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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 4

Headline

We've just started the growing season and 2011 is already one for the record books. In the Northarvest region, we dealt with persistent rains that changed many planting decisions. However, the weather challenges go beyond our area. Floods have been seen from the Red River Valley to the Gulf of Mexico. According to the National Weather Service, 2011 was the deadliest year for tornadoes in the United States since 1953.

The challenges we face in agriculture go beyond Mother Nature. The budget crisis has intensified the political infighting on Capitol Hill. Unlike other parts of the budget, agriculture has already contributed to deficit reduction with cuts in the crop insurance program. Yet more cuts are coming. You'll find a story in this edition of *BeanGrower* that offers a perspective on the political climate in Washington and the budgetary impact on agriculture and the dry bean industry.

The dry bean industry is very dependent on exports. Trade-related news, including updates on recent trade missions, are highlighted in this edition. We also continue our series of interviews with agriculture leaders. In this issue, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring offers his views on trade, crop insurance and more.

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association has also produced a video, 'Dry Beans from the Heart of Northarvest County.' I think this video is impressive and will help Northarvest communicate its story to consumers and other centers of influence. A copy of the video is enclosed. I hope you enjoy it, too.

Let's hope the balance of 2011 delivers good growing conditions. I also hope the craziness in Washington straightens out. Hey, a guy can dream, right?

Don Streifel, President

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Northarvest Trade Teams Visit Central America, Dubai

Northarvest Bean Growers Association Vice-President Todd Sorenson, from Fisher, Minnesota, was part of a U.S. Dry Bean Council trade trip to the Gulf Food Show in Dubai in late February and early March. Sorenson, along with David McClellan, U.S. Dry Bean Council consultant in Barcelona, shared a booth with the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council.

"This was a huge show, most every company was there," says Sorenson. "There was a huge response, and a lot of interest in U.S. dry beans." Sorenson says buyers were most interested in garbanzo beans, which are all sold out due to crop problems in Mexico

and Canada.

Milan, Minnesota grower Mark Streed, who represents District 9 on the Northarvest Board of Directors, travelled to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Guatemala in January. Streed says importers in the Dominican Republic want bright-colored beans, but North Dakota and Minnesota have a reputation of having darker beans. "Northarvest has a guy working there at supermarkets and with importers, trying to get acceptance of the darker bean." Streed says importers he talked to agreed, the color does not affect the quality, the flavor, or the cooking time, of the beans. "But, it's an attitude they have

that a darker bean is an older bean, which means slower cooking."

According to the U.S. Dry Bean Council, major importers continue to complain that the government of the Dominican Republic is not issuing duty-free allocations according to their own implementing regulations, which requires that 80 percent of allocations go to traditional importers. To date, allocations have not been issued for any commodities under the DR-CAFTA. DR companies report that the government of DR is still requiring local production purchases in order to obtain TRQ permits.

According to Streed, the import quotas are being

issued to others who are politically connected, who are selling them to importers, which is adding about \$9 to \$10 per hundredweight to the price of U.S. beans.

U.S. Dry Bean Council trade consultant Randy Duckworth says the US-DBC continues to work with the U.S. Trade Representative and USDA in the U.S. and the D.R. office to address this issue.

Streed says the problem in Guatemala is phytosanitary regulations. Beans from North Dakota and Minnesota must be fumigated against various pests, but beans imported from Nicaragua or Colombia do not. "That adds about \$500 to \$600 to the cost of a container," says



Milan, Minnesota grower Mark Streed represented Northarvest in a trade mission to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Streed.

China remains the United States' biggest competitor in Latin American countries. Streed says Chinese beans have always been much cheaper than U.S. beans, but the quality was not as good. "Now, their quality has really improved, especially their black beans."

The USDBC trade mission made a brief stopover in San Jose, Costa Rica where they met the two largest packagers and Florida Bebidas, the owner of Alimentos Kerns. Costa Rica is a 45,000 MT market, of which 20,000 MT is black beans and 12,000 MT of small red beans are imported.



In Central America, buyers are very conscious about the color of dry beans.

Streed and U.S. Dry Bean Council consultant Randy Duckworth met with the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala about the new phytosanitary requirement for black beans,

which has since been rescinded. The Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture does not have the resources to do its own analysis so it basically copies from the European Union.

The trade team also discussed recent customs clearance problems faced by U.S. exporters and was told the contracted customs clearance company has been appointed to

do both inspections and fumigations, an obvious conflict of interest.

It is well documented that there is a lot of smuggling that takes place between Guatemala and Mexico.

Prices for domestic production of beans and corn are increasingly non-competitive with import prices. Guatemalan importers say they can buy imported Chinese black beans of good quality at a steep discount to local production.

FOODS TO INCREASE

The U.S. exported more than 27,000 MT of dry beans to the D.R. in 2009/10 marketing year.

Black bean imports are small but China has the majority.

U.S. exports to D.R. grew 385% from 2000 to 2010.

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Northarvest Invests \$253,000 in Research in 2011

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association Board of Directors is investing more than \$253,000 of grower checkoff dollars in research projects in 2011/2012.

By far, the highest priority in terms of dollars is the \$140,000 to dry bean breeder, Dr. Juan Osorno, and the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University, to support dry bean improvement.

A total of 2450 lines were planted last fall in NDSU winter nurseries in Puerto Rico, and New Zealand with the objective of increasing the number of recombinants and seed, practicing more selection and advance generations faster. Most of the material is of early generation

and represents several crosses and breeding populations with different objectives such as seed yield increase, slow darkening pintos, disease resistance, and plant architecture, among others.

A new version of Stampede, with 90 percent resistance to the new race of rust, is underway at NDSU and it's expected to be available to growers in the near future. Two breeding lines have also been identified to have some level of resistance or tolerance to white mold.

Another high funding priority for Northarvest is dry bean diseases and their management. Dr. Rubella Goswami, NDSU Plant Pathologist, will receive more than \$54,000 for her continuing research. Dr.

Goswami will monitor the spread of dry bean diseases with special emphasis on dry bean rust and anthracnose, and evaluation of races of isolates obtained from the field.

Other priorities listed by Dr. Goswami include evaluation of the different bacterial pathogens and identification of the races of the halo blight pathogen prevalent in North Dakota; the efficacy of new fungicides for controlling dry bean rust; and the efficacy of waste lime in controlling Fusarium root rot. Dr. Goswami will also continue to assist dry bean breeder, Dr. Juan Osorno, by screening advanced breeding lines for resistance to rust, white mold, bacterial blight and root rot.

Other research projects that were approved by the Northarvest Bean Growers Association Board of Directors include \$23,400 to NDSU Plant Pathologist Dr. Berlin Nelson for identification of resistance in dry beans to soybean cyst nematode.

NDSU Extension weed scientist Dr. Richard Zollinger's request for \$15,000 to study herbicides for new uses and residual weed control in dry beans was also approved.



A new version of Stampede, with greater resistance to the new race of rust, is being developed.

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In Washington It's All About the Money

In Washington, DC, it's all about the money. The budget crisis is driving every policy decision, including the fate of the 2012 Farm Bill.

"I've been told this will be the hardest Farm Bill to write since the first one," said Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow, "We're willing to do our fair share and we want the process to unfold in the context of a thoughtful debate on policy."

Stabenow, who represents Michigan, says the emphasis must go beyond budget cuts and consider an investment in the future.

"I would argue that the Farm Bill is a jobs bill; 16 million people have jobs in this country because of agriculture. We need to be investing in those things that create jobs—innova-

tion, education, support for agriculture, research, new technology."

Stabenow represents a diverse state, representing everything from corn and soybeans to dairy cows and hogs.

"The largest commodity I serve is fruits and vegetables, the specialty crops, but I view this about balance. Agriculture is a huge economic driver for the country. We have a trade surplus for agriculture that we don't have in any other industry and it's very important in feeding the world as we reach seven billion people

and heading to eight and nine billion."

Minnesota Senator Al Franken agrees, saying the future prosperity of the

country is due, in part, to an investment in research and development.

"There's such a thing as being penny-wise and pound-

foolish," said Franken.

Dale Thorenson, who is a lobbyist with Gordley Associates, said the budget pressure has intensified. The debt ceiling debate and the 2012 Budget may have more of an impact on farm policy than the new Farm Bill.

"It looks kind of bleak when it comes to budget issues and agriculture," said Thorenson.

Strong commodity prices have put the bulls-eye on agriculture spending. In particular, direct payments are being targeted. For the first time, a specialty crop title was included in the 2008 Farm Bill.

"For dry beans, they participated in block grants and they worked out quite well funding research projects, but it will come down to funding. Until you know what the budget is, it is hard to know what will happen with them."

North Dakota Congressman Rick Berg is a budget hawk and has taken a leadership role in the large freshmen caucus. Forty percent of federal expenditures are



"I've been told this will be the hardest Farm Bill to write since the first one," said Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee.

borrowed and Berg says one-half of that debt is borrowed from foreign countries.

"My quest is that the federal government spends money based on priorities, rather than earmarks and special projects," said Berg, "I'm very confident that agriculture will do just fine if things are judged on priorities."

Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson, who is the ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee, believes it will be difficult to reconcile the 2012 budget bills from the House and Senate.

"If you don't get a budget together, you probably

won't get any appropriations bills passed," said Peterson, "I would say a likely scenario is that we'll operate under continuing

resolutions until after the next election.

I think the strategy here, which is the best under these circumstances, is to wait until next

year until we have another budget and hope things are better."

Further complicating the Farm Bill process is the make-up of the U.S. House. Exactly one-half of the House Agriculture

Committee is in their first term.

"There are only 50 districts in the House that are ag districts and the rest are most-

ly urban," said Peterson.

As a result, Peterson hopes the Senate will

drive the Farm Bill debate.

The 2012 Farm Bill season is officially underway with Senate Agriculture Committee field hearings. The House Agriculture Committee has been focused primarily on regulatory oversight, but is expected to begin Farm Bill hearings this summer. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas remains optimistic the bill can be finalized in 2012.

"I still believe we can, should and will put a farm bill on the President's desk before we all go home next August."



House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas hopes to have the Farm Bill ready for the President's signature by August of 2012.



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Slow Darkening Gene a Priority for NDSU Dry Bean Breeder

After two consecutive years of dark-colored pinto beans produced in the Northarvest Region, the Northarvest Bean Growers Association Board of Directors is making lighter-colored beans a priority issue. Northarvest is funding research by North Dakota State University dry bean breeder Dr. Juan Osorno to address the color issue.

Osorno says that after several years of research done by at least three scientific groups, the new slow-darkening gene is pretty well characterized now. "We know the ge-

netic control and how it operates and we're trying to deploy that gene into all our commercial material as fast as we can. The goal is to keep the good agronomic attributes and performance that we currently have in our varieties," says Osorno.

"The biggest challenge," says Osorno, "is bringing the slow-darkening gene, which is probably not in the best genetic backgrounds, and putting it into our good, elite, commercial-type of material." There is a lot involved in this process.



Dr. Juan Osorno's research hopes to address the recent color challenge.

First, the initial cross is made, and a segregating population, or breeding population, is developed. This must be large enough to allow breeders to find the right individual that

they are looking for. This takes several generations of cleaning, selection and testing. "So, hopefully, after 10 or 12 years, you're able to see the success or the failure of your whole enterprise," says Osorno. Actually, Osorno is able to detect a disaster during the first three years of development, so those are discarded right away.

"The problem," says Osorno, "is the ones remaining in the program and the hope that they will have all the attributes we are looking for. "Breeding is not something in which



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we can expect results the next day, and most growers are well aware of that. Most of them understand that Mother Nature operates under totally different rules and we have to abide by that."

Osorno says breeders are trying their best, which is why they're using things like winter nurseries and some DNA molecular markers to speed up the process. "Growers can rest assured that we're making the best effort to solve this because I understand how important this is for the growers and how much money it (dark color) is costing them and the entire state's economy."

Northarvest Bean Growers Association Executive Vice President Tim Cour-

neya estimates the region has lost \$20 to \$60 million per year over the last two years, due to dark-colored pinto beans.

Of the \$253,000 in research funds allocated this year by the Northarvest Board of Directors, 55 percent will go to Osorno and the NDSU Department of Plant Sciences for dry bean improvement in the Northern Plains.

Osorno has the slow-darkening gene in his breeding material at different stages in his winter nurseries. He has crosses he made two to three years ago when he was still in the learning curve, trying to understand more about this gene and how it combines. Then, there is some early generation material

that is looking a little more promising. Osorno has also submitted a proposal to the North Dakota Agriculture Department for a grant through USDA's Specialty Crop Grant Program.

Osorno is also partnering with USDA's Ag Research Service in Prosser, Washington, which has been working on the slow-darkening gene for the last three or four years. "They have different material they're willing to share and test here in our Northvest conditions. We'll have our first testing this summer."

Another thing Osorno hopes to look at is the misconception that these darkened beans would take more time to cook. "We believe that fresh beans that happen to be

dark because of environmental conditions should not have a longer cooking time, and we want to test that hypothesis, so we can prove that there is no relationship between the color of the bean and the cooking time." Osorno thinks the hard to cook issue may be more related to post-harvest storage time (loss of seed moisture) than to color itself, even though beans stored for long periods of time tend to get dark as well.

Although Osorno will not know if his research proposal will be funded by the Specialty Crop Grant Program, he is doing some preliminary testing and data collection, in the event this project is approved.

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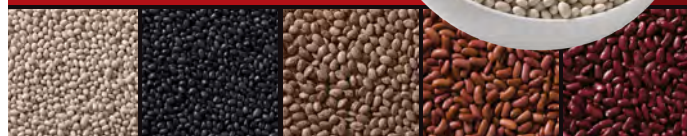
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Bean Growers Must Scout for Disease

Three interesting things happened in 2010, as far as dry bean diseases are concerned. The one that North Dakota State University Extension plant pathologist Sam Markell thinks about the most is rust. After the race change that occurred in 2008, Markell says rust spread all over the place last year, to areas where it hasn't been seen in 15 to 20 years.

"Now, I think we're to the point where we had that race change, it spread and the pathogen is around everywhere we grow beans, and now we have the potential for an epidemic," says Markell. Rust needs dew and some heat to



Markell sees strong potential for major white mold problems this season.



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spread, which is why it was not an issue in 2009.

Markell says when rust really hits yield hard is when it occurs early. The last bean rust epidemics, when growers suffered hard economic losses, occurred when rust was seen around the time of bloom. Rust caused multi-million dollar losses in the mid-1990's. Markell says if rust occurs early, it could reduce dry bean yields by 30 to 50 percent.

NDSU plant pathologists are working on a publication to be distributed at field days this summer to help growers identify bean rust. The key is to identify it early. Pictures will also be posted on NDSU's weekly Crop and Pest Report at the correct time. To access

the report: www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/ndsucpr.

Rust first shows up in hot spots in the field, which are very difficult to find. Look for dusty, cinnamon-brown pustules, with a yellow halo. Rub off the spores and you will usually see the pustule base, kind of a cream-colored ring. Rust is usually found in the middle of the canopy.

The good news is that growers now have fantastic fungicides to control rust. "We have a lot of triazoles, Folicur, Proline, and the generics. And in the strobilurin class, we have Headline, and Quadris which are also very good rust products," says Markell.

2011 could also bring an

epidemic of white mold. "In the last two good, solid white mold years, we've been building up sclerotia in the soil. Those will survive for multiple years." Markell is certain we have a lot of sclerotia in the soil, just because of the last two years, which gives us very high inoculum potential.

If it's hot and dry, you won't have to worry about white mold. But Markell says if the weather is cool to moderate, and wet, growers will have to think about white mold because the inoculum potential will be there. For white mold to cause a problem, two things have to happen: you have to have water in the soil before bloom, and then moisture, heavy dews or rain, during bloom.

Markell says bloom initiation is the time to think about a fungicide application for white mold, when you start to see flowers on the plant. "If you can prevent some of the early infections, you're much less likely to take a yield hit." There are situations when growers may want to make a second fungicide application, approximately 10 days after the initial early bloom application. Markell says the biggest thing is pay attention to the weather, "and if you're growing dry beans, you at least have to anticipate that fungicides could be an option."

Anthracnose is the third

disease that's important to pay attention to. Markell says anthracnose, which showed up in the Devils Lake Basin last year, has the potential to cause more yield loss than either white mold or rust.

Markell says if you had anthracnose, you do not want to plant that seed. "When you plant infected seed, you're going to start an epidemic." And you can have infection in the seed and not always see it. Plus, you can have infection in the seed and seed treatments won't help because the disease is in the seed, not on the seed.

Anthracnose is not nearly as mobile as rust or white mold, but it can spread from last year's crop residue. Markell says, "If you had anthracnose, you would want to keep beans out of that field, or adjacent fields, for four years." Fungicides are not a viable option to control anthracnose.

Markell tells growers if they see something this growing season, call your county Extension agent, crop consultant, or him. In 2008, Markell got a couple calls about rust on varieties that were resistant, which is how he found the new race. "If we didn't find it in 2008, we certainly wouldn't have found it in 2009. And we would not have had any fungicide trials out there. We have lots of data now because of that awareness," says Markell.

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An Interview with North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring

Doug Goehring has been North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner since April 2009 and was elected to a full, four-year term in November 2010. A third-generation family farmer, Commissioner Goehring, along with his son, Dustin, operates a 2,000-acre, no-till farm near Menoken in south central North Dakota.

BeanGrower: In your role as Ag Commissioner, what is your philosophy for leading the Department?

Goehring: First and foremost my job is to serve, and I take my role as a public servant very seriously. My philosophy is to look at being a facilitator. We have a wealth of knowledge, energy, and expertise that exists within the Ag community, and I believe the best way to tap that resource is to engage all those people and all those entities; pull them together. There are so many attacks on agriculture and the Ag community that come from elements within our society and federal agencies, at times, that have a



**DOUG GOEHRING,
COMMISSIONER,
NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

lack of understanding of what our role is and how we serve communities and the United States of America when it comes to what we provide as products and economic stability. I see myself as an advocate and a regulator. Our resource truly is the people who live, work, and breathe this industry.

BeanGrower: You've been involved in developing crop insurance. What challenges do you see for dry beans and pulses as they attempt to launch a crop insurance effort?

Goehring: The Risk Management Agency sometimes can be funny to work with. You give them data and they want

more data before they make up their mind. It is really about as much history as you can pull together, so they can run their actuarial process to determine where their losses are at and how they can put together a good crop insurance product. We have to stress on them how vitally important it is that we do that. The other thing is it is hard to establish a market, per say, because it doesn't work the same way as our traditional crops do, so we end up with some short falls there, some inconsistencies from year to year because our market is responding to supply and demand.

BeanGrower: What trade opportunities do you see for North Dakota products, particularly dry beans?

Goehring: As we continue to expand and grow that aspect of what we are doing with international marketing it gives us more opportunities. Sometimes I go into a region and they are very specific about what they want me to talk about, but I always bring samples and information of the other crops we raise in North Dakota. When I start to share that we have navy and pinto beans and black beans, their ears perk up. They want me to tell them more and they want us to send samples and they want to send someone over here to talk to us. We initiate some of that and certainly support it. In our office we have the phytosanitary program, so we issue the phytosanitary certificates. We do a lot of the inspections ourselves, so we have first hand knowledge of the product for that growing year and that gives us the opportunity to talk about what we have seen.

They can go visit with the producers; they can go right to the plants and see how the beans are conditioned, who is handling them, where in North Dakota they are grown, and where they are being stored.

BeanGrower: How

important are specialty crops, like dry edibles beans, to North Dakota's economy?

Goehring: They are vitally important for multiple reasons. First of all, it's a great rotational crop. Secondly it's a fantastic crop for our society.

Across the country our pulse crops and dry edible beans are known for being very high in protein, high in fiber, and high in energy. It's also a staple across the world. More areas of the world are starting to know about North Dakota as we get

more exposure. They are becoming more aware that we grow all these crops in North Dakota and dry edible beans is one that fits all their needs. It is a staple in their diet and they want to access that high quality product here in North Dakota.



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Bean Prices Up, Acres Down

The late spring is leaving many in the dry bean industry still unsure what actual planted acreage is in 2010. Price competition from crops such as corn, soybeans and wheat put dry beans in the back of growers' minds all winter. As a result, USDA says grower prices are averaging above a year earlier for nearly every class of bean.

Grower prices increased shortly after USDA's March 31st Prospective Plantings Report in a likely bid to gain more pinto bean acres. While initial inten-

tions showed a sharp decline in dry bean acres, the cool, wet spring likely caused adjustments in planting plans. The next acreage estimate for dry beans will be released by USDA on June 30th.

In its latest Vegetables and Melons Outlook, USDA's Economic Research Service said it expects dry bean stocks will be drawn down and prices will likely continue to see upward pressure relative to historic levels in order to maintain revenue parity with other crops and preserve grower

interest in dry beans.

In April, grower prices averaged above last year for every reported class of dry bean. With the exception of pinto beans, grower bids were at least \$30 for every dry bean class. Similar to the situation in 2007-08, the external pressure generated by high returns for most other crops has affected dry bean markets, causing prices to push higher. For example, April pinto bean prices in the upper Midwest averaged \$26.13 per cwt, 11 percent above

last year despite large stocks from last fall's crop. Dark red kidney beans in Minnesota and Wisconsin averaged \$44.25 per cwt in April, up 30 percent from a year ago.

USDA's preliminary 2010/11 season-average grower price for all dry beans was estimated at \$26 per cwt, down 13 percent from the previous year but 12 percent above the average of the previous decade. It was also the fourth highest season-average dry bean price (adjusted for inflation)



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over the past 20 years.

Dry bean prices continued to creep up this spring as a result of both basic supply/demand forces within the dry bean complex, plus upward pressure from crop markets competing for limited acreage. In 2011/12, USDA forecasts the season-average price will exceed \$32 per cwt and could remain over \$30 in 2012/13.

PER CAPITA DISAPPEARANCE RISES

Disappearance of dry edible beans increased in 2010. With greater domestic availability and lower prices, domestic use rose to 2.2 billion pounds. When expressed on a per person basis, net domestic use of dry beans increased 19 percent to 7.2 pounds, up 1.2 pounds from the low of 6.03 pounds reached in 2009. In 2011, USDA expects domestic dry bean use to decline due to the expected smaller crop, continued good export demand, and higher dry bean prices, which will offset higher carryin stocks from 2010. Excluding garbanzo beans, per capita use of dry beans is forecast to total 6.2 pounds in 2011, down eight percent from a year earlier.

In 2010, per capita consumption of white beans went up 26 percent, and non-white up 17 percent.

With per capita consumption rising to 5.9 pounds in 2010, non-white beans remained dominant, led by pinto beans, black beans and the surging popularity of garbanzo beans. Driven by two consecutive strong crops in 2009 and 2010, domestic disappearance of black beans was second only to the 1999 record high. Garbanzo bean use was also strong last year, with disappearance second only to the 2007 record high. Over the past three years, per capita use of garbanzo beans averaged 0.39 pounds, up 58 percent from a decade earlier. Rising use likely reflects the increased popularity of vegan/vegetarian foods, Middle Eastern cuisines, and Indian/Indian sub-continent cuisines.

EXPORT VOLUME UP

During the first six months of the marketing year (September 2010-February 2011), U.S. exports of dry beans increased eight percent from a year earlier to 5.1 million bags (cwt). This was the largest six-month export volume since the 1994/95 season. Exports of baby limas were up 165 percent, garbanzos up 112 percent, and navy bean exports were up 22 percent. Exports of black beans, the top export class in 2009/10, were down 10

percent through February as demand from Mexico has declined.

Although average export value is slightly higher this year, export volume has remained resilient despite a 31 percent reduction in shipments to Mexico, the top destination. Movement into Mexico was lower for black, pinto and navy beans. At the same time, U.S. dry bean exports to Canada, the second-largest market, jumped 33 percent on the strength of increased

movement of navy beans and garbanzo beans. Exports to the United Kingdom were up 10 percent due to greater navy bean, garbanzo bean, and black bean shipments. Volume shipped to the Dominican Republic increased due mostly to movement of pinto beans. For all dry beans, the September-February 2010/11 average U.S. dry bean export unit value was up just one percent from the previous year, to 33.4 cents per pound.

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Bean Briefs

BEAN GROWERS ELECTED

Milnor, North Dakota dry bean grower Scott Mund has been re-elected to a second, three-year term on the North Dakota Dry Bean Council. Mund, who represents District 5 on the Council, is a 4th generation farmer, farming with his dad, raising navy beans, corn and soybeans. Grady Thorsgard, from Northwood, North Dakota, was elected to represent District 3, succeeding Jim Sletten who had termed out. Thorsgard has been farming since returning from the Army in 1969, currently raising wheat, soybeans, sunflowers, and corn, in addition to dry beans. Thorsgard earned a Purple Heart and Silver Star for his service in Vietnam, and formerly served six years on the North Dakota Beef Commission.

Mund was also elected as Alternate Director to the U.S. Dry Bean Council. Mark Streed, a grower from Milan, Minnesota, was re-elected as Director to the USDBC.

Don Streifel (President), Todd Sorenson (VP), and Joe Mauch (Treasurer) have been re-elected as the officers of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. They were elected last year and are limited to a two-year term.

NORTHARVEST TRAVELS

The U.S. Dry Bean Council sent two trade missions to Croatia, Slovenia, Angola and South Africa this spring, meeting with bean importers and food processors to review bean consumption and import trends.

Food Aid Mission II will be held July 6-18 in Western Africa. Northarvest Bean Growers Association Director Gary Paur will attend.

The U.S. Dry Bean Council summer meetings are

July 21-24 at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Northarvest Bean Growers Association Director Mark Dombek travels to China in August, part of a U.S. Dry Bean Council mission to review China's bean crop, consumption, and import and export trends.

A SECOND BEAN DAY

The Garrison (ND) Area Improvement Association held its annual Bean Day on the April 18th tax deadline at the City Auditorium. The public sampled

beans entered in the bean cooking contest from 11 to 1:30 p.m.

Twenty-three businesses entered beans and were judged in six categories: appetizers and salads, snacks and desserts, soups/stews/chili, main dishes/casseroles, best presentation, and the Best of the Bean.

U.S. EATING MORE BEANS

According to USDA's Economic Research Service, U.S. consumers are eating more beans (see table below).

U.S. DRY EDIBLE BEANS: PER CAPITA DISAPPEARANCE (NET DOMESTIC USE)¹

Item	Average					
	2002-06	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 f
Pounds/person						
Pinto	2.89	2.71	2.76	2.67	3.29	3.04
Navy (pea)	0.78	0.98	0.99	0.64	0.84	0.73
Black	0.50	0.55	0.53	0.54	0.58	0.53
Garbanzo	0.29	0.45	0.34	0.38	0.44	0.37
Light red kidney	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.23	0.24
Great Northern	0.32	0.27	0.20	0.20	0.26	0.21
Dark red kidney	0.24	0.19	0.31	0.19	0.25	0.20
Small red	0.17	0.18	0.25	0.27	0.20	0.19
Blackeye	0.17	0.16	0.18	0.24	0.17	0.17
Pink	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.15	0.15
Large lima	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.08
Baby lima	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.07
Cranberry	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Others ²	0.38	0.29	0.22	0.28	0.63	0.54
All dry beans	6.40	6.37	6.42	6.03	7.16	6.53

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.



QUICK CHICKEN CHILI

One-pan meal with 20 minute start-to-serve time.

Nutrition Note: This recipe makes two servings. Each serving has 370 calories, 4.5 g fat, 34 g protein, 46 g carbohydrate, 13 g fiber, 99 mg calcium, 53 mcg folate, 3 mcg potassium and 1150 mg sodium.

With diced tomatoes, this recipe makes three servings. Each serving has 280 calories, 3 g fat, 24 g protein, 38 g carbohydrate, 10 g fiber, 90 mg calcium, 36 mcg folate, 2 mcg potassium and 780 mg sodium.

Ingredients:

- 1 15-16-ounce can southwestern jalapeno black beans or chili beans (med. heat)
- 1 cup cooked chicken, diced
- 1 small onion or 2 tablespoons dried onion
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon garlic
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- Optional: 1 14-16-ounce can diced tomatoes

Northarvest Sponsors Healthy Flavors, Healthy Kids Summit

The Culinary Institute of America's National Invitational Leadership Summit, in mid-May in San Antonio, was a national initiative to improve the health of children and young people through food education, culinary strategy and flavor insight.

The CIA is expanding its mission to advance healthier food choices, and this national, invitational culinary and nutrition leadership summit was the kickoff. The core of this initiative focused on culinary insights and actions around K-12 school foodservice, but it also included chain and other restaurant kids' menus, campus dining, and the family food environment.

Northarvest Bean Growers Association Executive Vice President Tim Courneya and his wife, Faye, attended the CIA sum-



White House chef and policy advisor Sam Kass talks about the success of "Let's Move!" and "Chefs Move to Schools," a campaign kicked off by the White House in June 2010. More than 1700 schools have signed up through Chefs Move to Schools. In addition, USDA has kicked off a national "Recipes for Healthy Kids" competition that can be used in the National School Lunch Program. Northarvest and NDSU Extension sponsored two recipe entries from Bismarck, ND.

mit. Tim says, "the CIA is well connected! Over 200 food service providers and school food service directors received a strong message from 30-plus influential nutritionists."

Janey Thornton, PhD,

Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was one of the presenters. Among the chefs on the agenda were Sam Kass, White House

Chef & Policy Advisor, and Rick Bayless, owner of the Frontera Grill and XOCO, and a well-known Food Network chef.

As one of five sponsors of the CIA event, Northarvest served beans for breakfast, lunch and receptions each day during the three-day summit. Tim quotes one participant as saying, "If our 12-year-old child is telling us what to eat, we all should be in therapy". Child obesity will decrease life expectancy from 2-5 years.

The Culinary Institute of America will be developing Web coverage of its May 2011 summit to share with the industry within the next few weeks at www.ciaprochef.com/HealthyKids. This website will include a link to download all the recipes and PowerPoint presentations.

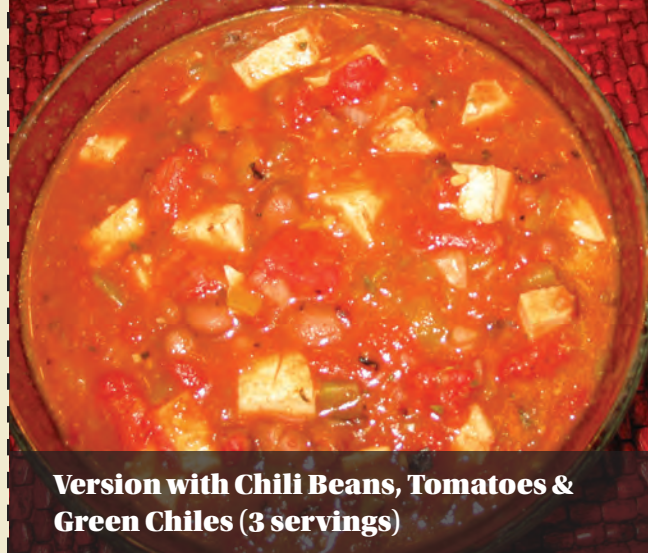
QUICK CHICKEN CHILI

Method:

1. Clean and dice small fresh onion or use 2 tablespoons dry onion, soaked 5 minutes in water and drained.
2. Pour canned beans and sauce into a medium or large skillet.
3. Add chicken and spices.
4. Simmer 10 minutes. Serve hot.
5. For three servings, add one 14-16 ounce can diced tomatoes with other ingredients.

Substitution: One 15-16-ounce can chili beans and one 4.5-ounce can chopped green chiles for southwestern black beans.

*Use personal preference to choose chile heat level, mild, medium or hot.



Version with Chili Beans, Tomatoes & Green Chiles (3 servings)

NORTHARVEST HOME ECONOMIST ATTENDS WIC CONFERENCE

The National Women, Infant and Children's (WIC) Association 28th Annual Education and Networking Conference was held in Portland, Oregon, May 1-4, 2011. Oregon and Washington brought 750 state and local staff to the meeting. California had 250 in attendance and 400 from the other 47 states came causing attendance to rise to an all-time high of 1400. The hotel and the organizing staff had to scramble to accommodate the numbers but it was the kind of problem every conference hopes to encounter.

The opening reception Sunday night launched a very busy conference. Lynne Bigwood, Northarvest Bean Growers Association home economist, gave out 300 bean cookbooks, brochures and literature request sheets by Monday afternoon. Bigwood also sent out 56 additional cookbook requests afterward. WIC nutrition educators from across the U.S. also took 250 Bean Curriculum CD's and many posters. The WIC regional office in Livingston, TX, inquired about purchasing 40,000 Bean Cookbooks, delivered to their local storage facilities for distribution to clients.

Starting in 2011, National Women, Infant and Children Association will be using Sesame Street's Cookie Monster to promote healthy eating.



BEANS IN THE CLASSROOM

Northarvest Bean Growers Association home economist Lynne Bigwood participated in Harvest North Dakota in March, in Lisbon, attended by 156 fourth-grade students from schools in six southeastern North Dakota counties.

Ten booths, including Lynne's with Northarvest's Bean Crazy game, taught students about agriculture.

Lynne was also part of the Fargo Living Ag Classroom in March at the Ag Building on the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo. More than 1800 fourth graders, and 90 teachers, learned about agriculture, ag careers, soil conservation, and saw a real yearling beef, pigs and sheep.

Beans for Kids

Ten Senators recently sent a letter to the administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service supporting more fruits and vegetables in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

The letter, signed by Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar and North Dakota Senator Kent Conrad, was written in regard to the performance-based reimbursement rate increase for new meal patterns that was included in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

In 2009, the National Academy of Sciences' In-

stitute of Medicine recommended that the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs should be more consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2005. As a result, Congress included a performance-based rate increase for schools that served increased portions of fruits and vegetables, including food products derived from pulse crops such as dry beans, dry peas, lentils and chick peas. Additionally, the recently updated Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010 stated that a "variety of vegetables" includ-

ing "beans and peas" are foods and nutrients to increase for a healthy diet.

The letter, prompted by the American Pulse Association, goes on to point out that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that obesity rates have increased for young Americans to an estimated 16.9 percent of children and adolescents, and lists obesity in our general population as a contributing factor to several leading causes of death, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some types of cancer.

The Senators' letter concludes by saying including pulse crops in school lunch menus can provide a fundamental source of dietary fiber and protein while limiting fat intake and will help reverse the troubling increase of obesity in the U.S.

The 10 Senators urged the administrator to update the meal patterns for the school lunch programs in accordance with the guidelines set by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.



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Beans in the News

The May Update from the U.S. Dry Bean Council includes press clippings from the website Care2.com and the Washington Post online.

The Care2.com article, “Why Eat Beans, Peas, Lentils and Peanuts?,” lists several reasons:

- High in protein: ½ cup (4 ounces) of beans is equivalent to eating two ounces of lean protein. Nutritional guidelines recommend that most adults eat about 5 ½ ounces of lean meat a day.
- Lots of fiber: ½ cup serving of cooked dry beans has 4 to 10 grams of fiber.
- Rich in complex carbohydrates.
- Contain iron, zinc, calcium, selenium and

The Washington Post

folate.

- Rich in antioxidants.
- Low in fat
- Provide a low glycemic index

Research has shown that the legume family may help to reduce chronic diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes mellitus, inflammatory diseases, osteoporosis, depression, obesity, cancer and stroke.

The Care2 article also says in some Eastern cultures, legumes are and were a basic dietary staple that can be traced back more than 20,000 years.

Read more at: www.care2.com/greenliving.
U.S. Dry Bean Council

Executive Director Jeane Wharton says 15,819,207 members read Care2, while the Washington Post has almost five million readers, the largest readership of all daily newspapers in the U.S. “More than 20 million people read about nutritious, versatile, delicious beans in these stories,” says Wharton.

Washington Post Reporter Jennifer LaRue Huget featured beans in her “Eat, Drink and Be Healthy” column this spring. Huget reports she is surprised to learn that the typical American eats only one-third cup of beans and peas a week.

The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans want us to nudge that number up to 1.5 cups a week. Huget goes on to say that the humble bean is an excellent source of lean protein and one of the most fiber-packed foods you can put on your plate.

Both the Washington Post’s “Eat, Drink and Be Healthy” column and “Lean & Fit” e-newsletter offer recipes that feature beans of one kind or another.

To access the Washington Post article:

www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/inside-the-new-dietary-guidelines-beans/2011/04/13/AFYvyIqE_story.html?wpisrc=nl_health

BEAN STATS

The Michigan Bean Commission has compiled an interesting data table on historical bean production, dating back to 1919. These 90 years of data was gleaned from National Agricultural Statistics Service data.

BEAN PRODUCTION HIGH & LOW BY YEAR NASS (1919 to 2010)

Type	Highest Year of Production	Production in CWT	Lowest Year of Production	Production in CWT
Total Beans	1991	33,765,000	1921	5,772,000
Black Beans ¹	2010	4,654,000	1955	29,000
Cranberry	1939	671,000	1920	25,000
Navy	1991	8,268,000	2004	2,142,000
Great Northern	1948	4,039,000	1919	10,000
Kidney ²	1994	2,808,000	1920	219,000
Pinto	1981	14,593,000	1922	352,000
Small Red	1959	1,490,000	1920	30,000
Yellow Eye ³	1938	191,000	1969	20,000

¹ Black Bean breakdown started in 1953

² Dark & Light Red Kidney were reported together through 1989 -- for this report I have continued that method.

³ The last year Yellow Eyes were reported separately was 1969

Permit Label Expanded in North Dakota

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has issued a special local needs (SLN) registration to the Canyon Group LLC, giving North Dakota dry bean producers in Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado more flexibility in using Permit herbicide to control common ragweed. The current federal registration only allows pre-emergence applications to dry beans. This Special Local Need registration allows post-emergence application, giving growers more flexibility when weather does not cooperate.

NDSU Extension weed specialist Rich Zollinger

says Permit is one of the few herbicides that will control common ragweed, and the timing of the Special Local Need registration is important. "In a year like this when we just want to get the seed in the ground, and worry about weed control later," Zollinger says, "now we can deal with weed control post-emergence."

Zollinger says Permit will do a really good job on common ragweed, and many other weeds.

Sharpen is a new desiccant from BASF that Zollinger expects to be registered for use on dry beans by this fall, in time to desiccate this year's dry bean crop. "In our stud-

ies, Sharpen has been as effective, and sometimes more effective, than Valor, which has kind of become the standard." According to Zollinger, "one day after being sprayed with Sharpen, fields look like they were sprayed with acid—it's very quick."

Zollinger wants farmers to be aware that they use the right adjuvant with Sharpen. "They must use a methylated seed oil (MSO) type adjuvant. If they try to substitute with a crop oil concentrate, or a COC, they're not going to get the best results."

Zollinger says we still haven't completely overcome the problem with ef-

fective dry bean desiccation from desiccants applied in cool, wet weather, but he would expect Sharpen and Valor would still perform better than registered standards.

Zollinger also reminds dry bean growers in North Dakota and Minnesota that FMC has re-registered Spartan Charge for use in these two states. Zollinger says Spartan is very good on small-seeded broadleaf weeds, while Permit is very effective on large-seeded broadleaf weeds.

Spartan and Permit complement each other to provide control of the nine worst weeds in dry beans, according to Zollinger.



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Bean Briefs

NATIONAL SCLEROTINIA INITIATIVE AWARDS GRANTS

The National Sclerotinia Initiative has awarded five research grants, totaling \$301,000, to dry bean researchers across the United States. This is the 10th year of this white mold research. The Initiative began in 2002 to employ a coordinated research strategy to minimize the devastating effects of white mold on dry beans, soybeans, sunflowers, canola, peas and lentils.

The following is a list of the researcher, University/USDA and title of the project:

Juan Osorno-North Dakota State University. Inheritance studies of new potential sources of resistance to white mold in dry beans. Finding promising sources of resistance to white mold in dry beans. The genetics of resistance may reveal novel QTL. The development of cultivars with partial resistance is possible.

James Kelly-Michigan State University. Identification and validation of QTL for white mold resistance in pinto bean.

Phil Miklas-USDA/ARS, Jim Myers-Oregon State University, Phil McClean, North Dakota State University. White mold resistance-QTL. Identification, interac-

tions, and fine mapping in common bean. Dry bean genomics to identify new resistance traits and incorporate them into dry beans.

Howard Schwartz and Mark Brick-Colorado State University. On-farm validation of cultural practice adjustments to improve white mold management in dry bean irrigation systems. Cultural practices for control of white mold on nitrogen, irrigation and plant type of dry beans.

Jim Steadman-University of Nebraska. Multi-state dry bean screening and variance in white mold isolates. Provides for coordination of multi-site testing of bean lines for white mold resistance in the field and greenhouse.

CROP INSURANCE EFFORTS FOR PULSE CROPS MOVING FORWARD

In an effort spearheaded by the Northarvest Bean Growers Association and the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, the development of revenue insurance for pulse crops is moving forward.

Watts and Associates in Billings, Montana says large quantities of data have been collected from cooperating growers, warehouses, and elevators. These data will form

the basis for the risk assessment that is used to set crop insurance premium rates. Over the course of the early part of this summer, these data will be used to develop a revenue policy similar to the coverage currently available for corn and soybeans.

It is expected that the full development effort will be considered by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation later this year. While the process is time consuming and the outcome is uncertain, the producer associations pushing these efforts have high hopes for the eventual approval of this new risk management tool for producers.

U.S. DRY BEAN COUNCIL SUPPORTS EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAMS

U.S. Dry Bean Council President Dennis Engelhard submitted comments to the House Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture, to show its strong support of continued funding of the Market Access, and Foreign Market Development Programs.

Engelhard said the Council's membership includes state and regional grower organizations,

state and regional dealer/shipper organizations, processors, canners, retailers, and other entities in more than 35 states involved in the dry bean industry. More than 20 classes of dry edible beans were planted on more than 1.7 million acres in the U.S. in 2010, producing dry beans with a farm gate value approaching \$1 billion.

Stressing the importance of exports, Engelhard said dry bean exports average about 35 percent of production, annually. As a result, effective export market promotion is fundamental to the continued success of all segments of the U.S. dry bean industry.

Some examples of positive export progress that has resulted from USDBC participation in MAP and FMD programs for marketing years 2005 through 2010 follows:

*Annual U.S. dry bean exports increased 208 percent in value, to \$284.5 million

*U.S. dry bean exporters capture more than 15 percent market share in Mexico. U.S. exports to Mexico have increased 309 percent in value, to \$98.3 million

*Angola, a former U.S. food aid recipient, became a major importer of U.S. dry beans; exports to Angola have increased

367 percent in value, to \$8.4 million

*U.S. dry bean exports to the Dominican Republic increased 300 percent; Sales to Guatemala jumped 368 percent.

Engelhard told the Subcommittee these market promotion programs allow U.S. dry bean growers to compete on an international playing field where U.S. dry beans face difficult competition from subsidized producers in countries such as China, Canada and the European

Union. Also, market promotion programs such as MAP and FMD, are recognized to be acceptable components of trade policy by international trade organizations.

According to Engelhard, given the need for governmental spending to be more fiscally responsible, it is paramount that priorities be established for those programs that have proven their merit and that deserve to be maintained and preserved. USBDC feels strongly that

MAP and FMD clearly meet that criterion, with agricultural exports being up more than 300 percent since the inception of MAP and predecessor programs.

Every dollar spent in the promotion programs has resulted in more than \$35 in export activity, and every billion dollars generated in U.S. agricultural exports supports 8,000 American jobs. Engelhard said the positive balance of trade enjoyed by farm exports continues to be

one of the few bright spots in our trade environment.

The MAP and FMD programs have consistently been mentioned as possible targets for elimination during congressional consideration of the Fiscal Year 2012 agricultural appropriations bill this year. The U.S. Dry Bean Council thinks it's time for you to make a call, send a fax, or send an email message to your member of Congress asking for support of MAP and FMD funding.

Northarvest Premieres "Dry Beans from the Heart of Northarvest Country" DVD

After almost a year of conversations, efforts and the involvement of many growers, industry partners, and researchers, the Northarvest Bean Growers Association Board of Directors is happy to deliver a copy of its new video.

You may ask what motivated Northarvest Bean Growers Association to produce this video. In today's marketplace, consumers and food providers are becoming exceedingly curious about where their food comes from. And when nature gives you a perfect recipe, Northarvest decided it was time to deliver its message through a 10 minute video titled, "Dry Beans from the Heart of Northarvest Country."

The video is on Northarvest's Bean Institute web site, beaninstitute.com; the Culinary Institute of America's Pro-Chef.com website; and the Northarvest Bean Growers Association website. Both English and Spanish versions are available on DVD.



DR-CAFTA & Mercusor Regions Update

U.S. Dry Bean Council Representative Randy Duckworth reports the Government of the Dominican Republic has finally made its long-overdue allocations for beans under DR-CAFTA. These are just the allocations and importers must still have their certificates from the government to actually clear customs with their duty-free allocations. In the past, Duckworth says it has taken as long as several months after the allocations were made for the certificates to be issued.

Allocations are being made to over 400 companies or individuals, and most are for quantities that are less than a full container.

It is well known that many of these allocations are being made to connected friends and supporters of the Ministry of Agriculture and current administration. It is also well established that the vast majority of these companies with small allocations do not intend to actually import and resell the beans themselves, but rather will just sell their certificates to the small number of traditional bean importers.

El Salvador's legislative assembly recently authorized the government to import 1.2 million cwt of beans in 2011. The



Changes are coming to Wal-Mart's operations in Central America. First of all, the current Hipermas name is likely going to change to Wal-Mart. The changes at the Central American Wal-Mart chain will also mean suppliers will need to adjust their marketing and distribution methods.

decision is intended to mitigate a possible rise in prices of basic grains and other products, since production in 2010 was lower than expected because of excessive rains.

El Salvador recently imported 90,000 cwt of red beans from China in an effort to stabilize prices. The Salvadoran company, Gumarsal, has also reportedly imported small red beans from Ethiopia.

Duckworth also reports Nicaragua has halted exports of beans to the U.S. and elsewhere. The president of the Association of Producers and Exporters of Nicaragua said exports have ceased due to export restrictions put in place by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture. Nicaragua's National Dry Bean Commission and Association of Producers and Exporters have argued that the requirements are unjustified and causing losses to processors and marketers.

Nicaragua exports beef cattle, milk and cheese,

and coffee, beans and other products as part of agreements signed between Presidents Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, under the Bolivarian Alternative. Nicaragua

imports about 10 million barrels of oil annually and pays on preferential terms. As part of this deal, Nicaragua exports black beans to Venezuela in partial payment for the oil. In early March, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture announced it was shipping 400 metric tons to Venezuela, bringing the total for 2011 to 980 metric tons, still far short of its promise to ship 20,000 MT annually.

Wal-Mart Mexico assumed the reins of the operations in Central America a year ago. Changes are reportedly



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coming throughout Central America. The first of these changes is the possible changing of the Hipermas name to Wal-Mart. Also, the chain is expected to introduce its “Every Day Low Prices” and the prospect is reported to have created some concern among suppliers and competitors.

Renovations will be in the offing and it is expected that the stores will take on the “Superama” format that is being used in 75 stores in Mexico. The change will also mean that suppliers will have to adjust their marketing and distribution methods to the new operations of Wal-Mart stores.

Before the December 2009 takeover by Walmex of operations in Central America, growth projections were moderate, between 10 and 11 percent a year over the past years. However, with the Walmex takeover, the projections doubled to more than 20 percent for the region. According to Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, Walmex net sales for Central America grew 24 percent in 2010. This is way above the Wal-Mart results in the United States where the company reported only a 1.1 percent growth in 2010 over 2009. In Central America, Walmex intends to open 80 new stores. Walmex recently announced a \$1.5 billion (U.S.) investment in that region.

Canada Pulse and Special Crops Outlook

Canadian farmers intend to decrease the areas seeded to most pulse and specialty crops. In March, Statistics Canada estimated total seeded area to decline 20 percent, to 2.7 million hectares. However, the actual planted area may differ from planting intentions because of delayed seeding progress in western Canada.

Average yields are generally expected to increase from last year's low levels. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada forecasts total production and supply to decrease by 16 percent this year. Exports are expected to fall by 11 percent, to four million tons, due to the lower exportable supply and lower world demand. Domestic use of pulse and specialty crops is expected to decline, assuming an average quality crop and grade dis-

tribution. Total carryover stocks are expected to fall for the third consecutive year which will provide positive support for prices. Prices are forecast to rise for most crops, with the exception of chickpeas.

DRY BEANS

For 2011-12, the intended area seeded is intended to fall 27 percent from last year because of lower returns compared to other crops. Some of the area is expected to shift to soybeans. Production and supply are expected to fall as a result. Exports are forecast to decrease due to the limited supply and carryout stocks are expected to fall. Statistics Canada forecasts the average price of Canadian dry beans will increase because of the lower U.S. and Canadian supply.

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011 ^f	2011-2012 ^f
Area seeded (kha)	128	121	136	100
Area hvstd	125	114	127	96
Yield (t/a)	2.13	1.96	2.00	1.98
Production (kt)	266	224	254	190
Imports	54	55	55	52
Total supply	341	287	314	267
Exports	282	256	245	230
Total domestic use	50	26	44	32
Carryout stocks	8	5	25	5

^f forecast, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



PAUL GALEGHER
Thompson, North Dakota

What classes of beans do you grow and why?

Navy beans and dark red kidney beans. Why? Because they seem to be the best market out there right now.

Will you be making changes in the mix of crops this year?

We will be having less edible beans, but that's primarily due to rotation than anything else.

What's your favorite part of the spring season?

It's nice to see that gray, almost dead-looking dirt turn black and seeing something seeded into it. The smell of freshly turned dirt is also special.

What's the best tractor you ever owned? Why?

It's the 7920. That's the one I drive all the time. My favorite part of it is the IVT transmission. I like that.

What is your biggest challenge as a farmer?

I'd say marketing. Anybody can grow a good crop, it seems, but to get it sold at a profitable level is the harder part.

If you won a trip to travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Hawaii. I've been there once and I'd love to go back there again. That would be my first choice.

Tell us about your farm?

I farm with my cousin, John Junior. We're fourth-generation farmers in the Thompson area, farming between 2,800 and 3,000 acres and it keeps us busy.

Do you like being your own boss?

Oh, yeah. That's nice. You can make your own decisions.



ROBERT DREES
Grand Forks, North Dakota

What classes of beans do you grow and why?

Navy beans and small red beans, and occasionally some pinto beans and black beans. We try to raise a diversified portfolio of beans to spread out the risk.

Will you be making changes in the mix of crops this year?

No, we plant about one-third small reds and two-thirds navies.

What's your favorite part of the spring season?

When planting is done!

What's the best tractor you ever owned? Why?

WD-45 Allis Chalmers. It is the first tractor I drove in 1966.

What is your biggest challenge as a farmer?

Marketing.

What do you like to do in your free time?

What free time?

If you won a trip to travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Hawaii. It would be a nice change of pace, and is completely different than where we live.

Tell us about your farm?

I farm with my two younger brothers. Our family has been farming in the Grand Forks area since the 1920s. Our farm is five generations old and we hope to bring it to the next generation.

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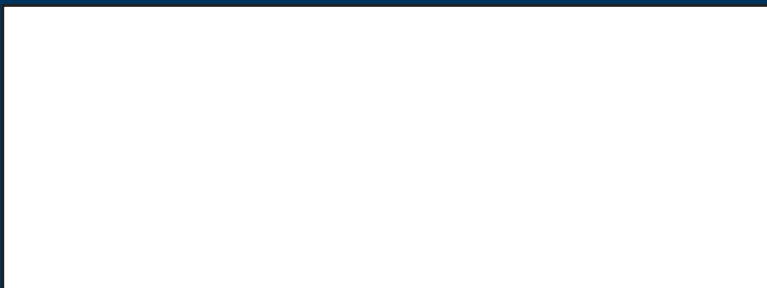
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In this edition of *BeanGrower*, look for the new video, “Dry Beans from the Heart of Northharvest Country.”