit our area. We anticipate good yields. The samples that came were good quality and so far we haven't seen much disease. We anticipate harvest to be in the first week of September. I have toured the state and the beans are really beat up in some areas. You can see areas that will get 8 bags and then some areas that will see 1,500 to 2,000 lbs. – *Dar-ryl Berg, manager, Walhalla Bean Company, Walhalla, N.D.*

Timely rains helped pintos for Burlington, Colo.

producer -- Our beans are doing very well. Right now they are looking pretty good. We had extreme dry weather but recently have had big rains. The rains will definitely help our pintos. We have had a lot more weeds than we have ever had before. So far, if the crop doesn't get hailed, we expect the crop to yield very well. It usually is the end of September when we harvest but this year will be earlier, probably the middle of September. We expect the bean harvest to be early because everything else has been early. – *Ruth Pekarek, producer Burlington, Colo.*

Difficult for irrigated pivots to keep up with crop water demand in Nebraska

-- The heat has taken its toll on the yields. We are just starting to harvest now (latter part of August), just a few loads have come in. I have talked to the producers and the quality is fair and the beans are smaller due to the heat. We have had a lot of 100-degree plus days which was hard on the beans. A few isolated areas have had some rains but our area had the heat and the drought. Everything we have here is under irrigation, either gravity or center pivots but even then, a lot of places couldn't keep up with enough water. The harvest will probably start around the first of September. This is early for us. What is being cut right now is probably about 10 days earlier than normal. If I were to estimate, I would say we will have an average to below average yields. We had a very good crop last year. Quality was good and yields were very good so this year looks like it will be somewhat disappointing. – *Dale Eirich, manager, Trinidad Bean & Elevator Bayard, Neb.* ■



Along the Lewis & Clark Trail A Pocket of Pintos

By Tracy Saylor

Highway 1804 is the most scenic route from Bismarck up to Washburn in North Dakota, not only because it runs alongside the Missouri River, but because mid-summer, you're bound to see dry bean fields flowering along the way.

This roadway is so named because it was the route that Lewis and Clark navigated through North Dakota in the fall of 1804, paddling their two canoes and a keelboat up the Missouri River. In 1806, they also journeyed back down the Missouri along this same route (hence, Highway 1806 on the south side of the river).

As a matter of fact, Clark mentions beans in one of his journals. As it was written:

"Those people gave us to eat bread made of Corn & Beans, also Corn & Beans boild. a large Been [of] which they rob the mice of the Prarie which is rich & verry nurrishing also [s]quashes &c." – Clark, 11 October 1804

Mary Gunderson, author of *The Food Journal of Lewis and Clark: Recipes for an Expedition*, writes that Clark's entry probably describes the industrious bean mouse or vole, which

stockpiled the hogpeanut (used by many tribes on the plains as a food source) and that the expedition traded provisions for goods raised by the nearby Mandan and Hidatsa. Gunderson's book blends excerpts from Lewis and Clark's journals with brief history lessons and more than 80 authentic recipes (including Corn with Sunflower and Black Beans – more information can be found online at www.historycooks.com).

While one can find a few edible bean fields here and there west of the river, the area between Bismarck and Washburn along Highway 1804 has been a bean production pocket, mostly pintos, for over 20 years.

Some of it might be the Mandan silt loam soil and the bottomland location next to the river that may be more conducive to growing beans than in other West River locations. "Maybe other guys have to fight more rocks than we do," says Bob Landgren, who farms close to the Missouri near Wilton. "But more of it I think is monkey see, monkey do."

Meaning that a crop can catch on within the neighborhood after a few growers try it and establish production experience.

That seems to be the case along this stretch of Hwy 1804.

Landgren, who earlier this year became district 6 representative on the North Dakota Dry Bean Council (replacing Paul Schulz of Washburn), recalls experimenting with dry beans on 20 acres back in 1966. He has nothing but swear words to describe that first try. "We cut 'em and they blew all over hell. We didn't know what we were doing and I swore I wouldn't raise 'em again."

Al Carvell and Ray Sheldon of Washburn, both retired from

farming now, were two of the early 'pioneers' in growing beans successfully in the area, in the late 1960s and early '70s. Others in the neighborhood began raising pintos successfully in the mid-1980s. The market potential prompted Landgren to try them again. "And they've been my major profit maker ever since."

He recalls the bean companies warning growers here early on "not to grow any more pinto beans than you can afford to lose." But the more production experience, the more success-



Bob Landgren of Wilton, N.D. no-tills pinto beans into wheat stubble. The no-till helped preserve some soil moisture (and trips across the field) although Landgren figures a string of 100-degree plus days will scorch yield potential no matter the tillage system.



ful at growing the crop. "Pretty soon it was 300 acres, then 600 acres, now I don't think anything of raising 'em."

Another reason why this stretch along Hwy 1804 is a pinto pocket: established production history makes for better crop insurance. And after a year like this, it's good to have a proven history for crop insurance.

A Tough Year for Growing Beans

There is no irrigation here, the beans produced along the Hwy

1804 corridor are all dryland – in every sense of the word this year.

Some fields will be zeroed out through crop insurance. Others will be harvested, but few fields here are expected to yield over 500 lbs/ac. Landgren has a spring wheat – pinto bean rotation, no-tilling beans into the wheat stubble. The no-till helped preserve some soil moisture, although he figures a string of 100-degree plus days will scorch yield potential no matter the tillage system. No-tilling offers the additional advantage

of reducing trips across the field, thus saving on input costs.

The uneven maturity as harvest approached was a particular frustration this year, complicating desiccation decisions. "It's as if there were three or four crops at once out there," says Landgren. "Some hardened off and ready to go, some striped, and some green yet and still blossoming. So which do you take and when do you take it?"

This year marks the 25th bean crop for Don Streifel of Washburn, who started growing beans back in 1981. He now farms with son-in-law Jeff Kulzer, growing wheat, pintos, corn, and some soybeans. Streifel represents district 6 on the board of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. He also serves on the board of the Red Trail Energy ethanol plant near Richardton, which plans a Nov. 15 startup to produce about 50 million gallons of ethanol annually.

Streifel believes the drought this year was as bad or worse in his area than the drought of 1988-89. "Except our farming practices today are so much better. Most everybody tills less these days, there's even some

no-till pinto beans. Otherwise, there wouldn't be anything."

In Streifel's opinion, however, it was this summer's sustained triple digit heat that was most damaging to the beans. "If the heat would have stayed away, we could have had a crop of sorts. It probably wouldn't have been normal, but better than what we're looking at now."

Streifel and Kulzer's pintos tried to blossom four or five times. "The heat would make the plants abort the blossoms, and they'd have to start over," Streifel says. He's not expecting a pinto bean harvest much beyond 200 to 300 lbs this year. "Most of ours will end up being harvested, but it will still be crop insurance material."

This season's weather shut down the yield potential of Streifel's crops, but not his optimism. He says pintos have treated him well over the years, and 18 years between major droughts has been a good run. "This is the best better luck next year business in the whole world," says Streifel, about farming. "If you lose that outlook, you might as well get out of it." ■



Don Streifel of Washburn, N.D. checking for blossoms on his pintos in July. Note the dry blossoms on the ground, aborted because of the hot, dry conditions.



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New Pinto Bean Lines Resist White Mold

Two pinto bean germplasm lines are now available for breeding varieties of the crop that will resist white mold, according to the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, white mold is an endemic disease affecting pinto and other dry edible bean crops throughout the United States. Crop losses can be minimized with fungicides, careful irrigation, widely spaced rows and other measures. But the cornerstone defense is to plant a disease-resistant crop, according to Phil Miklas, a Prosser, Wash. ARS plant geneticist who led in the development of the new pinto bean lines, USPT-WM-1 and USPT-WM-2.

Under favorable conditions, the fungus' mushroom stage will eject millions of infectious spores into the air, infecting nearby bean plants or riding the wind to wreak havoc elsewhere. Infected plants typically sport white, cottony tufts on their stems, leaves and pods, with severe outbreaks that can reduce yield and seed quality.

The new pinto lines owe their resistance to crosses made between Aztec, a semi-upright pinto bean, and ND88-106-4, an upright navy bean breeding line. Miklas developed, tested and evaluated the new pintos

together with James Kelly at Michigan State University in East Lansing, and Ken Grafton and Darrin Hauf, both with North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Besides white mold resistance, the new pintos offer high yield. For example, in field trials at a white mold nursery in Michigan, USPT-WM-1 and USPT-WM-2 produced the second and third highest yields of 64 pinto beans tested. However, they did show susceptibility to race 53 of bean rust at a N.D. site, and were mildly susceptible to beet curly top virus.

New Pintos Resist Bean Diseases

Five new pinto bean lines released by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service have resistance to significant bean diseases.

The new lines, known as "BelDakMi-RMR" and numbered 19 to 23, are resistant to common bean rust, caused by the rust fungus *Uromyces appendiculatus*, and to the common mosaic and common mosaic necrosis viruses. These diseases reduce yield and crop quality and increase production costs.

Scientists at the Vegetable Laboratory, part of ARS Henry A. Wallace Beltsville (Md.)

Agricultural Research Center, bred the lines in collaboration with colleagues at North Dakota State and Michigan State universities.

Most commercial bean varieties contain two or fewer disease-resistance genes. The BelDakMi pintos have six resistance genes – more than any other known bean. Each contains four genes for resistance to *U. appendiculatus*, and two for resistance to bean common mosaic and bean common mosaic necrosis.

According to ARS plant geneticist Marcial Pastor-Corrales, who worked on the project, the pintos are resistant to every known strain of these variable

pathogens.

Ken Grafton, dean of the NDSU College of Agriculture and before that, longtime bean breeder at NDSU, says these lines are germplasm lines that were developed to carry a number of resistance genes to rust, as well as having resistance to bean common mosaic virus. He points out that they may or may not become commercially available, since they have not been evaluated for yield, resistance to other diseases, maturity, or quality. Still, he says the lines do have tremendous potential to be used by breeders as parental lines in the development of better cultivars for this region. ■



Geneticists Phil Miklas (left) and George Vandemark analyze results of quantitative polymerase chain reaction assays used to rapidly genotype bean plants for disease resistance. Photo by Stephen Ausmus

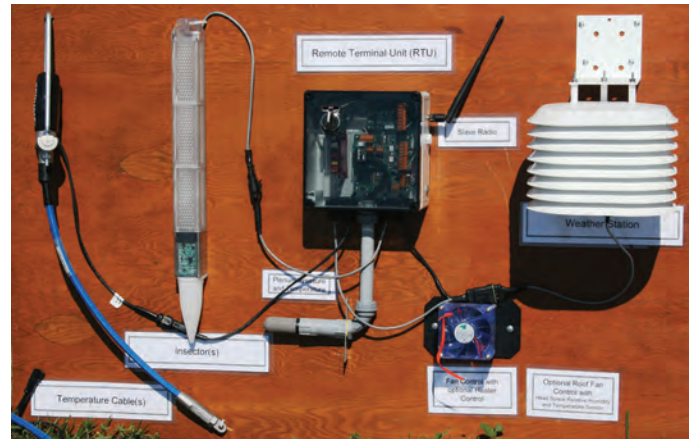


ARS plant pathologist Marcial Pastor-Corrales inoculates bean plants with spores of the bean rust fungus. Photo by Peggy Greb.

Harvest, Storage Moisture

It's recommended to harvest at no less than 15-18% moisture to reduce and minimize split beans and checked seed coats, which may split with further handling. Shattering can be a problem in dry conditions; cut and windrow at night or early morning. Cut when some pods are dry and most are yellow. Straight harvest of bush type beans requires floating cutter bar equipment. Harvest before killing frost to improve quality.

Research has shown pinto beans should be stored at temperatures of 40 F or cooler to maintain color and cooking quality. If the beans cannot be kept cool, the moisture content must be low enough to permit storage without deterioration at typical summer temperatures. The recommended moisture content for edible beans to minimize the growth of mold is about 13% at 70 F. Pinto beans darken rapidly when exposed to



light, so they should be stored in a dark environment.

For more information on dry bean harvest and storage, go online to the North Dakota State University Dry Bean page, www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/plantsci/rowcrops/drybeanall.htm or the Northharvest Bean Growers Association web site, www.northharvestbean.org - click on 'Grower Information' then 'Research &

Production Library' - see 'Harvest & Storage Management.'

New Technology Makes Bin Checking Easier

Grain bins are getting bigger - it's common for bins that go up today to have a capacity of 25,000 to 35,000 bushels or

more. However, there's technology available today that helps keep tabs of stored grain temperature.

Various components and systems are commercially available that operate on the principle of temperature cables that hang down inside of a bin. The cables help track stored grain temperature, even insect activity. Readings can be gathered outside of a bin via a hand-held monitoring device, or remotely transmitted back to a PC. The sensors help determine when and how long to run aeration fans, and when to turn them off.

Bigger bins might need two or three cables instead of one, and even then, the cables aren't foolproof. Since grain acts as an insulator, a temperature cable might not detect 'hot spots' just a few feet away.

The systems should be viewed as just one more tool to consider for managing stored grain.

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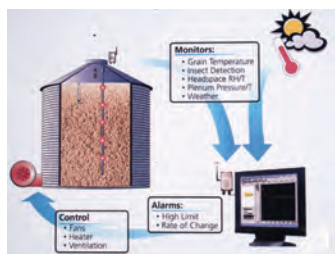
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"Having a cable or two or three is going to tell growers more about the temperature of the stored grain than just opening the top of the bin and looking in, or not doing any checking at all," says Ken Hellevang, extension engineer at North Dakota State University.

OPI Systems is a Canadian company that makes the grain storage tracking systems; Custom Marketing Company of West Fargo, N.D. (www.custom-marketingco.com) and Westeel (www.westeel.com), with a location in Fargo) are two distributors in the U.S. Others can be found on the OPI Systems web site (www.opistormax.com) – under 'Customer Support' link, see 'OPI Dealer Network.' ■



Lots of Questions on Dry Bean Desiccants

NDSU Extension Weed Specialist Rich Zollinger fielded a number of phone calls leading up to this year's dry bean harvest, about using Aim (carfentrazone) as a dry bean desiccant.

Aim is registered for preharvest dry bean desiccation. In one year's research data, Zollinger says Aim at 1 oz/ac usually gave similar desiccation as paraquat at 1 pt/ac but Aim at 2 oz/ac + MSO gave around 5% greater desiccation than paraquat.

Other observations:

Aim applied with MSO at 1 qt/ac usually increased desiccation as compared to adding petroleum oil (COC) at 1 qt/ac.

Aim at 2 oz/ac gave about 10% greater desiccation than 1 oz/A at 5, 7, and 14 days after application (DAA) (61/73, 63/74, and 71/75).

The highest rating of desiccation from Aim was 75% at 14 DAA.

According to the NDSU 2006 Crop Production Guide (www.ag.ndsu.edu/weeds) both paraquat (Gramoxone Inteon, Gramoxone Max – Restricted Use Pesticides) and Aim should be applied when at least 80% of pods

are yellow/brown. Apply when no more than 40% (bush type beans) or 30% (vine type) of the leaves are still green. Sequential applications may be needed, and thorough coverage is essential. Allow a seven day pre-harvest interval for paraquat and three days for Aim.

Glyphosate products are labeled for weed control in dry beans only, not as a crop desiccant. Glyphosate products should be applied after dry bean pods have turned yellow in color and leather in texture; at hard dough bean seed stage and 30% or less seed moisture. Allow a seven day pre-harvest interval. Do not apply glyphosate products to dry beans grown for seed because reduced germination/vigor may occur.

Zollinger notes that Valor (flumioxazin) is not registered for dry bean desiccation and will not be registered until possibly 2007, more probable 2008. The 2006 Bean Day CD included with the March-April 2006 issue of the Northharvest Bean Grower (page 26) included experimental research data from Zollinger evaluating Valor to other desiccants. ■

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A Brighter Market Picture Set for Beans

A decline in '06 production combined with larger export volume sets the stage for a rebound in edible bean prices

U.S. dry edible bean production is expected to total 23.3 million cwt in 2006, down 15% from last year but still 31% above 2004, according to USDA. Production is expected to be below last year in 11 of the 18 producing states, with hot, dry conditions to blame for much of the decline.

Planted acreage, at 1.61 million acres, decreased 3% from last year, due to lackluster dry bean prices relative to other crops. At the U. S. level, planted area of pinto beans is down 18%. Great northern, kidneys, small reds, cranberries, small whites, and limas also declined in planted acreage from last year. Planted area increased from 2005 for chickpeas, navies, blacks, pinks, and blackeyes.

Harvested acreage (as of August estimates) is forecast at 1.52 million acres, which would be down 3% from last year. Yield is expected to average 1,534 pounds per acre, a decrease of 210 pounds from last year but 75 pounds more than two years ago.

In 10 of the 18 USDA-surveyed states (including Idaho and Washington, where chickpea area is up), harvested area was expected to be down. North Dakota, which accounts for 40% of U.S. dry bean seeded area, expects to harvest a 6% larger area in 2006, with increases in navy, black, pink, and other bean types outweighing declining pinto bean acreage.

Acres planted to navy beans increased by 43,000 in the U.S. and 28,000 in North Dakota. On the other hand, pinto bean planted acres decreased by 145,400 in the U.S. and 47,000 in North Dakota.

The largest reductions in

production are expected in key producing states such as Colorado, North Dakota, Nebraska,

and Minnesota. Growers in Michigan, the second-leading producer, anticipate above-average

yields as weather conditions have remained favorable since the start of the season. The

A Similar Bean Market Situation in Canada

Hot dry weather in Manitoba has made crop markets there "increasingly volatile with a bullish bias"

Like most grain, oilseed, pulse and specialty crops markets these days, dry edible bean prices in western Canada have been increasingly volatile with a bullish bias. Hot, dry weather has hurt yield prospects similarly to other crops although the degree to which supplies will be cut from earlier expectations remains highly uncertain.

Regardless, off-contract prices for all types of dry beans are starting to perk up already, even before the final outcome is known in any of the main producing regions. The market began to be concerned with yield potential having been reduced in the northern U.S. bean growing states of Minnesota, South and North Dakota a few weeks ago. Since that time, dryness concerns have arisen in Manitoba as well. Similarly to the case of spring wheat, hot dry weather looks to have prevented pods from filling properly and caused some heat blast in later-planted flowering crops.

Further east however, dryness has not been a problem for dry bean crops in 2006. Michigan and Ontario have both experienced heavy rains this season, which has not been ideal for yield and quality prospects. It appears yields

in these areas will probably come in closer to normal levels than further west.

As in the case with most markets today, this yield uncertainty is so far just a lot of talk, with it being still a few weeks too early to say anything definitive about a supply shortage or surplus resulting in 2006/07. But also like other markets, it wouldn't be a good idea to sell today because of this uncertainty. Demand for dry beans is relatively stable and the 2005/06 carryout not relatively as tight as for some other crops this year, but demand is also inelastic meaning cash premiums can rise sharply in times of shortage.

Of all the dry bean types, blacks could have better upside potential today because carryout supplies from last year were already quite tight. Relative to other types of beans, they had the best contract prices available for 2006, due almost entirely to the need to re-generate a supply base.

But because of the more certain starting acreage base, and with Michigan being a particularly important producer of black beans (where crop conditions haven't been as severely dry this summer), the likelihood of rebuilding stocks to more comfortable levels is better. If the Manitoba black bean crop ends up in good shape too,

black beans won't have as much rally potential related to a shortage developing later on but in the short term, the market should remain sensitive to talk of yield shortfalls because of the tight starting supply base.

In Manitoba, farmers are reporting yield expectations to now be less than earlier in the summer. The crop started with excellent moisture conditions and was quickly established in the absence of the problematic rainfall seen in previous years. Now, with the problems south of the border becoming more real, potential shortfalls in Manitoba has been lending solid support to local prices overall.

Prices having started out the year (2006/07) at historically poor levels in and of itself helps limit downside risk going forward. Yield concerns could become bullish depending on final outcomes and harvest conditions in all of the main bean-growing regions.

Louis Dreyfus Canada Ltd has good market commentary from a Canadian perspective (this was a July 31 report) online at www.louisdreyfus.ca - click on the Rathwell, Manitoba grain terminal location.

same is true in Colorado and New York, where yields may be the second-highest on record, and in Texas where yields could reach a new record high.

Dry bean yields in North Dakota may be the second lowest in the past 13 years, due to excessive heat and dry soils this summer. North Dakota's production was projected to decrease from 8.588 million to 6.3 million this year.

USDA will release the first official estimate of production by class on December 11.

Prices low in 2005/06, but improvement expected

During the first 11 months of 2005/06, grower prices across all classes of dry beans averaged \$18.57—31% below a year ago. With the exception of California, grower prices averaged

less than a year earlier in every major dry bean state. In North Dakota, the all-class dry bean price reached a seasonal low in May (\$14.00/cwt) but has begun to move higher (\$14.90/cwt in July) in anticipation of the new smaller crop.

From September-July of 2005/06, grower prices in North Dakota averaged 39% below a year earlier, with a recovery in dry bean prices expected over the coming season. The extent of this recovery will depend in large part on final yields, domestic demand, and commercial export and international food aid demand. As usual, the price outlook varies by class, with higher prices likely for such types as pinto and red kidney beans and lower prices likely for black, blackeye, and garbanzo beans.

On average, higher prices for some of the major bean classes will help aggregate dry bean prices strengthen into mid-

2007, with the season-average price across all bean classes expected to exceed \$21 per cwt.

During the second quarter of 2006, the Producer Price Index for canned dry beans averaged 5% above a year earlier. During the same period, the retail price for dry packaged beans averaged about 2% above a year earlier and 4% above the first quarter of 2006. In July, consumers paid an average of 83 cents per pound for packaged dry beans, down 1% from June, but up 4% from a year ago and 7% above 2 years ago.

Export volume up 61%

Given lower dry bean prices, a weaker U.S. dollar, and continued food aid demand through the first 10 months of 2005/06 (September-June), the volume of dry bean exports rose 61% from a year ago.

During the first 7 months of

2006, increased supplies and lower prices stemming from last year's larger crop strengthened export movement.

Improved stocks and lower U.S. prices increased trade in such crops as pinto beans, black beans, red kidney beans, and navy beans. Among the major export markets, sales improved to Canada (up 112%), Mexico (up 150%), and Japan (up 39%). The volume shipped to the United Kingdom increased 16%, led by navy and large lima beans.

Although the pace of exports is likely to slow with smaller supplies and higher prices during the last third of 2006, export share of supply is expected to return to the decade average of 18%. ■

Dry bean market data courtesy Gary Lucier, USDA ERS economist. See more U.S. dry bean market information in the USDA ERS Dry Bean Briefing Room online: www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/DryBeans.



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U.S. Dry Bean Outlook

Enhanced by Strong Export Sales

U.S. dry bean exports increased 70% first half of 2006

By John B Parker

The outlook for U.S. dry beans has been enhanced by strong export sales, especially to Mexico and Sub-Sahara Africa. Pent-up demand for U.S. beans is strong in a number of countries.

In fact, the larger bean harvest during 2005 and outlook for another good crop in 2006 might help to get the volume for U.S. dry bean exports back to over 300,000 tons in calendar 2006. Shipments declined from a peak of 319,524 tons in 2001 to a low of 241,787 tons in 2005. U.S. dry bean exports to Sub-Sahara Africa declined by more than half to 24,690 tons in 2005, compared with a peak of 54,998 tons in 2004. Ethiopia accounted for nearly a third of the U.S. bean exports to this region in 2004, compared with no business in that country during 2005.

Prospects for U.S. dry bean exports in 2006 are excellent. Dramatic gains for exports to Mexico and Caribbean markets contributed to a 70% increase for U.S. exports of dry beans in January-June 2006 to 161,074 tons, valued at \$95 million. If shipments remained near this pace in the remaining months of 2006, total bean exports would surpass the peak of 319,524 tons recorded in 2001.

Attractive prices (for importers, that is, due in large part to larger U.S. dry bean supplies from last year's increased production) combined with strong import demand in some countries have contributed to the impressive gains for U.S. dry bean exports this year.

The average price for U.S. dry bean exports declined from a peak of \$675.26 per ton in January-June 2005 to \$590.26 in the first half of 2006, with even greater reductions for the price for pinto beans. Demand tends

to exceed imports in a number of countries in Africa and Latin America.

Following is a break down of the supply/demand situation and outlook in key global markets, which ultimately impact U.S. dry bean prices.

Mexico's Bean Purchases Increased Sharply in 2005 and Early 2006 --

Following concern that bean yields in Mexico declined in 2004 and 2005, combined with the 2004 hesitation to make larger imports, trade policy shifted to

arrangements to secure needed imports by late 2005. As a result, U.S. exports of dry beans to Mexico rebounded from a low of 38,661 tons in 2004 to 63,251 tons in 2005, and then nearly tripled in January-June 2006, reaching 54,378 tons, valued at \$31.2 million.

U.S. exports of pinto beans to Mexico tripled in 2005, reaching \$15.1 million, and then made a nearly fivefold jump in the first half of 2006. The much larger U.S. crop of beans in 2005 and problems for exports to some countries in Africa contributed

to a greater focus by U.S. traders on Mexico.

Declining stocks in Mexico and attractive U.S. prices contributed to the rebound in trade for some types of beans. The average price for U.S. exports of pinto beans declined about a fourth in the first half of 2006.

U.S. Bean Exports To Canada Up 89% During First Half of 2006 --

Canada was a customer for 9,692 tons of U.S. dry beans during January-June 2006, compared with 4,930 tons in the first half of 2005, and the

THE UNITED STATES: DRY BEANS EXPORTS DURING CALENDAR 2004, 2005, AND JANUARY-JUNE 2005 AND 2006, BY QUANTITY, VALUE, AND DESTINATION.

Destination	Quantity			Index*		Value		Avg Price	
	Jan-Dec 2004	2005	Jan-Jun 2005	2006	2005	Jan-Dec 2004	2005	Jan-Jun 2005	2006
	Metric Tons			Thousand Dollars					
Mexico	39661	63251	17600	54378	308.97	24597	39850	11935	31280
UK	26171	33330	15856	15026	94.77	13258	16982	8433	7869
Canada	13380	19637	4930	9692	196.59	6932	10759	3432	5532
Japan	14646	11197	4736	8259	174.39	10235	9138	4047	6319
Haiti	20469	11249	7568	11972	158.19	13467	6540	4571	8306
Netherlands	3680	2962	2174	2247	103.36	3473	2253	1666	1442
Angola	4343	5726	2046	8738	427.08	2206	3613	1536	4432
Australia	2922	4188	3136	2151	68.59	2116	2930	2158	1546
France	5453	5033	1663	3947	237.34	3401	3384	1311	2096
Spain	1828	3452	2194	1545	70.42	1205	2542	1721	1061
Uganda	10120	3571	2815	1198	42.56	4670	2449	2449	530
South Africa	880	18	0	235	NA	427	15	0	171
North Korea	4457	2193	2193	0	0.00	3149	1387	1387	0
South Korea	6589	733	592	206	34.80	4312	479	387	141
Malawi	365	2515	1964	3790	192.97	183	1727	1261	2165
Zambia	1618	3871	679	498	73.34	733	1904	469	212
Zimbabwe	11901	1688	0	4075	NA	5281	792	0	1609
Cuba	6051	1016	0	1354	NA	2815	527	0	700
Dom. Rep	7299	18722	5109	9153	179.15	3978	12637	3359	5445
Turkey	136	2489	500	1666	333.20	97	1691	329	1184
Other	63409	47435	19458	23510	120.82	35552	32168	63956	95607
Total	245242	241787	94713	161074	170.07	141990	152076	63956	95607
*Index of Change Jan-Jun 2006 over Jan-Jun 2005					NA - Not applicable				
Sources: Bureau of the Census and calculations									

strong rise to 19,645 tons in calendar 2005. Duty-free trade allows Canadian importers to buy a wide range of classes of beans in the United States, plus quality seed.

Iraq Remains an Elusive Market -- Iraq needs to import about 40,000 to 50,000 tons of Great Northern beans. So far, efforts to export more U.S. beans in 2005 and early 2006 have

failed. It appears that some of the new people handling trade matters in Baghdad lack the ability to deal with imports as they should. Arrangements to export 10,000 tons of Great Northern beans to Iraq by U.S. exporters had not resulted in shipments through May 2006. The food aid exports of 24,831 tons of U.S. dry beans to Iraq in 2003 helped to offset the lack of

expected shipments to Mexico. For early 2006, the situation is different with dramatic gains for sales to Mexico helping to offset a lack of exports to Iraq.

Rebound For Exports to Sub-Sahara Africa Underway -- U.S. exports of dry beans to Sub-Sahara Africa increased

Continued on Next Page

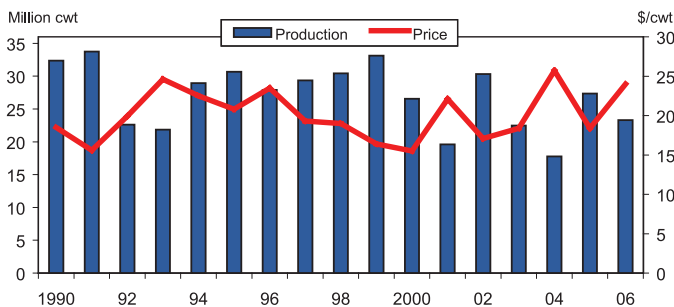
U.S. dry beans: Production, 2003-2006

Item	2003	2004	2005	2006 ^P	% change --1,000 cwt-- Percent
North Dakota	7,800	4,750	8,588	6,300	-26.6
Nebraska	3,151	2,376	3,870	2,925	-24.4
Colorado	1,168	1,039	1,898	1,330	-29.9
California	1,380	1,152	1,385	1,248	-9.9
Minnesota	1,870	1,150	2,430	1,885	-22.4
Idaho	1,497	1,638	1,862	1,854	-0.4
Michigan	2,475	3,145	3,910	3,960	1.3
Washington	525	609	792	1,292	63.1
Wyoming	645	541	776	594	-23.5
Others	1,981	1,388	1,839	1,913	4.0
United States	22,492	17,788	27,350	23,301	-14.8

^PNASS preliminary August estimate.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crop Production.

U.S. dry edible beans: Production and average grower price 1/



1/ Season average price as estimated by USDA, NASS, *Agricultural Prices*.

Source: Prepared by ERS from data of USDA, NASS

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92.4% in January-June, reaching 21,826 tons. This followed the reduction by more than half for shipments to the region in 2005, following peak exports of 54,998 tons in 2004. The 2004 deliveries included the shipment of 14,790 tons through the port of Djibouti for food aid distribution in Ethiopia, compared with the export of only 38 tons directly to Ethiopia in 2005. U.S. dry bean exports to Zimbabwe dived from a peak of 11,987 tons in 2004 to only 1,687 tons in 2005, before rebounding to 4,075 tons in the first half of 2006.

Zimbabwe has larger food aid needs for beans and some other food items than has been arranged. Unfortunately, problems with infrastructure disruptions and red tape tend to hamper food aid shipments of beans to Zimbabwe.

Malawi provides a sharp contrast to Zimbabwe, with better treatment of food aid workers in Malawi reported. U.S. exports of dry beans to Malawi reached a record 3,790 tons in January-June 2006, compared with 1,964 tons in the comparable months

of 2005. Malawi was a leading destination for exports of dark red kidney beans recently.

Angola was a customer for 8,738 tons of U.S. dry beans in the half of 2006 – quadruple the level for the comparable months

of 2005. Angola had been a market for 10,193 tons of U.S. dry beans in 2002. If fewer beans come from Europe and China in late 2006, Angola's traders may shift to much larger purchases of U.S. beans.

Mozambique was a market for 1,996 tons of U.S. dry beans in the first half of 2006 – a quantity identical to shipments for calendar 2005. More food aid beans are needed for distribution in Mozambique in urban

U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2005-2006¹

Commodity	2005		2006		Chg. prev. year:	
	July	August	July	August ²	July	August
	--- Cents per pound ---				--- Percent ---	
All dry beans	25.40	21.40	19.50	--	-23.2	--
Pinto (ND/MN)	22.00	17.70	14.25	16.50	-35.2	-6.8
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	21.00	20.00	19.50	19.50	-7.1	-2.5
Great Northern (NE/WY)	16.50	16.50	18.00	18.00	9.1	9.1
Black (MI)	18.50	18.80	22.00	22.00	18.9	17.0
Light red kidney (MI)	27.00	26.00	20.50	--	-24.1	--
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	--	26.00	20.50	21.00	--	--
Baby lima (CA)	40.00	39.95	--	--	--	--
Large lima (CA)	42.00	42.30	49.67	--	18.3	--
Blackeye (CA)	31.38	31.70	--	--	--	--
Small red (ID)	22.00	22.40	19.50	19.00	-11.4	-15.2
Pink (ID)	22.00	22.40	19.50	19.00	-11.4	-15.2
Garbanzo (ID)	25.00	26.50	--	24.00	--	-9.4

-- = not available. ¹Prices are U.S. No. 1, cleaned basis. ²Partial month estimate.

Source: USDA, AMS, Bean Market News, except "all dry beans" from USDA, NASS, Agricultural Prices.

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centers. Mozambique had been a market for beans exports from Zimbabwe in the 1990s, but now Zimbabwe has become a large importer through food aid. This means more of Mozambique's

bean imports will come from China and the United States.

Further Gains Awaited For Sales to Congo -- Kinshasa is a thriving capital city in Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo with about 4 million people and substantial cash inflows for some people from exports of petroleum and minerals. U.S. exports of dry beans to this

market exceeded 1,440 tons in both 2004 and 2005, although no shipments were reported in the first half of 2006. Reduced bean production in Europe dur-

Continued on Next Page

U.S. dry beans: Crop year export volume to date

Item	Crop yr.	September - June			Change
	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2004-05
	-- 1,000 cwt --				Percent
Pinto	1,234	1,859	960	2,207	130
Navy	1,005	1,004	890	981	10
Black	617	695	480	624	30
Great Northern	370	393	344	465	35
Light red kidney	56	52	48	132	175
Dark red kidney	166	160	140	234	67
Small red	137	210	114	157	38
Garbanzo	227	124	194	358	84
Baby lima	132	163	124	225	82
Large lima	128	81	122	127	4
Blackeyes	56	19	51	30	-41
Cranberry	45	87	37	72	93
Other	576	491	449	743	66
Total	4,749	5,338	3,953	6,356	61

Source: Prepared by ERS using data from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

U.S. dry beans: Area planted by class, 2003-2006

Item	2003	2004	2005	2006 ^p	% Change
		--1,000 acres --			Percent
Pinto	663.9	650.9	815.8	670.4	-17.8
Navy	158.2	185.1	233.4	276.4	18.4
Black	84.3	138.3	111.6	166.8	49.5
Large chickpeas ¹	37.5	39.0	79.3	125.6	58.4
Light red kidney	67.1	55.7	71.4	47.0	-34.2
Great Northern	109.4	51.1	72.8	70.7	-2.9
Dark red kidney	49.9	51.3	60.7	48.5	-20.1
Small red	33.2	33.2	50.9	35.0	-31.2
Pink	32.8	29.3	37.9	43.9	15.8
Blackeye	50.5	28.0	23.0	26.1	13.5
Baby lima	14.5	11.3	16.7	13.5	-19.2
Large lima	19.6	15.1	15.1	12.9	-14.6
Cranberry	15.4	13.4	12.4	9.8	-21.0
Others	69.8	52.6	64.0	60.7	-5.2
United States	1,406.1	1,354.3	1,665.0	1,607.3	-3.5

^pNASS preliminary August estimate. ¹Excludes small chickpeas.
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Crop Production.



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ing 2006 because of dry weather may contribute to greater purchases of U.S. beans in 2006 by traders in Kinshasa.

Exports to Caribbean Markets Doubled In Early 2006

-- Countries in the Caribbean were customers for 25,390 tons of U.S. dry beans in the first half of 2006 -- a gain of 80% over the comparable months of 2005. Exports to Dominican Republic were up 179% to 9,153 tons. Shipments to Haiti rose 158% to 11,972 tons. Cuba was a market for 1,354 tons in the first half of 2006, compared with no shipments in the first half of 2005, and 1,016 tons for all calendar 2005. Jamaica was a market for 1,587 tons, compared with only 292 tons in the first half of 2005.

Japan Buying More U.S. Beans -- The old quota system for arranging dry bean imports into Japan has been abolished. China accounted for over two-thirds of Japan's dry bean

imports in recent years. U.S. exports of dry beans to Japan increased 74% in the first half of 2006 to 8,259 tons, with larger deliveries of lima beans.

European Union Import Demand May Rise

-- Dry summer weather in much of the European Union may cause a reduction for crop yields during 2006, including some of the mechanized farms growing edible beans in France, Germany, and Poland. U.S. exports of dry beans to the 25 countries of the European Union increased 5.9% in the first half of 2006 to 28,780 tons., including the delivery of 15,026 tons to the UK.

Larger Great Northern sales caused exports to France to more than double, reaching 3,947 tons. Spain was a customer for 1,545 tons in the first half of 2006, or 30% below the level for January-June 2005. Exports to Belgium rose by 28.4% to 1,475 tons in the first half of 2006. Larger purchases by transit trad-

ers in Antwerp may come forth in late 2006.

Shipments of U.S. dry beans to Italy were up 44.6% to 601 tons in the first half of 2006. Italy's total imports of edible beans are in the range of 200,000 tons annually with substantial arrivals from other European countries and China. U.S. dry bean exports to Germany increased 48.7% to 1,037 tons. More edible beans were cultivated in recent years within 100 miles of Berlin, but very hot weather in the summer of 2006 may have reduced yields. Shipments to Greece declined 28.7% in the first half of 2006 to 902 tons.

Smaller Exports To Australia

-- U.S. dry bean exports to Australia declined nearly a third to 2,151 tons in the first half of 2006, following strong growth to 4,298 tons in calendar 2005. Australia is an important market for navy pea beans. The average price for U.S. bean exports to Australia rose to \$718.74 per ton

in the first half of 2006.

Sharp Hike for Exports to Turkey

-- Turkey is often an important transit trade location for beans destined for Iraqi importers. U.S. exports of dry beans to Turkey more than tripled in the first half of 2006, reaching 1,666 tons for an average price of \$710.68 per ton. Traders in Turkey import mostly Great Northern beans from the United States, although official trade data for Turkey may not show the cargo as moving through customs. This indicates that transit traders arranging shipment to Iraq or some other country may have occurred. ■

Parker is an international dry bean market analyst from Oakton, Va., and a former USDA analyst. He may be contacted by email at worldtradeguy@verizon.net.

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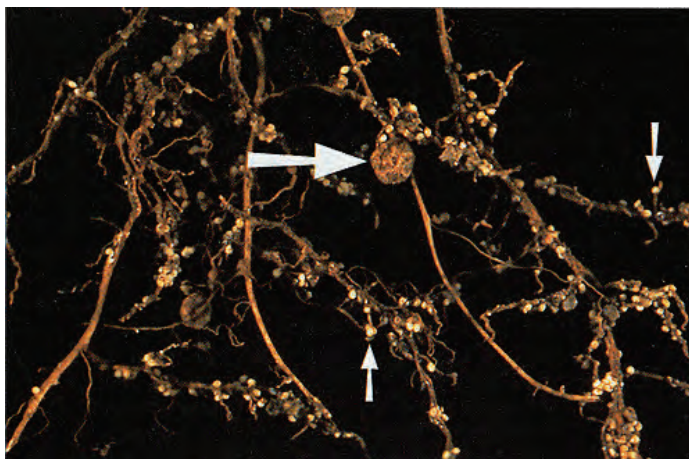
SCN Found in Cass, Clay Counties

By Tracy Saylor

A soybean field in Cass County near Argusville, N.D., was confirmed by NDSU plant pathologist Berlin Nelson this summer as being infested with Soybean Cyst Nematode. This is the first confirmation of SCN in Cass County. The field apparently had a fairly high population of SCN, and most likely has been infested for a few years.

Richland County was the first and only county in North Dakota with confirmed SCN prior to this find. Across the river in Minnesota, SCN was confirmed in Clay County for the first time this year as well. A map that shows SCN confirmations in other states is available at the North Central Soybean Research Program Plant Health Initiative website: www.planthealth.info/scn_dist.htm.

The plant-parasitic nematode



White females (small arrows) of SCN on soybean roots are visible to the naked eye, but are still very small, no bigger than the head of a pin. They shouldn't be confused with nitrogen-fixing nodules on soybean roots (large arrow) which are much larger and are more pink/brown in color. Photo: North Central Soybean Research Program Plant Health Initiative

is a microscopic roundworm, which leaves eggs in the soil that can remain viable for years even in the absence of a suitable host.

SCN feeding on the soybean root system may reduce N-fixing nodules, and result in increased susceptibility to a number of soybean diseases, including sudden death syndrome.

Yield losses up to 30% have been measured from SCN. Hot, dry weather may be conducive for plants to show the above-ground symptoms of SCN infection such as stunting, yellowing, and premature death.

SCN was first reported in North America in 1954, in North Carolina, and has since spread to 28 soybean-producing states and Canada. In Minnesota, SCN was first detected in 1978 near Frost in Faribault County. By 2000, its

presence had been detected in 52 counties in the state, according to the U of M.

Once established, SCN cannot be eradicated; it can only be managed, says Carl Bradley, extension plant pathologist at North Dakota State University. "The keys to management are good crop rotation practices – no more soybeans on soybeans – and the use of adapted resistant varieties. There are currently a little more than a handful of SCN resistant varieties that are adapted to our growing conditions and maturity, but more are on the way."

Dry edible beans are also a host of SCN, although more information on susceptibility and yield loss on dry bean is needed.

The Plant Health Initiative has an excellent SCN Management Guide online at www.planthealth.info/scnguide that includes scouting, management, and sampling information.

Fall good time for sampling SCN, other factors

While soil samples for SCN may be collected at any time,

the ideal time to sample is as close to bean harvest as possible. SCN numbers tend to be highest when the plants are almost mature to shortly after harvest. Other factors might be analyzed in the soil test sample as well, such as nutrients, pH and soil organic matter. Sampling near harvest provides information and enough time for variety selection or choosing alternative crops for the next year.

The weather is usually more cooperative for fall soil sampling than in the spring, and the information helps in fertility and crop planning for the following year. Note that with the drought conditions in many areas of the Plains, it's important to get a handle on the level of unutilized nutrients that may have been left in the soil from poorly developed or failed crops.

Local agronomists and county extension agents/educators are an excellent resource to guide soil sampling. The following plant labs conduct plant/soil test analysis; contact the lab for instructions before submitting samples.

NDSU – Waldron Hall, Room 206, PO Box 5012, Fargo, ND, 58105, ph 701.231.7854, email: diaglab@ndsuext.nodak.edu, www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/diaglab.

UM – Soil Testing Laboratory, 1902 Dudley Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, 612.625.3101 <http://soiltest.coafes.umn.edu>.

SDSU – Oscar E. Olson Biochemistry Labs, Brookings, ph 605.688.6172, <http://anserv.sdstate.edu>.

Agvise Laboratories – www.agvise.com, Northwood, N.D., ph 701.587.6010, Benson, Minn., ph 320.843.4109.

Link to more private and public testing labs can be found online at www.mda.state.mn.us/appd/soilabs.htm and www.motherearthnews.com/directory/soil_test. ■



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Living Ag Classroom Impacts Region's Children

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association and other ag organizations participated in the 2006 Fargo Living Ag Classroom held last spring at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds.

The purpose of the event was to provide students a learning experience about where food comes from.

"Most of the 2,100 children visiting the Living Ag Classroom have never been on a working farm," says Karen Hertsgaard, Coordinator of the Fargo Living Ag Classroom project. "The Living Ag Classroom was a wonderful educational opportunity for students within 60 plus miles of the Fargo-Moorhead area, and I know the teachers and students appreciated the experience."

Based upon the letters received by Northarvest Bean Grower Home Economist, Lynne Bigwood, the event was indeed a success and had a tremendous impact on the students that participated.

Here are some of the letters that were received:

Thank you very much for sponsoring the Living Ag Expo in Fargo. My fourth grade class attended and had a very educational learning experience. The displays were excellent and the knowledge we gained about agriculture was very valuable.

-- A Teacher at Central Elementary School in Wahpeton, ND

Thank you for inviting our

class to the Living Ag Classroom. We enjoyed all the booths and the information we were given was very interesting. In fourth

grade, we study North Dakota as part of our social studies curriculum. One of the units is on farming in our state. The Living



A drawing that accompanied one of the student's letters.

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Cavalier, ND (701) 265-8495

Ag Classroom gave us an excellent review of what we studied! Thank you for all the products we took back to school with us. We appreciate your generosity. - **A Teacher at Central Elementary School in Wahpeton, ND**

Thank you for showing us the beans and I really want to learn about more different beans and bean plants.

-- **Katelyn, a student from Oakes, North Dakota**

The Norman County West 4th

grade class would like to thank you for sponsoring the Living Ag Classroom. Thank you for the handouts. I like Dry Beans: Students Activities Book. I learned more about beans and why people grow them and how they grow them. Thank you for everything.

-- **Haley, a student from Hendrum, Minnesota**

The bean game was fun because we got to be the farmer. I got up to 100 dollars, that was

exciting. The questions were cool because sometimes you would have to go up or down. Thank you.

-- **Payton, a student from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota**

Thank you for letting us play the bean game. The beans were fun to see. I liked to play the game that we had to move the beans. The beans were cool and pretty. It was fun playing and seeing the beans game. I liked to see the different kinds of colors of

the beans. The beans were kind of different.

-- **Selina, a student from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota**

I enjoyed the bean game when you moved the beans up and down to see how much money you would make. I thank you for taking your time to teach us about beans. I was amazed on how many beans there are. I had a fun time learning about beans. -- **Trinity, a student from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota** ■

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Effect of Drop Height in Bean Breakage

The amount of damage to pinto beans and navy beans at 12%-13% moisture content increases linearly with drop height, according to North Dakota State University.

Research has been conducted to determine if the amount of damage as beans are dropped into a storage bin, either onto concrete or onto other beans, was large enough to justify using a bean ladder.

The amount of damage and cracking to navy beans when dropped onto concrete was 2% from 5 ft., 6% from 10 ft., and 12% from 15 ft. The amount of damage to navy beans when dropped onto other beans was 2% from 5 ft., 3% from 10 ft., and 8% from 15 ft.

The amount of damage to pinto beans when dropped onto concrete was 3% from 5 ft., 9% from 10 ft., and 15% from 15 ft. The amount of damage to pinto beans when dropped onto other beans was 1% from 5 ft., 7% from 10 ft., and 10% from 15 ft.

There was a difference in the amount of damage occurring between when beans are dropped onto concrete or onto other beans, but the amount of damage was high for both conditions.

Beans at 16% moisture content had less damage than beans at 13%, but it was still excessive. This validates the need to use a bean ladder when placing beans into storage or other places where the beans might be dropped. - NDSU extension ag engineer Ken Hellevang





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Black and White Bean Salad

A good way to 'get your V8'

by Lynne Bigwood, Northarvest Home Economist

Remember that ad slogan, "I could have had a V8?" Well, here's a good way to get it, along with a healthy serving of beans in this dish that's perfect to take along on a lunch outing to see autumn colors, or a tailgating picnic.

Campbell's Kitchen (www.campbellkitchen.com) is featuring their V8 juice in several new recipes, including this Black and White Bean Salad. The natural spiciness of the V8 juice adds a unique flavor to the salad, which is very simple to make (and takes advantage of some of those veggies you might have produced in the garden this year). It is low in calories and fat, high in carbohydrates and iron. One can use fresh onions or onion powder, according to preference.

By the way, V8 gets its name because it contains the juice of eight vegetables: tomatoes, beets, celery, carrots, lettuce, parsley, watercress, and spinach. ■



Black and White Bean Salad (Home Size Recipe)

From: Campbell's Kitchen • Prep time: 15 minutes
Chill time: 2 hours • 6 cups of salad; 12 ½-cup servings

- 1 cup V8® 100% Vegetable Juice
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder or 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon onion powder or 1 small onion
- 1 15.5-ounce can black beans
- 1 15.5-ounce can navy beans
- 1 sweet red, yellow or orange pepper
- 1 cup frozen corn
- Optional: 1 - 2 tablespoons diced green chilies

1. In a 2-quart bowl or container, mix juice, oil and garlic.
2. Drain and rinse beans in a sieve or colander. Clean and chop pepper and onion.
3. Add beans, pepper, onion and corn to juice mixture. Stir to combine.
4. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.

Black and White Bean Salad (Large Quantity Recipe)

From: Campbell's Kitchen and Northarvest Bean Growers
36 cups of salad; 72 ½-cup servings
Recipe HAACP Process: #1 No Cook

- 1 46-ounce can V8® Vegetable Juice
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 # 10 can black beans
- 1 # 10 can navy beans
- 2 4-ounce cans diced medium green chilies
- 3 sweet red, yellow or orange peppers
- 2 16-ounce packages frozen corn

1. In a large bowl or container, mix juice, oil, garlic and onion powder.
2. Drain and rinse beans in a sieve or colander. Clean and chop peppers.
3. Add beans, pepper, and corn to juice mixture. Stir to combine.
4. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.

School Nutrition Serving: F/V/J 0.500 cup
Analysis by ND Dept. of Public Instruction - CNFD

The Bean Scene

Educating educators about bean nutrition

Schools are placing a greater priority on improving nutrition: for example, many schools are implementing new policies that restrict or prohibit vending machine sales of high-fat foods and snacks, with high sugar carbonated and caffeinated beverages switched to bottled water, juices and milk.

A number of nutrition educators and food service personnel are also going back to school this fall with information on including beans in school lunch menus.

Northarvest Bean home economist Lynne Bigwood participated in the N.D. School Nutrition Association annual conference this summer, as well as the Minnesota School Food Service Association state conference.

ference.

Bigwood encouraged attendees to use beans in their menus to help meet USDA school nutrition requirements. Attendees at both events sampled Black and White Bean Salad (recipe on page 27) and received "The Bean Cookbook," as well as other materials relating to dry bean nutrition.

Many of these same educational materials were distributed by Bigwood at the Society for Nutrition Educators (SNE) annual conference, also this summer. She notes several highlights from the national meeting:

'Global Issues, Local Impact' – That was the theme for this year's SNE meeting. Fiorella Ceruti, World Food Program School Feeding Unit of the United Nations, said her organization is involved in making food aid decisions, and it can

be difficult to prioritize food aid needs. This group currently works in 48 counties around the world and receives 50% of that food aid from the U.S. Local governments must request support and there is not enough aid for everyone who needs it. This group usually provides an in-school meal and monthly take-home rations for 80% school attendance. Many times they provide that help to families with school age girls to ensure that girls are educated. The average cost per day is 19 cents or \$34 a year. Their goal for 2015 is to reach 50 million children.

Weight Woes – Suzanne Piscopo, University of Malta, Home Economics office, said the European Union has many of the same nutrition and health problems as the U.S. They have begun a Health Promoting Schools program to improve education and health; the effort uses the local Home Economics teacher to train the primary school teachers. (More information is

available by "Googling" health-promoting schools).

Dr. Enrique Jacoby, Pan American Health Organization, showed a slide of what he calls the 'Real Food Pyramid' – a grocery cart piled high with boxes of processed food. It's a reflection of what are too often poor dietary habits, rather than the more exemplary USDA Food Guide Pyramid. It doesn't help that processed food ads dominate the media, overshadowing reliable nutrition information and making the complexity of food choices more difficult.

Farm Bill, Nutrition Goals

– Valerie Brown, PhD., CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture, recommended that the new farm bill be more in tune with supporting nutrition goals. As well, Fred Kirschenmann, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, suggested that the next farm bill be called the 'Food and Farm Bill,' and said it could be "the Next Nutrition Frontier." He suggested

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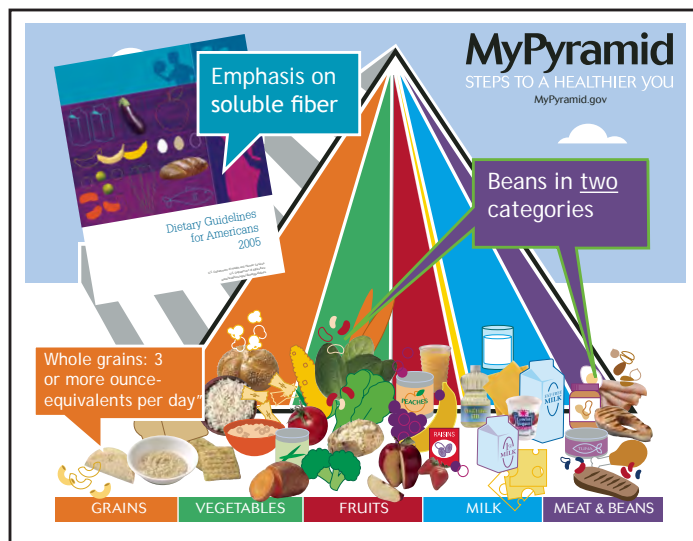
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Daniel Sumner, PhD, UCA, Davis, noted at the recent Society for Nutrition Educators (SNE) annual conference that if consumers followed the average recommended guideline of 7 servings of fruits and vegetables a day, vegetable and fruit demand would increase by 10%, a boost of about \$10 billion to that industry. Northarvest Bean home economist Lynne Bigwood participated in the conference, distributing dry bean cooking and nutrition information. Beans are one of the few foods that fall under two categories of the USDA Food Guide Pyramid: Vegetables, as well as Meat and Beans.

that the cost of food be based on nutrient value. At the same time we have reduced our food cost and nutrient value of many foods, we have increased our expenditure on health care to record levels.

Kirschenmann advocated five healthy food and community food and farm policy program goals: end hunger and increase healthy food access, create a food and agriculture system that enhances health, increase local and regional food security, orient research and development programs to promote innovative solutions to problems and protect the health and economic opportunities of vulnerable people – including family farmers.

NHB Helps Sponsor “Eat Smart, Play Hard” Program

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association helped sponsor the “Eat Smart, Play Hard” program designed to encourage and teach children, parents, and caregivers to eat healthy and be physically active. The campaign

offers resources and tools to convey and reinforce healthy eating and lifestyle behaviors that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the MyPyramid Food Guidance System.

“Eat Smart, Play Hard” information, featuring NDSU Bison

athletes, is being distributed throughout N.D. Teachers receive a set of 16 mini-lessons on the MyPyramid and food safety, as part of the educational component. Bean recipes are included in the “Eat Smart, Play

Hard” campaign.

The “Eat Smart, Play Hard” web site for parents: www.fns.usda.gov/eatsmartplayhard-healthy lifestyle.

The “Eat Smart, Play Hard” web site for kids: www.fns.usda.gov/eatsmartplayhardkids. ■



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TheLighterSide

The Many Uses of WD-40, an American Institution

by Tracy Saylor

If there's one thing that's a must-have staple on every farm in America, it's WD-40, the ubiquitous problem solver with the familiar bright blue and yellow cans stocked in farm shops, pickups, tractors, and everywhere in between.

WD-40 literally stands for Water Displacement, 40th attempt. That's the name straight out of the lab book used by the chemist who developed WD-40 back in 1953, according to the WD-40 Company. The chemist, Norm Larsen, was attempting to concoct a formula to prevent corrosion – a task which is done by displacing water. Norm's persistence paid off when he perfected the formula on his 40th try.

The product has remained the same since its inception, although the can is improved these days, with the availability of Big Blast Cans, No-Mess Pens, and 'Smart Straws' to keep those little red spray straws from leaking or getting lost.

You can find a host of info and trivia about the product online, www.wd40.com. There, you can join the WD-40 Fan Club, play the WD-40 Spray Game, download WD-40 screen savers, and learn about its many uses.

About the only thing they don't tell you on the WD-40 web site is what the stuff is made of. Supposedly, fish oil is the key ingredient, but don't expect the WD-40 folks to ever reveal their secret ingredient, just like you won't see the Colonel's list of 11 secret herbs and spices printed on the buckets of KFC chicken any time soon.



Spraying a bit of it on live bait is said to be an attractant for catching some types of fish (using chemical laced baits or lures for fishing isn't allowed in some states, however, so if you get pulled over by DNR, you're on your own for excuses).

The company issues the disclaimer that the suggested uses submitted by product fans "have not been tested by WD-40 Company," and "consumers should exercise common sense whenever using WD-40." So not the best choice as a pan coating for frying eggs. However, feel free to consider any of the other following uses submitted by fans, a number of which you've

likely never thought of before.

- Protects silver from tarnishing.
- Removes insects from front grill
- Removes grease from clothing
- Prevents corrosion of spark plug cables
- Removes sludge from outside engine block
- Unsticks car door during cold weather
- Lubricates oil filter gasket
- Lubricates socket wrench
- Displaces moisture from spark plug wires
- Prevents oxidation on battery connections
- Prevents noise on car window tracks
- Helps free stuck battery cables from terminals
- Stops belt noise on automobiles
- Removes squeak from brake pedal
- Removes paint rub from another vehicle
- Reconditions brass tips on crop field sprayer nozzles
- Cleans hydraulic tips on quick connectors on tractors
- Cleans gunk and compressor oil off pistons in solenoids
- Improves cutting time for drill bits
- Lubricates barn door locks and barn door runners
- Cleans welding dust
- Spray chalk lines drawn on asphalt to keep them from washing away in the rain
- Drives gunk from bearings seized by fertilizer
- Lubricates jack gears
- Removes duct tape residue
- Lubricates dolly wheels
- Loosens drive chains on hay balers
- Cleans and lubricates the trigger of gas pumps
- Lubricates tractor throttle cables
- Spray on hole diggers to make dirt slide off easier
- Softens and dissolves dried manure from work boots
- Protects rubber seals on lawn and garden sprayers
- Cleans rusty saws
- Cleans spray paint nozzles
- Lubricates garage door rollers
- Frees sticky snow blower throttle cable
- Prevents calcium buildup on sprinkler heads
- Lubricates joints of folding sawhorses
- Spray on bottom of garage door to keep it from sticking to concrete during winter
- Spray lightly over stagnant water to keep mosquito eggs from hatching
- Spray on balcony to keep pigeons away (they hate the smell)
- Keeps flies off cows
- Loosens stubborn zippers
- Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers
- Some even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain
- Prevents drought and keeps crop prices from falling – OK, that last one I made up. WD-40 is good, but not that good. ■



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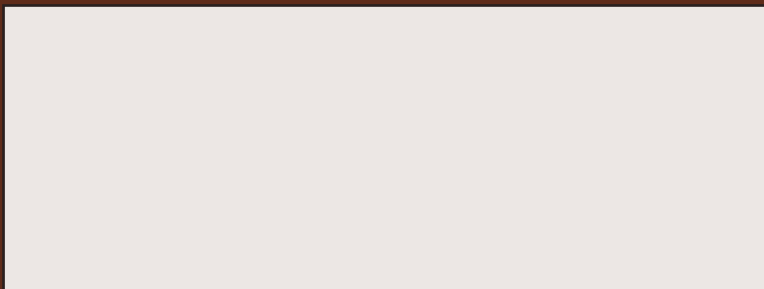
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Black and White Bean Salad: Remember that ad slogan, “I could have had a V8®?” Well, here’s a good way to get it, along with a healthy serving of beans in this dish that’s perfect to take along on a lunch outing to see autumn colors, or a tailgating picnic. For the recipe, see page 27. For more recipes, see the Northarvest Bean Growers Association Web site, www.northarvestbean.org or the American Dry Bean Board Web site, www.americanbean.org.