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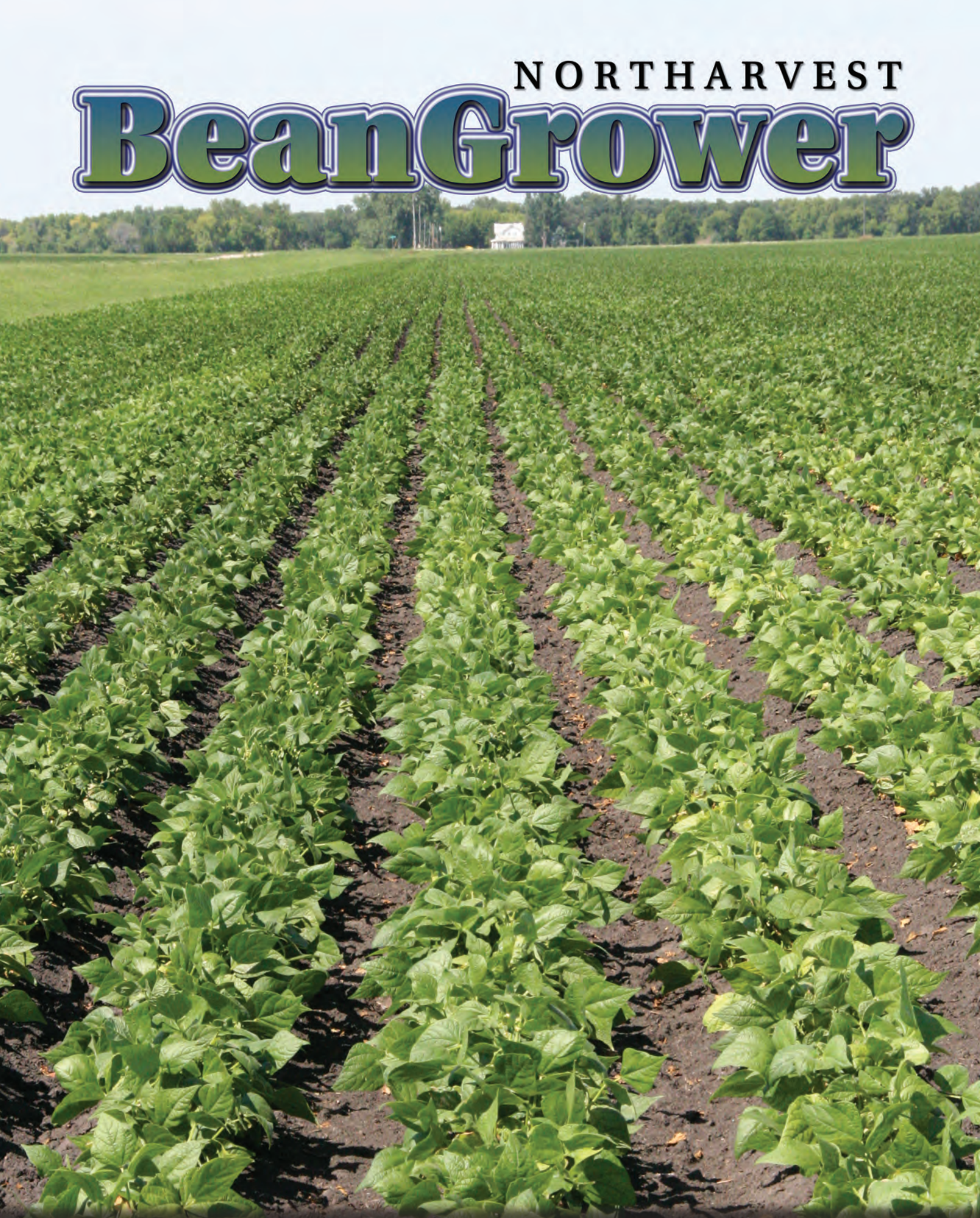

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NORTHARVEST
BeanGrower

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHARVEST BEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 15, Issue 4 Summer 2009

Features

Departments

Editorial Changes on the Horizon

Editorial staff changes will take place with the next issue of the "Bean Grower" magazine. Well-known farm broadcasters, Don Wick, Mike Hergert, and Randy Koenen of the Red River Farm Network, will take the reins as content editors for the magazine, a weekly email news report, and a weekly radio broadcast report starting this summer. "We would like to express our sincere thanks to Marlene Dufault of Prairie Ag Communications for her excellent role as the publication editor over the past year and a half," says Tim Courneya, executive director of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. "Marlene will continue her role as advertising sales associate for the magazine. Our decision to make editorial changes will allow us to expand our communications program to include other media including print, broadcast and internet, to keep our members on top of the issues affecting their industry," says Courneya. *(Cover Photo: Marlene Dufault)*

The Northarvest Bean Grower is published five times a year by the Northarvest Bean Growers Association, 50072 E. Lake Seven Road, Frazee, MN 56544, Phone: (218) 334-6351, Website: www.northarvestbean.org, Email: nhbean@loretel.net.

Send editorial materials to Don Wick or Mike Hergert, Ag Information Services, Inc., 1407 24th Avenue, So., Suite 235, Grand Forks, ND 58201, don@rrfn.com or mike@rrfn.com. Send advertising materials to Marlene Dufault, Prairie Ag Communications, 2607 Wheat Drive, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, 218-253-4391, mdufault@gvtel.com. Publication of editorial or advertising material in the Northarvest Bean Grower magazine does not imply endorsement by the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. Check agronomic advice with local sources and always read and follow product labels.

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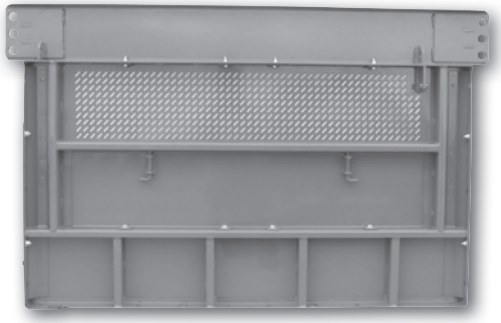

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BeanBriefs

Northarvest Bean Grower Elections

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association held a meeting March 2009 and all current officers were re-elected. Mark Streed, Milan MN and Dan Webster, Penn, ND were also re-elected to serve as director and alternate director to the U.S. Dry Bean Council. North Dakota Dry Bean Council also held Council elections for District 2 and 6. Incumbents Nick Kitsch, Webster, ND (District 2) and Robert Landgren, Wilton, ND (District 6) were re-elected to serve another term.

New publication celebrates North Dakota agriculture

A brochure recently released from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, highlights the productivity of North Dakota farmers and ranchers. It includes North Dakota's top agricultural commodities and agricultural exports, the state's ranking in 14 commodities, a summary of where the food dollar goes, and a listing of agricultural exports and features on renewable energy.

North Dakota leads the U.S. in the production of flax (96 percent), canola (90 percent), pinto beans (65 percent), dry edible peas (64 percent), durum (50 percent), navy beans (46 percent), spring wheat (45 percent), all sunflowers (44 percent), oil sunflowers (44 percent), confectionary sunflowers (42 percent), all dry edible beans (39 percent), barley (36 percent), lentils (35 percent) and honey (22 percent).

The pamphlet is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the North Dakota office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the North Dakota Farmers Union.

Six New USA Organic Dry Beans in Boxes

North America's senior natural food company, Eden Foods, Clinton, Michigan, recently introduced a line of six USA family farm organic dry beans in one-pound boxes. The boxes contain the heart of EDEN award winning canned beans that include unseasoned/unsalted, refried, seasoned, and rice & beans. The organic beans include black beans, garbanzo beans, green lentils, kidney beans, navy, and pintos. Many of the beans come from Michigan, North Dakota, California, Arizona, and New York.

Eden Organic Dry Beans are slowly field dried, cleaned, and packaged in reclosable boxes made of recycled and recyclable paperboard. Each box includes complete cooking instructions and an Easy Eden kitchen tested, wholesome recipe.

Cuba Restrictions Lifted

Earlier this spring, the Obama administration announced a series of changes in the United States policy towards Cuba. Specifically, the changes included abandoning restrictions on family travel, remittances and gifts to Cuba, and opening telecommunications. According to Jonathan Coleman, chief of the Agricultural and Fisheries Division of the U.S. International Trade Commission sales of agricultural products to Cuba in 2008 could have been worth more than $1 billion if current financing and travel restrictions had not been in place Although these specific policy changes won't necessarily affect the dry bean industry, it is a step in the right direction toward normalizing U.S.- Cuba trade policies.

Michigan Dry Bean Producers Approve Continuation Referendum

Michigan dry bean producers have approved a referendum to continue the Michigan Bean Commission and its activities. The Michigan Bean Commission and program will continue for an additional five years beginning Jan. 1, 2010, and ending Dec. 31, 2014. The current assessment is $.10 per hundredweight sold.

Nebraska Dry Bean Producers Receive USDA Assistance

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman received word that U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack authorized the USDA to purchase up to $25 million of dry beans to assist the dry bean industry, which has been distressed in recent months.

Governor Heineman recently wrote a letter to Ag Secretary Vilsack requesting help in handling the bloated market for Nebraska's dry bean industry. The dry bean producers there have not been able to find domestic or foreign markets for the supply of 2008 great northern beans. Nebraska has been hammered by a large crop and the plummeting demand because of the down turned economy. The state asked the USDA to purchase 25,000 metric tons of great northerns, which will help align the supply and demand.

The news is critical to Nebraska dry bean producers, who raised roughly 85 percent of the 2008 U.S. great northern bean crop.

Estimating Crop Residue from Space via Satellite

How much of America's croplands are being farmed using conservation tillage? Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are developing techniques to use satellites to answer how much of America's croplands are being farmed using conservation tillage. Each spring, the ARS researchers go to Midwestern fields to check residue levels and compare their estimates to infrared digital pictures taken by experimental satellites and to hyperspectral images taken from aircraft. ARS scientists are working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop an accurate measurement method for use by NRCS.

Continued on Next Page

Discovery may solve devastating rust fungus issue for dry and snap bean growers

The detection of 3,000 proteins produced in plants of common beans could help breeders develop resistance against the bean rust fungus, *Uromyces appendiculatus*, which is a major concern for domestic dry bean and snap bean growers. This rust is prevalent throughout the continental United States, according to research by ARS scientists and cooperators.

Plant pathologist Bret Cooper, at the ARS Soybean Genomics and Improvement Laboratory (SGIL) in Beltsville, Md., leads the research, which could help scientists determine which proteins produced in bean plants are involved in providing resistance to rust fungus.

Until recently, disease resistance genes and the proteins they produce were studied one at a time, but Cooper and his team used a process called high-throughput mass spectrometry to identify, at a much faster rate, proteins by their unique molecular mass. With this technology, they evaluated more than 3,000 rust resistance proteins in beans over the course of two-and-a-half years, and measured how protein levels change in plants, and which ones provide disease resistance.

This study revealed more than 1,500 "molecular battles" - interactions between the fungus and the plant - and led to the identification of a potential set of proteins thought to be master regulators of a strong resistance response in the plant. This new information may help breeders improve bean varieties that are currently threatened by rust.

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Fertilizer Considerations after Flooding

Many producers had planting delays in the Red River Valley this spring due to record overland flooding and untimely rain showers. How will this affect their fertilizer decisions?

Dave Franzen, NDSU Extension Soil Specialist, says fertilizer supplies are good and costs are lower compared to last spring. Hardly any fertilizer was applied in the Valley region last fall, whereas in most years more than half is applied. More than half of the fertilizer nitrogen in the state is normally anhydrous ammonia. However, with wet soils, it will be impractical to apply ammonia due to the mucky conditions in medium and heavier soils this spring. He expects that many growers will choose to broadcast urea, band urea, and in some cases even broadcast or band liquid 28-0-0. "In many years, the cost of 28-0-0 (UAN) is substantially higher than urea, but this year costs are often very similar. Because of the small difference in costs there might be UAN used, particularly if custom-applied by the retailer who is set up with a sprayer and nurse equipment."

One option Franzen suggested for row crops would be to delay ammonia application until side-dress season, when corn and rowed sunflowers are at 4-6 leaves. "If the weather continues to be wet through this period and anhydrous is still impractical to use, rigging an applicator with coulters and dribbling UAN into the shallow slit made by the coulter, or even dribbling UAN between the rows on the soil surface is often an acceptable method of application," he says.

Small grains need their N at seeding or before. Small grains grow so quickly that the logistics and weather cooperation required to make delayed N application work often is thwarted. Dry weather following a top-dress application can result in N not getting to the plants early enough for full benefit. A series of studies across the state several years ago showed that using top-dress N application was not as consistently efficient as preplant N applications. Even though it was wet this spring, it could be dry during a critical stage of growth and the top-dressed N would be rendered inefficient as a result.

Growers should definitely apply a small amount of starter P with the crop, but beyond that the planting delays are critical to avoid. If a grower is forced to seed and fertilize later, urea or UAN can be used. If urea is used and the forecast for at least ½ inch of rain is less than 90% chance in the next couple days, have the urea impregnated with Agrotain® to have about 10 days of assurance that the urea will not be lost. Another option is to stream-bar UAN as soon as possible after seeding. Half of the UAN is ammonium nitrate, which cannot be lost by volatilization of urea, and the urea half is aided by the concentrated effect of surface banding, which reduces the rate of urease enzyme activity and subsequent urea loss.

If fall anhydrous was applied last year after soils cooled (this would after October 15 in the SE part of the state in 2008) then any flooding to date has had little if any effect on residual N. Also, soils in the SE part of the state did not lose their surface frost until about April 10. A grower can access local information by going to the NDAWN website (http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu) and clicking on bare soil temperature for the nearest NDAWN station. This

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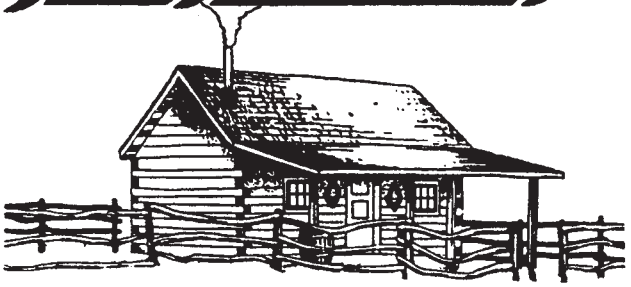

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means that any residual N that was present before freeze-up (Thanksgiving week, 2008) and April 10 was frozen in place. If flooding was present after that date, then that N will start to change into nitrous oxide gas through the activity of denitrifying microorganisms and may be lost. Also, even if water does not cover the soil, but the soil remains saturated denitrification losses could occur.

Because of the wetness last fall from lighter soils including sandy loams and loamy sand, textures were subject to nitrate and sulfate leaching. Any continued wetness from about April 10 on in SE North Dakota and whenever the frost leaves the rest of the state will result in substantial nitrate and sulfate leaching. Growers may benefit from the application of sulfate forms of sulfur on sandier soils less than 3% in organic matter, especially on hilltops and slopes this spring. Heavier soils in depressions and footslopes and soils higher than 3% organic matter are far less likely to need S even this spring. Any crop grown in the region will respond to S if it is short. Growers with sandy soils should also consider that any residual N tested for in early fall 2008 will probably not be as high when planting finally takes place and rates may need to be higher than originally planned for. Loam soils or heavier will probably not require enhancement. Franzen expects our spring organic matter/residue N mineralization rates to be much higher this spring than last year. This should fill in any gaps in leaching from early fall through this pre-plant spring period.

For any questions regarding fertilizer, contact Dave Franzen at david.franzen@ndsu.edu.

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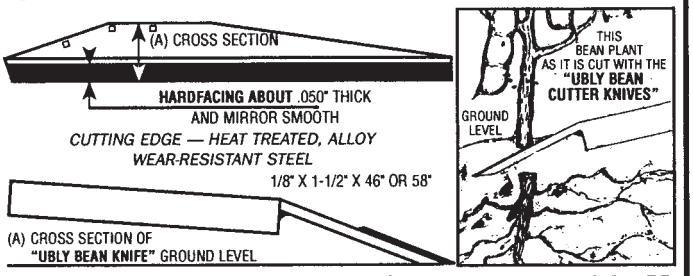

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Disease Outlook for 2009

By Sam Markell and Rubella Goswami, Department of Plant Pathology, NDSU

Predicting disease outbreaks is like predicting how your favorite sports team's season will go. You go into the season knowing what positions are your strengths and weakness, optimize your schedule if possible, and cheer as loud as possible with your fingers crossed. Ultimately however, you can't predict injuries, bad calls, bad matchups or games played in blizzards. Likewise, you know your beans might be stronger fighting off some diseases, you try to optimize planting and growing conditions if possible, and you cheer with your fingers crossed. Ultimately however, you can't predict unfavorable growing conditions leading to stressed beans, pathogen race changes and favorable disease environments. With all that in mind, here is the 2009 scouting report!

Bean Rust

Potential game changer for this year's season. In past years, most varieties of beans were resistant to rust, which made the disease a non-issue. However, a very significant race change occurred late last season. This new race is able to infect beans in all classes (pinto, navy, kidney, black, etc..), and until proven otherwise, all varieties should now be considered susceptible to rust.

There is no guarantee that rust will impact us this year, or next, or the year after. But when it does, we need to be ready. When rust was menacing many years ago, it was usually only problematic during seasons that were relatively cool, and when disease developed early in the season. The occurrence of rust is also a bit of a wild card in 2009 for two important reasons. First, this race was initially discovered in an area centered in northern Traill County, and we are uncertain how far it has spread. It has the capability of moving quickly, but may be localized initially. Secondly, rust needs dew to cause infection. So, rust can blow up on you in a drought year or a wet year as long as there is enough dew to go around.

We can manage rust, but we need to scout vigilantly. In our opinion, there are no diseases where scouting it is more critical than rusts. In the span of a couple weeks (under the right conditions) the disease can progress from a trace to an epidemic. If rust is detected early, a fungicide application can manage the disease very effectively. Whereas if it is not found until late, yield loss has likely occurred, and fungicide applications won't effectively manage the disease. More information about bean rust biology, symptoms, and management is available in the Spring 2009 issue of BeanGrower.

Bacterial Blights

A painful threat in every season. The bacterial blight pathogens need water to flourish, and are most severe when environmental conditions physically damage the plants; high wind, heavy rain, hail, etc… There is not a lot you can do about bacterial blights once you get them. The best strategy is using clean seed and sound crop rotations, and cross your fingers.

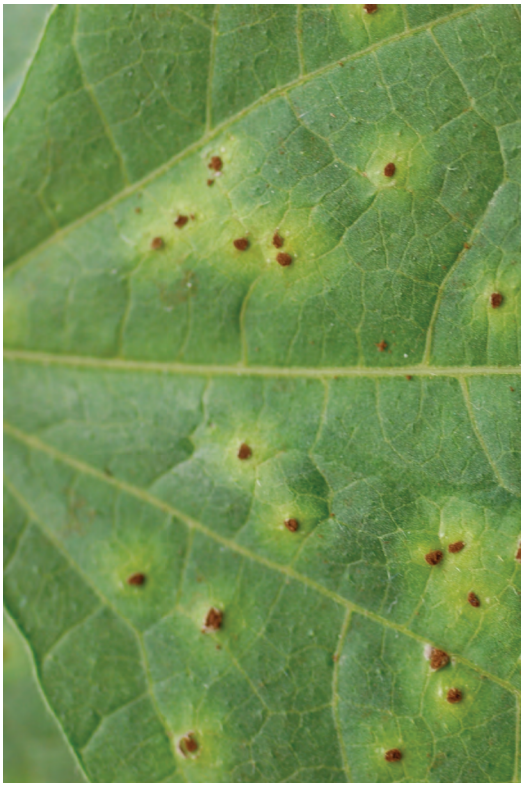
White mold

Always a wild card. When we get an inch or two of rain within a week or two of flowering, we are at risk. However, for the disease to develop we need humidity during flowering. Under these two conditions, white mold becomes a major player. Fungicide applications during early bloom can be a good investment in this environment.

Root Rots

Could play a role if conditions allow. Cool and relatively wet soils generally favor root rots. We have a lot of water out there, but you obviously can't

Bean Rust (photo: Sam Markell)



Bean Rust (photo: Sam Markell)

Bacterial Blight (photo: Sam Markell)

Anthracnose (photo: Carl Bradley)

plant into wet soils. If soils stay cool and we get more rain after planting, they could be a major player. Unfortunately, we can't do much to manage them once the seeds are in the ground.

Anthracnose

The sleeper. Anthracnose has not really materialized in any previous season; and there are no suggestions that it will, or will not, this year. However, anthracnose can do a lot of damage so keep it in the back of your mind. Remember, rust had not been an issue for many seasons past, but now, it may be the most important player this season. Our only suggestion about anthracnose is to keep your eyes open.

Best of luck in 2009!

Root Rot (photos: Juan Osorno and Rubella Goswami)

Scientists Identify Rust Resistance Genes in Soybeans

Using state-of-the-art genomics techniques, a team of scientists from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Iowa State University (ISU) and Brazil have identified a cluster of soybean genes that provide resistance to the fungus *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, which causes Asian soybean rust (ASR). The discovery will help defend the $27 billion U.S. soybean crop against ASR, through conventional breeding or biotechnological means.

ASR was first detected in the continental United States in 2004. Although fungicide use is effective against ASR, providing farmers with resistant cultivars is more sustainable, according to geneticist Michelle Graham. She's with the ARS Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit in Ames, Iowa.

Genetic mapping previously linked ASR resistance to five DNA regions, or "loci," within the soybean genome, named Rpp1 through Rpp5. Screening of 15,000 accessions in the ARS soybean germplasm collection revealed how uncommon resistance is: Less than 5 percent of the accessions are resistant.

Graham's group sequenced the Rpp4 locus and identified a cluster of candidate genes that confer ASR resistance. Comparisons of susceptible and resistant cultivars identified a single candidate gene, Rpp4C4, thought to bestow resistance. Rpp4C4 is one of five nearly identical genes in the Rpp4 locus. Frequent "shuffling" or recombination within the cluster allowed new disease resistance genes to be formed.

For example, soybean cultivar Williams82 has three resistance genes in the cluster and lacks Rpp4C4, making it vulnerable to ASR. However, line PI459025B, the source of Rpp4 resistance, has five candidate genes. "Virus-induced gene silencing" studies were used to turn off the Rpp4 candidate genes in PI459025B, making it susceptible to ASR and confirming the genes' importance.

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FOB Price Report

including prices since 2009-05-04 as of Monday, May 18, 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	39.00	41.00	40.00	28.00	38.00	32.33
#1 - Premium Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	34.00	34.00	34.00			
#1 - Premium Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	30.00	30.50	30.25	22.00	29.00	24.67
#1 - Good Color	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	38.00	41.00	39.50	31.00	37.00	34.00
#1 - Good Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	32.00	32.00	32.00			
#1 - Good Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	30.00	31.00	30.20	22.00	29.00	24.38
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	41.00	41.00	41.00	31.00	36.00	33.50
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	30.00	30.00	30.00			
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	28.00	30.00	29.38	22.00	29.00	24.15
#2	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	29.00	29.00	29.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Splits	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	24.00	24.00	24.00			
Splits	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	21.00	21.00	21.00			
		2008 Dealer Price (USD/cwt)			**2008 Grower Price (USD/cwt)**		
	Region	**Low**	**High**	**Avg**	**Low**	**High**	**Avg**
Beans - Pinto							
#1 - Premium Color	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	36.00	45.00	40.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
#1 - Premium Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.00	40.00	38.00	27.00	34.00	29.67
#1 - Premium Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	30.00	30.75	30.38	23.16	25.00	24.34
#1 - Good Color	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	36.00	44.00	39.75	28.00	30.00	29.33
#1 - Good Color	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	37.00	37.00	37.00	27.00	28.00	27.50
#1 - Good Color	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	30.00	33.00	31.25	22.30	25.00	24.48
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	ID/MT/NM/OR/WA	37.00	43.00	40.33	30.00	30.00	30.00
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	35.00	37.00	36.33	27.00	28.00	27.50
#1 - Fair/Average Quality (FAQ)	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	29.00	33.00	30.43	21.45	25.00	24.25
#2	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	32.00	32.00	32.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
Splits	AB/CO/KS/NE/UT/WY	22.00	23.00	22.50			
Splits	MB/MN/ND/SD/SK	18.00	23.00	20.50			

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NORTHARVEST

MarketOutlook

Acreage Expected To Rise in 2009

According to the USDA's Prospective Plantings report, area planted to dry edible beans is expected to rise 3 percent this spring from last year's 1.5 million acres (Table 1). The acreage estimates in this report are based on producers' planting intentions surveyed during the first 2 weeks of March. As one would expect, actual acreage may not match intentions as producers adjust their business plans over the next few months based on weather and various price and income expectations. Dry bean area is up largely because prices for most classes of dry beans are running at or above the average of the three previous years and remain competitive with prices for alternative crops like wheat, corn, and soybeans. Acreage is expected to rise or remain stable in 14 of the 17 surveyed States with the U.S. total virtually identical to the average planted area over the previous 3 years. Despite greater area, given average weather, acreage losses, and yields (the average of yields over the past 3 years would be about 4 percent lower than the highs of 2008), a smaller dry bean crop would be in store for 2009. The next acreage estimate for dry beans will be released in the June 30 Acreage report.

According to the March Prospective Plantings:

- North Dakota, the leading producer of all dry beans (including pinto and navy), indicated no increase in area planted compared with last year. The late March flood in the Red River Valley is not expected to affect plantings later this spring;
- Michigan, the second-leading producer in 2008 and the top source for black beans, plans to increase seeded area 5 percent;
- Minnesota plans a 3-percent increase in dry bean area to 155,000 acres - the largest area since 2002;
- Colorado indicated no change to dry bean area for 2009, remaining at 48,000 acres for the third consecutive year, down from an average of 169,000 acres during 1994-98;
- California expects to plant 60,000 acres of dry beans, up 15 percent from a year ago and the first increase since 2006. A shortage of irrigation water could prevent these intentions

Continued on Next Page

TABLE 1. Dry Edible Beans Planted Area[1]

Item	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[f]	2008-09
			1,000 Acres			Percent Change
North Dakota	620.0	670.0	690.0	660.0	660.0	0
Michigan	235.0	225.0	200.0	200.0	210.0	5
Minnesota	145.0	145.0	150.0	150.0	155.0	3
Nebraska	175.0	140.0	110.0	135.0	115.0	-15
Idaho	100.0	105.0	90.0	80.0	95.0	19
California	66.0	67.0	59.0	52.0	60.0	15
Washington	49.0	61.0	60.0	50.0	60.0	20
Colorado	83.0	63.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	0
Texas	17.0	20.0	17.0	24.0	41.0	71
Wyoming	34.0	29.0	25.0	31.5	34.0	8
New York	25.0	19.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	0
Montana	18.0	19.5	18.3	11.2	10.7	-4
Others	56.0	59.3	43.1	36.3	40.4	11
U.S.	1,623.0	1,622.8	1,527.4	1,495.0	1,546.1	3

[f]Prospective area. [1]Excludes garden seed.
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Prospective Plantings.

Table 2. U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2008-09[1]

Commodity	2008		2009		Chg. prev. year:	
	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.[2]	Mar.	Apr.
	Cents/pound				Percent	
All dry beans	32.20	34.30	28.80	--	-10.6	--
Pinto (ND/MN)	29.75	29.20	24.00	24.00	--	-17.8
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	34.00	36.10	24.80	24.00	-27.1	-33.5
Great Northern (NE/WY)	35.75	38.00	--	--	--	--
Black (MI)	33.69	35.42	32.00	30.00	-5.0	-15.3
Light red kidney (MI)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Baby lima (CA)	41.50	--	54.75	53.00	31.9	--
Large lima (CA)	62.50	63.00	70.00	70.00	12.0	11.1
Blackeye (CA)	38.50	--	--	--	--	--
Small red (WA/ID)	41.00	41.00	39.00	--	-4.9	--
Pink (WA/ID)	31.67	32.00	38.00	--	20.0	--
Garbanzo (WA/ID)	32.83	34.67	27.00	25.00	-17.8	-27.9

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

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

from being fully realized;

- Nebraska, the leading source of Great Northern beans and the second-leading source of pinto beans, indicated a 15-percent decline in dry bean area. High prices and limited markets for the ample 2008 crop have left burdensome stocks which weighed heavily on grower intentions for 2009. The preliminary 2008/09 marketing year average grower price for all dry beans was estimated at $37.70 per hundredweight (cwt) - up 31 percent from a year earlier and 71-percent above 2 years ago. Given the sharp decline in monthly commodity prices since last fall, the final 2008/09 average price will likely average a few dollars below the preliminary estimate. In March, the grower price for all dry beans averaged 11 percent below a year earlier. Among the major dry-bean-growing States, prices were lower in North Dakota, Nebraska, Michigan, and Colorado. The concentrated production of such classes as lima and blackeye in California and small red and pink in Idaho served to push average dry bean prices above a year earlier in those two States.

In early April, grower prices were running below the unusual highs of a year earlier for the majority of dry bean classes. At $24 per cwt (upper Midwest origin), grower prices for pintos are now averaging 19 percent below the highs experienced a year earlier and are just above 2 years earlier. Navy bean prices were 34 percent lower than a year earlier (but still attractive compared with prices 2 and 3 years ago). Black bean prices averaged 15 percent below a year ago but were 15 percent above 2 years ago. Although prices for small red beans were down 5 percent from last year, they were 65 percent above those of 2 years ago. With the exception of large chickpeas (garbanzo beans), prices for the major bean classes produced in California remained above a year earlier, including baby lima, large lima, and blackeyes. After beginning the marketing year on a strong note, garbanzo bean prices began to fall and are now down 24 percent from a year earlier and are also below the prices received 2 years ago. With prices lower, growers intend to plant 3 percent fewer large chickpeas in 2009.

Per Capita Use Declines

After rising for three consecutive years, net domestic disappearance of dry edible beans declined 7 percent in calendar year 2008 to 1.9 billion pounds. Although total dry-bean supply increased for the fourth consecutive year (up 2 percent), a surge in foreign demand left a smaller residual for the domestic market. In calendar year 2008, dry bean exports rose 35 percent to 908 million pounds—the largest foreign movement since 1998. At the same time, consumers have been buffeted by rising economic uncertainty with unemployment up and disposable incomes down. In fact, 2009 is expected to mark the first time in more than 40 years that consumer spending declines in not only the United States, but in all major developed countries.

Despite higher retail prices, dry beans remain an economical protein source that some consumers have yet to rediscover or in the case of younger consumers not accustomed to severe recessions—discover for the first time in their adult lives. Also, with the economic downturn, it is possible some recent Latin and Hispanic immigrants (whose diets heavily favor dry beans) may have returned to their homelands to wait out the recession. As a result, 2008 per capita net disappearance of dry beans declined 8 percent to 6.3 pounds—reversing a string of three consecutive annual gains in dry-bean consumption. Some slight improvement in domestic dry-bean use is expected in 2009 as prices begin to decline across more bean

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classes, export demand eases, and cash-strapped consumers begin to rediscover the protein value in dry beans.

In 2008, reductions in net disappearance were noted for both white (down 15 percent) and nonwhite bean (down 6 percent) classes. White beans (e.g., navy, Great Northern, baby lima) accounted for just 19 percent of all dry beans used domestically, down from 24 percent a decade earlier. Meanwhile, nonwhite beans (e.g., pinto, dark red kidney, black) continue to wrest market share from the white bean classes, led by garbanzo and black beans. Per capita use of black beans totaled 0.66 pounds, down 4 percent from a year ago but 27 percent above a decade earlier. Dark red kidney beans, which in the 1990s relied on the export market for 40 to 50 percent of sales, continued to experience stronger domestic disappearance as export markets dwindled with increasing world competition. With more reliance now on the U.S. market, per capita use was estimated to be 0.29 pounds in 2008, the highest since 1990 when estimates for the class began. Strong domestic production, increased imports, and lower exports resulted in the best domestic disappearance on record at 88 million pounds. However, with an expected smaller crop and reduced imports offsetting the effect of lower prices, dark red kidney bean use is expected to decline slightly in 2009 but remain among the highest since 1990.

TABLE 3. U.S. Dry Edible Beans: Per Capita Disappearance (Net Domestic Use)[1]

Item	Average 2000-04	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[f]
			Pounds/Person			
Pinto	3.15	2.56	2.71	2.95	2.71	2.75
Navy (pea)	0.89	0.66	0.94	0.98	0.86	0.86
Black	0.50	0.49	0.54	0.69	0.67	0.67
Great Northern	0.41	0.29	0.29	0.30	0.20	0.21
Light red kidney	0.30	0.34	0.21	0.30	0.26	0.27
Garbanzo	0.29	0.29	0.44	0.45	0.32	0.49
Blackeye	0.20	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.19	0.15
Dark-red kidney	0.22	0.28	0.22	0.21	0.29	0.27
Pink	0.15	0.21	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.18
Small red	0.13	0.25	0.19	0.18	0.27	0.25
Cranberry	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03
Large lima	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.09
Baby lima	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.05
Others 2/	0.32	0.39	0.31	0.31	0.22	0.16
All dry beans	6.79	6.11	6.36	6.82	6.30	6.43

[f]ERS forecast. Calendar year estimates. Includes net trade.
[1]Disappearance is a proxy estimate for consumption. [2]Includes small white and all others.
Source: Estimates developed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

TABLE 4. U.S. Dry Beans: Crop Year Export Volume to Date

Item	Crop Year	September - February			Change
	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2007-08
		1,000 cwt			Percent
Pinto	2,204	1,273	1,148	1,740	52
Navy	1,532	722	599	1,038	73
Black	980	526	378	927	146
Garbanzo	515	267	305	154	-50
Great Northern	766	239	323	258	-20
Baby lima	248	169	147	103	-30
Light red kidney	185	120	89	104	17
Dark red kidney	267	77	152	53	-65
Cranberry	97	65	58	36	-37
Large lima	74	74	60	63	5
Small red	73	38	45	51	13
Mung & urd	27	15	11	15	33
Blackeye	22	11	15	12	-21
Pink	56	9	43	7	-83
Other	1,146	168	481	329	-32
Total	8,191	3,774	3,855	4,890	27

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

Exports Up 27 Percent

During the first 6 months of the marketing year (September 2008-February 2009), U.S. exports of dry beans increased 27 percent from a year earlier to 4.9 million bags (cwt). Among the leading dry bean classes, exports of black (up 146 percent), navy (73 percent), and pintos (up 52 percent) posted the largest increases. The leading destinations for U.S. dry beans during the first 6 months of the crop year were Mexico (25 percent of total volume), Canada (12 percent), the United Kingdom (11 percent), and South Africa (9 percent). Exports to Mexico (up 75 percent) and Canada (up 45 percent) each increased despite higher U.S. prices because of reduced domestic supplies in those nations.

Volume was up black beans and for pintos due largely to increased demand from Mexico, while the healthy increase in navy bean exports was attributed to higher demand from Canada, the United Kingdom, and Mexico. Although the value of the dollar is expected to gain more strength against the Mexican peso and the Canadian dollar and begin chipping away at export value later in 2009, it is projected to fall less than 10 percent against the British pound and the Euro, helping to maintain dry bean exports in that region.

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Canada: Pulse and Special Crops Outlook

For 2009-10, total area seeded to P&SC in Canada is expected to rise marginally from 2008-09. The areas seeded to dry peas, lentils and mustard seed are expected to increase while are areas seeded to dry beans, chickpeas, canary seed and sunflower seed are expected to decrease. Statistics Canada's (STC) seeding intentions survey, conducted during March and released on April 24, provided estimates for most pulse and special crops by province, but in some cases the area seeded has been forecast by AAFC. The actual seeded areas may differ from the intentions due to changes in the market outlook, expected prices, producer reaction to the STC seeding intentions report and soil moisture conditions at the time of seeding. It is assumed that precipitation will be normal for the growing and harvest periods and that the abandonment rate and quality will be normal. Trend yields are assumed for both western and eastern Canada.

Total production in Canada is forecast to be largely unchanged at 5.3 million tonnes (Mt). However, total supply is expected to rise by 8% to 6.4 Mt, due to large carry-in stocks. Exports and domestic use are forecast to rise due to the higher supply. Carry-out stocks are expected to rise from 2008-09 for most crops. Average prices are generally forecast to fall except for chickpeas and canary seed which are forecast to average the same as 2008-09.

DRY BEANS -- For 2009-10, producers intend to decrease seeded area sharply from 2008-09 because of good prices for alternative crops which are easier to produce. Production and supply are also expected to fall as a result. Canadian exports are forecast to decrease due to the lower supply and carry-out stocks are expected to fall marginally. The average price is

forecast to decrease marginally, but remain historically high, due to the lower U.S. and Canadian supply.

CHICKPEAS -- For 2009-10, producers intend to decrease seeded area from 2008-09. Production and supply are expected to fall sharply for the second consecutive year. 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.

Extended Sign-up Dates for DCP, ACRE Programs and certain CRP Contracts

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced that USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program.

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will offer certain producers the opportunity to modify and extend their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2009. A general CRP signup is not scheduled during fiscal year 2009. However, producers may continue to enroll relatively small, highly-desirable acreages, including land that is not extended, into Continuous CRP. FSA began notifying participants by letter beginning May 6, 2009. The sign-up for this voluntary extension began on May 18 and will run through June 30, 2009. Farmers and ranchers may apply for this extension at their FSA county office. Producers electing to extend their contract period will receive their current contract rental rate. All or a portion of the acreage under contract may be included in an extension, but no new acreage may be added.

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Weed Control Issues

By Jeff Stachler, NDSU Agronomist - Weed Science
jeff.stachler@ndsu.edu

The excessive moisture and flooding this spring may impact weed management this spring. If planting is completed before mid-May, few adjustments in weed management will be needed, with a few exceptions. As planting is delayed beyond mid-May weed management programs should be critically evaluated and changes may be necessary. Flood waters will have some impact upon weed populations. The delayed harvest of crops last fall may increase the likelihood of volunteer corn and soybeans. Special management of volunteer Roundup Ready crops will be needed. The weed management issues listed below should be reviewed to determine necessary changes in your weed management program.

1. Control of volunteer Roundup-Ready crops. Volunteer crops may be more prevalent this year due to the delayed harvest in 2008. Consult pages 19 and 74 of the 2009 North Dakota Weed Control Guide (see sidebar) for the effectiveness of various herbicides to control volunteer Roundup-Ready crops. Select Max controls volunteer Roundup Ready corn more effectively than clethodim 2 EC formulations (Arrow, Clethodim, Intensity, Section, Shadow, Trigger, and Volunteer) when used at equivalent active ingredient rates. However, the Select Max label recommends a lower use rate, which can compromise control.

2. Impact upon weed populations from flooding. Buoyant weed seeds can be picked up by flowing water from one area and be deposited to another area downstream. Buoyant weed seeds are usually deposited along the waters edge where other trash is deposited. Areas lower in topography in which water stood for an extended period of time will allow dense weed seeds to be deposited. This allows for the spread of weed species or biotypes not previously present in a field. Common cocklebur is a great example of a very buoyant seed. Herbicide-resistant seeds may have been moved from one field to another by moving water. Scout fields before planting and before herbicide applications to determine the presence of introduced weed species. Fields should also be scouted after all herbicide applications to determine the effectiveness of the application in case difficult to control weed biotypes entered from another field.

3. Impact upon preemergence herbicides with delayed planting. With the increase usage of preemergence herbicides, especially in corn and soybeans, a few reminders are important. All residual type herbicides require rainfall/water for activation. Some herbicides require less rainfall for

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Weeds – A Fact of Farming Scourge

Weeds. According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, the definition of the word weed is, 'a plant of no value' and 'one that tends to overgrow or choke out the more desirable plants.' Producers probably have their own definition, one that we are not able to print, but the fact is, weeds are an undesirable curse of farming operations.

Many growers want to know are weeds going to be more difficult to control because of the massive flooding of agricultural lands this spring? Richard Zollinger, NDSU extension weed specialist, says yes and no. "Weed seed can flow with water," he says. "So if the grower happens to own land where it was flooded and deposited, there could be more weeds or a different spectrum of weeds than what the grower has been dealing with before." Or, if water moved from one piece of land to another, the water where it was running, the land might have fewer weeds. "It can be a different weed situation, depending on the water flow and the final resting place of that water." In other words, the growers might be dealing with weeds they might not have had before. Weed seed is distributed throughout the profile of the soil so weed seed that is on top of the soil would be affected by the flooding and moving with the water. Unfortunately, the weed seed won't die because the land was flooded. "It will be pretty much back to Weeds 101,"says Zollinger. "It is back-to-the-basics in weed control."

The 2009 Weed Control Guide is now available, Zollinger says. There are a few minor changes from last year's guide including lowering the herbicide Assure II rate from eight to seven fluid ounces for annual and quackgrass control. The control guide can be found at can be found at www.ndsu.edu/weeds/weed_control_guides/2009_weed_control_guide.

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activation compared to others. Incorporating preemergence herbicides usually improves weed control. As planting is delayed into late-May and early-June, the chances of rainfall diminish, which reduces the opportunity for herbicide activation. As planting is drastically delayed more weeds will be present at the time of tillage or preplant herbicide applications compared to early planting. A reduction in weed density during the growing season usually occurs when weeds are removed late in the spring before planting. Therefore, the later a crop is planted the greater the risk that a preemergence herbicide will not be activated and fewer weeds should be present during the growing season.

4. Impact upon preplant herbicide applications in no-tillage with delayed planting. Weeds will be larger at the time of a preplant application as planting is delayed. Use the appropriate herbicide and rate for the weed species present and size of weeds at the time of the preplant application. If 2,4-D is removed from the preplant application due to a desire to plant corn and soybeans earlier, increase the rate of the non-selective herbicide being used. This is especially true for those species more effectively controlled when 2,4-D is mixed with the non-selective herbicide. If glyphosate-resistant weeds are known to be present in a field, keep the 2,4-D in the preplant herbicide mixture and delay planting or use a high rate of paraquat or Ignite or some other effective preplant alternative herbicide. Another option may be to apply glyphosate at 2.25 lb ae/A or greater as long as the weeds are less than 4" tall.

5. Impact upon postemergence herbicides if a preemergence herbicide is not applied. If a preemergence herbicide is not applied to control early season weed species, then the postemergence herbicide must be applied to small (less than 2-3") weeds for maximum control. Glyphosate-resistant weed biotypes should be more effectively controlled from a glyphosate application to 1-inch weeds compared to weeds greater than 1 inch. If planting is drastically delayed, fewer postemergence herbicide applications should be required compared to early planting.

6. Herbicide carryover. Please remember to consider what herbicides have been previously applied if a change in crop rotation is necessary.

Useful Weed Resources

2009 ND Weed Control Guide
www.ndsu.edu/weeds/weed_control_guides/2009_weed_control_guide
C-Far Weed Identification
weedid.aces.uiuc.edu/index.html
NDSU Insect Management Recommendations
www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/entupdates/ICG_09/03_Beans09.pdf
Crop Profile for Dry Edible Beans in North Dakota
www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/ndpiap/ND_Crop_Profiles/Dry_Bean/ND_dry_bean_profile.htm
The Glyphosate, Weeds, and Crops Website
www.glyphosateweedscrops.org
Bean Improvement Cooperative
www.css.msu.edu/bic/Links.cfm

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U.S. Agriculture and the World Economic Crisis

The USDA/ERS recently released a report on the World Economic Crisis and What it Means for U.S. Agriculture. Below are edited excerpts of the report.

The 2008-09 world economic crisis has major impacts and consequences on U.S. agriculture. Declining incomes around the world, weakening of global demand because of emerging recessions and short-term appreciation of the dollar result in significant declines in U.S. agricultural exports and sharply lowered agricultural prices, farm income, and employment, compared with those in 2007-08.

The good news is the effects of the crisis are expected to be less severe for U.S. agriculture than for many other sectors of the U.S. economy. So far, the overall impact on U.S agriculture is not as severe as on the broader U.S. economy because the record-high agricultural exports, prices and farm income in 2007 and 2008 put U.S. farmers on solid financial ground. The outcome for U.S. agriculture depends on whether or not there is a global realignment of exchange rates to correct current macroeconomic imbalances.

Direct Effects of the Economic Crisis on U.S. Agriculture

The economic crisis will have direct and indirect effects on U.S. agriculture. The direct effects will come from changes within the U.S. economy. The indirect effects will stem from the impacts of the crisis on foreign income, trade, and world energy prices. The direct effect of the crisis on U.S. agriculture is expected to be modest. Most U.S. consumers have a sufficiently high standard of living that demand for food is not very sensitive to changes in income. Some food spending will be affected by the health of the general economy, which, in turn, affects the use of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs.

Total consumer expenditures on food (including food away from home) will fall, but the amount of food actually consumed will not. This will likely result in a changing composition of demand for agricultural commodities and products and, thereby, a fall in some agricultural prices. For example, demand may shift from more expensive beef and fish to less expensive meats, such as poultry.

On the supply side, the disruption of overall U.S. financial markets could inhibit lending to farmers and agribusinesses. Agribusinesses heavily dependent on credit could be constrained, which, in turn, could lower demand for agricultural inputs. Yet, most rural banks that lend to farmers are not closely tied to the financial world that created, and is now suffering from, the financial crisis. Agricultural borrowers and lenders tend to have secure long-term relationships, which should

Continued on Next Page

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mitigate the crisis's effect on the flow of loans to farmers.

Indirect Effects of the Economic Crisis on U.S. Agriculture

The main indirect effects of the crisis will come from its impacts on GDP (gross domestic product) and income in overseas markets, especially in countries that are large importers of U.S. agricultural goods; on energy prices (which are falling because of the decline in world economic activity); and on the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies. While it has been shown that foreign income and exchange rates are major determinants of levels of U.S. agriculture exports, their impacts on high-value products differ significantly from those on bulk commodities. U.S. agriculture exports of high-value agricultural products tend to be more sensitive to changes in foreign income growth and less sensitive to exchange rate changes than those of bulk commodity exports.

Gross Domestic Product

Although demand for food in the United States and other wealthier developed countries is highly unresponsive to changes in consumer income, this is not the case for developing countries. A major contraction in these countries' GDP could cut spending on food and industrial demand for agricultural products substantially. Countries that are large markets for U.S. agriculture could reduce their imports. By the end of 2008, there was evidence that this was already happening in China, Taiwan, Mexico, Egypt, and Russia

The fall in energy prices will have a negative demand-side effect and positive supply-side effect on farmers. The negative effect is that prices for biofuels, and thereby for biofuel feedstocks, will drop, which will impact producers of bulk crops (especially corn in the United States). On the other hand, producers of meat and other livestock products will especially benefit, as prices will decrease not only for their energy-based inputs but also for their animal feed.

Exchange Rate of the Dollar

Another major indirect effect of the world economic crisis on U.S. agriculture will be the degree to which the value of the dollar reacts against the currencies of developing countries that are large importers of U.S. agricultural goods. Predicting this effect is challenging. United States saved too little and consumed too much, compared with other countries. These imbalances could be corrected by a realignment of exchange rates involving an appreciation of the surplus countries' currencies against the dollar.

Where is U.S. Agriculture Headed?

Economists and others continue to be uncertain as to the length and depth of the economic crisis both in the United States and abroad as it is being revised on a monthly basis. Farm income is expected to begin to recover in 2010, yet the strength of the recovery is something the economists cannot determine. Many feel U.S. agriculture may be in a relatively strong position to withstand temporary shocks. Farmers have a wider range of risk management tools, such as leasing, contracting, renting, crop insurance, hedging, and direct government payments, to share market and financial risks. Farmers have also improved control over their operations, spend more on management services, and increase adopt cost-savings technologies.

In the long run, sustainable world growth depends on getting the balance right between economic growth, agricultural output, and resource availability and the U.S. agriculture will continue to be a major participant in the changing structure of the economy.

DRY BEAN GROWTH STAGES

EMERGENCE & EARLY VEGETATIVE GROWTH	
VE	Hypocotyl emergence
VC	Cotyledonary & unifoliolate leaves visible
V1	First trifoliolate leaf is unfolded
V2	Second trifoliolate leaf is unfolded
V3	Third trifoliolate leaf is unfolded
BRANCHING & RAPID VEGETATIVE GROWTH	
V4	Fourth trifoliolate leaf is unfolded
Vn	nth trifoliolate leaf is unfolded
FLOWERING & POD FORMATION	
R1	One open flower per plant =100% bloom
R2	Mid to full flower period
R3	One pod at maximum length (early pod set)
R4	50% of pods at maximum length (mid pod set)
POD FILL & MATURATION	
R5	One pod with fully developed seeds (early seed fill)
R6	50% of pods with fully developed seeds (mid seed fill)
R7	One pod changed color/striped (physiological maturity)
R8	80% of pods at mature color (harvest maturity)

Source: Colorado State University Integrated Pest Management Program

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Farm Bill's ACRE Program: Should You Enroll?

By Greg Kalinoski, NCTC - Farm Business Management Instructor, Red Lake Falls, MN

The signup deadline for the ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Program) has been extended to August 14. ACRE is designed to provide an optional alternative for crop producers to the countercyclical price support program. Producers must decide by that date as to whether they will enroll. Once signed up, the decision is irrevocable and must include a landlords signature on rental tracts to make it complete. Producers do have the option of enrolling the farm units on a farm by farm basis if they have more than one unit.

Should a farmer enroll in ACRE? Enrolling in ACRE has no simple rule of thumb; there are no guarantees. Enrolling will largely depend upon where you think commodity prices will be over the next four years which is the duration of the program. If crop prices are strong or increase compared to the base price established, it is unlikely that ACRE would pay enough to recoup the 20% reduction in direct payments. Therefore, staying with the existing program may be the best choice. If prices are expected to fall or statewide growing conditions are poor, ACRE should compensate for the 20% direct payment reduction. ACRE can offer far better protection to countercyclical payments in years of low farm prices. The main benefit is having the opportunity to share in revenue protection if revenue does drop below trigger levels.

How can a producer decide whether he or she should enroll in ACRE? First, know your base acres per farm and yield history as ACRE payments can only be made up to 83.3 percent of your base acres. Do not make decisions solely on the calculations of what other crop producers are doing. Planted or considered planted acres are used in determining acreage for certification.

While program formulas are very complex, decision aids available can give you some percentage probabilities and expected payments for each of the next four years based upon your individual base and yield information.

Excel decision aids are available and can be downloaded from:

www.extension.umn.edu/AgBusinessManagement
www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/farmmgmt/farmmgmt.htm
www.missouri.edu/farm

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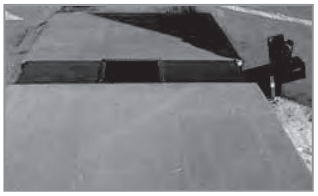

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Red River Valley Dry Bean Results

2008 Data on the Valley's Dry Beans from ND & MN Farm Business Management

Every spring North Dakota and Minnesota Farm Business Management educators gather data from the previous year from producers up and down the Red River Valley. In their booklet, Red River Valley 2008 Report, the management educators from both states compiled data from different commodities, including dry beans. This report summarizes the individual farm records of farms in the Red River Valley that are enrolled in Farm Management Education programs.

"We had some very good financial returns last year. The returns on dry beans which include navy and pinto, were some of the best that I've seen in the valley in years," says Greg Kalinoski, Northland Commodity & Technical College Farm Business Management Instructor from Red Lake Falls, MN. Kalinoski has been in the farm management program for 17 years and has worked with many producers. "Pintos and navies had good yields in 2008 in the valley. Even though the yields were down on blacks, the price was up higher than normal. The returns were great."

Beans enjoyed a very good net return last year, well over $100 per acre as shown on both Table 1 and 2. The reason was because both price and yields were good. Prices were higher last year because commodity prices in general were also high on wheat, corn and soybeans, and edible beans followed suit. "As a rule of thumb, the price of edible beans has to be approximately three times the price of soybeans to make them competitive. Last year, soybeans were at the $10 dollar range, so edible beans were in the $30 range," says Kalinoski.

Greg Kalinoski

"I have seen better yields come out in the last several years. More producers are putting edible beans on their tile ground or better growing ground because they know they need this if they want to get the yields," says Kalinoski.

In the data shown on the tables, beans are evaluated on rented ground. Producers get a better reading on their numbers on cash rented ground than owned land, mainly because they know their land costs. Producers get a better comparison on cash rented ground versus those producers that own land and have large principle payments and taxes.

Farm Management Program

"Producers have more data available to them these days. With the introduction of Finpack and Enterprise, producers are now able to compare their financial data with the averages of others' data. Producers didn't have standard information to follow until the late 80s and now they are more aware of net returns and financial measures," says Kalinoski. "Producers in general are concerned with margins and the amount of dollars at risk. These are important. They need to know which crops are making or not making money and what to do to improve their operations."

The Farm management instructors from both North Dakota and Minnesota edit the producer's record information and meet regularly with each cooperator to help interpret reports and counsel the producer on financial management problems and opportunities. "We organize and analyze the current financial situation of your farm. This provides you with the information to make better decisions about your ag business," says Kalinoski. All information given to the instructors are completely confidential.

"The North Dakota and Minnesota Farm Business Management Education instructors and programs will help you evaluate your financial situation and work with tools you have to help you better manage your operation."

For More FBM Information

If producers are interested in joining a farm business management group, they can call the FBM instructor nearest them. Information for MN producers can call the college in Thief River Falls at 800-959-6282.

For ND FBM instructors contact Steve Zimmerman, State Supervisor at 701-328-3162. ND website is www.ndfarmmanagement.com.

The Minnesota Farm Management website by region is at www.mgt.org/fbm/instructors.

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Crop Enterprise Analysis: Beans, Navy on Cash Rent

Minnesota and North Dakota Farm Business Management Education
Red River Valley, 2008
(Farms sorted by Net Return)

	Avg. of All Farms
Number of fields	13
Number of farms	8
Acres	154.16
Yield per acre (cwt)	19.11
Operators share of yield %	100.00
Value per cwt.	30.35
Total product return per acre	580.10
Crop insurance per acre	0.40
Gross return per acre	580.50
Direct Expenses	
Seed	47.72
Fertilizer	32.63
Crop chemicals	35.71
Crop insurance	26.62
Fuel & oil	28.68
Repairs	36.17
Custom hire	3.94
Hired labor	0.91
Land rent	72.64
Machinery leases	2.07
Operating interest	5.41
Miscellaneous	0.39
Total Direct expenses per acre	292.90
Return over direct exp per acre	287.60
Overhead Expenses	
Custom hire	3.19
Hired Labor	17.36
Machinery leases	8.82
Building leases	0.17
Farm insurance	6.03
Utilities	3.66
Dues & professional fees	3.88
Interest	6.80
Mach & bldg depreciation	29.99
Miscellaneous	3.64
Total overhead expenses per acre	83.54
Total dir & ovhd expenses per acre	376.44
Net return per acre	204.06
Government payments	**0.00**
Net return with govt pymts	204.06
Labor & management charge	37.51
Net return over lbr & mgt	166.55
Cost of Production	
Total direct expense per cwt.	15.32
Total dir & ovhd exp per cwt.	19.70
Less govt & other income	19.67
With labor & management	21.64

Crop Enterprise Analysis: Beans, Pinto on Cash Rent

Minnesota and North Dakota Farm Business Management Education
Red River Valley, 2008
(Farms sorted by Net Return)

	Avg. of All Farms
Number of fields	12
Number of farms	5
Acres	115.32
Yield per acre (cwt)	21.12
Operators share of yield %	100.00
Value per cwt.	26.97
Total product return per acre	569.53
Crop insurance per acre	0.31
Gross return per acre	569.85
Direct Expenses	
Seed	48.50
Fertilizer	28.01
Crop chemicals	48.68
Crop insurance	24.64
Fuel & oil	23.97
Repairs	25.41
Custom hire	4.69
Land rent	73.17
Operating interest	6.02
Total Direct expenses per acre	283.10
Return over direct exp per acre	286.75
Overhead Expenses	
Custom hire	1.51
Hired Labor	15.56
Machinery leases	2.38
Building leases	5.86
Farm insurance	3.10
Utilities	2.56
Dues & professional fees	3.39
Interest	4.00
Mach & bldg depreciation	25.57
Miscellaneous	1.50
Total overhead expenses per acre	65.43
Total dir & ovhd expenses per acre	348.53
Net return per acre	221.32
Government payments	**0.00**
Net return with govt pymts	221.32
Labor & management charge	32.46
Net return over lbr & mgt	188.86
Cost of Production	
Total direct expense per cwt.	13.40
Total dir & ovhd exp per cwt.	16.50
Less govt & other income	16.49
With labor & management	18.02

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FROM THE NORTHARVEST KITCHEN

DryBeanRecipes

By Lynne Bigwood, Northarvest Home Economist

This recipe came from one of today's young brides that cooks with beans. It originated in the Big Book of Soup. Since my family have always been chili dog fans, I agreed that the recipe was worth a try.

I tried it with the original ingredients; full fat wieners, bean and bacon, and tomato soup, pork and beans and dried onion. We eat lower fat meals than that so I tried it again with low fat ingredients. It turned out to be quite good either way. A great spin on an All-American dish!

Chili Dog Stew

This recipe makes 6 servings and required 10-15 minutes preparation and 15 minutes cook time.

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil or cooking spray
- 1 14 - 16 ounce package 98% fat free (turkey) wieners
- 1 small onion, chopped fine
- 1 11-ounce can bean and bacon soup
- 1 14-15 ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1 15-16 ounce can vegetarian with beans 99% fat free chili
- ½ – 1 ¼ cups water
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- ½ teaspoon liquid smoke
- 1 teaspoon chili powder, optional

Method:

1. Heat medium to large frying pan, add oil and spread around the pan.
2. Brown wieners on all sides, turning often.
3. Remove wieners to a cutting board. Add onion to the frying pan and sauté, stirring to cook evenly. Cut wieners into ½ inch pieces.
4. Put onion and wieners into a 4 – 6 quart pot. Add remaining ingredients.
5. Heat to a simmer. Stir occasionally.
6. Serve hot with cornbread or whole grain crackers, fruit and milk.

Options:

1. Use leftover cooked or grilled wieners, skip the browning step.
2. Substitute ¼ cup dried onion for the fresh, chopped onion.
3. Substitute a can of tomato soup, tomato sauce, tomatoes with jalapeño chiles or 2 cups tomato juice for the diced tomatoes.
4. For a thicker stew, omit the water. Stir carefully and often. Serve over cornbread or hot dog buns.

The Bean Scene

Northarvest Bean Growers Association exhibited at the North Dakota Dietetic Association meeting in Fargo, ND, on April 22, 2009. The young women pictured by the bean banner are all dietetic students from North Dakota and Minnesota colleges who attended the meeting.

NHB at WIC Conference

Lynne Bigwood, Northarvest Bean Growers Association's Home Economist, exhibited at the MN Women, Infant and Children (WIC) conference in Brooklyn Park, MN, April 29 and 30, 2009. The conference was training for 500 Minnesota WIC staff persons about the new WIC food packages. They had many actual food displays to help inform them about the specific foods that are and aren't allowed. WIC and USDA work hard to ensure that the foods are healthy choices. The WIC staff received The Bean Cookbook, 6 posters, 4 brochures and recipe cards. Many of the staff visited the booth with testimony about how valuable the cookbook is and how they regularly order it and some use it for an incentive with their clients. They are very pleased that, at last, canned beans are available in their food packages.

North Dakota Nutrition Council met in Minot, ND, April 15 and 16, 2009. The first day the speakers gave presentations on family meals, adolescent disordered eating, obesity and helping teens make healthy choices about eating and exercise in a weight obsessed world. The second day featured breakout sessions on weight loss solutions, guidelines for physical activity, Internet tools for knowledge, dining with diabetes and local food. The seven nutrition educators in the picture won "bean appétit" apron door prizes.

ND Dry Bean Council Attends Ag Day in Bismarck

Northarvest's black bean brownies were a crowd favorite

In March, the ND Dry Bean Council set up a booth at Ag Day at the State Capitol in Bismarck, ND. Jason Mewes and Bob Landgren, North Dakota Dry Bean Council board members, were present to represent the dry bean industry.

"We were there to give exposure for the dry bean industry," says Landgren. "The goal was to impress upon the legislators how important the dry bean industry is to the state."

Northarvest supplied handouts, cookbooks and recipes to those who attended Ag Day. The board members also handed out brownies, which were a big hit. "Word got around that we had brownies. We had people coming from all over the building to get them," says Landgren. "The brownies were made from black beans and the recipe was in the cookbook, which was also a popular handout."

Mewes agreed. "We had one of the more popular booths that day," he says. "We have to thank Lynne Bigwood for that. She was a big help behind the scenes. She made sure the brownies were ready plus she conducted all the other arrangements for us that day."

Bob Landgren, (middle), visits with an attendee at Ag Day while Jason Mewes, (right) looks on.

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Chili Dog Stew: If you're a fan of chili dogs, you should give "Chili Dog Stew" a try! Recipe and more information on page 25.