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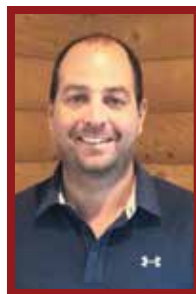


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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 4

AN UNPRECEDENTED GROWING SEASON



As I write this column, the finish line is in sight for the 2020 planting season. It's been another challenging spring. Of course, this headache began with a late start to 2019.

We dealt with late-season rains and got dumped on with an early October snowstorm. Corn was going through the combine all winter long and continuing to do so well into this spring. It's really a harvest hangover.

Without the ability to do fall tillage, last year's corn ground has been nearly unworkable for many growers this spring. There was never a nice seedbed and prevent plant was the only option. There's no doubt, certain pockets within the Northarvest region have it worse than others.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen the word 'unprecedented' used a lot. I have to say that term describes the year-plus that we've seen.

Despite these hurdles, I still see a lot of optimism when I visit with fellow growers. There's nothing like the resilience of the American farmer.

Wishing you a successful growing season!

*David Dickson, President
Northarvest Bean Growers Association*



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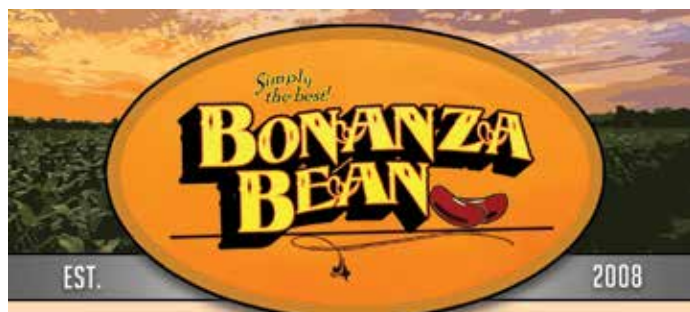
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The Role of *Pythium* in the Root Rot Pathogen in the Northharvest Region

By Claire Poore, Sam Markell and Julie Pasche, North Dakota State University Department of Plant Pathology

Limited work has been done in the Northharvest Bean Growers Association region to directly evaluate the root rot pathogen *Pythium* on dry bean. A survey conducted nearly a decade ago established *Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia* as causal agents of root rot in the region, but *Pythium* was not targeted during this survey.

Pythium root rot is commonly managed with seed treatment fungicides containing the active ingredient metalaxyl/mefenoxam (Allegiance, Apron and others), but resistance to these fungicides has been reported from several areas across the United States.

Therefore, the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Department of Plant Pathology aimed to identify *Pythium* found on dry beans in North Dakota and Minnesota, determine root rot potential and determine fungicide sensitivity of the *Pythium* identified.

NDSU plant pathology graduate student Claire



Figure 1. Cultivar Dynasty inoculated in the greenhouse with *Pythium* collected in the Northharvest region.

Poore surveyed 33 and 49 fields for root rot in 2018 and 2019 (Table 1). In 2018, 12 and 21 fields were surveyed in Minnesota (Clearwater, Ottertail, Red Lake, and Steele counties) and North Dakota (Foster, Grand Forks, Stutsman, Traill, and Walsh counties), respectively. In 2019, 10 and 39 fields were surveyed in Minnesota (Becker, Hubbard, Norman, Ottertail and Polk counties) and North Dakota (Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Traill, Walsh, and Wells counties), respectively.

In 2018, *Pythium* was

identified in 40% of fields and was found in all counties except for Red Lake. *Fusarium* was identified in 82% of fields and in all surveyed counties. In 2019, *Pythium* was identified in 82% of fields and in all surveyed counties with the exception of Ottertail. *Fusarium* was identified in 80% of fields and in all surveyed counties.

Incidence of *Pythium* was higher in 2019 when compared to 2018, potentially due to excessive moisture observed in fields during the 2019 growing season. *Rhizoctonia* was not found in

2018 and found in less than 13% of fields in 2019 (Grand Forks, Traill, and Walsh Counties).

To date, 13 *Pythium* species have been identified from dry beans collected in North Dakota and Minnesota. Some of these have been shown previously to cause disease in dry beans in other regions. While *P. ultimum* has been considered the primary cause of *Pythium* root rot in dry beans, preliminary greenhouse evaluations indicate that there are several *Pythium* pathogens which cause moderate to severe root

Table 1. Incidence of Fusarium and Pythium root rot observed in dry bean fields surveyed in 2018 and 2019.

County	2018			2019		
	Number of fields	Fusarium root rot	Pythium root rot	Number of fields	Fusarium root rot	Pythium root rot
Foster	2	2	1	-	-	-
Grand Forks	7	7	4	11	11	11
Nelson	-	-	-	1	1	1
Pembina	-	-	-	4	1	1
Steele	2	1	1	-	-	-
Stutsman	3	2	1	-	-	-
Traill	6	5	1	10	9	9
Walsh	3	3	1	4	4	4
Wells	-	-	-	9	7	7
Becker	-	-	-	2	1	2
Clearwater	3	1	1	-	-	-
Hubbard	-	-	-	2	1	1
Norman	-	-	-	3	2	3
Ottertail	4	4	3	2	1	0
Polk	-	-	-	1	1	1
Red Lake	3	2	0	-	-	-
Total	33	27	13	49	39	40

Survey conducted from June 18-July 16, 2018 and June 18-July 16, 2019.

rot and substantial decreases in germination (Fig. 1).

Pathogenicity testing of more *Pythium* species is ongoing. Initial screenings indicate that *Pythium* collected in the Northharvest region are sensitive to the fungicide metalaxyl/mefenoxam (Allegiance, Apron, and others). These evaluations are also ongoing.

These are important findings for root rot management. The pathology team has determined that several *Pythium* species are widespread across the Northharvest region and can cause severe root rot on dry beans. Resistance to seed treatment fungicides containing metal-

axyl/mefenoxam (Allegiance, Apron and others) have been increasing around the United States but has not been observed in dry beans in our region. Therefore, NDSU continues to recommend the use of a seed treatment fungicide to manage *Pythium*. The understanding of important *Pythium* pathogens in the region is the first step in developing management recommendations, including which fungicides will be effective and also will guide efforts in breeding for resistance.

The NDSU plant pathology team would like to thank Robin Lamppa, Kim Zitnick-Anderson and Shalu Jain for assistance in conducting this survey.

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In addition to innovative plenary sessions, BeanCon21 will feature opportunities for private business meetings, networking, chef presentations and future-focused tastings of beans and bean ingredients. For more information visit beancon21.com.



A CHALLENGING ARGENTINE PLANTING SEASON

This year was a challenging planting season in Northern Argentina, disrupted by dry spells that forced farmers to stop planting through mid-March. Some of the lots that were planted right before the dry conditions settled in needed to be replanted or lost a great number of plants from the

stand. There is a significant difference in the state of the fields that were planted on time and those that were planted late because of insufficient moisture content on the soil. Similar to last year, there is a large proportion of land that was planted late or was replanted.

U.S. Dry Bean Council estimates indicate a decrease in exportable supply of black and cranberry beans and a large increase exportable supply of Alubias. Stocks of all bean classes, except black beans, are gone, and exporters stated that demand is slow compared to the beginning of May. From June 2019-April 2020, Argentina exported 450,114 metric ton (MT) of dry beans, up 28 percent from the same period the previous year of 351,303 MT.

NDSU EXTENSION HELPS FARMERS COPE WITH STRESS

Poor growing and harvesting conditions, low commodity prices, trade wars and other factors have been stressful for North Dakota farmers and ranchers. NDSU Extension has developed a number of resources to help those in agriculture cope with the stress resulting from the uncertainties in their profession.

The first step is to recog-


nize the early symptoms of stress, according to Sean Brotherson, Extension family science specialist. "Before farm/ranch families can do much about managing stress, they have to know when they are experiencing it," he says. "Much of the time, people do not know or give attention to what is going on in their bodies and in their relationships with others."

Those early signs include rising blood pressure, a rapidly beating heart, clenched teeth, aching neck and shoulders, sweating hands and feet and churning stom-


ach. "Early warning signs are like a flashing red light on the dashboard of your car when the engine is overheating," says Brotherson. "If you ignore it long enough, the engine will get damaged."


To help farmers and ranchers recognize the warning signs and do something about them, Brotherson has developed fact sheets with tips on how to control events that cause stress, control their attitudes about those events and control their responses. Those fact sheets can be found at tinyurl.com/FarmStressFactSheet.

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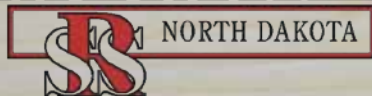
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A Short Supply of Dry Bean Seed

Dry bean seed shortages showed up as farmers made their acreage decisions this past spring. The late start to the spring planting season in the Northern Plains had some of the 2020 crop acres in flux.

Particularly, farmers in northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota considered substituting some acres for warm season crops like sunflowers or dry edible beans. However, Johnstown Bean Company general manager Dylan Karley says that dry bean seed was in short supply this year.

"If seed would've been readily available, I believe dry edible beans would have picked up a lot of acres coming out of corn or soybeans. But unfortunately, that seed supply was basically sold out nationwide."

A lot of that stems from a fixed capacity of seed that is produced on a yearly basis. However, 2019 production problems in North Dakota and Minnesota also caused some of the national seed supply to not make proper germination quality.

"Given the wet soil conditions this spring, certain dry bean growers made the call that they were not going to plant all of their intended dry bean acres," explains Karley. "That



meant from time to time we did have cancellations on some of the seed. That was then moved to farmers who could really use it."

In mid-May, dry edible bean stocks for nearly all classes were also sold out nationwide. The main

reasons, again, stemmed back to 2019 production problems in the Northern Plains. Nebraska was also a bit short on production due to drought and hail.

"Mexico was also a big factor. The country couldn't seed basically

half of its edible bean crop last year. So, North America as a whole has been very tight on stocks all year," says Karley.

"Then, you combine those short stocks with the coronavirus pandemic, schools and restaurants shutdown, which has the food service industry putting bean back into the market. The retail side really saw a rush for the product, though, which consumed any extra product."

There will be a real need for dry beans in the pipeline come late summer/early fall. "I'm hoping we can get those stocks back up," he says. "With the U.S. dry bean acreage expected to increase, perhaps we'll be able to get back in to a situation where there are positive ending stocks coming out of next year. But as a whole, it's a short market right now."



Ten Questions with the Northarvest President

Gilby, North Dakota farmer David Dickson currently serves as president of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. The BeanGrower magazine sat down with Dickson to learn more about his farm and desire for representing the dry edible bean industry.

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself. Farming has been in your roots since day one, so why did you choose to stay involved?

I grew up on the farm northwest of Grand Forks, North Dakota. I went to college at the University of North Dakota and would come back to help on the farm on the weekends. After college, I worked off the farm for a few years as a request from my dad. I came back to the farm about ten years ago and am now a full time fourth generation farmer married with three children. My son tells me he eventually wants to be a farmer, too, so that makes me excited!

2. During your time away from the farm, did that solidify your decision to farm for life?

Definitely. It brought all sorts different perspectives into my life. To be



Dickson and his three children pose for a picture during planting season.

exposed to these different perspectives also changed my vision for the farm. It's not always a bad thing to change it up a little bit.

3. Tell us more about why you grow dry edible beans on your farm. What classes of beans seem to work well for the area?

Black beans are the main class grown on our

farm but have also raised pinto and navy beans in the past. Lately, planting one variety has worked better in our crop rotation plan. It's also easier come harvest time so you're not testing which variety is ready to go and constantly cleaning out the combine. About four years ago we started direct harvesting dry edible beans. It's worked out really well for

us and helps simplify harvest. The upright bean varieties have sure improved since they first came out.

4. While the Dickson Farm certainly grows its fair share of dry edible beans, it spans much further beyond that. What other crops do you raise on your farm and why?

We also raise wheat, soybeans, corn and sugar-

beets. The wheat is mainly for rotational purposes because we didn't want to be in a straight corn and soybean rotation.

5. Do the variety of soil types play into crop rotation decisions as well?

Oh yes, especially with the sugarbeets. You don't want to plant those in soils with a little bit of rock or a different make-up. That is our main focus with our crop rotation. I'd say the dry edible beans also get put in certain soil types, depending on the type of bean being planted. The other crops go where they are fit to be planted in the other fields.

6. Can you recap some of the challenges faced in the 2019 growing season? What are farmers going to pay more attention to in 2020?

The excess precipitation come harvest time was certainly one big challenge. We had a difficult time even finding a field fit to travel across. It was a long season to say the least. Thankfully, some of the ground did freeze so we could get into fields to harvest. With these harvest delays and high moisture crop, a lot of local elevators and bean companies didn't have the ability to store wet beans. They worked with growers to take in the crop because a lot of farmers don't have the proper storage on-farm for dry beans. Also,

some farmers were spraying a pre-emergence herbicide and the area didn't get rain right away. As a result, there was splash back on the beans and stunted their growth for a little bit. Those beans took longer to mature in the long run. This year, I think farmers are paying closer attention to planting windows and the weather to try and avoid another tough go around.

7. Serving as president of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association, tell us more about why you decided to step into this role.

About five years ago I was asked by a fellow farmer in our area who was stepping down if I was interested in serving on the board of directors. I was then encouraged to run for vice president and

then eventually president. I am humbled that my fellow board members have faith in me to serve as their leader.

8. In the five years you've been involved with Northarvest, what have you learned by working with dry edible bean growers from across the region?

I've been able to gather so many different perspectives about the industry and learn more about how an organization is run. This leadership role has definitely been helpful in how I run our farm as well. Just because you think one way doesn't mean it's right or wrong. It's all about how someone else portrays the same situation.

9. In your opinion, how has agriculture

evolved over the years?

The technology aspect is definitely a big one, like variable rate seeding and precision fertilizer application. Harvest methods have also evolved over the years. Some farmers in my area still use a cutter or a Pickett harvester, but a majority have switched over direct harvesting. It just seems like a more simple and quick way to get the beans off.

10. Finally, what is the best part about your job of being a farmer?

To be honest, I like being my own boss. It's also rewarding to see the finished product getting taken out of the field. From planting to spraying and harvesting, it's satisfying to know that you took care of that crop all season long.



Dry edible bean harvest on the Dickson Farm

Getting 'Deep in the Weeds' with Joe Ikley

By Carah Hart

Identifying and managing out-of-place plants is second nature for the new NDSU Extension Weed Management Specialist and Maryland-native Joe Ikley. "An interest in agronomy morphed into weed science when I was in college. My advisor at the University of Maryland knew the Extension weed scientist needed help over the summer."

Ikley then applied for the job, got it and started his sophomore year. From the first day he was hooked on weed science. "At the end of the season, my boss asked me to stick around during my bachelor's degree (2010) and master's degree (2012). Then, he kicked me out of the East Coast and sent me to the Midwest to take a closer look at bigger agriculture."

After spending a few years in Indiana at Purdue University studying pigweeds and getting his doctorate, Ikley had the chance to move further west. When he learned Dr. Rich Zollinger was retiring, Ikley jumped at the chance to apply for the open Extension weed scientist position at North Dakota State University (NDSU).

"The weed science com-



Joe Ikley

munity is pretty small and I knew Dr. Zollinger from his research," explains Ikley. "I wanted to work as an Extension weed scientist, which also made my options limited. That's why I applied for the position at NDSU and it seemed like a great fit. The interview panel agreed and I joined the team."

More than 1.5 years later, Ikley is still learning about North Dakota agriculture. "There's more diversity in the crops grown here compared to the Midwest or east coast," says Ikley. "Yet even with corn and soybeans, there's a huge learning curve, simply because of

the shorter season varieties, tighter planting and harvest windows and the herbicide use patterns due to the weather and soil-type."

That learning curve carries over into dry edible beans. "Dry beans were once described to me as a more challenging soybean in terms of weed control," says Ikley. "Based on the herbicide options, that's one way to think about it. Weed management options are limited for dry bean growers and these farmers are more willing to put in the time and resources to control weeds."

One thing Ikley noticed quickly is dry bean grow-

ers incorporate herbicides as a pre-emergence weed management strategy. "That practice is usually dropped when you grow crops with more herbicide options because no one wants to take the extra passes across the fields," he says. "This practice is still used in North Dakota because of the need and the farmer's passion for growing the best crop possible."

As resistant weeds challenge management tools, farmers may re-evaluate this strategy. "Dry edible beans aren't high on the priority list for new herbicides. We may get one registered soybean herbicide that gets a dry bean label, but I think for the next five to ten years what we have for herbicides in dry beans will be what we have," says Ikley. "As resistance continues to be a challenge, looking at non-herbicide options will be a very interesting and exciting path of research to explore."

For the next few years, Ikley will be closely evaluating at least one non-herbicide option for weed management: the use of a companion crop at planting for conventional tilled areas. "This grant for soybeans could be carried over to dry beans if it's successful."

The project is similar to research previously done by the University of Minnesota, looking at oats as a companion crop planted with soybeans for Iron Deficiency Chlorosis management. "More or less at that time they said it worked." Ikley says there's a slightly different take on his research.

"In soybeans with glyphosate resistant weeds, management must be done year-round. It will be interesting to revisit the concept and looking at the competitiveness of a companion crop with the weeds that are becoming more challenging. We don't really rely on cover crops for conventional till farming practices at this

point."

Researchers at the NDSU Extension Research Center in Carrington are already looking into the use of cover crops for dry edible bean weed management. "This continues to be a good option for no-till systems."

According to Ikley, future dry bean projects could include working with a specific weed population that's difficult to control in dry beans, like common ragweed. "We could work with herbicides in crop rotations to drive down that ragweed population to make it more manageable in a dry bean year," says Ikley. "We could also explore additional tank mixes to further

suppress the population to minimize yield losses."

Ikley would also like to help farmers continue to identify troublesome weeds like Palmer amaranth. The potential for the noxious weed to become established concerns the scientist. "In Indiana, Palmer amaranth likes drier years and sandier soils. Dry beans are grown on well drained, sandier soils," he explains.

"If Palmer amaranth becomes established, it could thrive very well on the soil type where dry beans are grown. It will have some herbicide resistance, greatly limiting effective herbicide options. That's one weed that's a big unknown."

All research aside, Ikley is looking forward to working with and meeting more dry bean growers in the region. He values relationships and the personal connection with farmers. "Agriculture is a people business. That's one of the great things about extension. You can make good, personal connections with farmers. That helps build trust and people don't hesitate to give you a call."

If dry bean growers have any questions on weed management, they can contact Ikley via phone at 701-231-8157 or by e-mail at Joseph.Ikley@ndsu.edu. Ikley is also on Twitter, just search for @NDSUWeeds.



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Signup Now Open for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Enrollment is now open for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This program will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"America's farming community is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation tackles the coronavirus. President Donald Trump has authorized USDA to ensure our patriotic farmers, ranchers, and producers are supported and we are moving quickly to open applications to get payments out the door and into the pockets of farmers," said Agriculture Secretary Perdue.

"These payments will help keep farmers afloat while market demand returns as our nation reopens and recovers. America's farmers are resilient and will get through this challenge just like they always do with faith, hard work, and determination."

CFAP DETAILS

As of May 26, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses five percent or greater due to COVID-19. Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources.

The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in appropriated funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020 and mid-April 2020. The second uses

the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

Eligible commodities include several specialty and non-specialty crops, along with cattle, hogs, sheep and dairy. USDA is working to identify commodities not included CFAP to potentially be added. Farmers and ranchers who suffered a five percent or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April or with unharvested, mature crops are encouraged to submit comments to USDA.

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability

companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation.

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining 20 percent of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

Additional information on CFAP and application forms can be found at farmers.gov/cfap. Producers of all eligible commodities can apply through their local FSA office. Ap-



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plications will be accepted through August 28.

FARMERS TO FAMILIES PROGRAM

Beyond direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA has also established the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) partnered with national, regional and local suppliers, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, to purchase up to \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products.

The program purchases included approximately \$461 million in fresh fruits and vegetables, \$317 mil-

lion in a variety of dairy products, \$258 million in meat products and \$175 million in a combination box of fresh produce, dairy or meat products.

Suppliers then packaged these products totaling \$1.2 billion into family-sized boxes, transported them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations and other non-profits serving Americans in need from May 15 through June 30.

AMS may elect to extend the period of performance of the contracts, via option periods, dependent upon program success and available remaining funds, up to \$3 billion. More information on the program is available at usda.gov/farmers-to-families.



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Agronomy Profiles



BRAD GUCK

**PROFESSIONAL
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SERVICES**

Perham, Minnesota

Tell us about your crop consulting business.

At Professional Agronomy Services, we service farms in Perham and Wadena, Minnesota and the surrounding areas with seed, fertilizer and crop protection products. We have the unique opportunity to work with a variety of crops in this area that includes many acres of dry edible beans. The agronomy service has several employees with 20+ years of experience servicing dry bean acres and all the other crops that are grown in the area.

How has the agriculture industry changed during your career?

I have been around agriculture my entire life, but my career began back in 2003 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Since that time, a lot has changed with technology. The advancements in technology all around us amazes me; agriculture is no exception. Farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants are continually using technology to collect data. They then turn that data

into powerful insights to help improve their operation in any way possible. Today, we routinely use tools such as satellite imagery, variable rate planting and fertilizing technology to gather information and make decisions on the farm.

What's your favorite tool or piece of technology?

Since our soil types are primarily sandy and variable in the area that we service, I would have to say my favorite piece of technology is the variable rate capabilities that we have. With variable rate planting and fertilizing technology, we can get closer to managing the acre where needed and not always treat the entire field the same. This allows growers to plant and fertilize for their realistic yield potential in smaller areas of each field instead of treating each field the same end-to-end.

What advice would you give dry edible bean growers to maximize their yields each year?

My biggest piece of advice is to always cover

the basics. Go with what you know has worked for you. There are so many opportunities to try new things and that can be overwhelming. Don't be afraid to try new things on a small scale. Then when you find something that seems to work, attempt to replicate it and verify your results before you make a big change across the farm. It's also important to remember what didn't work so well and learn from those things.

When you're not scouting fields and working with farmers, what do you do for fun?

I enjoy baseball games, fishing, camping and traveling with my wife and two sons.

What is your favorite food?

A medium-rare ribeye!

What's the best part of your job?

The best part about my job is working with farmers and having the opportunity to help them be successful.

Each summer edition of the BeanGrower magazine features agronomists from North Dakota and Minnesota. In the following profiles, these two agronomists share more about their background in agriculture, special agronomy interests and offer advice for dry edible bean growers.



JOSH MESSER

AGINTEL, LLC

West Fargo, North Dakota

Tell us about your crop consulting business.

AgIntel is a full-service agronomy consulting business covering southeastern and central North Dakota. I work with farmers to develop a full system approach that fits their environment and helps improve their soils, production and bottom-line. Services provided include: crop planning and budgeting, in-season crop monitoring, seed/chemical/fertility recommendations, irrigation and water management, field mapping, precision soil and tissue sampling, equipment and technology guidance and field data analysis.

How has the agriculture industry changed during your career?

Equipment and testing technology have come to market at a rapid pace. These advancements are allowing for collection of crop, soil and environmental data at every stage of the growing season. The

next phase will be analyzing the complex data and putting it into action to improve the farmer's bottom-line.

What's your favorite tool or piece of technology?

The best tech tool I use and get the most value out of is my SWAT Box EM38 sensor. It is an autonomous electrical conductivity mapping tool. I use this to map the soil characteristics of fields so that I have a high-definition view of every acre of the field.

What advice would you give dry bean growers to maximize their yields each year?

I encourage farmers to not focus so much on maximizing yield in the short-term, but rather focus on maximizing profits. Start with a good understanding of your soil and environment and address the most limiting factor. Then move to the next most limiting factor. This kind of approach will keep you more profitable and

lead to better productivity in the future.

When you're not scouting fields and working with farmers, what do you do for fun?

I like to keep it outdoors, even in my spare time. Hunting, fishing, golfing and snowboarding are hobbies I really enjoy.

What is your favorite food?

A medium-rare ribeye.

What's the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is the constant challenge and education. No two years are the same in agriculture and that forces me to adapt and learn. Having great farmers to work with during that process makes it even more enjoyable, especially when they are eager to learn and focused on improving their soils and operations.

Considerations for Late Season Dry Bean Weed Management

By Joe Ikley, weed specialist, NDSU Extension

In a typical year, farmers hope to finish herbicide applications by early July. However, the late start to the 2020 planting season means weed control plans have been pushed back, compared to years with more timely planting dates.

Two considerations with late herbicide applications are: 1.) the growth stage cutoff and 2.) the required pre-harvest interval (PHI). Some herbicide labels list both the application cut-off and PHI. In this case,

the application cut-off is the more restrictive label requirement and has likely already passed by mid-

summer. Table 1 lists the application cut-offs and PHI for postemergence products in dry beans.

Late season herbicide applications also have implications for rotational restrictions to other crops.

Table 1. Application cut-off and pre-harvest interval for postemergence products in dry beans.

Herbicide	Application cut-off	Pre-harvest interval
Basagran (bentazon)	PHI	30 days
Raptor (imazamox)	Prior to flowering	None listed
Varisto (bentazon + imazamox)	Prior to flowering	30 days
Permit (halosulfuron)	Prior to flowering	30 days
Pursuit (imazethapyr)	Prior to flowering	60 days
Reflex (fomesafen)	PHI	45 days
Assure II (quizalifop)	PHI	30 days
Fusilade (fluazifop)	PHI	60 days
Poast (sethoxydim)	PHI	30 days
Select (clethodim)	PHI	30 days



For example, using Reflex east of Highway 281 in North Dakota results in a ten-month rotation restriction for corn. An application on July 25, 2020 would not allow for planting of corn until May 25, 2021. This could have implications for planting plans for the 2021 cropping season. Table 2 lists the rotation restriction for many

rotational crops grown in sequence with dry beans. For rotational restrictions to crops not listed, refer to pages 112-113 in the 2020 North Dakota Weed Control Guide. Most products allow some flexibility for planting several crops the following year. However, if herbicide applications drag into August, then corn planting dates in

2021 will likely be affected. The last thing to keep in mind for end the summer and with harvest approaching is to pay attention to weed escapes. The combine cab is one of the best places to judge the effectiveness of a weed control program. While identifying weeds is typically focused on early in

the season, the ability to identify mature weeds late in the season can find the weak spots in a weed control program. This can help pick out potential herbicide-resistant weeds and also determine any modifications needed in weed control programs in future years to control escaped weeds.

Table 2. Rotation restriction (in months) of postemergence dry bean herbicides for top rotational crops in dry bean

Herbicide	Corn	Soybean	Sugarbeet	Wheat
Permit (halosufuron)	1	9	36	2
Pursuit (imazethapyr)	8.5	0	40	4
Raptor (imazamox)	8.5	0	18	3
Reflex (fomesafen)	10	0	18	4
Varisto (bentazon + imazamox)	8.5	0	18	3



A Lifetime in the Bean Biz

By Megan Overby

Larry Sprague has spent most of his life marketing dry edible beans in Michigan, throughout the United States and across the world. Most recently, Sprague worked as a senior trader and exporter for Kelley Bean Company in Durand, Michigan until his retirement in June.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED

Sprague grew up on a small, 40-acre farm near his hometown of Durand. “I didn’t really leave the farm much. However, one of my first jobs off the farm was as a truck driver. I put in a lot of hours there.”

Throughout high school, Larry participated in numerous sports and was a leader in the vocational ag program and in FFA. His hard work paid off, receiving a full tuition scholarship to Michigan State University (MSU).

“I was the first one in my family, including all my cousins, to attend a four-year university. It was quite an experience considering I had hardly stepped out of Shiawassee County.”

At MSU, Sprague studied agricultural education and taught at the high school level for two years after graduation. After that, he went to work for Wickes Agriculture in 1973. “Wickes was the big dry edible bean company in the U.S. at the time.”

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

The bean business was quite different from the small farming community Larry grew up in. “I started (at Wickes) as a manage-



Larry Sprague

ment trainee and thought I’d run an elevator someday. Instead, I ended up interning as a grain trader.”

Harvest was approaching at that time and Sprague got in to the bean department with Bill Bolster and Jerry Groth. “For some reason, they thought I knew how to handle dry beans and I’ve been in the industry ever since.”

Sprague recalls several major bean-related events that occurred throughout his career. One of the very first was in 1973.

“Michigan was the leading dry bean producing state in the nation, producing over six million hundredweight per annum. Ninety percent of production was devoted to navy beans, and the remaining 10 percent were colored bean classes.”

Fast forward to December of 1980. The Michigan Bean Shippers Asso-

ciation was contacted by the Mexican government. “The government was somewhat in a panic because their bean crop was almost a complete failure. So, they met officials from Mexico who said the country would take any bean available for shipping.”

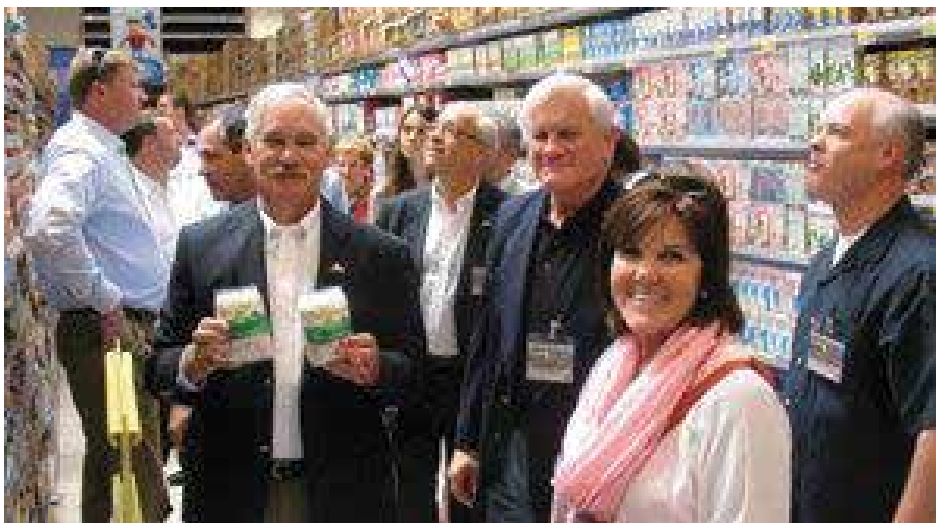
From that point on, business was conducted with the Mexican agriculture department and an agreement was reached in March of 1981 to supply beans under direct contract. At the time, Sprague was working for Northern States Bean Company.

“The company, along with two other Michigan-based companies, negotiated a 60,000-ton bean purchase with Mexico’s buying agency that included pinto, black, light red kidney, pink and cranberry beans.”

Sprague goes on to acknowledge there have been many changes and challenges in the industry over the years. “Sometimes, we tend to look over our shoulder. For so many years, we’ve been told as a U.S. industry that we cannot compete with the rest of the world,” he says.

There has been push from international bean buyers to try and find cheaper products sources other than the U.S. “Being involved in agriculture, there’s very few other parts of the world that can compete with the ingenuity of U.S. ag – from farmers to processing to marketing.”

That is a strong testament and a pet peeve of Sprague’s. “It disappoints me to see so many people looking over their shoulder out of concern. Rather, why don’t we just keep looking forward?”



In 2013, USDA Undersecretary Michael Scuse holds packages of Great Northern beans sold by Kelley Bean Company in a supermarket in Istanbul, Turkey. Sprague is pictured to the right of Scuse.

NOW WHAT?

While reflecting on his 47 years in the bean business, Sprague says the

most profound memories are the ones developed with farmers, customers and even fellow competi-

tors. "They become your friends. You get to know their families and their children," he says. "I've met such great people from nearly every state and across the world."

The dry bean industry is a very personal business, so over the years Sprague learned who he could trust and developed many close relationships as a result. "It's really been eye opening and mind broadening experience to be apart of this business."

As a kid, Larry wanted to be a full-time farmer. He will finally get that chance as he transitions into retirement. Currently Sprague's son farms close to 900 acres, raising wheat, corn, soybeans and black beans. "I'll finally get a chance to practice what I've preached about for so many years."

Beyond farming as much as his son will let him, Sprague also admits he is a pretty good wood worker. "There are plenty of projects to do there. I like sports and am a military gun collector," he adds. "Of course my wife, who puts up with me, my three children, eight grandkids and two great-grandkids also keep me plenty busy."

The most influential person in Larry's life was his father. "He said if you earn a paycheck, do your job. Don't complain. My dad worked every day of his life, even through sickness, and never had an excuse. Watching that growing up I said, that's who I want to be."

All in all, agriculture and faith in God are a major part of the Sprague's life and will continue to be. "As I look back, it's been a pretty good career. I'm sure going to miss not coming to work every day, picking up the phone and talking to my best friends."

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Get to Know Your USDBC Global Rep

Courtesy of Rebecca Bratter, U.S. Dry Bean Council

Since December 2016, Ellen Levinson of Levinson and Associates has served as the U.S. Dry Bean Council's (USDBC) International Representative for the Americas & Emerging Markets. Levinson is a global agriculture, nutrition and food systems expert and champion for resilient agricultural value chains and trade policies.

Ellen conceives and executes



Ellen Levinson

strategic plans that increase revenue and impact visibility for clients. She has been an advisor to businesses, nonprofit government organizations (NGO), universities, and trade associations. Her agriculture and food work has taken her to numerous countries to assess markets; develop and implement market development strategies; form collaborative partnerships; address policy and regulatory issues and establish and oversee projects.

For 22 years, Levinson served as



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From Bean Planting to Harvest, Trinidad Benham Can Help With Your Needs!

government relations representative for a U.S. commodity futures exchange. She was also a consultant to the American Soybean Association and United Soybean Board for four years, helping launch soy protein products for food assistance and to establish global NGO partnerships. Additionally, she was a lead writer of the agribusiness-led Global Harvest Initiative "Global Agricultural Productivity" report for two years, and also served as advisor to the Government of Yemen for imple-

mentation of USDA programs for ten years.

For 30 years, Ellen served as the Alliance for Global Food Security Executive Director. Before launching her own consulting firm in 2004, for ten years she directed government relations for the law firm Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft and for seven years. Prior to that, she held a similar position at Lord Day & Lord, Barrett Smith.

Levinson was appointed to the Agricultural Policy Advisory

Committee for Trade to the U.S. Trade Representative and Secretary of Agriculture, testifying before Congress and to many other panels on global agriculture, trade and food security issues. Early in her career, Ellen was a legislative director for a U.S. Congress member and directed research for USDA on the methodology for nationwide food consumption surveys. She holds a Master of Science degree in Nutrition and a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology.



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From the Archives of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association

1 YEAR AGO: SUMMER 2019

Vice President Pence Visits Region: Vice President Mike Pence traveled to Glyndon, Minnesota to discuss the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement. Borup, Minnesota dry bean grower Mark Harless spoke to Pence about black beans. “I told Vice President Pence we have to get the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement ratified. Sixty percent of black beans we produce go to Mexico. It’s vitally important we keep that market open.” At the event, Pence called on House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson to work with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to ratify the trade agreement.

5 YEARS AGO: SUMMER 2015

Osorno Travels to Guatemala: North Dakota State University dry bean breeder Juan Osorno presented at the Society of the Central American Cooperative Program for the Improvement of Crops and Animals annual meeting in Guatemala. Osorno gave a progress report on the genomic sequences of agricultural crops and their application



in the breeding of legumes. A total of 350 scientists from Central and South America and the Caribbean attended the conference.

Cuban Trade Highlighted in Senate Hearing: USDA Under-

secretary Michael Scuse testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee about the opportunities and challenges for agricultural trade in Cuba. One day after the hearing, North Dakota Senator Heidi Heit-

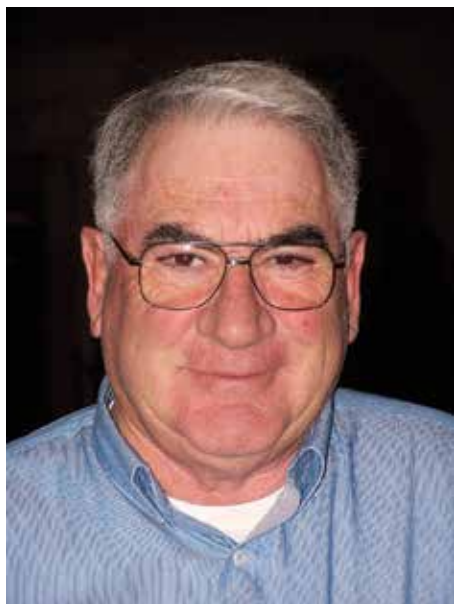
kamp introduced a bill that would allow U.S. exporters to access credit from private banks and companies for export of agricultural products to Cuba.

10 YEARS AGO: SUMMER 2010

Northarvest Promotes Beans in Spain: Minnesota Dry Bean Council Chairman Mark Dombeck of Perham participated in the Alimentaria trade show in Barcelona, Spain. Dombeck helped man the U.S. Dry Bean Council booth. The event attracted 130,000 visitors. Dombeck said the price of freight and the availability of containers were big issues at the show.

ADM Seedwest Announces Acquisition: ADM Edible Bean Specialties, also known as ADM Seedwest, has acquired the Syngenta Seeds' dry bean business. The purchase includes Syngenta's dry bean seed inventory, germplasm, parent seed and commercial seed.

Streifel Elected: Washburn, North Dakota farmer Don Streifel is the new president of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association. Fisher, Minnesota farmer Todd Sorenson is vice president and Joe Mauch of Hankinson was elected treasurer.



SUMMER BEAN AND PASTA SALAD

Recipe courtesy of The Bean Institute

As the temperatures rise, fuss-free dishes like this pasta and bean salad are just right for supper on the deck or patio. Make it in the morning to allow the flavors to develop. That way you don't need to think about supper until it's time to eat!

Ingredients

- 8 ounces rotini pasta, cooked
- 3 - 15 ounce cans of any beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 ½ cups frozen or canned corn kernels
- 1/2 cup Italian salad dressing
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- Red pepper flakes to taste (start with ¼ tsp)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: halved cherry tomatoes

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the pasta, beans and corn.
2. In a separate bowl, stir together the salad dressing, mayonnaise and red pepper flakes until well mixed.
3. Stir the dressing, mayonnaise and red pepper flake combination into the pasta, beans and corn.
4. Add salt, pepper and additional red pepper to taste.
5. Chill in the refrigerator for a couple hours before serving.



COVID-19 Global Consumer Survey Shows a Shift to Beans

The U.S. Dry Bean Council (USDBC) commissioned a study from Rose Research to better understand the effect the COVID-19 pandemic is having on consumer attitudes, perceptions and behavioral practices towards dry beans in some of our export markets.

Specifically, the following areas of investigation were measured and included behavioral patterns from six months ago, currently and six months from now:

- Purchase frequency
- Outlets purchasing from
- Amount spent in a typi-

cal month

- Types of dry beans purchased
- Purchase intent

In addition, the study looked at whether changes made to shopping habits will continue in the future and the best way to promote dry beans now. A total of 3,771 interviews were completed online, from China, Europe/European Union and Mexico.

The study concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic will have long-term impacts on consumer behavior around the world, as many of the consumers indicate that the changes

that they're making today will stay with them.

According to the study, dry beans have a number of opportunities to position for success now and in the future. Consumers are more apt these days to be looking for products with a longer shelf life, while alternative sources of protein are also in demand. These are two key attributes that can potentially differentiate dry beans from other food products/commodities.

When study participants were asked what changes they're making to their diets, many of the consum-

ers (in each of the markets/ regions surveyed) indicated they are "eating more pulses/dry beans."

The vast majority also said they will be looking for alternative sources of protein (i.e. beans) moving forward than they did prior to the outbreak. The study looked at the impact on numerous food products and dry beans scored among the highest as a permanent dietary change post COVID-19.

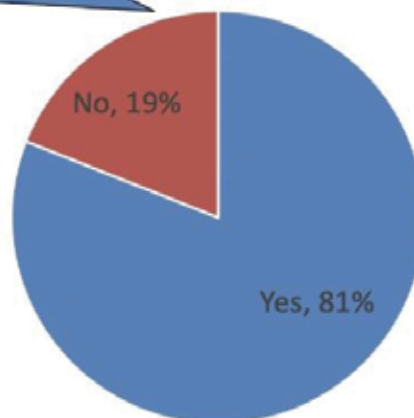
The full study with detailed questionnaire results and charts per region is available to USDBC members upon request.



ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN SOURCES (SUCH AS BEANS) MOVING FORWARD

Along these lines and also encouraging, better than four-fifths of Chinese consumers anticipate turning to alternative protein sources, such as beans, more often in the future (as a result of this pandemic) than they currently do.

Women, those with children under the age of 18 living at home and higher income earners are even more likely to turn to alternative protein sources in the future – such as beans.





GREG THYKESON
Portland, North Dakota

What's your family history on the farm? How did you get into farming? My grandpa, Truman, and my dad, Brad, started Thykeson Farms Inc. in 1983. My first year farming was in 2003. Currently, I am farming with dad and my younger brother, Ross.

How long have you raised dry edible beans, and what classes do you grow? We have raised dry beans as far back as I can remember. Right now, we raise black beans. They seem to fit our ground well and the varieties have improved over the years. Black beans also stand nice making for an easier harvest.

What other organizations are you involved with, or what other leadership roles do you hold? I currently

serve on the Steele County Water Resource District Board and am a Farm Bureau member. I also served on our local archery club board, Norsemen Archers, and spent two years being part of Pioneer Seed's Next Generation Farmer program.

What's the best piece of advice you've received? Years ago, I was bummed about some yields we were getting on our farm. My grandpa told me "You know what, Greg? This will be the best crop you will raise THIS year. You've done all you can and Mother Nature did the rest. Control the things you can." My other grandpa, Orlando, showed me that hard work pays off. They both are a huge reason why I am involved in agriculture.

What's your favorite piece of farm equipment? My favorite piece of machinery has to be the planter. It's amazing how well it adapts to the different field conditions. You only get one chance to plant the seed right (hopefully), so you must do it right.

If you could add any new piece of equipment, what would it be? Adding more on-farm storage would help us with carry in the market and be able to market our grain better.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you do in your spare time? I love spending time with family in my free time. I golf in the summer and fish on hard water in the winter.

What's the best part about being a farmer? The best part about being a farmer are days when there's not a cloud in the sky and it's 80-plus degrees outside - fresh air! Also, being able to have my own schedule (minus Mother Nature's messed up schedule) is another reason farming is fun. There's something about watching a crop grow that is very rewarding.





BRAYDEN WAGNER
Englevale, North Dakota

What's your family history on the farm? How did you get into farming? Our farm was started in 1910 and I am the fifth generation to farm. I grew up on the family farm and decided to return after I completed a degree in accounting from Saint John's University. Currently, I farm with my father and we raise corn, wheat, soybeans and dry edible beans. About one-third of our ground is center-pivot irrigated.

How long have you raised dry edible beans? Our farm has been raising dry beans since the 1970s. They grow well on our irrigated gravel and are a good rotation with corn. Dry beans are definitely my favorite crop to grow.

What classes of beans do you grow and why? We have raised most types of beans, including dark red kidneys, small reds, pintos, pinks, blacks, navies and Great Northerns. Lately, we have only been growing pintos because the market is steady, and we've had good luck with yields.



What organizations are you involved with, or what other leadership roles do you hold? I currently serve on the Farm Service Agency county committee in Ransom County. Also, I help coach pole vaulters at Lisbon High School when time allows before planting season.

What's the best piece of advice you ever received? My grandpa and dad always told me: "If you take care of the farm, the farm will take care of you."

What's your favorite piece of farm equipment? I have two favorites: a skid steer and red handled Wilde pliers. I can't imagine farming without either of them.

If you could add any new piece of equipment, what would it be? I would like to add a strip tiller to our farm to decrease the number of passes across our fields. I think it would be a good practice on our irrigated fields with a corn/pinto rotation.

Do you have any hobbies? What do you do in your spare time? I like to spend most of my spare time with my wife and our three wild boys. Also, I enjoy snowboarding, hunting and getting to lakes country in Minnesota.

What's the best part about being a farmer? The best part about being a farmer is learning multiple skills in a variety of areas such as agronomy, business, electrical, mechanical, etc. I like that my days are not monotonous and change with the seasons. It is very rewarding to be part of a family business with such a long history.

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