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NORTHARVEST Beautiful Control of the Control of the

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHARVEST BEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Spring 2009

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The Bean Scene

On the Cover

From the Northarvest Kitchen: Northern Refried Pinto Beans

Dr. Sam Markell, Extension Plant Pathologist at North Dakota State University examines dry bean plants for rust infection. Markell warns that dry beans in the Northarvest region are susceptible to a new race of rust and encourages growers to alert their county extension agent if they see signs of rust in their fields.

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BeanBriefs

Kennelly Elected Director; Juliuson and Sorenson Re-Elected

In district director elections announced at 2009 Bean Day, Alan Juliuson, Hope ND was re-elected to represent District 4 and Todd Sorenson, Fisher, MN was re-elected to represent District 7. Tom Kennelly, Grafton, ND is the new director for District 1. Kennelly resides in Walsh County and grows pink, navy, pintos, wheat and sugarbeets. He replaces Mark Myrdal of Edinburg, ND. Terms on the NHB board are for three years, with a limit of three terms.

2009 North Dakota Field Crop Insect Management Guide

Janet J. Knodel, Extension Entomologist, in cooperation with Patrick Beauzay, Mark Boetel and Denise Markle, Department of Entomology, North Dakota State University, have released the 2009 edition of the North Dakota Insect Management Guide. This report details Insecticide Control Recommendations, Insecticide Seed Treatments, Toxicity of Insecticides and more. Go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm for the full report.

U.S. Dry Bean Convention Date Set

Plan on attending the 2009 U.S. Dry Bean Convention, which will be held July 25 -28th, 2009 at the Keystone Resort & Conference Center in Keystone, Colorado. Register before May 31, 2009 to receive a discount on registration and special room rates. Go to the USDBC Convention website for more information at www.usdbc.com.

Dry Edible Bean Research and Promotion Council Reaffirms Check-off

The Minnesota Dry Edible Bean Research and Promotion Council reaffirmed its checkoff amount in voting late last fall. Voting was held November 10 - 25, 2008 and members approved the referendum reaffirming of the present 10 cents per hundred weight check-off amount.

Check-off dollars fund ongoing domestic and international dry bean marketing programs. In addition, the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council provides grants to researchers conducting scientific studies directly related to dry bean production. Most recently, the Council has put check-off dollars to work with the formation of a Dry Bean Health Research Program. The program will provide grant funding for research connecting dry beans and human health.

Magical Veggie Challenge Winner

Bush Brothers have announced the winner of their Magical Veggie Challenge. "Beans, A Veggie" was written, recorded and performed by Kyle and David. Go to www.bean-chant.com and click on Video Gallery to see the winning entry.

Their unique video was inspired by the 80s hip hop movement. They took home \$5,000 and won a trip to New York City. The concept of the Magical Veggie Challenge was to promote beans as the 'vegetable with more.'

Changes to U.S. Trade Policy with Cuba?

There has been speculation that President Obama may lift a long-standing trade embargo with Cuba, and if trade were to normalize, the U.S. has the potential to dominate this market, according to the United States Department of Agriculture For-

Meet Tom Kennelly, Northarvest Bean Director

Tom Kennelly is the newest director on the Northarvest Bean Growers Association board. His election was announced at Bean Day in January. Tom replaces Mark Myrdal, Edinburg, ND for the District 1 position.

Tom farms near St. Thomas with his brother Mark. They raise sugarbeets, wheat and edible beans. They farm 3,500 acres with approximately 800 of those acres put into dry beans. "I have been farming pretty close to 20 years. We raise pintos, navies and pinks. Our parents farmed and grew dry beans and when we took over the farm, we continued to raise them. Our family has been in the edible bean business since 1965," says Kennelly.

"Dry beans are a fun crop to raise and it is a challenge to get a nice, quality product," says Kennelly. "We had a nice bean crop this year and didn't lose any acres to Mother Nature."

"We pretty much follow the same routine planting dry beans as we do with our sugarbeets. We use 22" rows and sometimes drop the liquid fertilizer in with the seeds," says Kennelly. "We use the best planter we have and try to get some accurate basing and go with that." Kennelly's key to keeping dry beans profitable is patience. "Patience is very important, especially at harvest. You strive for the best crop you can which will make it

easier to market."

As for the future of the bean industry, Kennelly sees challenges ahead. "We as an industry are going to have to find ways of raising higher yielding crops or a better quality crop in order to keep up with the corn and soybeans in the region. We will have to drive more revenue to make them sustainable."

Kennelly is involved in several other organizations, including the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association, Drayton Factory board member, Grafton Farmers Coop Grain Company board and more. "I am happy to be elected to serve the Northarvest Bean organization. I want to learn more about the dry bean industry and look forward working with all aspects of the industry," he says.



eign Agricultural Service. The current embargo limits American firms from conducting business with Cuba, although a relaxation of this was agreed to in 2000, allowing the sale of agricultural goods. Cuba has also consistently ranked among the top ten export markets for U.S. soybean oil, dry peas, lentils, dry beans, rice, powdered milk, and poultry meat.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is organizing a trade mission to Cuba to coincide with the International Trade Fair in Havana, Nov. 2-7, 2009.

Invasive Plant Field Guide

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has created a field guide to assist with identification of common invasive plants found in the Midwest. The guide contains pictures, descriptions of plant habit, leaves, flowers, fruits, and roots as well as ecological threats for each species.

If anyone would like to order copies, contact Mark Renz,

Extension Weed Scientist at mrenz@wisc.edu or 608 263-7437. The cost is \$6.00 per book (MIPN members receive one free of charge). Quantity discounts available.

Dry Beans Inhibit Development of Mammary Cancer

To address whether dry bean consumption is associated with a reduction in mammary cancer, scientists at Colorado State University studied the anticancer activity of six market classes of bean including; small red, great northern, navy, black, dark red and white kidney bean in the diet of laboratory animals. They also evaluated whether the level of antioxidants or seed coat pigments in the bean were related to mammary cancer

The study was funded by a grant from the beans for Health Alliance, and the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station with assistance from Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Bush Brothers Inc. Results from the study were published in the

January-February 2009 issue of the Journal Crop Science.

Research is ongoing at Colorado State University to investigate the mechanisms and molecules that contribute to the anticancer properties of dry beans. Clinical trials are also underway to determine if bean in the diet of humans are associated with biomarkers for cancer incidence.



David Bjorge, Buxton ND, was the winner of this year's Bean Day door prize - a \$300 American Express gift card sponsored by Ag Country Farm Credit Services. Justin Grinde of Ag Country Farm Credit Services was on hand to present the gift card to Bjorge.



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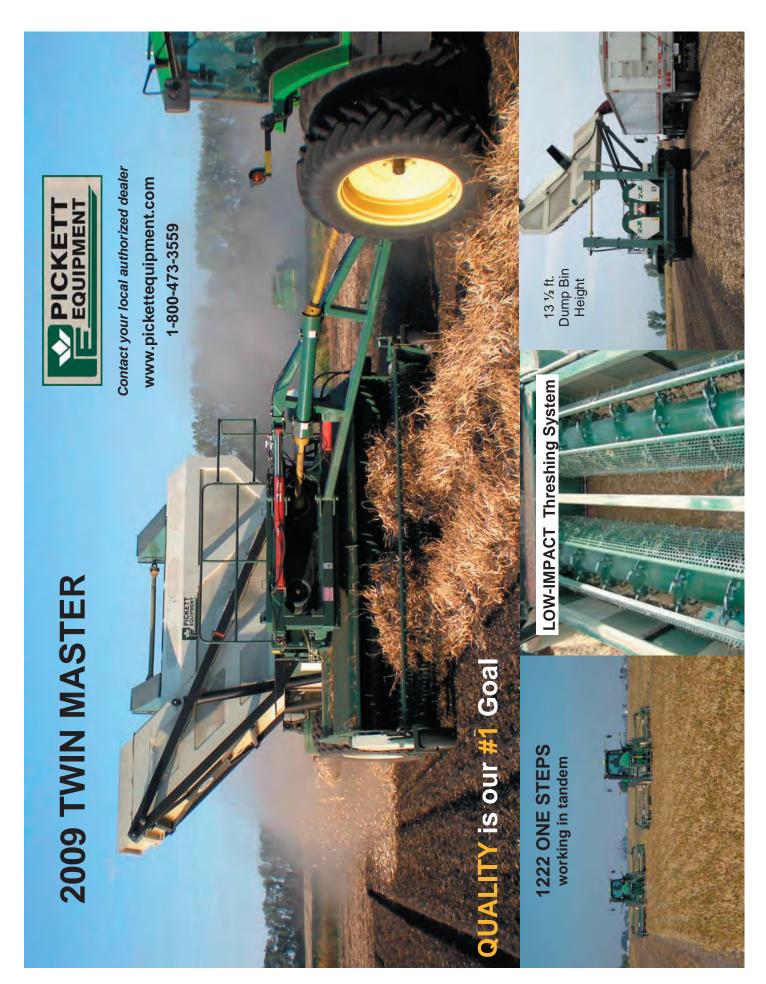
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Reynolds United Co-op, Reynolds, ND
Contact Paul at (701) 847-2261

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Contact Reed at (701) 662-5051

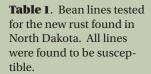
Wilton Farmers Union Elev., Washburn, ND
Contact Brian at (701) 734-6780



Bean Rust: The Return of an Old Foe

By Sam Markell, Extension Plant Pathologist, North **Dakota State University**

Rust was a constant disease threat to dry beans grown in North Dakota many years ago. Although rust epidemics didn't occur every year, when they did, they had teeth. In 1975, 1980, and 1981 rust epidemics in North Dakota were so severe some fields were not even harvested. In response to the constant threat of rust. pathologists and breeders made generating rust-resistant cultivars a top priority. As a result, a very effective rust-resistance gene (called *Ur-3*) was bred into



Pinto

- Avalanche
- GTS -900
- La Paz
- Lariat
- Mayerick
- ND 307
- Othello
- Santa Fe
- Stampede
- Winchester

- Ensign
- Mayflower
- Navigator
- Seahawk
- Vista
- Norstar
- Aurora

Black

- **Eclipse**
- Jaguar
- T-39 Zorro

Kidney

- **CELRK**
- Chinok 2000
- Redhawk
- Montcalm

- Merlot
- Sedona



Urediniospores (or summer spores) on bean leaves.

nearly all the bean varieties grown in our region, and rust epidemics became a thing of the past. Although rust occasionally showed up sporadically, it always occurred on a variety that wasn't resistant. Until 2008.

Late in the 2008 season, I started receiving phone calls and disease samples from bean growers and others in the bean industry concerned about fields infected with rust. Although it was too late in the season for rust to cause much economic damage, rust was occurring on varieties that should have been resistant. At the same time, Dr. Rubella Goswami, Department of Plant Pathology, NDSU, was coordinating a survey of bean diseases in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. After surveying the growing region, Dr. Goswami confirmed that rust was widespread on resistant varieties in an area concentrated in northern Traill County.

For the next two months, rust collections from seven different fields were evaluated in NDSU greenhouses, and the results all pointed to the same conclusion - a new race had evolved.

How do races evolve?

When the resistance gene Ur-3 was incorporated into cultivars, the pathogen was no longer able to cause disease. But that didn't stop it from trying. Rust spores were still around, produced on a susceptible variety, blown in from other areas, or germinated from old infections on a previous year's residue. Eventually, one spore had a genetic change that allowed it to cause disease on varieties with the *Ur-3* gene [When a pathogen is able to cause infection on a different resistant gene, it is commonly referred to as a race-change. Race changes frequently occur through mutation or sexual variation]. Once the race change occurred, that race would have an advantage over the other races, since it can reproduce on beans that other races can't. Because of this, the new race can increase very fast. In rusts, an infection from one rust spore can produce thousands of new spores in 10-14 days. Repeat this cycle a few times, you have an epidemic and the whole population of

rust has evolved.

Although you can't predict when a race change might occur, the bean rust pathogen is ideally suited for race changes. Rust (technically called Common Bean Rust) is caused by a fungal pathogen (Uromyces appendiculatus) that is genetically complex; it has spore stages that are asexual (where new spores are genetic clones of its parent spore) and sexual (where where new spores are genetically mixed between two parent spores). Additionally, the pathogen is robust. It can survive North Dakota winters, it can produce millions of new spores in a very short period of time in a very small field, and spores can blow many miles and still cause infections. Being robust and genetically variable are two factors that likely made this race change inevitable.

What are the implications?

NDSU bean pathologists and bean breeder have evaluated some of the most common varieties grown in our region against the new race of rust.

Unfortunately, all 26 varieties tested were susceptible to the new race (Table 1). That doesn't mean that *every* bean cultivar grown in the region is susceptible, but it would be unwise to expect that any cultivar is resistant. Because the new race is able to cause disease on most (if not all) bean varieties, we expect the new race will likely become established quickly and our rust problems in the future will be similar to those in the 1970's and 1980s.

However, it is important to note that the new race is not widespread yet. We found it in a fairly small area centered in northern Traill County. I feel comfortable saying that it will overwinter, and may likely spread in 2009, but how far it spreads is unpredictable. Historically, even when rust was the top disease concern for bean growers, the disease was not severe every year. Conditions were typically too warm for disease to be much of a problem until late in the season. It was the 'unusual' years that were cool and wet when rust was widespread. Whether severe or mild, the new race is likely to be detected first in that area, and spread from there.

Additionally, breeders and pathologists have been breeding other resistance genes into beans for some time already, in anticipation of a race change. NDSU's dry bean breeding program has at least one gene effective against the new race in advanced lines already. Al-



Dusty, cinnamon-brown streaks of rust spores remains when pustules are rubbed.

though it will still be a few years, resistance beans will be available again in the future.

Disease cycle and symptoms

Rust survives the winter in bean residue as black teliospores (often called *winter spores*). Teliospores germinate in the spring, the pathogen goes through several often 'unseen' spore stages, and finally it produces pustules full of dusty cinnamon-brown urediniospores (often called *summer spores*) on bean leaves These pustules are diagnostic of the disease, and the first symptom of infec-

tion. In cool and wet conditions (60-75 F; heavy dews), urediniospores will infect beans and produce new pustules in approximately ten days.

Management for 2009

Unlike in the 1970s and 1980s, very effective fungicides on rust are labeled for beans. However, before considering fungicide use on your varieties, it is important to remember that other races occur in ND/MN. and growers still sometimes grow varieties susceptible to the old races. If your neighbor is growing one of the varieties that is susceptible to the old races of rust and gets rust early in the season, he/she should spray a fungicide to protect their crop. But that doesn't mean your crop is in danger. The infection could be caused by one of the old races. Although all of the varieties in Table 1 are susceptible to the new race, many are resistant to the old ones.

Disease severity and yield loss depend on favorable weather and the time of disease onset, so the first step to effective management is to scout for rust. If you find it, take note of how many pustules you find and what growth stage your beans are at. Early infections can lead to dramatic yield reductions, whereas late infections may look bad, but do not damage yield. Table 2 uses growth stages and rust severity to help make *general* fungicide

recommendations. Don't get lost in the detail. The general interpretation of the table suggests 1) the earlier you find rust, the more likely you are to benefit from a fungicide application, 2) the closer you get to striping, the less likely you are to encounter yield loss, and 3) after striping, spraying is not beneficial.

Although limited fungicide trials have been done recently on bean rust, fungicide trials on rusts in other crops provides us with good information. Tebuconazole (Folicur® and generics) is an excellent fungicide on rusts, and is often my recommendation if you already have rust on your plants. Prothioconazole (Proline®) is relatively new, but in tests on sunflower rust in ND in 2008, prothioconazole gave similar levels of control to tebuconazole, and with white mold efficacy it may be the logical choice if rust shows up during flowering. Pyraclostrobin (Headline®) has some effect on rusts after they occur (although somewhat less than tebuconazole or prothioconazole), but is most effective as a preventative, or in the early stages of an epidemic. Data from sunflower rust trials indicate pyraclostrobin at 9 fl oz conferred rustcontrol for several weeks when applied immediately before pustules were first observed. Azoxystrobin (Quadris®) works similar to pyraclostrobin, but in some rust trials azoxystrobin conferred less control. Other preventative products are labeled, but the above four are likely the most effective. NDSU plant pathologists are working with Northarvest and chemical companies to set up fungicide trials in 2009.

Lastly, let us help you. If you find rust *please let us know*. I recommend letting your county agent know so we can spread the word. Please remember to tell us the variety. Good luck in 2009.

Markell is currently an Extension Plant Pathologist with responsibilities in Diseases of Broadleaf Crops.

Table 2. Management -- When to Spray

		Pustules per leaf					
Weeks to Harvest	Plant Stage	0	Trace	2-3	6	12	25
8	Early Bloom	е	F	F	F	F	
7	Flat pods	е	F	F	F	F	
6	Small pods	е	F	F	F	F	F
5	Flat pods	е	F	F	F	F	F
4	Early pod fill	е	е			F	F
3	Early purple stripe on early pods	е	е	е	n	n	n
2	Purple stripe on most pods	е	е	е	е	n	n
1	Pods and beans drying	е	е	е	е	n	n
0	Harvest						

e = escape F = Fungicide n = not economic

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Longtime Bean Grower Shares His Story

By Loren Halvorson, Galesburg, ND

I started farming in 1957 here in Galesburg, ND. I started an implement business -- Halvorson Farm Supply -- where I invented a pinto bean weed re-cutter. When chemicals came out, I invented the Big H Bean Rod. I sold a lot of them. I also made four major improvements to the Speedy Bean Cutter in the late 70s. This helped make Speedy the best bean cutter on the market at the time.

I was a little leery about raising dry beans because it was a high risk crop at the time. I started raising beans in 1972 with my neighbor and good friend, Eldon Saunders. He had been raising beans in Hunter for several years and hauled his beans to Borup. He will be 96 this spring. I had known Eldon since 1958 when I lived in Hunter.

All I ever raised was pinto beans. I raised the pinto variety #166. I did try growing cranberries one year but they didn't work out. After my son, Rickie, went into business with me back in the 80s, we started growing navies.

My best year raising pintos was 1974. We had a heck of a crop that year. I had 1,017 acres of pintos that year and the prices were up around 38 cents. I really didn't do anything different that year. Timing was really important. I guess I planted at the right time and had a lot of luck. Nowadays, when you can get 25 - 30 cents on a 1,500 - 1,800 lbs per acre crop, it's pretty good money.

Chemical was the most wonderful thing that ever happened during my years of farming. Before chemicals, I had to use my re-cutter.

Soybeans and corn have taken over so many acres these



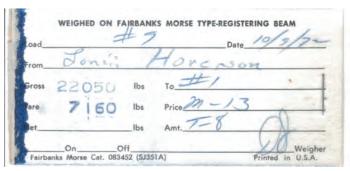
Larry Erickson at ADM, Galesburg, ND giving Loren his last check for growing pintos.

past few years. Producers can get better insurance with these crops. I fear that the edible bean business around here will drop off. When you can insure your other crops for \$500-\$700 dollars per acre, it is kind of foolish to take a chance on beans.

Even though I retired from farming about four years ago, I still go down to the ADM plant in Galesburg every day to visit the guys to keep them on their toes. I like to attend the Northarvest Bean Day in Fargo but I missed it this year.



Loren seeded his first bag of beans in Galesburg, ND in 1972 with Eldon Saunders, who will turn 96 this spring.



Halvorson's receiving ticket for his first sale of pinto beans, October 1972.

Bin No. 9	GORMLEY BEAN CO., INC. P.O. BOX 6 HATTON, NORTH DAKOTA — Receiving Ticket — Non-Negotiable Memorandum Of Delivery	N º 1321
Gross 22.050	VarietyPINTO	Date 10-9, 1972
Vehicle 7 160	Tedent danne	line di tulia
Net 14 8 9	Grower Share	Address
Tare 8	Low Hallon	Malakang
Net. 13,699	Land Owner 1/2 Share	Address
Moisture /3 -0	Grade Weigher	
Net 13, 5, 9, 9	Price_7 % M/A % M/A	

Halvorson's scale ticket, October 1972. Price: 7.5 cents

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Log in to www.multigrain.info and see why special crops dealers, brokers

and buyers rely on it to stay current on prices. Check back often – prices are updated daily!

"I feel that the tool will give them (producers) access to more current information on prices for their product when negotiating with dealers to sell their crop, deal with their bankers on the value of their crop, justification for crop insurance, etc." - Dr. Howard Schwartz - Colorado State University, Colorado Extension, Publisher - Colorado Bean News

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FOB Price Report

including prices since 2009-02-06 as of Friday, February 20, 2009

		2009 Dealer Price (USD/cwt)			2009 Grower Price (USD/cwt)		
	Region	Low	High	Avg	Low	High	Avg.
Beans - Pinto							
#1 - Premium Color	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA				31.00	31.00	31.00
#1 - Premium Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.00	37.00	37.00			
#1 - Premium Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	29.00	30.00	29.50	24.00	25.00	24.50
#1 - Good Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.00	37.00	37.00			
#1 - Good Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	29.00	32.00	30.25	23.00	25.00	24.40
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.00	37.00	37.00			
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	29.00	35.00	31.33	23.00	25.00	24.00
		2008 Dea	ler Price (USD/cwt)	2008 Gro	wer Price	(USD/cwt)
	Region	Low	High	Avg	Low	High	Avg
Beans - Pinto							
#1 - Premium Color	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	43.00	46.00	44.67	35.00	38.00	36.00
#1 - Premium Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	38.50	42.00	39.93	30.00	34.00	31.50
#1 - Premium Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	33.00	33.00	33.00	26.00	27.00	26.50
#1 - Good Color	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	43.00	45.00	44.00	35.00	38.00	36.50
#1 - Good Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	38.50	41.00	39.50	28.00	32.00	30.00
#1 - Good Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	32.00	34.00	32.71	25.00	27.00	26.50
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	39.00	39.00	39.00			
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.50	40.00	39.10	28.00	32.00	30.00
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	31.00	33.00	32.29	25.00	27.00	26.14
#2	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.00	37.00	37.00			
#2	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Splits	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	25.00	25.00	25.00			
Splits	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	19.00	25.00	21.35			
Splits	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	22.00	22.00	22.00			

MarketOutlook

Evidence Suggests a Possible Increase in Dry Bean Area This Spring

Sharply higher prices pushed the farm value of the 2008 U.S. dry bean crop up 30 percent to \$975 million - the second-consecutive record high. The farm value of North Dakota's crop was estimated to be \$315 million - 32 percent of U.S. crop value and 14 percent above the previous high set in 2007.

Outlook for 2009

As was the case a year ago, much uncertainty remains in the acreage outlook for dry edible beans with growers again presented with several profitable choices (depending on growing region). Although price strength remains broad compared with past years for virtually all competing field crops, prices are currently lower than the unusual highs of a year earlier and full of uncertainty. In addition, production costs could also average slightly higher in 2009 despite lower fuel and fertilizer prices. Thus, projected returns above direct costs will not be as strong as a year earlier for most crops, although they remain much higher than pre-2006 levels. To this point in the season, although weakening, the aggregate dry bean price remains above that of a year earlier. However, the aggregate dry bean price masks changes among bean classes. Marketing year average prices are expected to be lower for pinto, navy, Great Northern, and garbanzo beans but could be higher for light and dark red kidney, baby and large limas, small red, and pink beans.

In January, the preliminary all-dry-bean price averaged 32.3 cents per pound, up 18 percent from a year earlier. In December, the price was 28 percent above a year earlier. The average field corn price was up 4 percent from a year earlier in January, while soybeans were little changed. The ratio of drybean-to-corn prices was 7.8 in January compared with 6.9 a year earlier - favoring dry beans this year. Also, the dry bean/ corn price ratio is expected to rise in 2008/09 following 2 consecutive declines. The declines in the ratio in 2006/07 and 2007/08 coincided with reduced dry bean area in 2007 and 2008. If this relationship holds, the projected increase in the price ratio for 2008/09 would be an indicator of increased dry bean acreage this spring. However, weakening of dry bean prices or stronger corn prices in the next several months could soften any changes to dry bean area.

Other evidence suggesting a possible increase in dry bean area this spring includes the current attractive returns over direct costs for dry beans compared with a number of crop alternatives. While the average marketing year dry bean price is projected to be \$00.00 in 2008/09 (up from \$28.80 in 2007/08), the average price for field corn is currently projected to be about \$3.90 in 2008/09 - down from \$4.20 a year earlier and \$3.04 two years ago. In 2009/10, the corn price could decline slightly again given a high degree of uncertainty over demand strength and area to be seeded.

Assuming increasing acreage for such classes as pinto, kidney, lima, and black beans, U.S. dry bean seeded area is expected to rise 5 to 9 percent

from a year earlier. With average yields (which would be about 4 percent below last year's record-high 17.68 cwt) and average acreage losses, the 2008 dry bean crop would come in around 26 million cwt - just above that of a year earlier. The first survey based examination of 2009 row crop area (including dry beans) will be available on March 30 when USDA releases the Prospective Plantings report.

For 2009/10, grower revenue is expected to recede from the strong 2008/09 performance. The preliminary marketing year average price for all dry beans rose 31 percent to \$37.70 per cwt in 2008/09. With production little changed from a year earlier, the farm value of the 2008 dry bean crop jumped 30

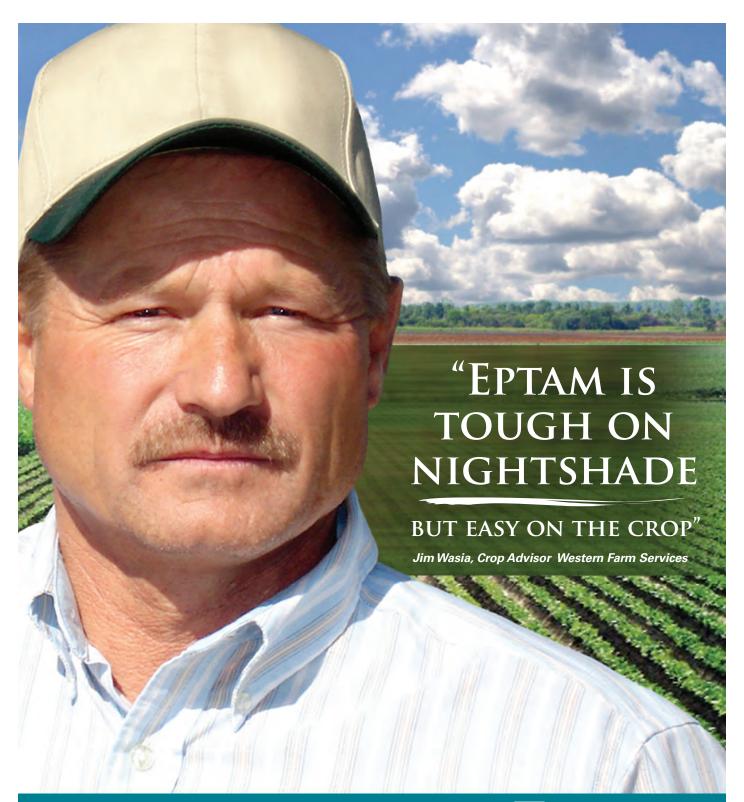
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U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2008-091

	2	800	2	009	Chg. pr	ev. year:
Commodity	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb. ²	Jan.	Feb.
		Cents	s/pound		Per	cent
All dry beans	27.40	32.00	32.30		17.9	
Pinto (ND/MN)	25.50	27.75	26.25	26.33	2.9	-5.1
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	30.50	31.50	25.00	25.00	-18.0	-20.6
Great Northern (NE/WY)	32.00	32.75				
Black (MI)	30.56	31.75	32.50	32.50	6.3	2.4
Light red kidney (MI)	40.38	40.50				
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	37.00					
Baby lima (CA)	40.00	40.75	55.00	55.33	37.5	35.8
Large lima (CA)	60.00	61.25	70.00	70.00	16.7	14.3
Blackeye (CA)	38.50	38.50	45.00	45.00	16.9	16.9
Small red (WA/ID)	34.63	37.88	40.75	39.50	17.7	4.3
Pink (WA/ID)	26.88	29.63	38.50	38.83	43.2	31.0
Garbanzo (WA/ID)	29.88	31.38	29.00	29.17	-2.9	-7.0

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

Sources: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Bean Market News, except "all dry beans" from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Prices.



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percent to a record \$975 million - the second consecutive record high. The farm value of North Dakota's crop was estimated to be \$315 million - 32 percent of U.S. crop value and 14-percent above the previous high set in 2007. Minnesota's crop value was a distant second at \$139 million (up 83 percent from a year earlier), while Michigan's dry bean crop had a farm value of \$137 million - up 38 percent from 2007 but well below the state's 1980 record high of \$205 million.

Grower Prices Mixed

Reflecting below average world supplies, tight holding of unsold stocks, and competitive pressure from high-priced field crops, dealers and growers have largely resisted the downturns which have affected most commodity markets over the past several months. Although price discovery remains problematic with thin sales for many classes, some weakness has been noted over the past few weeks for classes such as pinto, navy, and small red beans. This has been noted in the all-bean price which peaked at \$40/cwt in October before declining to \$32.30/cwt in January. The U.S. aggregate grower price for all dry beans averaged 35 percent above a year earlier during the initial 5 months of the marketing year (September 2008 through January 2009). Although the markets were thin, grower bids for every major dry bean class averaged above a year earlier during September to January.

At the wholesale level, early February dealer prices for several of the major classes changed as follows:

- Pintos (CO), \$40.75 up 4 percent from a year earlier;
- Navy (MI), \$35.50 down 11 percent;
- Black (MI), \$45.50 up 13 percent;
- Small red (ID/WA), \$50.00
 up 2 percent;
- Light red kidney (MI), \$50.00 - down 12 percent;
- Baby lima (CA), \$58.25 up 37 percent;

• Garbanzo beans (ID/WA), \$37.50 - down 6 percent.

Exports Surge

During the first 4 months of the 2008/09 marketing year (September-December), dry bean export volume jumped 32 percent from a year earlier - the strongest start to the dry bean export season since 2000. Volume was up despite an 18 percent increase in the average export price to 37 cents per pound. With both higher prices and rising volume, the value of dry bean exports during this period leaped 55 percent to \$128 million - the highest for

the first 4 months since 1990. As usual, export performance was mixed by class with increases for black, pinto, light-red kidney, small red, and navy (pea) beans easily outweighing reductions for most other classes. Volume was up 160 percent for black beans and 47 percent for pintos due largely to increased demand from Mexico. Navy beans jumped 84 percent due to increased sales to Canada, the United Kingdom, and Mexico.

The leading destinations for U.S. dry beans were Mexico (21 percent of total volume), Canada (16 percent), the United Kingdom (12 percent), and

South Africa (11 percent). Exports to Mexico (up 62 percent) and Canada (up 57 percent) each increased despite higher U.S. prices because of reduced domestic supplies in those nations and a more favorable exchange rate. Although pinto exports to Mexico were little changed from a year ago, the volume of black, navy, light-red kidney, and mung beans were higher. Meanwhile, greater movement of pinto beans to South Africa, Tanzania, Central America, and Europe boosted volume above a year earlier. Exports to Spain declined 23

Continued on Next Page

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

	Crop year	Se	ptember - Decem	ber	Change
Item	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2007-08
		1,00	0 cwt		Percent
Pinto	2,204	943	849	1,252	47
Navy	1,532	660	470	863	84
Black	980	341	194	506	160
Garbanzo	515	209	190	110	-42
Great Northern	766	156	160	164	3
Baby lima	248	117	90	68	-24
Light red kidney	185	72	54	87	60
Dark red kidney	267	55	130	35	-73
Cranberry	97	45	41	35	-13
Large lima	74	36	49	43	-12
Small red	73	33	27	38	42
Mung & urd	27	9	8	12	58
Blackeye	22	8	12	12	0
Pink	56	7	28	2	-93
Other	1,146	240	332	242	-27
Total	8,191	2,931	2,635	3,469	32

Source: Compiled by ERS from data of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

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

	Crop year	Se	September - December				
Item	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2007-08		
		1,000	O cwt		Percent		
Garbanzo, all	363	90	110	140	28		
Mung & urd	343	126	90	103	14		
Black	473	105	125	96	-24		
Pinto	305	16	82	86	5		
Light red kidney	150	43	41	55	33		
Navy	219	42	55	50	-9		
Other	1,368	427	412	434	5		
Total	3,220	850	916	965	5		

Source: Compiled by ERS from data of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

percent due mostly to a reduction in chickpea sales during the first 4 months of the marketing year.

With world supplies tightening during the first 4 months of the marketing year, U.S. dry bean import volume was up just 5 percent from a year earlier despite sharply higher prices. Canada (35 percent of total volume), Mexico (14 percent), China (13 percent), and Peru (12 percent) were the top import sources. Imports rose for garbanzo, mung, and lightred kidney, but were lower for black and navy beans. Volume brought in from Canada (down 8 percent), Mexico (down 22 percent), and China (down 27 percent) declined, while volume from Peru (up 210 percent), Nicaragua, and El Salvador increased.

Fewer U.S. Farms Grow Dry Beans

The recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture indicated there were 6,236 U.S. farms harvesting dry beans (excluding dry limas which were produced by 167 farms), down 28 percent from the 2002 census. In comparison, the number of farms growing field corn changed little, while those producing dry edible peas surged 97 percent between 2002 and 2007. Dry bean production also became more concentrated on larger operations between 2002 and 2007. In 2007, 46 percent of the U.S. dry bean crop was produced by farms growing 500 acres or more, up from 36 percent in 2002. About 13 percent of all farms reporting dry bean acreage harvested at least 500 acres of dry beans in 2007, compared with 9 percent in 2002. The share of harvested acres that were produced under irrigation declined from 34 percent in 2002 to 24 percent in 2007 as area became more concentrated in the lightly irrigated upper Midwest.

In North Dakota, the top producer, there were 16 percent fewer farms with dry beans in 2007. However, a greater share of national dry bean farms were in North Dakota in 2007 (27 percent) than in 2002 (23 percent). The number of farms growing dry beans in Michigan, the second-leading producer, declined 25 percent to 1,183 - 19 percent of the national total. Partly reflecting the continued concentration of the industry in fewer States and on larger farms, the number of farms producing dry beans declined heavily in New York (down 53 percent), Colorado (down 59 percent), and California (down 38 percent).

Source: Vegetables and Melons Outlook/ VGS-331/February 25, 2009, Economic Research Service, USDA

Canada: Pulse and Special Crops (P&SC) Outlook

For 2008-09 to date, prices for most P&SC in Canada, with the exception of dry peas and canary seed, have risen from 2007-08 due to



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Permit® is a registered trademark of Nissan Chemical Industries LTD. EPA Reg. No. 81880-2-10163 Always read and follow label directions. relatively tight supplies. Total Canadian exports for all P&SC are forecast to fall marginally due to the world economic slowdown. Carry-out stocks are forecast to rise for most crops. For 2009-10, total area seeded

to P&SC in Canada is forecast to be unchanged from 2008-09, with decreased area for dry peas and dry beans, and increases for chickpeas, lentils, mustard seed, canary seed and sun-

flower seed. Average yields are

generally expected to decrease from 2008 and trend yields are assumed for both western and eastern Canada. Total production in Canada is forecast to fall by 6% to 5.0 million tonnes (Mt). Total supply is expected to rise marginally to 6.3 Mt, as higher carry-in stocks more than offset the fall in production. Exports, domestic use and carry-out stocks are forecast to rise slightly due to the higher supply. Average prices are generally forecast to fall but remain unchanged for chickpeas and canary seed. The main factors to watch are commodity prices and input costs, precipitation in Canada over the winter, the Canada-U.S. dollar exchange rate, the impacts of the world recession and planting progress in major producing regions, especially the Indian subcontinent, United States, European Union, Australia and the Middle East.

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Dry Beans

For 2008-09, exports are forecast to decrease from 2007-08 due to lower supply. Carry-out stocks are expected to rise marginally. The average price, over all classes and grades, is forecast and Canadian supply.

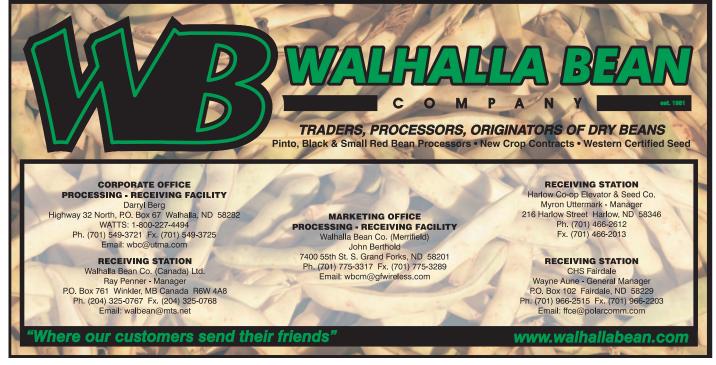
For 2009-10, the area seeded is forecast to fall marginally from 2008-09 because of good prices for crops which are easier to produce than dry beans.

Production is expected to rise as a result of a return to average yields. Supply is forecast to rise marginally. Canadian exports are forecast to rise due to the higher supply and carryout stocks are expected to rise marginally. The average price is forecast to decrease because of the higher U.S. and Canadian supply.

Chickpeas

For 2008-09, exports are expected to be lower than 2007-08 due lower supply. The average price, over all types and grades, is forecast to decrease marginally. Carry-out stocks are also expected to decrease.

For 2009-10, the area seeded is forecast to rise sharply from 2008-09 because of low carry-in stocks and relatively high prices compared to many alternative crops. Production is expected to rise, but supply is forecast to fall slightly from last year as the higher production is more than offset by lower carry-in stocks. World supply is forecast to rise marginally to 9.3 Mt. Canadian exports are forecast to rise and carry-out stocks are expected to fall to a low level. The average price is forecast to remain unchanged as lower Canadian supply is offset by higher world supply.



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Touring the Dominican Republic

A large labor force provides beans that are picture perfect for the consumer

North Dakota Dry Bean Council chairman, Jim Sletten and Northarvest Bean Growers executive director Tim Courneya toured dry bean fields in the Dominican Republic in February 2009. The purpose of the trip was to meet the importers/ exporters of the country and get a better understanding of their dry bean production process.

The Dominican Republic currently grows cranberries, big reds and some blacks. They are estimating domestic production to be about 600,000 cwt this year, while annually they consume about 1 to 1.2 million cwt. Imports will be of white beans (even some from China) but mainly pinto from the United States. Canada has some influence in the market as well.

During their three-day visit, the Northarvest Delegation met with six large importers, U.S. Embassy representative Jamie Rothschild, and the Price Stabilization Institute (INESPRE), whom are also interested in importing beans. They toured bean fields, processing and storage facilities. They visited different grower's farms and saw the whole process, from harvesting, to packing, to the re-packing into supermarket varieties. Sletten noted that manual labor is huge in the Dominican Republic. At harvest, the workers would pull the bean plants, stack the roots pointing them upwards so the plant would dry out and put them on a tarp to keep the beans dirt free. The laborers worked on a small machine, (about the size of a chair recliner), which did the thrashing. They would then pack the plants in small stacks to facilitate drying. The beans were transported to a warehouse where the bags were divided among the 25 or so workers who sat on the floor each with a pile of beans in front of them, picking out the undesirable beans,



Jim Sletten in a warehouse full of bagged beans.

dirt, pebbles, etc. The harvest process and bagging will conclude with a bean that is picture perfect for the consumer.

"This is one of the reasons it is difficult for the U.S. to compete quality-wise, because every bean there is hand picked," says Sletten. "Because of the way the beans are handled, their quality is exceptional."

Sletten noticed in the region

they grow a very high quality of bean while maintaining low production because they don't use the technology we use, with respect to fertilization, weed control and yields. Sletten didn't know which variety they used, but he did notice there were only two to three beans in each pod. "Lack of funds is a factor in their lack of technology, which is a major drawback,"

he says.

The other main issue even beyond the quality issue with the Dominican Republic is credit.

There are trust issues between buyers and sellers and so credit is very hard to come by these days. No one wants to stick their neck out and with the world economies in trouble, this situation won't get better any time soon.



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Soybean Cyst Nematode: Potential Threat to Dry Bean

"Soybean Cyst Nematode, which is the most important soybean disease in the United States, is a potential concern for dry bean growers." Speaking frankly to a crowd of approximately 500 producers who attended Bean Day in January, Dr. Berlin Nelson, Department of Plant Pathology, NDSU, told the audience that he has a new potential problem for dry bean growers.

"Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) is a root parasite which can reduce dry bean yields. This is a pathogen that can attack the root of dry beans. It is in the Red River Valley and it will move north. It is just a matter of time until it gets into the dry bean

Summary of what Nelson knows about SCN and dry beans

- Dry bean yields can be reduced by SCN
- SCN reproduces on dry bean in the field and will add eggs to the soil
- Egg density associated with yield loss in pinto and navy bean will probably be higher than with soybean.
- Some cultivars are possibly tolerant of SCN damage, but more research is needed.
- It is important to remember that you can have SCN in dry beans and not notice the damage by looking at plants.
- The nematode is extremely easily moved from field to field, traveling long distances because it will travel in the soil particles.



Effect of soybean cyst nematode (SCN) on growth of pinto bean. Plant on the left is growing in soil without SCN and the plant on the right is growing in soil with 10,000 SCN eggs/100 cc soil. (Notice the stunting of the plant on the right compared to the healthy plant on the left.)

growing areas in this region," said Nelson.

SCN, or Heterodera glycines, is one of the most destructive pests affecting soybeans in the United States as well as in the other top ten soybean-producing countries of the world. SCN is a small worm that lives in the soil. The eggs survive in the body of the dead female, called the cyst. It has a very high reproductive capability; it produces a lot of eggs. That is a very important component of disease development. Nelson presented slides of larvae in soybean roots, but stressed, "the same thing will happen in dry beans."

Nelson and his team at NDSU began to look at this problem from the perspective of all of the crops grown in North Dakota, how would they fit into the rotations with soybeans and the affect of these crops on SCN on these crops. Nelson currently knows SCN is present in Richland, Cass, Clay, Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties. He stressed to the crowd that it is not widespread in those counties; it is

only showing up in certain areas. "But the fact of the matter is that it is here. It moves easily from field to field. Once it gets in the dry bean areas, you the growers are going to have to deal with it."

Control

SCN has the potential to do dramatic damage. Nelson said, "We can control it in soybeans with two primary methods, 1) the use of resistant cultivars and 2) the use of crop rotation. These two management strategies are essential to managing SCN."

What effect will SCN have on dry beans?

Scientists have known for over 80 years that SCN can attack soybeans but there has been almost no research what so ever on the effect of SCN on dry beans, mostly because in most soybean areas you don't have big dry bean production. This is a concern for Nelson. Dr. Rubella Goswami, a dry bean

pathologist at NDSU, is also concerned about the interaction between SCN and root rot fungi that could increase damage to the roots. She and Nelson are cooperating to find out if this is another potential problem associated with SCN.

A few years ago, Nelson started to look at dry bean groups in this area to find out if SCN reproduced on those groups. "When we compared the reproduction of SCN under a controlled test, this nematode reproduced just as good on the kidney bean plant as it did on soybean plants. When testing the black bean cultivars, they appear to have some resistance. Working with the pinto and navy bean cultivars, the nematode did not reproduce as well as on soybeans, but it still reproduced. "We think it reproduces enough to cause some potential problems in your fields," says

We know SCN is reproducing in the fields, we know it is producing eggs and we know

Continued on Next Page

the eggs are pathogenic on dry beans. We have done all that research. We have done several studies in 2008 and we have seen the same things as in trials in 2007. Both the growth and yields are being affected.

Steps to Lower Your Risk of SCN

There are ways to lower your risk of SCN. A grower can have SCN in dry beans and not notice damage. How are you going to prevent the damage? Nelson says, "If you have reports of SCN in your area, and you are concerned about it in your field, gather a sample of your soil, send it to a qualified laboratory and find out if you have SCN. If they come back with a report that says you have a low eggs count, you should be concerned about those numbers, and the best thing to do is that if you grow a dry bean you want to come back next year and sample the soil again and get those eggs numbers again to find out what is happening in your fields. Rotations will help reduce those numbers but unfortunately in our area, we know those egg numbers, especially if they get high, persist a long time in the soil." Nelson went on to say, "We can't stress this enough: Don't let the egg numbers get too high because it is very hard to bring them down again. If you grow kidney beans, be aware of this. The fact is that our tests show it can reproduce very well on kidney beans."

Not all is hopeless, however. Nelson provided examples of how to prevent damage from SCN in dry beans:

- 1) Find out if you have SCN in your fields. Sample the soil and have the samples processed by a qualified laboratory. They will tell you the number of eggs per 100 cc of soil.
- 2) Consider longer rotation to non-host crops to reduce egg levels. Consider keeping dry beans off the infested fields.
- 3) Minimize soil movement between infested and non infested fields.
- 4) Monitor the egg levels to watch for increases in egg numbers. Higher egg numbers will result in more damage.
- 5) If you grow kidney beans, be especially aware of potential damage.
- 6) Bean types and cultivars differ in susceptibility to SCN.
- 7) Sandy loam soils will be more likely to have SCN damage than heavy clay soil.
- 8) Dry years will likely increase disease damage.
- 9) Bean seed is often treated with an insecticide. As yet we do not know how much control that will provide to the plant. More research needed on this potential problem.

Nelson is a professor of Plant Pathology at NDSU where he has been conducting research on field crop diseases for 30 years.

2009 International U.S. Dry Bean and Other Specialty Crops Congress

A large number of participants turned out for the 2009 International U.S. Dry Bean and other Specialty Crops Congress, which was held February 12-14 in Acapulco Mexico. It was a great opportunity to meet with buyers and sellers of U.S. Dry Beans, Peas, Lentils, Chickpeas / Garbanzos, Sunflower and Popcorn.

International speakers informed the participants on topics such as industry and consumers trends. Jeane Wharton, Executive Director USDBC and Robert S. Green, E.D. Michigan Bean Com-

mission provided an update on the U.S. Dry Bean Crop and Market Outlook for 2008-09.

Buyers came from many different parts of the world. For those attending the sessions, they were given 'Buyer-Seller-One-on-One' meetings, which were held during the Congress to share market information.

Along with the U.S. Dry Bean Council, co-sponsors for the 2009 conference were the USDA, the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, the USA Sunflower Association and the USA Popcorn Association.



The buyers and sellers met during the 'one-on-one' business meetings held throughout the convention. On the table meeting picture from left to right is: Don Streifel, Vice President, Northarvest Bean Growers, Washburn, ND, Antonio Castillo, VP for a major importing company in the Dominican Republic (the Dominican Republic is a big market for pinto beans) Tim Courneya Exec Vice President Northarvest Bean Growers and Mark Streed, Director for Northarvest Bean Growers to the U.S. Dry Bean Council, Milan MN.



Variety Performance Results for Dry Beans

The 2008 season started out cool, followed by a rainy fall which caused trouble for most crops, including dry beans. This resulted in pod shattering, seed sprouting and deteriorating seed quality, according to Dr. Juan Osorno dry bean breeder at North Dakota State University. Despite these problems, he said the yields were still competitive in most places.

Osorno said his trials were good despite the environmental conditions but did not consider 2008 a 'normal' year. "We had lines that performed really well in one place and then in another location they were at the bottom of the tables. These are very strange results, because usually lines will keep stable across environments." Osorno said they were able to harvest almost all of their trials, with the exception of Prosper, ND, where he lost 85% of their experiments.

Diseases

Many diseases were observed in NDSU's trials this year. Osorno said he generally finds brown spot and halo blight but this year he also found rust in his trials at the end of the season, even affecting resistant cultivars, which surprised them. (see Markell article, page 8). Another disease, root rot, frequently shows up in Perham, MN each year. Osorno usually asks his cooperator to give him a field that has a history of root rot so he can test his material more extensively.

NDSU Varieties

Osorno reviewed the NDSU releases: Lariat, Stampede, ND-307, Avalanche and Eclipse. In the Forest River area, Stampede was the highest yielding variety out of the 17 varieties tested. He was pleased with the results of the varieties and recommends growers look at the CV and LSD

because it will give them a lot of information to analyze the tables. (CV – 20 is usually good and below 10 is excellent.)

How does NDSU decide which varieties to concentrate on?

Osorno relies on the growers' survey that he distributes to determine varietal testing focus. All of the varieties that have some significant acreage in the region are included. Current NDSU dry bean variety locations are Hatton-ND: Pinto, Navy, and Misc.; Forest River-ND: Pinto and Navy; Prosper-ND: Pinto, Navy, and Misc.; Perham-MN: Miscellaneous, Park Rapids-MN: Miscellaneous; and ND Research and Extension Centers: Carrington (Foster Co.), Hettinger (Adams Co.), Langdon (Cavalier-Pembina Co.), Minot (Ward Co.), Oakes (Dickey Co.) and Williston (Williams Co.).

Below are some of the performance results of the NDSU varieties:

- Eclipse is the best black bean in most of the trials
- In most cases, NDSU lines were among the top 5 varieties
- Lariat keeps showing superior yields when grown in the right conditions (the late maturity could be a concern for some growers)
- Stampede did well under drought stress
- ND-307 had the most variable results across locations
- Avalanche also showed variable results across locations (but MN: 3550 lbs/acre)
- Maverick had germination problems, so be cautious when interpreting data.

Choosing Varieties

When choosing your variety, Osorno stresses to try and see

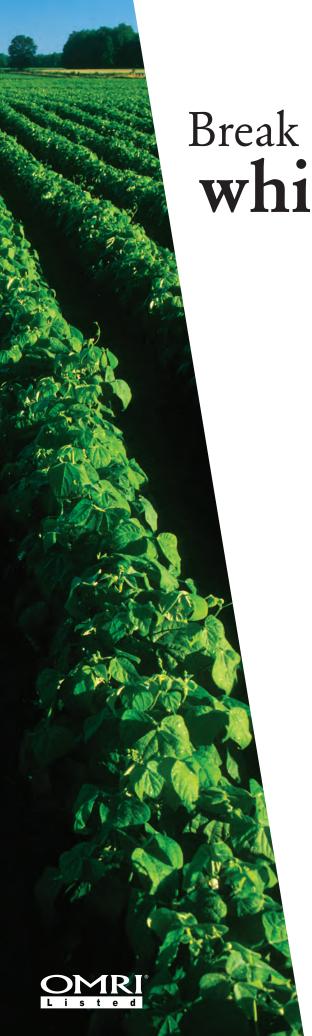
Pinto VT - Forest River

Variety	Days to Flowering (days)	Plant Height (inch)	Days to Maturity (days)	Yield (lb/a)	100 Seed Weight (gram)
Stampede	61	22.8	102	3,090	36.9
Windbreaker	61	20.5	100	3,060	40.1
Sonora	60	22.4	97	2,920	31.9
Durango	60	19.7	98	2,850	39.5
Mariah	61	19.3	96	2,830	34
Lariat	61	22	103	2,750	37.7
ND-307	61	21.3	103	2,690	39
Buster	61	18.9	96	2,620	36.2
GTS-904	62	20.1	106	2,620	35.7
GTS-903	62	20.1	107	2,580	31.6
Othello	59	16.9	95	2,570	40.8
Baja	59	18.9	95	2,560	35.9
Medicine Hat	60	18.5	95	2,380	37.1
GTS-900	61	17.7	101	2,300	34.2
Floyd (Pink)	59	18.1	98	2,170	31.5
Maverick1	61	17.7	102	2,060	34.3
Topaz R	59	16.5	92	2,050	37.5
Mean	60	19.7	99	2,594	36
CV %	2	11	3	10	5.2
LSD 0.05	1	3.1	4	390	2.6

what variety is best for your conditions and/or philosophy. When it comes to variety selections, growers have a lot of options and that is very important. Osorno recommends looking for trends instead of a single year when choosing a variety. Try to see what happened with one line across several years instead of one year's history. Be

sure to use LSD to make realistic comparisons. Also, growers can refer to North Dakota Dry Bean Performance Testing 2008, compiled by Hans Kandel for more details and locations at www. ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/rowcrops/a654.pdf.

Dr. Juan Osorno is a dry bean breeder at North Dakota State University.



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China's Role in World Bean Trade

Randy Duckworth, U.S. Dry Bean Council's Director of Worldwide Activities, spoke to growers at Bean Day about China's role in world bean markets.

He said pinning down China's role in the world bean market is like 'herding cats.' "China is changing all the time. Its government policies change, the crops it grows change and just as the crop mix and weather is always changing so are the roles of its buyers and sellers," he says.

Duckworth discussed China's role as a supplier and how all of our markets are interconnected. With the complex role that China and other countries play, it's virtually impossible to examine one country's role without also looking closely at the broader world of suppliers and buyers beyond China.

"While we live in a flatter world in terms of barriers between buyers and sellers, it is not to say that trade is simple," says Duckworth. "On the contrary, it is incredibly complex." Countries have free trade agreements that effectively allow some countries to trade with each other while effectively barring others (NAFTA). Geographic location of products and the cost of shipping serve to limit participation. And as produc-

ers saw last year, government activities such as the U.S. Farm Bill have the ability to create wholesale changes in the worldwide agricultural landscape. "Additionally, we have seen that food safety and security issues can play a major role in international trade. For example, in the past couple years we've seen that each time there is a food safety issue in China, the level of Japanese imports of Chinese bean paste drop temporarily – this despite fact that the food safety issues had nothing to do with Chinese beans," says Duckworth.

China is the world's largest producer and consumer of agricultural products with 1.3 billion people. They produce approximately 1.5 mmt of beans, mostly for export. It produces Japanese white, black, light speckled, red, navy, GN type, lima, adzuki as well as a variety of other beans.

While agricultural imports account for only about one-fifth of total commodity imports, Chinese demand for most agricultural commodities has been rising rapidly in recent years on the back of higher percapita income, as well as rising protein and meat demands of the population. In fact, agricultural imports into China have more than doubled since 2000. The need for

China to import agricultural commodities is likely to rise further in the future. China tends to import land-intensive commodities like grains, soybeans and cotton and exports labor-intensive commodities like fruits or vegetables.

China's agricultural sector is facing growing problems, such as rapid urbanization, soil erosion and impending water shortages. Water is a big issue in China. The areas that are affected the most are the bean producing areas where they have serious water issues. The area of Ho Had has now had three failed bean crops in a row because of water shortages.

"If you would have talked to me a few years ago, I would have told you that China is an incredible threat to our industry. After having visited China and viewed some of my colleague's reports, I am not convinced that they are the threat that I once thought they were," says Duckworth. "We are seeing their agricultural landscape change quite dramatically."

Duckworth is currently the Council's Director of Worldwide Activities and representative for Central America and Caribbean regions.

RMA Announces 2009 Crop Year Additional Price Elections for Dry Beans

The USDA Risk Management Agency has announced 2009 crop year additional price elections for Actual Production History (APH) for Dry Beans. Northarvest worked hard to influence the increased price elections to provide better coverage for dry bean producers.

APH Additional Price elections for Select Dry Bean Types for the 2009 Crop Year Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin

Dry Beans (\$/Ib)*	Additional Price Election	Established Price Election	CAT Price				
Black	\$0.28	\$0.25	\$0.1540				
Cranberry	\$0.32	\$0.29	\$0.1760				
Dark Red Kidney	\$0.35	\$0.32	\$0.1925				
Light Red Kidney	\$0.35	\$0.32	\$0.1925				
Pea (Navy)	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.1430				
Pink	\$0.26	\$0.22	\$0.1430				
Pinto	\$0.27	\$0.25	\$0.1485				
Small Red	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.1485				
Small White	\$0.26	\$0.22	\$0.1430				
White Kidney	\$0.35	\$0.32	\$0.1925				

*For insurance offers with a February 28 or March 15 sales closing date.

The additional price election represents the maximum price election for the crop year and specified sales closing date, and is available to producers who insure their 2009 crop at levels above catastrophic coverage. Price election choices must be made on or before the sales closing date for the crop in a county.

Dry Bean Business Transition to 2009

Northarvest Bean Day highlights from Larry Sprague, Kelley Bean Company

2008 Boom or Bust

Was 2008 a real boom year or was it a bust year? According to Larry Sprague, senior dry bean merchandiser for the Kelley Bean Company, for many growers it definitely was a year of plenty. Those are the growers who locked in their inputs early and contracted late and had average to above average yields. On the other side, there were many growers who had contracted early at what looked to be good prices (which they were at the time) and contracted heavily, happy with the projected gross return per acre. "However," says Sprague, "very few of us thought that we would see the tremendous increase in input costs or that our crops would not have the perfect growing season. 2008 was a year that all of us are likely to remember and to tell about in future generations. 2008 was a year that all of us are likely to remember and to tell about in future generations.

Out of Your Control

Sprague stressed that there are a number of factors that are just out of one's control. "As growers, you may worry, but in the final analysis there is just nothing that you can do except to be aware of what those factors may be and to be aware of the effects of those factors. Things that may have a real impact on your businesses are government and its regulations; the situation of failure and merger in the credit markets; competitive crop prices and input costs; and currency exchange," he says.

The New Administration

Farm Bill interpretation will also have an impact on growers and the agricultural industry in general. Sprague says there is talk that the new administration will concentrate on shifting funds to a more green policy in conservation and potentially less money for production agriculture and more for food stamps and export enhancement programs.

He says trade policy is likely to change under the new administration as well. The agricultural industry is extremely interested in the new administration's approach to Cuba. The United States International Trade Commission released a study indicating that dry bean exports to Cuba could move from \$20 million dollars annually to \$49 million dollars if Cuba is allowed access

to credit from the U.S.

The approach to food aid will be an important agenda item. How will the new government view spending for supplemental appropriations for food aid? Will there be a push to send cash rather than U.S. produced agricultural items? "The USDA purchased 1,082,500 cwt of dry beans or more than \$52,740,000 in the most recent year of food aid business ending last September making the U.S. government one of our largest customers," says Sprague. "The USDA purchased 944,000 cwt the year prior at a cost of \$31,161,000."

Credit

Sprague says the large question is how much of an impact will agriculture feel due to the banking crisis. "I've been told that roughly 70% of production agriculture is being financed by the farm credit systems while roughly 30% are financed mostly by banks. Most of the farm credit systems are

reported to be very healthy and should be in a good position to again provide adequate capital," he says. "One word of caution is that we did see an abandonment of agriculture by most large banks in the very early 80s. That possibility still exists if the financial health of agriculture deteriorates due to decreasing land values or a reversal in net profits caused by low commodity prices or record high input costs."

What to Expect in 2009

What are the prices going to be for your 2009 dry bean crop? Gary Lucier of the USDA is predicting dry bean plantings could increase from 5% to 10% in 2009 unless competitive crop prices move higher or bean prices move lower. He also said that if yields go back to trend line averages, the production could be down from 5% to 7% from that of 2008.

Sprague believes demand for dry bean products should remain good during these



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- · Perham, MN Office: 218.346.2360 · Mitch Cell: 218.639.2548

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troubled and uncertain economic times. He predicts that domestic demand for dry bean products will remain strong through this next year. What he can't predict however is if growers or buyers will be as active in contracting 2009 crop beans prior to planting season as was the case in 2008. The average North Dakota grower price for dry beans for the 2007 crop year was \$25.70 per cwt, while it was \$20.20 for the 2006 crop, and only \$15.50 per cwt for the 2005 crop. That is a \$5.00 per cwt average increase of or more than a 20% increase per year over those two years.

Sprague put together the production numbers of the most popular dry bean classes grown in this region along with the carryover from the 2007 crop to help explain the supply and demand situation as it is today. Go to www.northarvestbean.org/Sprague.pdf to view his charts.

Larry Sprague is a senior dry bean merchandiser for the Kelley Bean Company.



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Dry Bean Health Research Program Award Recipients

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association, North Dakota Dry Bean Council and the Minnesota Dry Bean Research Promotion Council recently established the Dry Bean Health Research Program. The Program was designed to provide seed money for research projects. Top researchers from across the country were invited to apply for incentive awards of \$10,000 each on dry beans and human health. The idea was to provide researchers incentives to apply to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for further funding of dry bean and human health research of at least \$150,000. Topics that are covered include the effects of dry beans on cardio vascular disease, gastrointestinal health, immune system health, diabetes, colon cancer, and prostate cancer. The classes of dry beans (Phaseolus vulgaris L.) that are of particular interest include pinto, navy, dark red kidney, light red kidney, black, cranberry, pink, small red, and great northern beans.



Below are the first recipients of the Dry Bean Health Research Program

Effect of dry beans on appetite regulation in humans

D. Enette Larson-Meyer, University of Wyoming

Glycemia and Oxidative Stress During Hypocaloric Bean Diet

Dawn Schwenke Arizona State University

Effects of black, pinto, and dark red kidney bean consumption on biomarkers of heart disease risk factors in moderately hypercholesterolemic adults

Donna Winham Arizona State University

Mechanistic Study of Dry Beans' Health Benefits: What Are the Active Ingredients for Preventing Heart Disease and Diabetes?

Joe Vinson, University of Scranton

Dried Beans, Inflammation and Insulin Sensitivity

Maureen A. Murtaugh University of Utah

Effects of legume consumption on long-term weight loss success and chronic disease risk reduction

Megan A. McCrory Purdue University

Intestinal microbiota: architecture and transcriptome and response to the candidate prebiotic Phaseolus vulgaris in obese subjects with and without metabolic syndrome

Nanette Steinle, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Insulin Sensitizing and Hypolipidemic Actions of Kidney Bean-Enriched Diets

Salman Azhar, Stanford University

Mechanism and targets of prostate and colon cancer prevention by black bean (Phaseolus vulgaris)

seed coat derived phytochemicals Tze-chen Hsieh

New York Medical College

Treatment of type 2 diabetes by increasing the consumption of dry beans

Yunsheng Ma University of Massachusetts

DryBeanRecipes

Northern Refried Pinto Beans

By Lynne Bigwood, **Northarvest Home Economist**

This dish was served at the Latin Flavors, American Kitchens conference in San Antonio, TX. The recipe was part of the cookbook we received. I made it for our New Year's Eve guests. We all thought it turned out to be quite good; definitely worth making again.

Colorado chiles and Asadero cheese were used in the original recipe. If they are available where you live, use them, but substitute oil for the lard. Americans should use oil for their shortening as much as possible and it worked well in this recipe. The Colorado chiles will need to be wiped clean, seeds and veins removed. You could also substitute your favorite chile to flavor the beans. I have never used milk in refried beans before. I used whole milk on New Year's Eve. The second time I used skim. Both worked well.

One of the first lessons that we were taught at that conference was that a CHILE is spelled C-H-I-L-E and it is not a chili pepper. Peppers are green bell peppers, yellow, orange and red sweet peppers. Each chile has a name, although that may vary from region to region. There are many different kinds of chiles. They vary widely in the amount of their heat. Most grocery stores and the Internet will have a scale of heat that you can use. The seeds and veins have the most heat so they are usually removed. Use care, caution and rubber gloves when you handle a chile and don't touch your eves or face! The Colorado chile is similar to an American long green chile. It becomes burgundy colored when dried and usually is about 6 inches long and 2 inches wide; the skin is smooth.

It is usually mild, slightly tart and has an uncomplicated flavor. However, there is a Chimayo variety from New Mexico that is quite hot.

Asadero cheese is a soft textured, yellow melting cheese originally made in the northern state of Chihuahua with fresh soured milk. It is sometimes called Chihuahua, menonita or asadero cheese and is a popular filling for the Latin foods most Americans call Mexican—tacos, burritos, chiles rellenos and quesadillas. Jack cheese is a good

Refried beans are widely used in Mexican cuisine. They are usually made from black or pinto beans. The beans are cooked, then mashed. The refried step fries the beans in lard seasoned with onion.

Northern Style Refried Beans

Nutrition Note: This recipe makes 12 1/2 cup servings. Each serving, using skim milk, has 379 calories, 25 g fat, 14 g protein, 27 g carbohydrates, 8 g fiber, 226 mg calcium, 155 mcg folate, 409 mg potassium, and 381 mg sodium.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound (2 cups) dry pinto or black beans
- Fresh, cold water

(OR three or four 15 to 16-ounce cans pinto beans)

- 1 cup canola or cooking olive oil
- 1 large onion, cleaned and diced
- 1/4 cup green Tabasco sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk
- 1 8-ounce package (2 cups) shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 1. Pick over dry beans, removing any small rocks or dirt pieces and rinse with cold water before cooking.
- 2. Pinto Beans: Hot soak* the night before or in the morning. Rinse out the pot. Drain and rinse beans. Pour beans back into the pot or a crockpot, cover with fresh, cold water about 1 inch above the beans. Simmer over low heat until beans are tender. Black Beans: Skip the Hot soak because it causes substantial loss of the black color. Cover beans with fresh, cold water and simmer until tender, 1 ½ to 2 hours.

Start here for canned or leftover beans:

- 1. Pour the oil into a heavy frying pan. Add the diced onion, stir and cook until the edges of the onions are golden brown. Pour the oil through a strainer to remove onions.
- 2. Drain beans, discard liquid.
- 3. Pour beans into a crockpot, add hot sauce, salt, milk and oil. Stir.
- 4. Cook on high 3 or 4 hours, then low until almost ready to serve. Alternate method: Traditional refried beans would be cooked in a heavy skillet on top of the stove. Stir often to prevent burning as the liquid evaporates.
- 5. Pinto Beans: Process, blend or mash 2/3 or 3/4 beans with a large spoon. Add liquid as needed. Leave 1/3 to 1/4 of the beans whole to add texture. Return mashed mixture to the crockpot. Mix. Black Beans: Skip mashing to retain texture and eye-appeal.
- 6. Stir cheese into the pureed beans. Serve.

*Hot Soak: Heat 10 cups of water in a pot to a boil. Add cleaned, rinsed beans and bring back to a boil for 2 - 3 minutes. Remove the pot from the stove, cover and let the beans soak 4 - 16 hours. The longer you soak the beans the quicker they will cook and more gascausing sugars rinsed out.

Optional: Add the salt and 1 tablespoon oil to soaked beans before cooking. Benefit: More flavorful beans, less boil over. Use fresh or soaked dried chiles, different hot sauce or Asadero cheese.

Cooking Illustrations:





Onions simmering in oil. Cook until edges of onion are golden brown.





Add hot sauce, salt, milk and oil to beans and sim-



This last step seems very similar to what was done when I was a child. We had potatoes for one meal and then whatever was left over was fried for the next meal. The same technique can be used with beans. They are called "refried" even if it is the first time they have been fried. Go figure!

I "American-ized" this authentic Latin recipe. I substituted canola oil for lard, green Tabasco sauce for the 2 Colorado chiles and shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese for Asadero cheese. I also cooked it in the crockpot while I made the rest of the meal.

Try making Northern style refried beans with fresh cooked, leftover or canned pinto or black beans. Eat them as a vegetable with a meal or spread the hot beans on a taco, burrito or quesadilla.

Mmmmm, mmmm, good!

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TheBeanScene

The Bismarck Living Ag Classroom was held February 17 and 18 during the KFYR Radio Agri-International at the Civic Center Exhibition Hall. Lynne Bigwood and her assistant, Marjo Hewitson, played Northarvest's Bean Crazy game with 920 area 4th grade students. The event, "From Farm to Fork," is a learning experi-



ence about where food and other products the students, instructors and chaperones use in daily living come from. Jackie Buckley, NDSU Extension Service, along with her Morton County office staff coordinated the event. The other groups who presented lessons were: Mandan FFA - 2 livestock displays; ND Oilseed Council, ND Wheat Commission, and NDSU Extension Service staff from 10 counties presented "When I Grow Up...Careers in Agriculture" and Science in Agriculture—Polymers; substances that help soil retain moisture; Midwest Dairy Assn of ND, ND Soybean Council, ND Farmers Union – Farming Practices and Food Production; ND Honey Promotion, ND Beef Commission and Farm Bureau – Slice of Soil.



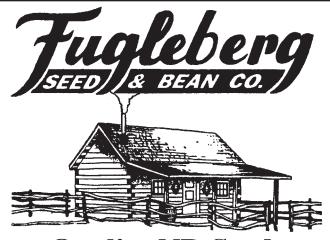
The Minot Living Ag Class-room was held at the KMOT-TV Ag Expo in Minot, ND, January 28 and 29, 2009. Eight hundred thirty seven area kids, mostly fourth grade students from 43 classrooms and home schools participated. They spent six minutes at 11 booths learning

about North Dakota agriculture. The teachers also took supplemental materials back to their classrooms including Northarvest's new BeanBop CD, Beans from the Heart of Northarvest DVD, Who's Laughing Now folate poster, plus student activity books and North Dakota # 1 bean producer sheets for each student. These students are trying to identify the nine classes of beans on the Bean Class poster.

The Society for Nutrition Educators Conference was held in Atlanta, GA July 19 – 23. Lynne Bigwood exhibited for Northarvest and attended the conference sessions as well. Northarvest introduced the new poster "Who's Laughing"



Now?" with a folate and fiber message: "Beans, such as pinto, black and navy, are excellent sources of both folate and fiber. Women of child-bearing age need 400 mcg of folate daily. The soluble and insoluble fiber in beans helps everyone with digestion and heart health. (½ cup of pinto beans contains 146 mcg folate and 6 grams fiber.)" The Dry Bean Class poster continues to be very popular. Paul Beanyan's updated message on the Nutritious, Delicious Beans poster is a great nutrition education message. Northarvest's new Spilling the Beans brochure, Black Bean Fiesta brochure, The Bean Cookbook with a full nutrition profile and a literature order sheet fit right into The Power Bean plastic bags.



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Northern Refried Pinto Beans: Try making northern-style refried beans with fresh cooked, leftover or canned pinto or black beans. They can be eaten as a vegetable with a meal or spread on a taco, burrito or quesadilla. Recipe and more information on page 28.