

# Bean buildup

**NBGA PRESIDENT PROMOTES  
BEANS NEAR AND FAR**

**pg. 7**

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**WHAT'S THE LATEST  
ON THE FARM BILL  
PROCESS?**

**PG. 10**

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Northarvest Bean Growers Association  
President Eric Jorgenson produces pinto  
beans on his farm near Leeds, North Dakota.  
This photo of a pinto bean field was taken  
June 13, 2023, northeast of Johnstown,  
North Dakota. Ann Bailey / Agweek





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Picking up the baton for NBGA



**Eric Jorgenson**

President,  
Northarvest  
Bean Growers  
Association

Dear Members of the  
Northarvest Bean Growers  
Association,

I hope this letter finds  
you in good health and  
high spirits. As I pick  
up the baton of the  
role of president of the  
Northarvest Bean Growers  
Association, I want to  
thank former NBGA

President Eric Samuelson  
for his leadership for the  
past two years. A lot of  
change has happened and

some significant growth has happened under his  
watch. He and the presidents before him have worked  
hard to be good stewards of your dollars. Thankfully he  
will continue to serve on the board, and I figure he will  
continue to be a source of advice and knowledge on  
how to best keep the wheels turning on this operation.

I also want to take a moment to share our appreciation  
to each and every one of you for your support and  
dedication to the dry bean industry. Without you all  
putting your time in the fields, NBGA plain and simple  
could not exist. It's our job to help you do your job in  
the fields through supporting research, promotion  
and trade that benefits us all. It is your hard work and  
commitment that keeps fuel in the tank of NBGA's  
mission and drives us forward. I will do my best to  
make sure we're doing our best by you.

Recently I had the good fortune of representing the  
Northarvest Bean Growers Association in Panama,  
talking with Central American government agencies  
and commodity buyers in vital trade discussions. We  
at Northarvest feel it is absolutely crucial in expanding  
market opportunities for dry bean producers and  
to help make sure the world gets fed. These actual,  
in-person conversations and opportunities to shake  
hands are some of the best ways that we can make a  
lasting impact for dry bean farmers like yourselves.

In this issue of BeanGrower, you will find a snapshot of  
some of the work that NBGA does, including a trip to  
Washington, D.C., to work alongside several members  
of the U.S. Dry Bean Council to speak with influencers  
of the upcoming farm bill. Northarvest is doing our best  
to make sure our growers are looked out for and don't  
get lost in the shadow of larger conventional crops.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 26**

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Dexter Cronquist, Eric  
Jorgenson, Joe Mauch,  
Justin Retterath, Joe Mauch,  
Ex Officio Eric Samuelson

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Eric Samuelson, Eric  
Jorgenson, Joe Mauch, Karl  
Jodock, Mark Dombeck

NOTE: The Northarvest  
Board President is Ex-officio  
member of all committees

## Edible bean industry representatives talk to Congress about farm bill priorities

By Ann Bailey | Agweek

Edible bean farmers and dealers were in Washington, D.C., this spring to talk to members of Congress about their priorities for the farm bill.

Kevin Regan, a Webster, North Dakota, farmer who serves as a director on the United States Dry Bean Council and as North Dakota Dry Bean Council treasurer, and Jed Brazier, Northarvest Bean Growers Association marketing and communications director, were among the members of the U.S. Dry Bean Council who were at the three-day event.

During the late March fly-in, Regan and Brazier met with several congressional staff members who represent states where edible beans are grown to talk about priorities for the farm bill.

One of the priorities is that the National Sclerotinia Initiative, which is studying the fungal disease commonly known as white mold, would remain in the farm bill, Brazier said. The program is administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

White mold damage, which typically occurs under wet growing conditions, can cause serious crop losses if it is not controlled.

Research over the years has been conducted on mitigating white mold damage through edible bean row spacing, developing disease-resistant varieties and the optimal time to spray fungicides. Research also has determined that rotating edible beans with crops such as small grains and corn, which are not susceptible to sclerotinia, is helpful.

Another important program that Regan and Brazier told congressional representatives should be fully funded in the farm bill is the Pulse Crop Health Initiative, which the USDA Agricultural Research Service also administers.

The goal of the initiative, which was launched at the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research



**Kevin Regan of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association and a Webster, North Dakota, farmer and Lynn Reuter of the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission were part of a fly-in to Washington, D.C., to talk about dry edible bean priorities in the farm bill.**

*Contributed / Northarvest Bean Growers Association*

Center in Fargo, North Dakota, is to use cooperative research on pulse crops, which include dry edible beans, to come up with solutions to the health and sustainability challenges that face citizens in the United States and around the world.

The initiative, which is overseen by a committee made up of commodity groups, food industry representatives, healthcare professionals and ARS representatives, strives to discover and promote the health and nutritional benefits of regular pulse consumption, grow the sustainability of the

global food supply by optimal production of pulses, and increase the amount of pulses that people eat by making the whole product and the ingredients they are used in more functional.

Both the Pulse Crop Health Initiative and specialty crop block grants are important to sustaining and improving the edible bean industry, which contributes to domestic and global health, Brazier said.

Regan and Brazier advocated for continuation of funding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture specialty crops block grants in the farm bill. The



program is designed to make specialty crops more competitive in the marketplace.

"That helps provide money for many different projects," Brazier said.

In fiscal year 2022, the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service awarded North Dakota more than \$3.3 million in federal block grants and Minnesota received \$1.3 million. The AMS awarded a total of \$72.9 million, nationwide, in the 2022 fiscal year.

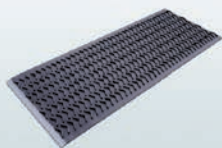
Events such as the fly-in are important to the edible bean industry because they keep the commodity on the radar of lawmakers who are funding programs that improve demand for edible beans, and at the same time they benefit the recipients of the product.

For example, edible beans would be a nutritious product that could be sent to Ukraine, where people are desperately in need of food and should be sent in the form of a commodity, not as money to buy products. **NBGA**



**Edible bean growers, dealers and grower organization representatives talked to their congressional representatives about their priorities for the farm bill. Pictured are, from left, Steve Savell, Bush Brothers and Co.; Dave Weber, New Alliance Bean Dealers/WESTCO; Kevin Regan, Northharvest Bean Growers Association; Tom Hance, Gordley Associates; Lynn Reuter, Nebraska Dry Bean Commission; David Scholand, Central Valley Bean Co-op.; Sheldon Bancroft, Trinidad Benham; and Neil Durrant, Big D Ranch/Idaho Bean Dealers Association. Contributed / Northharvest Bean Growers Association**

## CONVEYORS AND PARTS



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# Minnesota farmer gives edible beans a boost from the ground up

By Ann Bailey | Agweek



**Ryan Peterson, a Clear Lake, Minnesota farmer, served on the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council for three years. Contributed / Northarvest Bean Growers Association**

Ryan Peterson enjoys taking part in the edible bean industry from farm to fork.

Peterson, a black and dark red kidney grower who farms near Clear Lake, Minnesota, concludes in mid-July a three-year term on the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council. During his term, Peterson served on the research, legislative, promotion, food aid and communication and marketing committees.

Serving on the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council was a natural part of being a dry edible bean farmer, because his father, the late Alan Peterson, served on boards, Ryan Peterson said.

"It helps our voices be heard in bigger circles and we get to have a say in where checkoff dollars go," he said.

Meanwhile, Peterson's term on the board also gave him an opportunity to listen to the concerns of other edible bean farmers and to share that with other Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council members. The other council members do the same, which gives the group a good sense of what issues are important to them and what the council can seek to address.

"We're always talking to neighbors about different practices so when we do get to our meetings, it is talked about and we bring it up," Peterson said.

While serving on the board, Peterson also learned about international marketing and the role that edible beans grown in North Dakota and Minnesota play in that, through his participation in a trade mission.

Peterson was one of several Northarvest Bean Growers Association members who went on trade missions in 2022 to countries that included South America, the Middle East and Europe. The members, including farmers, who go on the trade mission, promote North Dakota- and Minnesota-grown edible beans and answer buyers' questions.

For farmers, that means having an opportunity to explain how they grow their crops and dispel any rumors.

Peterson attended the GULF food show in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Feb. 20-24, 2023.

He enjoyed not only answering questions about how he raises edible beans, but also about learning the destination of the ones he produces on his farm.

During Peterson's time sitting in a booth, food show attendees looked at the many varieties of beans on display, including kidneys, navies and great northern, he said. The people who

visited the booth had preferences not only for the classes of beans, but the degree of quality and form in which they wanted them.

It was an eye-opening experience for Peterson to learn about the intricacies of the global market, and it helped him bridge the gap between his farm, where he produces the edible beans, and the individuals who buy them.

Some buyers, for example, wanted polished beans and others wanted splits that could be used as ingredients in products such as soups. Meanwhile, types of packaging available for beans were discussed with the buyers.

"Farming as a whole is very global. It definitely opens your eyes to the entirety — especially edibles, which are exported," Peterson said.

It's also important to promote the dry edible beans domestically, because U.S. citizens don't eat as many beans, a nutrient-dense food, as they should, he said.

Promoting edible beans internationally and domestically helps open doors to new markets for them, which will result in a stronger market for farmers.

Research is another area of Peterson's interest, and he learned about what University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University researchers are doing during his time on the council.

The research includes which herbicides are most effective for weed control, tillage practices and development of new edible bean varieties.

In early June 2023, Peterson's black beans and dark red kidney beans had emerged and looked healthy. The edible beans are grown under irrigation, so moisture was adequate. **NBGA**





## Cover Story

# Northarvest Bean Growers Association president is proud to promote industry's products

By Ann Bailey | Agweek

Growing edible beans means more to Eric Jorgenson than putting pintos in the ground.

The new president of Northarvest Bean Growers Association has a passion for promoting the crop, accelerating research and developing new markets.

Jorgenson will start his term as president in mid-July 2023, after serving terms as secretary and vice president of the organization.

Jorgenson was seeking an alternative crop to sunflowers and canola in the 1990s when he planted some acres of soybeans on his farm near Leeds, North Dakota. He liked the

soybeans, so in 1999 he decided to try edible beans.

Though edible beans come with their own set of production challenges, Jorgenson has raised them since then, pleased by their profitability and their benefit to the soil.

Edible beans typically account for about one-third of his total acreage of 4,500.

"I thoroughly love growing pinto beans. It's probably my favorite crop, even though it has its challenges," Jorgenson said. Adverse weather conditions, such as an early frost, for

example, have resulted in yields as low as 500 to 600 pounds per acre.

However, over the years, favorable yields have outweighed the poor ones.

"Overall we've had good luck with them. We try to shoot for 1,800 to 2,000 pound yields," he said.

In early June 2023, it was too early to tell where yields this year would land.

Cold, wet conditions in spring 2023 delayed the onset of planting on Jorgenson's farm until May 15, and on June 8, he was still seeding pinto

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



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*I was very proud to become president of the organization, because I want to carry on the good work that all the former presidents and directors have done.*

**Eric Jorgenson**



**Eric Jorgenson was part of a trade mission to Panama City in mid-March 2023.**  
*Contributed / Northarvest Bean Growers Association*

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7**

beans. The edible beans, along with other crops, needed moisture.

"We really haven't had good rain since we started. It's on the dry side," Jorgenson said.

As president of Northarvest Bean Growers Association, producing the crop is just one part of his commitment to the edible bean industry. He served on the Northarvest Bean Growers Association board of directors for several years because he wanted to be involved in growing the industry through research and market development.

"I was very proud to become president of the organization, because I want to carry on the good work that all the former presidents and directors have done," Jorgenson said. "I want to definitely support our growers and help them to grow a good quality product, help sell the product they grow."

One of the ways to do that is through trade missions. In March 2023, Jorgenson represented Northarvest Bean Growers Association on a trade mission to Panama City. The edible bean grower was one of 25 individuals and businesses who accompanied Alexis Taylor, U.S. under secretary for trade

and foreign agricultural affairs, on the trade mission, held March 19-23.

Jorgenson spoke with edible bean buyers during the trade mission, promoted the quality of the North Dakota- and Minnesota- grown crops, provided them with brochures about edible beans and answered questions about how edible beans are produced.

"A lot of them, you could see the surprise in their faces ... I think they were impressed," Jorgenson said.

He brought with him scale tickets of his 2022 pinto bean crop to show the buyers the



excellent quality he and other North Dakota and Minnesota farmers produced.

The buyers were eager to learn about edible bean production from a farmer's point of view and wanted to immediately secure pintos, blacks and small red beans, he said.

"A lot of them were very receptive of it. I was amazed at how energetic they are. They wanted to buy beans right now from me. They were very eager to buy beans," Jorgenson said.

The buyers included owners of processing plants and supermarket chains. Some of the buyers wanted to buy whole beans and others were interested in purchasing splits, depending on what product they were processing.

Jorgenson learned from the buyers as well as teaching them about edible bean production.

"They would tell me about their operations. It was very interesting to hear what they do with them and how they make their products. A lot of them had their unique, niche way of using our beans," Jorgenson said.

He believes trade missions are valuable to the edible industry and its farmers and was grateful he could be a part of one.

"I think the relationships that we can build and start with these buyers wherever they may be ... it's very important, a very good thing to take part in," Jorgenson said. **NBGA**



**Eric Jorgenson promoted dry edible beans during a trade mission to Panama City in March 2023.**  
*Contributed / Northarvest Bean Growers Association*



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Former Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson speaks Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in West Fargo, North Dakota, at the Midwest Agricultural Summit.  
*Jeff Beach / Agweek*

## Farm bill discussions are in good shape, Peterson says

By Jenny Schlecht | Agweek

With Congress raising the debt ceiling and dealing with concerns about work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in June, some common sticking points that historically have kept a farm bill from timely passage appear to have been cleared up, a former long-time agriculture policymaker says.

"Everything has been positive so far as far as the obstacles," explained Collin Peterson.

The current farm bill expires on Sept. 30, though it's far from unusual for a new bill not to be in place on deadline. In fact, Peterson said there is no particular reason to have a new bill passed when the old version expires. Instead, if the House and Senate can't reach an

agreement by the end of the year, they could vote to extend the existing bill.

"Nothing becomes critical on Oct. 1," he said.

Peterson served 15 terms in the U.S. House, representing Minnesota's 7th District, and much of that time was spent in leadership on the House Agriculture Committee. He played a major role in crafting five farm bills during those years. After losing a re-election bid in 2020, he helped form the Midwest Council on Agriculture, of which Northharvest Bean Growers Association is a member.

The Midwest Council on Agriculture is a coalition of members from across the agriculture industry in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois,

Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The purpose of the council is to provide a united voice for agriculture out of the region to policymakers. Peterson and former USDA under secretary Bill Northey, of Iowa, modeled the council after the Southwest Council on Agribusiness and the Delta Council, which helped propel the needs of their members to Congress.

In mid-June, Peterson was gearing up for a trip to Washington, D.C., later in the month to meet with ag committee leaders and offer his advice. Being out of Congress has freed him up to give his "legitimate advice" rather than worrying as much about getting people from across the country on board with a unified plan.



"I think I'm almost doing more good on the outside," he said.

## A money problem

Peterson said a few obstacles remain in getting a bipartisan farm bill completed. While the SNAP issues and debt ceiling conversations should be cleared up, he said there remain House members "agitating" for change. But he doesn't think they have as much power as they act like.

"People in charge of committees say SNAP and work requirements are settled and won't be brought up again," he said.

But even with that major hurdle cleared, others remain. The big one is a lack of money.

"Every day, another group is looking for additional money," Peterson said. "Right now, there is no additional money."

It's unlikely that Republicans would agree to a tax increase and equally unlikely that

*Every day, another group is looking for additional money. Right now, there is no additional money.*

**Collin Peterson**



lawmakers would cut spending in another area to put more into the farm bill, he said. That means putting more money into programs in one part of the farm bill likely would come at the expense of other parts of the farm bill.

A substantial amount of funding went into conservation programs through the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Biden administration's Climate Smart programs were put in place through the Commodity Credit Corporation. Some opponents of the increased funding would like to see cuts in those areas to fund

other things in the farm bill, Peterson said, but he said that doesn't seem like something Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who chairs the Senate Ag Committee, would support.

"Stabenow is not going to stand for that," Peterson said, noting that millions of dollars already have gone out in grants for the conservation programs, and canceling those would "set off alarms" in agriculture. "Anybody that's anybody in agriculture has gotten a grant."

That lack of money means farm groups might not get all of the things they want out of the new bill. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't still advocate for themselves and their needs.

"They should maintain their relationship with their elected officials," he said.

It's not the job of farm groups to figure out how to come up with the money; it's their job to say what they need for their members to be

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# Farm bill



**Northarvest Bean Growers Association was a sponsor of several farm bill listening sessions in North Dakota, including this one in Devils Lake in April 2023. Ann Bailey / Agweek**

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

successful, even if they know the money might not be there right now.

"The people on the committee can sort that out," he said.

He recommends farmers and farm groups engage at town hall meetings with lawmakers and reach out to members on the House and Senate Ag Committees.

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association was among a number of farm groups that sponsored farm bill listening sessions across North Dakota in the spring. The sessions were an opportunity for farmers to tell farm groups what mattered to them, including the kinds of issues they are having on their farms that might be helped by policy changes.

### Protecting the farm bill

From the overall perspective of the Midwest Council on Agriculture, Peterson said the existing farm bill is a good framework.

"We want to protect what's there. That works pretty well for Midwest agriculture," he said, noting agriculture in other areas, including the South and West, have legitimate concerns about things like low reference prices for prominent crops.

Crop insurance is the most important thing to protect, in his perspective. Ideas that could undermine the existing crop insurance program include payment limitations on subsidies and tying crop insurance to things like conservation.

But Peterson said the program could use some help in the area of affordability for places with regular weather instability — including North Dakota and northern Minnesota. Somewhere like Iowa, farmers can buy 95% protection on corn at a "pretty reasonable amount."

"But in North Dakota, you really can't afford to go above 75%," he said.

Improving the ability to buy coverage in the Dakotas and Minnesota, as well as places like west Texas and Oklahoma, without undermining the overall structure of the program, would be a welcome change, Peterson said.

"If we did this, it would maybe eliminate the need for ad hoc disaster (programs)," he said, noting that it's unlikely that such programs would ever completely end because of unexpected situations.

However, Peterson said flexibility remains key.

"We're not locking ourselves into anything until we see what we're working with here. Is there more money? Is there not more money?" he said.

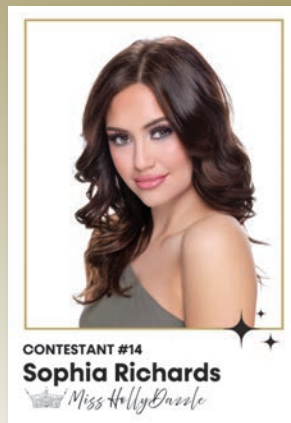
And then, as ever with the farm bill, it's a matter of getting everyone on the same page.

"This bill is not going to get done if it's not bipartisan," he said. **NBGA**





Former North Dakota State offensive lineman Cody Mauch is drafted into the NFL Friday, April 28, 2023, in the Hankinson, North Dakota, Community Center. *Michael Vosburg / The Forum*



Courtesy / Miss North Dakota

## NBGA celebrates connections to NFL draft, Miss North Dakota competition

It's been a big year so far for the children of a couple Northarvest Bean Growers Association directors.

When the Tampa Bay Buccaneers took former North Dakota State offensive lineman Cody Mauch at No. 48 overall in the second round of the National Football League draft, it wasn't just a big deal for NDSU Bison fans — it meant a lot for the NBGA family. Mauch's father, Joe Mauch, is the vice president of the NBGA. The Mauchs farm near Hankinson, North Dakota, and Cody Mauch's farm background has been a big part of the story around his initiation into the NFL.

Sophia Richards — the daughter of Northarvest Bean Growers Association treasurer Tony Richards — already was Miss HollyDazzle, but in June, she added being named first runner up in the Miss North Dakota Scholarship Organization to her resume. Richards, of Hope, North Dakota, graduated from NDSU with a degree in strategic communication. Her talent was vocal, singing "La Vie En Rose." Richards is an anchor at Valley News Live.

*Has someone in your family had something notable happen recently that you'd like that share? Do you have a photo of your dry edible bean fields that you'd love other people to see? Send items of interest or photos to [jschlecht@agweek.com](mailto:jschlecht@agweek.com) and it may be used as a Northarvest Notable item.* **NBGA**

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# Make sure to sign up for the Northharvest weekly e-newsletter



If you're not signed up for the Northharvest Bean Growers Association e-newsletter, you could be missing out on important news and information, valuable to a grower of dry edible beans.

The weekly newsletter includes news about dry edible bean crop conditions, NBGA activity updates, upcoming event announcements, trade news, market analysis and more.

The newsletter also includes links where you can listen to The Dry Bean Scene, a Red River Farm Network audio segment all about dry beans, sponsored, in part, by the Northharvest Bean Growers Association, as well as others in the bean industry. The Dry Bean Scene contains timely, important information about things like markets, weeds, research, industry developments and other topics that can help you make informed decisions about your operation and your dry bean production. 



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# BeanCon23 videos hit YouTube

By Ann Bailey | Agweek

The U.S. Dry Bean Council wants the world to know about the health benefits of its product and brought together members of the industry at BeanCon23 to learn about them so they could spread the word. And now, those same lessons are available to the world, via YouTube.

While there was information presented about worldwide edible bean production and crop conditions, the focus was on the "big picture" of making the global buyers aware that edible beans are a healthy, protein-rich food that are available in frozen forms and can be served in restaurants, as they are in the United States.

The U.S. Dry Bean Council also presented information about the nutritional value of beans, the legumes' contribution to a healthy diet, and new forms, such as pre-cooked and frozen.

About 200 people, including representatives of Northarvest Bean Growers Association,

attended BeanCon23, held Feb. 27-March 3, 2023 in Mendota, Columbia.

While demand for many commodities grown in the United States have reached their peak, there still are opportunities to create markets for edible beans, and the U.S. Dry Bean Council believes that creates a niche for its products.

The BeanCon23 recorded sessions, made up of individuals and panelists are available to watch on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@usdrybeancouncil45/videos>.

Sessions included "Bean Lieve It — New bean products," "Stirring the Pot — Mythbusters!" and "The Nutrition Revolution — Advocating Change."


During BeanCon23, chefs from across the globe demonstrated how they are using edible beans, an old world food, in new ways. Edible beans are used not only as a main or side dish,

but also as an ingredient in foods such as pasta and flour.

A YouTube video of the "Tradition to Trending — an old ingredient becomes new," looks at ways edible beans and edible bean products are being used in innovative ways.

## Bean Day videos

Also available online are videos from Bean Day 2023, the annual dry edible bean conference put on by Northarvest Bean Growers Association. The presentations include conversations with Northarvest Bean Grower directors and officials, speakers from across the U.S. with interest and expertise in beans, researchers on important bean advancements and solutions, the latest on trade and much more.

All 14 sessions of the conference are available on the Bean Day 2023 playlist at <https://www.youtube.com/@northarvestbeangrowersasso1307>. 



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*The only bean background I had was the stuff we planted in the garden.*

**Brad Brummond**



## Retired North Dakota State University Extension agent for agriculture worked to grow the edible bean industry

By Ann Bailey | Agweek

Walsh County, North Dakota, is one of the top edible bean production counties in North Dakota, and Brad Brummond worked for three decades to keep it in that position.

Brummond was North Dakota Extension agent for agriculture in Walsh County from 1992 until his retirement in April 2023, which represents two-thirds of his career. Before he moved to take over the reins of Extension agent for agriculture in Walsh County, Brummond worked in Kidder and Traill counties in North Dakota.

During his career with NDSU Extension, Brummond garnered several awards for his work to improve crop production, improve soil health and identify and control weeds.

In 2019, he was the first North Dakota agricultural agent to be selected for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He also led the North Dakota Organic Advisory Council for about 20 years and was honored as the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research

and Education program's 2016 NCR-SARE Hero and was honored twice as the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society Friend of the Farmer award, the last time in 2021.

Brummond readily acknowledged he didn't know beans about edibles when he moved to Walsh County.

"The only bean background I had was the stuff we planted in the garden," he said, with his signature hearty laugh.

Brummond dove into research about edible bean production, learning about varieties, plant diseases and weed and insect control from NDSU Extension experts and from Walsh County farmers.

Brummond had countless conversations with edible farmers over the years to gain knowledge and to ask them questions that helped him to help them with production challenges such as herbicide-resistant weeds.

"We will go through and we will talk about what species of weeds are in the field. The weeds are there because they have a competitive advantage," Brummond said. After determining what is giving the weeds that advantage, which includes asking the farmer about the field's crop history and the farmer's past management strategies, he discussed with them possible solutions to mitigating the herbicide resistance.

That includes identifying exactly which herbicide the weeds are resisting.

"If you traditionally are struggling with wild oats in a bean field, get a half cup of it and find out what they are resistant to," Brummond said.

He encouraged farmers to use multiple strategies, including rotating edible beans with other crops, switching to a different group of herbicides and to "go green."

Mitch Coulter, Northharvest Bean Growers Association executive director, recalls that his first impression of Brummond was a positive





one, and it was evident he had a passion for improving agricultural production in a sustainable way.

"I met Brad in 2021. He was working on building collaborations amongst a wide diverse group of organizations, advocating cover crops and conservation tillage," Coulter said,

Brummond was a "changemaker," Coulter said.

"Brad was interested in the research we had invested in for cover crops," he said.

"A majority of the farmers he was working with had sugarbeets and dry beans in their rotation, so building a partnership between the commodity groups, farmers, Extension, and industry became a driving force in implementing best management practices in Walsh County," Coulter said.

He said Brummond facilitated a panel discussion at Bean Day 2022 on cover crops, conservation tillage and soil management. The panel included Mike Ostlie, NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center director, Greg Endres, NDSU cropping systems specialist, Jeff Strock, soil science department professor, and Abbey Wick, soil health education program lead.

"You can see how passionate Brad was for getting best management practices on the land. He believed in what this work could do for a farmer," Coulter said. "This passion is evident in his body of work with NDSU Extension."




**North Dakota State University Extension agent for agriculture, Walsh County, learned a wealth of information about edible beans during his 41-year career and shared it with farmers at events like Northarvest Bean Day, held annually in Fargo, North Dakota. Contributed / Northarvest Bean Growers Association**

Encouraged by Brummond, several Walsh County edible bean growers are experimenting with "green plant," which protects the pinto bean plants on windy days and reduces soil damage that results from it blowing. Farmers who use the "green plant" method seed their pinto beans into growing rye fields using the no-till method to seed the crop into rows spaced 21- to 30-inches apart. Green plant also reduces the amount of weeds in the pinto bean fields.

"I tell these growers you make more money growing pinto beans green," Brummond said. Though the production method doesn't result in higher edible bean yields, it reduces the number of cultivation passes in the field, saves moisture and reduces soil erosion, which saves farmers time and money.

"You don't even have to be even. You have to be close to even," Brummond said.

Brummond's extensive knowledge of agricultural production and his rapport with growers will long be remembered.

"Brad is a true champion for our farmers," Coulter said. "Northarvest Bean Growers Association wishes Brad all of the best in retirement!" 

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*We have to promote  
what we are  
growing.*

**Ryan Ammermann**



## New Minnesota Dry Bean Promotion and Research Council members looking forward to upcoming term

By Ann Bailey | Agweek

The two newest Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council members are passionate about producing their crop and eager to promote it.

Ryan Ammermann, of Clara City, and Dan Ohden, of Raymond, will represent Area 3 and Area 4, respectively on the council, officially beginning their terms in mid-July 2023.

Ammermann began growing edible beans four years ago when he moved with his wife and their family from the Twin Cities, where he had a job in the renewable energy industry, to the family farm.

Though Ammermann had been away from the farm for 15 years, first to earn degrees in aviation and geography from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and then to work in the Twin Cities, he often went home to help his parents on their farm. His parents had raised edible beans, so he was familiar with growing them and knew that he wanted them to be part of his crop rotation.

He initially grew navy beans in rotation with soybeans, corn and sugarbeets, and then switched from navies to black beans.

Ammermann enjoys the challenge of raising edible beans and researching ways to improve production. They also are a profitable crop for him to grow.

Producing a crop that doesn't have to be processed into another form before people eat it also intrigues Ammermann.

This year soil conditions in southern Minnesota, like in many locations across the state and in North Dakota, were wet, so planting was delayed. However, once conditions were dry enough to plant, Ammermann was able to make good progress.

The black beans and his other crops were in good condition in early June.

"Right now we're sitting well from a moisture standpoint," Ammermann said. "I can't believe how fast the crops have grown. Everything is up and you can see the rows."



**Ryan Ammermann holds his son Walter, in a field on their farm near Clara City, Minnesota, as his daughters, Myra, left, and Claire stand in a field with him.**

*Contributed / Ryan Ammermann*



He is not satisfied to simply grow edible beans, but wants to learn more about how to add value to the crop through varietal improvement and marketing.



**Dan Ohden, a Raymond, Minnesota, dry edible bean farmer will start his term on the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council in mid-July.**  
*Contributed*

For example, Ammermann is interested in researching ways to make edible beans more attractive to buyers through making varieties more nutrient dense. He also would like to have research conducted that delves into whether there is potential for farmers to grow new varieties of edible beans that aren't yet being produced.

"Can we dive deeper into those?" Ammermann asked.

Another goal he wants to accomplish during his term on the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council is to learn more about the intricacies of U.S. and international markets and to use the knowledge he gains to help the edible industry market the commodity to domestic and overseas buyers.

"We have to promote what we are growing," Ammermann said.

Further west in Kandiyohi County, Ohden is enthusiastic about promoting a crop that he enjoys growing and is healthy for people to eat.

Through his membership on the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council, Ohden will promote edible beans, which has potential to enhance the market for them, which, in turn, will benefit farmers.

"I want to help in any way I can to help farmers," Ohden said. "I'm going to enjoy being a part of the

decision-making process on how the checkoff dollars are spent on research and development and promotion."

Ohden raises navy beans and black beans in rotation with corn and soybeans. He also finishes hogs on his 920-acre farm.

He began raising edible beans about 10 years ago.

"I was just looking to diversify my operation a little bit. I liked the idea of growing a crop people actually eat," Ohden said. Meanwhile, growing edible beans spreads out his crop production workload.

This year's crop, which was planted later than is typical because soil conditions were cold and wet earlier this spring, is off to a good start, he said.

Learning how to raise the beans required a bit of a learning curve, so he sought advice from other farmers who raised them, the agronomist at ADM Edible Bean Specialties in Olivia where he sells the crops, and his crop consultant.

"I gained expertise on growing them through those partners," Ohden said. The decision to grow edibles proved to be a good one.

"They've done really well. It's fairly consistently my most profitable crop," he said. **NBGA**

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A video series by Northharvest Bean Growers Association will introduce directors of NBGA and members of the North Dakota and Minnesota dry edible bean checkoff groups, as well as show information about the industry, including how beans are produced.  
*Contributed / Northharvest Bean Growers Association*

# Lights! Cameras! Bean action!

By Jenny Schlecht | Agweek



**Josh Ihry** *Contributed / Northharvest Bean Growers Association*

Josh Ihry wants to share his love for the dry edible bean industry with the consuming public.

"I feel like we're sitting on a hidden gem with dry beans, with their intrinsic value. They're high protein, high fiber, non GMO," he said. "We need to do a better job of informing the public about it."

Ihry, as a member of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council, had a chance to put those thoughts on video so the public can learn about them as part of a behind-the-scenes

video series spearheaded by Northharvest Bean Growers Association Communications and Marketing director Jed Brazier.

Brazier has been traveling the countryside to capture the stories of the bean growers of the region and explain what they do, with help from Jason Bedard of Dead Horse Productions, out of Fargo, North Dakota,

The purpose, Brazier explains, is to not just highlight the NBGA board of directors and members of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council and the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council but also to show people unfamiliar with how dry beans are grown what is involved and who is doing the work.

The project will involve producing several long- and short-form videos featuring interviews with board members and field footage. Brazier said the process began with sit-down interviews of nearly all of the Northharvest directors and the council members from both the North Dakota and Minnesota councils the day prior to Bean Day 2023, a process which will continue throughout the remainder of the year.

Ihry's strong feelings about the importance of dry beans, which he has been growing for almost 20 years, is what led him to join

the North Dakota Dry Bean Council. When he heard the council had an opening, he jumped at the opportunity, saying, "There's got to be ways I can help that industry through my voice and my actions."

Along with spreading the message about the nutritional value of his crop, Ihry also wants people to know about the people who grow the beans. He said talking about how his farm is a true family farm is part of the message, too. He farms near Hope, North Dakota, with his father-in-law, and his son comes home from college to help. His wife takes off work to drive combine and other equipment. His mother-in-law makes the meals. And even his daughter, just a sophomore in high school, bakes for the crews and keeps the lawns mowed.

The first video should debut online in July.

"We also plan to make this a regular part of NBGA's communication and outreach plan," Brazier said.

Ihry said the dry bean industry is a small segment of the food source "but a very important one" that he hopes becomes a "staple in the American diet."

"I hope anyone who watches the video gets a true appreciation of the dry bean industry," he said. **NBGA**



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## Northarvest distributes beans at farmers market

By Jenny Schlecht | Agweek

*The way to get more people to eat beans is to reach them when they're young.*

Jennifer Hansen



Northarvest Bean Growers Association this summer is trying out a new way to promote dry edible beans — by handing them out at a farmers market.

Getting beans into the hands of people — and especially young people — is a big focus for Northarvest Bean Growers Association Finance Director Jennifer Hansen.

Hansen has played a role in other Northarvest projects, including Living Ag Classroom and the Family Wellness Partnership, that highlight the value of dry edible beans as a low-cost protein source.

The people of “the Midwest, historically, aren’t bean eaters,” Hansen said. “The way to get more people to eat beans is to reach them when they’re young.”

By getting school-age children interested in trying beans and getting their parents on board, it can start a lifelong habit of cooking with and eating beans.

Northarvest’s main food aid project this year has been supporting Convoy of Hope. Northarvest Bean Growers Association and Central Valley Bean Co-op in Buxton, North Dakota, in the fall of 2022 partnered with Convoy of Hope, a faith-based non-profit humanitarian organization based in Springfield,



**Northarvest Bean Growers Association Finance Director Jennifer Hansen, left, gives out a package of beans on June 13, 2023, at the Moorhead Farmers Market.**

**Jed Brazier / Northarvest Bean Growers Association**

Missouri, to provide food aid to children in Guatemala and Honduras in the form of 60,000 meals from pinto beans.

When the Convoy of Hope project came in under projected budget, Hansen started brainstorming how to best allocate the

remaining food aid funds to get more beans on local plates. She came up with the idea of distributing beans at the Moorhead Farmers Market.

Processor Archer Daniels Midland pitched in with the donation of 300 pounds of beans,



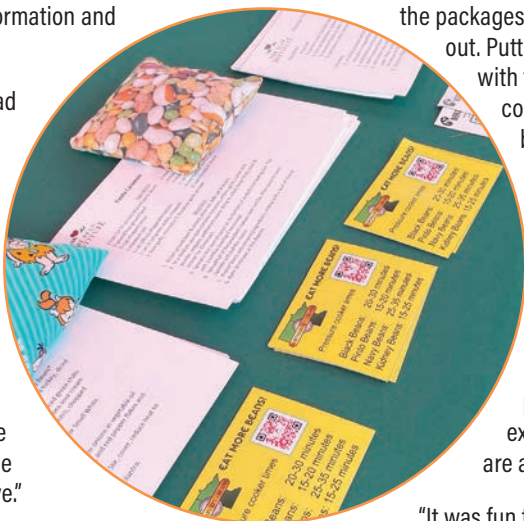
# Farmers Market

which Hansen personally repackaged into 1-pound containers. And every Tuesday, she will be at the Moorhead Farmers Market, handing out free beans to any takers, along with cooking information and recipes.

The first Moorhead Farmers Market was on June 6, and Hansen said it was a successful venture.

"It was wonderful to talk to people about beans," she said. "Most people were very positive."

Some people shared recipes, and one woman even said she had a pot of beans simmering on the stove at home as they spoke.



Recipe cards, stickers with QR codes leading to websites with more information and magnets with bean information — including how long to cook beans in a pressure cooker — accompanied the packages of beans that were given out. Putting out cooking information with the beans is vital, as cooking beans remains "a big roadblock for a lot of people," Hansen said.


To attract families, Hansen had stickers for the kids.

Speaking to people at the farmers market also provided Hansen a way to explain that dry edible beans are a local food.

"It was fun to tell people how many beans Minnesota and North Dakota produce," she said. "A lot of people didn't know that. A couple people did." **NBGA**

## If you go

The Moorhead Farmers Market is held weekly on Tuesdays from June 6 to Sept. 26, excluding July 4, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Hjemkomst Center parking lot, at 202 First Avenue North in Moorhead, Minnesota. The market features fresh produce, pet supplies, flowers, honey, hand-crafted items, salsas, spices, baked goods and more. The Moorhead Farmers Market accepts SNAP benefits and offers the Power of Produce Club, a program of the Farmers Market Coalition which teaches kids to engage in their local food systems. For more information on the market, visit [moorheadparks.com](http://moorheadparks.com).



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Deb Nelson provided training to Northarvest Bean Growers Association on things like fiscal responsibility and personal responsibility.  
Contributed / Northarvest Bean Growers Association

# Northarvest Bean Growers Association on board with training

By Ann Bailey | Agweek



**Deb Nelson, of DLN Consulting, provided training for Northarvest Bean Growers association and Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council members.**  
Contributed / Deb Nelson

Edible bean farmers from across Minnesota and North Dakota gathered this spring to learn about how to effectively represent their constituents.

"We went through strategic planning to formulate a five-year business plan last June, and one of the directives that came out of that business plan from the board of directors was to formulate an annual board training to strengthen our board development and governance policies," said Mitch Coulter,

Northarvest Bean Growers Association executive director.

Northarvest Bean Growers Association board members, Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council and North Dakota Dry Bean Council members were provided with comprehensive training in April 2023 from Deb Nelson, of DLN Consulting Inc., Dickinson, North Dakota.

"The Northarvest Bean Growers Association will plan on utilizing all of these services into the future with Deb," Coulter said. "She is a strong leader with lots of business experiences that makes our farmer leaders and association management stronger.

During the one-day training workshop, the board and council members learned about what their legal and fiscal responsibilities were, and topics that included the importance of forward thinking, how to sustain an effective board and ways to recruit new board members.

Nelson also discussed with board and council members the importance of maintaining a professional appearance in their personal lives, because they still represent the board when they are in public places.

Nelson answered questions from the group, such as how to determine when it is time

to leave the board. Terms are governed by years of service and the number of years members can serve, but sometimes board members are uncertain about their continued effectiveness, within those parameters.

Nelson gave board members self-evaluation forms which ask questions that are designed to determine their level of effectiveness. Depending on their answers, they could decide whether to stay on the board or whether it was time to start looking for someone who would be a good replacement.

Though the Northarvest Bean Growers Association board members and Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council members are a diverse group of farmers from across two states who work under two sets of governing rules, they share a common goal of improving their organization, Nelson said. She found them excellent to work with and able to put aside their political convictions to get their jobs done to the best of their abilities, something that has not always been the case with other boards she's trained.

"I was impressed with them," Nelson said.

Northarvest Bean Growers Association appreciated the guidance Nelson gave them and looks forward to continuing a relationship with DLN Consulting Inc., Coulter said. **NBGA**



## Savor the summer with these tasty bean dishes

Looking for a dish to take to that cookout this summer? Try these recipes, courtesy of North Dakota State University. Both contain protein-rich dry edible beans to give your plate a nutritional boost.



### Black Bean Salsa

#### Ingredients:

1 (15 ounces) can low sodium black beans, drained and rinsed  
8 ounces fire-roasted tomatoes, drained  
½ medium white onion, chopped  
½ green bell pepper, chopped  
2 tablespoons dried cilantro  
2 tablespoons lime juice

#### Directions:

Add all ingredients to a bowl and stir to combine.

#### Nutrition and dietary information:

Beans are composed of protein, complex carbohydrates, fiber, antioxidants and important vitamins such as folate and minerals, including manganese, potassium, iron, phosphorus, copper and magnesium. On average, ½ cup of beans contains 116 calories, 8 grams of protein and less than 1 gram of fat. This makes beans a good addition to any diet.



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# Recipe corner



## Blackened Chicken and Beans

### Ingredients:

2 teaspoons chili powder  
¼ teaspoon. pepper  
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts (1 pound total)  
1 tablespoon canola oil  
1 (15.5 ounce) can kidney beans  
1 cup corn (canned or frozen)  
¾ cup colored bell peppers, diced  
½ cup onion, diced  
1 cup salsa

### Directions:

Combine the chili powder and pepper; rub over both sides of the chicken. In a large nonstick skillet, cook chicken in oil over medium heat for five to six minutes on each side or until meat thermometer reaches a temperature of 165 F. Remove and keep warm. Add the beans, corn, bell peppers, onion and salsa to skillet; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for two to three minutes or until heated through. Transfer to serving dish and place on top of mixture.

### Nutrition and dietary information:

Protein is important to have in your diet because it plays a part in the health and maintenance of the body. Choosing protein foods that are lean and low in cholesterol will give you the needed nutrients without the extra fat.



## Chocolate Chip Bean Muffins

### Ingredients:

2 (15.5-oz.) cans Great Northern beans, drained and rinsed  
a c. low-fat milk  
1 c. sugar  
¼ c. margarine or butter  
3 eggs  
3 tsp. vanilla extract  
1 c. all-purpose flour  
½ c. whole-wheat flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
½ tsp. salt  
¾ c. semisweet chocolate chips

### Directions:

Combine beans and milk in a food processor or blender until smooth. Mix sugar and margarine or butter in a large bowl; beat in eggs and vanilla. Add bean mixture, mixing until well blended. Mix in flours, baking soda and salt. Add in chocolate chips. Spoon mixture into 16 greased or paper-lined muffin tins about half full. Bake at 375 F for 20 to 25 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Makes 16 servings

### Nutrition and dietary information:

Per serving: 240 calories, 7 grams fat, 6 grams protein, 37 grams carbohydrate, 5 grams fiber and 115 milligrams sodium.


## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

You'll also learn about some of the current outreach efforts from our board members and staff are hard at work on to promote our beans and our organization. Finance Director Jennifer Hansen has been spearheading a few projects, including some boots on the ground promotion efforts locally. Jed Brazier, our Communications and Marketing director, has been traveling

across North Dakota with a video crew during spring planting to capture the stories of a few of our growers and the work they do.

As we all embark on a new growing season — all of us Board members are fellow bean growers as well, remember — Northarvest Bean Growers Association and I wish you all

a safe and successful summer. We recognize each of you play a vital role in nourishing the global population, as well as filling the plates of our people right here at home. Your work in the fields is the foundation of our industry. Thank you for all the time, sweat, stress, and energy.

NBGA thanks you for your continued support. 



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