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NORTH HARVEST Bean Grower

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USDA analyzes how markets would be affected, including dry edible beans.

NDSU Has a New Bean Breeder

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Juan Osorno's experience at NDSU, Puerto Rico, and at the largest bean breeding program in the world leads him to be an excellent selection, says Mike Beltz, Hillsboro, N.D., chairman of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council.

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Dry Bean Fact of the Month



CIAT, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, is the largest dry bean breeding program in the world. Since CIAT's establishment in 1967, national agricultural research programs in 39 countries have released 362 bean varieties—including 238 in Latin America and 111 in Africa—based on germplasm provided by the Center. New NDSU dry bean breeder, Juan Osorno, studied and worked at CIAT from 1996 to 2000. CIAT's bean improvement on the web: www.ciat.cgiar.org/beans/index.htm

ON THE COVER: New NDSU dry bean breeder Juan Osorno (left) and NDSU dry bean research scientist Gonzalo Rojas. (photo: Tracy Sayler)

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BeanBriefs

Northarvest Hires Consultant for Caribbean Market

Northarvest has hired consultant Jois Alaby, a native of Brazil, to represent Northarvest in the Caribbean region.

Alaby represented the former National Dry Bean Council, now part of the U.S. Dry Bean Council, for ten years in Brazil. He has a degree in Agriculture and is currently working towards a degree in International Relations.

Alaby also represents the USA Rice Federation in the Caribbean, including Cuba, Central America and South America. Alaby and his family recently moved to Costa Rica to be closer to the U.S. main export markets.

Northarvest will take advantage of

Alaby's presence in the Caribbean by sharing travel expenses with the USA Rice Federation. Rice and dry beans are a main staple for many in the Caribbean, and efforts to build markets for both commodities simultaneously come in as a perfect match. Alaby has already had several



meetings with Alimport, the main buying agency for dry beans into Cuba.

With the recent change in Congress, there is hope for improvements in the U.S. sanctions imposed against Cuba. CEO Stuart Proctor, with the USA Rice Federation, has initiated a strategic plan to organize a task force in Washington that would bring together a number of

agricultural/livestock cooperating groups such as poultry, wheat, corn, soybeans, and rice under a periodical US-Cuba Trade Conference. Dry beans would be represented within this task force as well. Alimport CEO Pedro Alvarez has expressed his support of the initiative.

Despite some trade restrictions still in place (key among them is that no U.S.



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public or private credit is allowed for Cuban trade) Cuba already ranks 6th in the top 35 export market for U.S. pulses. In 2006 alone, estimates are that exports will reach 14,886 metric tons, up 110% compared to 2005.

NY Times Spotlights Cuban Influence in U.S. Food Markets

The New York Times recently featured a story on the long-term consequence of Fidel Castro's policies stretching back to the early 1960s: a thriving Cuban-émigré-owned food processing industry in the Los Angeles area

that serves a growing market nationwide for Hispanic foods.

Among those featured was C&F Foods, one of the largest packers of dry beans in the U.S., based in City of Industry, a 49-year-old industrial city east of Los Angeles. C&F Foods was founded in 1975 by a Cuban émigré, Jose Fernandez. It is run today by his grandson Luis Faura, and has become a large processor and distributor of beans favored by Latinos: pinto, black, red and others.

Beans have grown in popularity with rising appreciation among consumers for their high-fiber, high-protein health

attributes and with the growth of Hispanic populations in all parts of the country.

"We have a distribution center in North Carolina that supplies the Southeast," Faura said in the article. "It never was a big market before but now there are people from South America and Mexico and El Salvador in Atlanta and Raleigh and everywhere."

Canada Plans Human Clinical Trials on Pulse Crop Health Benefits

Pulse Canada (www.pulsecanada.com) has allocated \$1.25 million (Canadian) through its *Pulse Innovation Project* to support five human clinical trials studying the human health benefits of eating pulse crops such as peas, beans and lentils. Four of the trials will be conducted at Canadian universities and research institutions and one will be conducted at a U.S. university.

The primary focus of these projects is the reduction in the incidence of obesity and other risk factors related to two major health issues: diabetes and heart disease. The studies include investigations in new areas of interest such as the effects of eating pulses on hormones related to body fat accumulation and blood vessel hardening, as well as the effects of eating pulses on satiety and appetite.

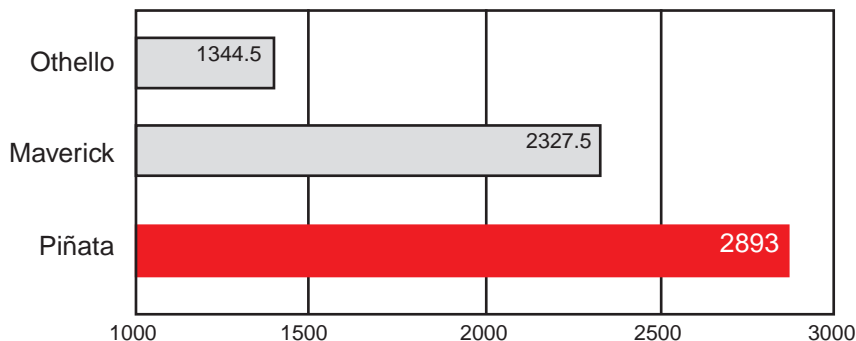
Existing research suggests that pulses may be beneficial in many areas of health promotion such as reducing risk of obesity and prevention of heart disease, diabetes and cancer. However available scientific data proving these health benefits is more limited than in other crops such as soybeans or oats.

Proof of health benefits for pulses would provide additional incentives for consumers to purchase products containing pulses, dietitians and health professionals to recommend consumption and manufacturers' interest to incorporate pulses into their products. Additional research showing specific health benefits of pulses could also be used towards achieving health claims and dietary recommendations by health organizations.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of lentil and peas and a leading exporter of bean and chickpea. However, the majority of Canadian grown pulses are sold as bulk commodities to international markets while domestic consumption and utilization of these crops remains low. Pulse Canada and provincial grower organizations have recognized the need to increase the processing and utilization of pulse crops within North America to ensure the future sustainability and profitability of the pulse industry.

Piñata: A High Yield, Early Maturity Vine Pinto

RED RIVER VALLEY PINTO TRIALS



Red River Valley Pinto Yield Trials

Variety	Maturity	Location 1	Location 2	Average	Mold	Rust	Blights
Piñata	89	2982	2804	2893	s*	t*	mt*
Maverick	103	2136	2519	2327.5	s	t	s
Othello	105	1262	1427	1344.5	s	s	s

*Adjusted for moisture; t=tolerant, mt-moderately tolerant, s-susceptible, ms=moderately susceptible. Piñata is under Plant Variety Protection.



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Northarvest Educates North Valley Kids

Northarvest participated, for the first time, in the Grand

Forks Water Festival last fall, a science-based event sponsored

by the Dakota Science Center in Grand Forks, N.D. The event

coordinator had received Northarvest's Agriculture in the Classroom kit at the 2005 NDEA conference, and invited Northarvest to attend. The Science Center used the suggestions in the kit as a basis for sending potting trays and information with the instructors to use as follow-up activities.

Six hundred fourth graders from North Dakota and Minnesota participated in many hands-on activities. Northarvest Bean Growers Association home economist Lynne Bigwood and Linda Kuster, Reynolds, N.D., led the Northarvest sessions and played an educational game, "Super Bean Crazy," with the students. Students learned about various facets of dry bean production, from planting, growth, harvest,



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and marketing. Northarvest furnished educational kits for teachers, and bean class and usage sheets for students featuring a new resource side explaining that "Farmers in North Dakota are the number one producers of dry beans in the USA."

In a separate event last fall, Bigwood with Northarvest set up a display of educational materials for the NDSU Extension Family Nutrition Program conference. NDSU Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health on the web: www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/food.htm.

Three Online Resources for '07 Crop Decisions

1) NDSU Crop Budgets – The North Dakota State University Extension Service will soon post crop budgets for 2007 online at www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/farmmgmt/cropbudget.htm. Here, there are also budgets for previous years, and for irrigated, no-till, and organic situations. The budget projections for regions throughout North Dakota are not absolute; obviously crop costs and profit vary by farm. However, the budgets are useful for baseline comparisons and crop planning.

2) 2007 Crop Compare – Enter the price of one crop in this free Excel spreadsheet developed by Dwight Aakre and Andrew Swenson of the NDSU Extension Service,

and find out the price of competing crops necessary to generate the same return over variable costs. Dry beans are included in most of the comparisons available by region in N.D., except the far western part of the state. Go to www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/farmmgmt/resources.htm - there, under 'Resources' click on 'Software' and see Excel file under '2007 Crop Compare.'

3) Ag Decision maker – Excellent resource from the Iowa State University Extension Service for analysis relating to costs and returns, marketing, machinery, and cropping decisions. Go to www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/homepage.html - click on 'Decision Tools.'



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32nd Annual Bean Day

January 18-19, Fargo Holiday Inn

Bean Day at a Glance

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| January 18, 5 pm | Social and Trade Show opens. |
| January 18, 7 pm | Pre-Bean Day Banquet.
\$20 banquet ticket. Call 218-334-6351
by January 16 to reserve meals. |
| January 19, 8 am | Bean Day registration begins. |
| January 19, 10 am | First speaker. |
| January 19, 3 pm | Last speaker. |



Bean Day 2007

Pre Bean Day Banquet -- January 18

Join your fellow bean growers and industry representatives at the Fargo, N.D. Holiday Inn, January 18 at 5 p.m. for our annual kick-off to bean day -- the Pre Bean Day Banquet.

Entertaining us at this year's banquet will be **Cheaper Than Therapy**, a women's barbershop quartet from Jamestown, N.D.

Cheaper Than Therapy offers acappella vocal harmony and slapstick humor, proving that music and laughter are really "cheaper than therapy." They have been singin' and jokin' their way across North Dakota for the last 8 years, and have a combined vocal experience of over 50 years. As a registered quartet of Sweet Adeline's International, and members of the Fargo, N.D. based women's show chorus Acappella Xpress, and Chapter -At-Large, they have had the opportunity to complete with that chorus in international competitions in San Antonio, Texas, and Portland, Oregon, and in many regional competitions as well.

The quartet was named the 2001 winners of the "People's

Choice Award" in the Bismarck, N.D.-based KFYZ Radio Station's Home Grown Talent competition, in September, 2001, and have released their first CD "Not Suitable for Framing," made possible by that competition. In addition, the North Dakota Mental Health Association recognized them in 2001 for their work with the Jamestown Area Mental Health Association. They have also been guests of Brenda Skolten on the KFYZ-TV show "County Morning".

Their high energy, good sense of humor, and quality sound will delight any audience. Their performances are fun and light-hearted. They will perform for store openings and closings, birthday and anniversary parties, community celebrations, and just about any social event available. They'll sing for food, car wash tickets, and even cash, or if you see them together somewhere, they'll sing just because you asked them. They love acappella harmony, and show a lot of personality and spontaneity in their performances.



Cheaper Than Therapy, a quartet affiliated with Sweet Adelines International, will entertain at the Pre-Bean Day Banquet.

Reserve Your Ticket Today

You must call the Northarvest Bean Growers Association office by January 16th to reserve a ticket for the banquet (218-334-6351). A ticket costs \$20 per person. The pre Bean Day Banquet starts at 5 p.m. with a cash bar and viewing of commercial exhibits. The

banquet meal follows at 7 p.m. and entertainment 8 p.m.

The menu includes tossed garden green salad with a splash of beans, steak and stuffed shrimp, baked potato, vegetables and dessert.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th!

Bean Day Lodging Directory

The Fargo, N.D., Holiday Inn at I-29 & 13th Ave SW. is the headquarters hotel for Bean Day. Make your room reservations by calling the hotel directly. Phone (701) 282-2700. Other hotels and motels in the Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo in alphabetical order include:

AmericInn Lodge & Suites - (701) 234-9946
Best Western Fargo Doublewood Inn - (701) 235-3333
Best Western Kelly Inn - (701) 282-2143
C 'Mon Inn - (701) 277-9944
Country Inn & Suites By Carlson - (701) 234-0565
Courtyard By Marriott - (218) 284-1000
Days Inn Airport/Dome Days Inn & Suites - (701) 232-0000
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Travelodge & Suites - (218) 233-5333
Wingate Inn - (701) 281-9133

Bean Day 2007

Bean Day Program -- January 19

Morning Program

- 8:00 - 9:50 a.m. **Registration, Coffee**
- 9:50 - 10:00 a.m. **Setting The Agenda**
Gary Paur, President, Northarvest Bean Growers Association
- 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. **Desiccant Research and Registration Progress**
Dr. Richard Zollinger, Extension Weed Specialist, NDSU Extension Service North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- 10:20 - 10:40 a.m. **06 Variety Performance and New Release Preview**
Dr. Juan Osorno, Dry Bean Breeding & Genetics, Department of Plant Sciences North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- 10:40 - 11:00 a.m. **Recommended Fertilizer Rate to Optimize Dry Bean Yield**
Dr. Dave Franzen, Extension Soil Specialist NDSU Extension Service, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- 11:00 - 11:20 a.m. **Harvest Techniques and Facts to Help Make Decisions about Changing Harvest Methods**
Terry Gregoire, Area Extension Specialist/ Cropping System, NDSU Extension Service, Devils Lake, ND
- 11:20 - 11:40 a.m. **PVP Patents and Seed Certification**
Chet Boruff, Chief Executive Officer Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, Moline, IL
- 11:40 - 12:00 p.m. **Update on Pesticide Issues That Affect Dry Beans**
Jim Gray, Pesticide Registration Coordinator ND Department of Agriculture, Bismarck, ND
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 - 1:45 p.m. **Association Business**
Gary Paur, President
1) District Director Elections

Afternoon Program

- 1:45 - 2:05 p.m. **Agricultural Commodity Group Priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill**
Dale Thorenson, Gordley & Associates, Government Relations Corporation, Washington, D.C.
- 2:05 - 2:25 p.m. **The Prospect for Disaster Aid, and Other Issues on the '07 Agenda**
Scott Stofferahn, Deputy Director for Senator Kent Conrad, Fargo, ND
- 2:25 - 2:45 p.m. **Bush Brothers & Company - A Family Tradition**
Lynn Murray, Director Procurement, Bush Brothers & Company, Knoxville, TN
- 2:45 - 3:05 p.m. **Opening Trade Doors into the Caribbean Market**
Jois Alaby, Consultant, Heredia, Costa Rica
- 3:05 - 3:25 p.m. **2007 Market and Planting Preview: How Will Beans Compete in This Highly Energized Agricultural Market**
Larry Sprague, Trader, Kelley Bean Company, Inc., Durand, MI

Register for the Bean Day Door Prize

Be sure to register when you attend Bean Day. Registration is free, but your ticket might be worth a great door prize. This year's door prize, a \$300 American Express Gift Card, is sponsored by AgCountry Farm Credit Services (phone: 800-450-8933) and Farm Credit Services of Grand Forks (phone 800-288-3982). You must be a Minnesota or North Dakota dry bean grower to win the prize



In the 2006 Bean Day door prize drawing, Dwight Johnson (right), Park River, N.D., won a \$200 gift certificate sponsored by AgCountry Farm Credit Services, represented here by Scot Manthe, senior loan officer, Fargo.

Bean Day 2007

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Bean Day 2007

Have Lunch On Us!

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ADM Edible Bean Specialties, Inc.
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ADM Edible Bean Specialties, Inc.
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PH: 320-523-1637

ADM Edible Bean Specialties, Inc.
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ADM Edible Bean Specialties, Inc.
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Bird Island Bean Co. LLC
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Bird Island, MN 55310
PH: 320-365-3070

Bollingberg Seeds
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Manvel, ND 58256
PH: 701-696-2040

Cando Farmers Grain & Oil
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Cando, ND 58324
PH: 701-968-4466

New process for Northharvest Bean Elections

District 2 (ND), District 5 (ND) and District 8 (MN) director positions on the Northharvest Bean Growers Association are up for election in 2007.

The elections are being managed differently this year, conducted through mail ballot, rather than being held on Bean Day.

Nomination letters were mailed to districts with elections in early December. In the letter, it was stated that any dry bean grower or spouse, or any landowner or spouse, who plants dry beans for marketing within the district and resides within that district may become a candidate for the Board. A candidate for the Board must submit the director nominee submission form. Any incumbent who chooses to run must also submit a director nominee submission form. It was stated in the letter that director nominee submission forms be returned and postmarked no later than Dec. 21, 2006.

A ballot form listing election candidates will be mailed to districts with elections the first week of January. Eligible producers (same requirements as those for nomination, above) should vote and return the mail ballot by the postmark date as indicated on the ballot. After vote tabulation and committee review, the election results will be announced at the 32nd Annual Bean Day, January 19, 2007, Fargo Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND.

Northharvest Bean Nominating Committee Chairman, Brian Love says the procedural change offers several advantages. The change allows more producers to participate in the nomination and election process, not just those who attend Bean Day. Further, it streamlines the process on Bean Day, helping to save time on an otherwise full and busy day of activities.

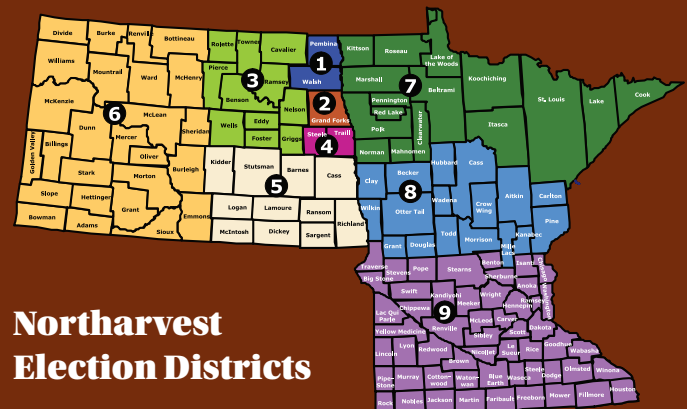
The Northharvest board of directors is comprised of three segments which meet and conduct business in unison. These segments are the 6 directors of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council, the 5 directors of the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council, and the 9 directors of the Northharvest Bean Growers Association.

A term as director of the Northharvest Bean Growers Association is for 3 years with a limit of 3 terms. There are usually 4 full board meetings a year, scheduled to be of minimal

disturbance to most farming operations; this is in addition to committee meetings which are dependent upon assignment but also minimally invasive. Compensation for meetings and activities is \$65 per day with mileage/meal/lodging allowance similar to state and federal reimbursement.

Serving on this board not only gives members unique insight into the dry bean industry, it allows interaction with other directors from across the two states, some of the best and most innovative bean growers in the Northharvest region.

Questions or comments about the election process should be directed to: Tim Courneya, Northharvest Bean Growers Association, 50072 E Lake Seven Road, Frazee, MN 56544, Ph (218) 334-6351 - Fax: (218) 334-6360 - E-mail: nhbean@loretel.net.



Northharvest Election Districts

Bean Day 2007

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Market Outlook

Dry Bean Markets in Quandary Heading into 2007

Production and stocks are down, exports and prices are up, yet intense competition with other crops for acres could mean a decline in U.S. dry bean acreage in 2007, unless buyers ratchet up new crop bids before spring.

The 2006 U.S. dry edible bean crop was estimated to be 23.8 million cwt—down 11% from 2005. Although harvested area was down just less than 1%, hot, dry weather in most major states impacted crop development and yield potential. As a result, national per-acre yield averaged 15.6 cwt, down 11% from a year earlier but 7% above the freeze-impacted low of 2 years ago.

N.D. leads production: In N.D., again the leading state with 32% of the 2006 crop, production declined 11% to 7.62 million cwt. Crop conditions in Michigan, the second leading State in 2006, were favorable for dry beans until late in the harvest season, with state yield rising 6% to 18.0 cwt per acre. In Nebraska, the third leading producer, dry bean yields were reduced 4% by an early frost.

The first estimate of dry bean production by class was released by USDA on Dec. 11. Production of 10 of the 15 identified bean classes fell below a year earlier, with the biggest percentage declines for large lima, light red kidney, and small red beans (table 1). Output of Great Northern beans fell 26% in 2006, as an early frost in Nebraska reduced yields 12%.

Pintos leading bean class: A combination of less harvested area and reduced yields pulled the pinto crop down, but pintos easily remained the top bean class with 40% of the 2006 crop.

Pinto bean harvested area was down 10% to 651,700 acres, while average yields dropped 15% due largely to the hot, dry summer. Pinto output was down

in 11 of the 14 producing states, with N.D., the leading producer, down 25% to 4.91 million cwt.

Output of pinto beans declined 34% in Nebraska,

the second-leading producer, largely because of a 31% cut in harvested area. Growers in Colorado produced 8% fewer pintos as a 20% reduction in

Table 1. U.S. dry beans: Production by class, 2002-06

Item	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change 2005-06
	--1,000 cwt--					Percent
Pinto	13,188	10,453	7,814	12,601	9,602	-23.8
Navy	5,389	2,514	2,142	3,995	4,253	6.5
Great Northern	1,558	2,216	951	1,585	1,179	-25.6
Black	3,120	1,263	1,870	1,798	2,584	43.7
Lt. red kidney	1,207	1,095	806	1,103	739	-33.0
Dk. red kidney	1,136	845	682	1,047	821	-21.6
Garbanzo	861	417	593	1,061	1,330	25.4
Small red	592	581	601	903	622	-31.1
Pink	596	612	521	662	725	9.5
Blackeye	543	785	384	406	554	36.5
Baby lima	501	325	267	385	283	-26.5
Large lima	334	369	307	359	214	-40.4
Cranberry	359	190	180	162	149	-8.0
Others	928	827	670	705	788	11.8
United States	30,312	22,492	17,788	26,772	23,843	-10.9

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.

Table 2. U.S. dry pinto beans: Area, production, and value 1/

Crop Year	Acres		Yield per acre	Production	Average price ¹	Crop value ²
	Planted	Harvested				
	1,000 acres		Cwt	1,000 cwt	\$/cwt	\$ Mil.
1990	964.2	925.1	1,476	13,650	14.89	203.2
1995	841.0	758.2	1,484	11,253	18.56	208.9
2000	724.5	652.2	1,653	10,778	12.01	129.4
2001	558.6	509.4	1,718	8,750	25.18	220.3
2002	832.3	742.3	1,777	13,188	13.79	181.9
2003	663.9	639.2	1,635	10,453	15.84	165.6
2004	650.9	573.7	1,362	7,814	26.84	209.7
2005	784.8	726.1	1,735	12,601	13.95	175.8
2006 ^f	692.1	651.7	1,473	9,602	22.00	211.2

^f ERS forecast for 2006 price and value. ¹Season-average grower bids. ² Estimated by ERS.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Bean Market News*.

harvested area outweighed a 15-percent gain in yield. Pinto yield in Colorado was second only to the 2002 record.

Pinto prices likely to strengthen: As pinto bean stocks are drawn lower this season, grower and wholesale prices are likely to continue strengthening. Grower prices (CO/NE) began the marketing year in September at \$17.67 per cwt, up 20% from a year earlier. With limited open market activity, grower bids in North Dakota-Minnesota had climbed to \$19.50 by mid-December, up 40% from a year earlier (see table 2 for historical comparison of production, area, and price).

Navies, blacks, and other classes: Although the total dry bean crop was lower, several bean types managed to post increases in 2006. Production of navy beans, the second-leading dry bean class, increased 6% as output was higher in both N.D. (up 19%) and Michigan (up 9%).

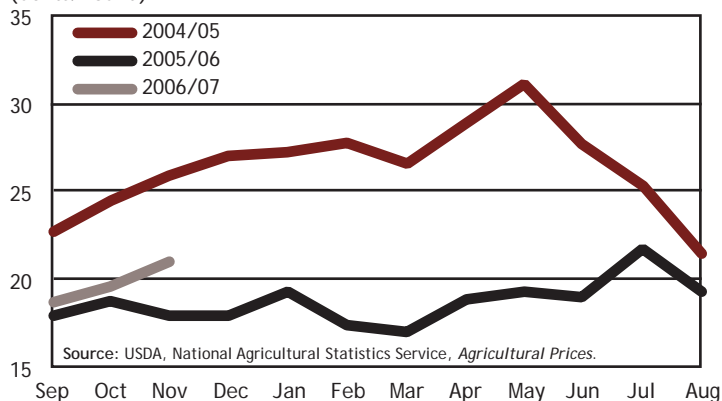
Output of black beans also increased, led by greater harvested area in the 2 leading

states, Michigan and N.D. This was the largest black bean crop since 2002, reflecting stronger demand and higher prices over the past year. With higher prices encouraging larger planted area in several states, the garbanzo bean (small and large chickpeas) crop was the largest since the 2001 record high. Large kabuli chickpeas accounted for 90% of the total garbanzo crop. Despite a record-large crop, prices in the chickpea/ garbanzo market remain relatively strong, reflecting good domestic and world demand.

Price competition with other crops: With stocks of several dry bean classes likely to be low by next summer, reduced supplies and higher prices over the coming marketing year would normally be an automatic indicator of a significant increase in area planted next spring.

However, dry beans may face a substantial challenge in the coming year from traditional rotational crops such as corn,

Figure 1. U.S. dry edible beans: Average monthly grower price (Cents/Pound)



soybeans, barley, and wheat. Prices for these grains have risen greatly over the past few months due in part to strong demand for field corn by a rapidly expanding ethanol industry. Fundamentals in the corn market set the tone in many agricultural crop markets. Field corn is running at more than \$3.00/bushel, wheat over \$4.50/bushel, soybeans over \$6/bushel, and oil sunflowers about \$15/cwt., all well above a year earlier and their long-run

averages.

Although dry bean prices have risen (see table 3, 2006 vs 2005, and figure 1) they are currently uncompetitive with most of these alternative crops. This suggests that in the absence of changes in commodity price relationships this winter, U.S. dry bean acreage could decline 10-15% in 2007. Assuming that yields return to either trend or their long-run average, the decline in U.S. dry bean production would be less than the percentage reduction in area.

Fall exports up: U.S. dry edible bean export volume for the initial 2 months of the 2006/07 marketing year (Sept-Oct) increased 24% from a year earlier (table 4). Export gains were led by pinto, navy, and black beans. The top destinations were Mexico, Japan, Cuba, and the United Kingdom.

Pinto bean exports up 114% in 2005/06: Pinto bean exports were strong in 2005/06, rising 114% to 2.64 million cwt. This strength has carried over into the first 2 months of 2006/07, with pinto volume up 31% from the same time a year ago. A large shipment to Cuba in September and increased movement to Mexico pushed pinto bean exports higher. With

Table 3. U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2005-2006¹

Commodity	2005		2006		Chg. prev. year:	
	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec. ²	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents per pound				Percent	
All dry beans	18.00	18.10	21.00	--	16.7	--
Pinto (ND/MN)	13.70	13.83	19.25	19.50	40.5	41.0
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	18.50	18.50	17.44	18.25	-5.7	-1.4
Great Northern (NE/WY)	15.60	16.00	19.63	20.00	25.8	25.0
Black (MI)	19.90	20.50	21.00	21.50	5.5	4.9
Light red kidney (MI)	21.50	21.50	23.75	23.50	10.5	9.3
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	21.20	20.50	23.50	23.50	10.8	14.6
Baby lima (CA)	34.50	34.67	44.13	44.00	27.9	26.9
Large lima (CA)	42.70	44.33	60.00	61.00	40.5	37.6
Blackeye (CA)	34.00	39.00	48.00	48.00	41.2	23.1
Small red (WA/ID)	19.90	19.50	21.00	22.00	5.5	12.8
Pink (WA/ID)	19.90	19.50	21.00	21.00	5.5	7.7
Cranberry (MI)	23.75	--	35.00	--	47.4	--
Garbanzo (WA/ID)	--	--	27.75	28.25	--	--

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

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

Continued on Next Page

prices likely to rise in coming months due to tighter supplies, pinto bean exports are expected to decline.

Navy exports up as well: Navy bean export volume has been trending lower

since the late 1990s, but managed to increase 6% from a year earlier during 2005/06. During the first 2 months of 2006/07, volume is up 28% with increased movement to Canada and Mexico

outweighing reduced movement to the United Kingdom. Exports accounted for about 19% of the disposition of 2006 supplies, down from 21% in 2000 and 24% during the 1990s.

U.S. bean imports rise: Imports (excluding guar seeds) during September-October were up 20% from a year earlier, led by black (up 123%) and black gram/urid (up 68%) beans. Greater dry bean import volume from Mexico (up 24% and China (up 26%) was likely driven by dwindling preharvest supplies and increased wholesale prices in the U.S. dry bean market.

During September-October, the producer price index (PPI) for canned dry beans was up 6% from a year earlier, while the PPI for dry pinto beans was 15% above a year earlier.

Dry bean market data courtesy Gary Lucier, USDA ERS economist. See more U.S. dry bean market information in the USDA ERS Dry Bean Briefing Room online: www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/DryBeans.

Table 4. U.S. dry bean crop-year export volume

	Crop year	September - October			Change
Bean class	05/06	04/05	05/06	06/07	05-06
	1,000 cwt (bags)				Percent
Pinto	2,643	197	386	504	31
Navy (pea)	1,061	223	355	453	28
Black	763	182	177	238	35
Great Northern	516	67	83	54	-35
Garbanzo	380	72	63	113	80
Baby lima	265	20	34	34	0
Dark-red kidney	252	39	21	29	40
Small red	182	15	26	20	-21
Light-red kidney	153	8	19	22	16
Large lima	135	25	10	9	-13
Cranberry	84	8	12	17	36
Pink	65	5	5	6	19
Blackeye	32	6	3	4	18
Other	796	108	185	202	9
Total	7,327	968	1,374	1,701	24

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

Seeded Area in Canada Could Also Decline in 2007

Canadian dry bean exports are forecast to increase in 2006-2007 because of strong demand and higher Canadian supply, according to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Canadian dry bean seeded area in 2006-07 decreased by 11% from 2005-2006, to 177,000 hectares. White pea bean area decreased by 13% to 67,000 hectares, and colored bean area decreased by 9% to 110,000 hectares.

Canadian dry bean production increased by 12% to 363,000 tons, as the lower seeded area was more than offset by lower abandonment and higher yields. Canadian production increased for white pea, pinto, black and Great Northern beans, decreased for dark red kidney and cranberry beans, and remained relatively stable for pink, small red and light red kidney beans.

The 2007 seeded area for dry beans in both Canada and the U.S. is expected to decrease, as prices are not attractive for most classes of beans and in many cases have not been competitive with other crops in bidding for '07 acreage thus far. Prices offered in production contracts, dry bean prices in the early spring and weather conditions during seeding will be key influencing factors on dry bean seeded area in the U.S. and Canada in 2007.

See more Canadian market analysis online at www.agr.gc.ca/mad-dam.



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U.S. dry bean industry: Area, production, value, unit value, and trade, 2001/02-2007/08¹

Item	Unit	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07 ^f	2007/08 ^f
Area harvested ²	1,000 ac.	1,250	1,739	1,347	1,219	1,534	1,530	1,295
North Dakota	1,000 ac.	400	690	520	475	565	635	537
Michigan	1,000 ac.	130	265	165	185	230	215	182
Nebraska	1,000 ac.	148	165	148	110	172	123	104
Minnesota	1,000 ac.	105	155	110	100	135	135	114
Production ²	Mil. cwt	19,610	30,312	22,492	17,788	26,772	23,843	20,565
North Dakota	Mil. cwt	6,200	10,626	7,800	4,750	8,588	7,620	6,664
Michigan	Mil. cwt	780	4,903	2,475	3,145	3,910	3,870	3,148
Nebraska	Mil. cwt	3,185	3,465	3,151	2,376	3,870	2,644	2,277
Minnesota	Mil. cwt	1,575	2,666	1,870	1,150	2,430	2,228	1,748
Season-ave price ²	\$/cwt	22.10	17.10	18.40	25.70	18.50	21.00	24.00
North Dakota	\$/cwt	20.40	14.30	16.10	24.80	15.50	20.56	23.36
Michigan	\$/cwt	24.60	15.30	19.30	22.50	19.60	20.86	25.53
Nebraska	\$/cwt	18.50	18.60	17.30	22.80	17.30	22.08	25.56
Crop value ²	\$ mil.	427	519	422	453	526	501	494
North Dakota	\$ mil.	126	152	126	118	136	157	156
Michigan	\$ mil.	19	75	48	71	75	81	80
Nebraska	\$ mil.	59	64	55	54	67	58	58
California	\$ mil.	47	59	49	43	56	50	47
Per capita use ³	Pounds	6.94	6.75	6.64	5.98	6.27	6.40	6.30
Pinto	Pounds	3.23	3.24	3.05	2.76	2.81	2.76	2.75
Navy	Pounds	1.00	0.90	0.85	0.55	0.67	0.93	0.92
Great Northern	Pounds	0.45	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.31	0.32	0.30
Black	Pounds	0.49	0.46	0.46	0.53	0.49	0.52	0.53
Export volume ⁴	Mil. cwt	6.717	6.577	6.145	4.749	7.327	6.000	5.200
Pinto	Mil. cwt	1.570	1.255	2.032	1.234	2.643	1.850	1.500
Navy	Mil. cwt	1.391	1.463	1.211	1.005	1.061	1.000	0.950
Great Northern	Mil. cwt	1.062	0.534	0.427	0.370	0.516	0.400	0.400
Black	Mil. cwt	0.450	0.848	0.816	0.617	0.763	0.800	0.650
Dealer Prices ⁵								
Pinto (CO)	\$/cwt	31.39	22.87	22.19	35.23	23.43	26.00	34.00
Navy (MI)	\$/cwt	25.65	18.00	23.53	29.64	24.44	24.00	23.75
Great Northern (NE)	\$/cwt	23.52	26.47	22.22	24.78	24.32	26.00	25.00
Black (MI)	\$/cwt	37.44	19.24	24.64	26.51	29.52	27.00	25.00
Grower Prices ⁵	\$/cwt	22.10	17.10	18.40	25.70	18.50	21.00	24.00
Pinto (ND)	\$/cwt	25.18	13.79	15.84	26.84	13.95	22.25	25.50
Navy (MI)	\$/cwt	20.73	12.23	18.53	24.89	19.12	17.50	19.00
Great Northern (NE)	\$/cwt	16.49	19.10	15.26	16.99	16.73	19.25	18.50
Black (MI)	\$/cwt	32.79	13.02	19.17	19.38	20.98	18.00	19.00
Retail price, dry bag ⁶	Cents/lb	70.9	75.3	76.5	79.2	81.0	85.0	89.0

^p preliminary. ^fERS forecasts as of 12/15/2006.

¹ The national dry bean crop year runs from September 1 to August 31. ² Source: USDA, NASS, *Crop Production, Agric Prices, Crop Values*.

³ Source: USDA, ERS. Calendar year use. ⁴ Source: USDC, U.S. Census Bureau. Excludes seed exports.

⁵ Source: USDA, AMS, Bean Market News. ⁶ Source: USDL, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ⁶ Crop year average retail price.

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2006 Annual Report



Mission Statement

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association is an association of growers representing growers through the check-off system. We are North America's largest supplier of quality dry beans. We work together to better the industry through promotion, research, market development, education of consumers and monitoring of governmental policy. Our future goals must be continued market exposure and careful monitoring of new ideas, consumer choices, and producer needs.



Shaping The Pulse of the Dry Bean World

We in the business of agriculture appear to be heading into interesting times. Factors outside the control of those on both the local and national level are changing the face of agriculture. Whether those factors will continue to have a significant impact will be for the future to determine.

The rise in the price of petroleum products, while affecting many in this nation adversely, appears to be affecting the farming sector in a positive manner. Efforts to reduce our reliance on foreign petroleum through the production of ethanol and biodiesel have diverted a significant proportion of food producing capacity to energy producing capacity. The diverting of land to energy production has upset the balance in the food industry and resulted in a bidding war among various commodities to gain market share. If this trend continues, the market price of beans should rise along with other commodities, although it may be tempered by the importation of foreign grown beans.

A political reality which may also affect the production of dry beans in the United States may be the upcoming farm bill. It has been the steadfast position of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association to resist any inclusion in the farm program. It has been the opinion of Northarvest that while inclusion in the farm program may be of benefit to dealers, processors, and packagers of dry beans by assuring them an ample supply at stable prices, it would not benefit the traditional bean grower. Inclusion, it was felt, would have a tendency to increase acreage, reduce market volatility, and decrease the potential for profit (or loss) from the growing of dry beans. World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements and successful international challenges of our farm policies may force Congress to eventually change the way dry edible beans and other fruit and vegetables are addressed in future farm legislation. Northarvest has taken a pro-active role in trying to assure that our commodity is dealt with as favorably and justly as possible by engaging on a national level with other organizations and forming a cohesive position on the issue.

The newly chartered US Dry Bean Council (USDDB) is up and running with a comprehensive mission for both domestic and foreign market development. Northarvest is a major player in this reincarnation, and is working hard to make it as effective an organization as possible.

Closer to home, Northarvest funds a wide variety of research projects, and among these is the dry bean breeding program at NDSU. An experienced research staff continued the program when longtime breeder Ken Grafton stepped up to become director of the N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station. And now the program is at full speed with the addition of a personable bean breeder named Juan Osorno. Juan knows beans, their genetics, and the program will soon be in its rightful position as one of the top bean breeding programs in the nation. Mehmet Tubek has been doing research at the Northern Crops Institute (NCI) in developing a bean puff snack that is not only good tasting but nutritious. Mehmet will be bringing samples of this new product to Bean Day on January 18th. The search for a plant pathologist who specializes in bean diseases continues and we expect the position to be filled soon.

Northarvest is a great organization with a great board of directors in the prime dry bean production area in the United States. This combination guarantees that you and your organization are at the pulse of what is happening in the bean world. We as producers are the backbone of this industry. Let's work together to continue shaping the outcome and building a better future for Northarvest beans.



Gary Paur
President

Directory

Northarvest Bean Growers Association

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Deer Creek, MN
218-462-2055

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Alan Juliuson, Director
Hope, ND
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Perham, MN
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Brian Love, Secretary
Euclid, MN
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Mark Welling, Vice Chairman
Montevideo, MN
320-269-3423

James Zenk, Council Member
Danube, MN
320-523-2253

Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture

North Dakota Dry Bean Council

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Julie Vculek, Council Member
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North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture

Northarvest Bean Growers Association Staff

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Executive Vice President

Faye Courneya
Office Manager

Lynne Bigwood
Home Economist

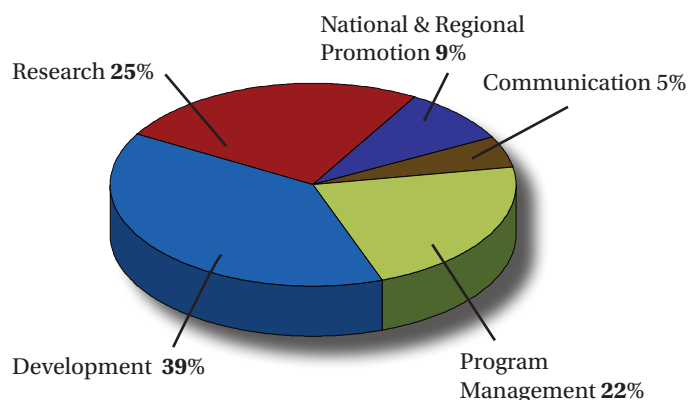
Sonja Kosler
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2006-2007 Budget by Category



Annual Budget Appropriation by Category

EXPENSE	2005-06	2006-07
Program Management	\$ 186,275	\$ 190,000
National & Regional Promotion	67,300	72,050
Research	219,725	215,228
Development	243,487	326,500
Communication	51,320	44,934
TOTAL	\$ 768,107	\$ 848,712

INCOME	2005-06	2006-07
North Dakota Dry Bean Council	\$ 560,000	653,508
Minnesota Dry Bean Research & Promotion Council	140,000	195,204
Northarvest Bean Growers Assn.	68,000	
TOTAL	\$ 768,000	\$ 848,712

How Your Bean Groups Work Together

Minnesota Dry Bean Research & Promotion Council
Administers the Minnesota Dry Bean Promotion Act

North Dakota Dry Bean Council
Administers the Dry Bean Industry Promotion Act of ND

Northarvest Bean Growers Association
Coordinates MN and ND Bean Council promotion, market development and research programs

US Dry Bean Council
Carries out market development and promotion, and serves as government liaison

Northern Crops Institute
Promotes use of northern-grown crops

Market Development

U. S. Dry Bean Council Board

Members:

- ADM Edible Bean Specialties
- Bush Brothers & Co.
- California Bean Shippers Association
- California Dry Bean Advisory Board
- Colorado Dry Bean Admin Committee
- Idaho Bean Commission
- Michigan Bean Commission
- Michigan Bean Shippers Assoc.
- Nebraska Dry Bean Commission
- New York State Bean Shippers Assoc
- North Central Bean Dealers Assoc.
- **Northarvest Bean Growers Assoc.**
- Rocky Mountain Bean Dealers
- Washington Bean Dealers Association
- Western Bean Dealers Assoc.

U. S. Dry Bean Council Committees:

- By-Laws
- Convention & Events
- Executive
- Food Aid
- Futures
- Government Affairs/Ag Issues
- Health & Promotions
- International Promotions
- Membership Development
- National Pulse Trade Rules
- Nominating
- Transportation



United States Dry Bean Council

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Three National Bean Groups Now One

Three national bean groups – the American Dry Bean Board, U.S. Dry Bean Council and Beans for Health Alliance – have voted to consolidate into a single, new organization called the U.S. Bean Council.

In the past, the three groups have all worked separately, with the USDBC focusing on exports, the ADBB working on domestic promotions, and the BHA concentrating on research and the nutritional value of beans.

The new organization combines all of those functions under one roof. Those seeking information often didn't know which organization to turn to with questions related to dry beans. Just in terms of clarity, having one go-to organization to contact is helpful, says Randy Duckworth, executive director

of the old USDBC, who serves as executive director of the new USBC. "Our marketing efforts and research efforts all tie in to each other, and hopefully will lead to greater consumption."

A major goal is to boost domestic promotions and get people eating more dry beans. "Our biggest market is the United States," he says. "About 75% of our product is consumed right here."

The new U.S. Bean Council is supported by six grower checkoff organizations, seven dealer groups and two corporate members: Bush Brothers & Co. and ADM Edible Bean Specialties. The new organization also added a new associate member classification so smaller bean companies and equipment dealers can join.

Cindy Brown, Menomonie, Wis., is the consolidated organizations' president. Steve Brown of Holyoke, Colo., was elected vice president and Doug Carlquist of Eden, Idaho, was elected secretary-treasurer. Mark Myrdal, Edinburg, N.D., serves on the national board's Executive Committee; Mike Beltz, Hillsboro, N.D., Government Affairs Committee; Mark Streed, Milan, Minn., International Programs Committee; and Alan Julison, Hope, N.D., on the U.S. Bean Council's Health Promotion Committee.

The USBC office is headquartered in the State of Washington (Grapeview, west of Tacoma) with a liaison office in Washington, DC.

Beans for Health Alliance

Northarvest has been an ongoing supporter of the Beans for Health Alliance. The mission of this international alliance is to promote the health benefits of dry beans and other pulses. Their approach is twofold: 1) to identify and promote bean-based solutions to chronic health and nutritional concerns in both developed and developing countries, and 2) to increase bean/pulse consumption and thus expand market opportunities for the global dry bean industry. Activities conducted in 2006 included:

- Funding clinical research to determine the health promoting attributes of beans and related pulses. The research focused on populations in developed and developing countries which rely on beans for daily nourishment.
- Educating public health officials and hunger

professionals around the world about the health benefits of beans.

- Participating in key conferences to promote research findings on the nutritional benefits of beans.
- Sponsoring international conferences to bring together world bean nutrition experts.
- Supporting a website that serves as the primary resource for bean-related research (www.beansforhealth.org).

BHA participated in nutrition-oriented conferences and meetings including:

- International Edible Legume Conference, April 17-22, 2005, Durban, South Africa
- International Symposium on Human Health Effects of Fruits and Vegetables – FAV HEALTH 2005, August 17-20, 2005, Quebec, Canada
- 18th International Nutrition Conference

– Nutrition Safari 2005, September 19-23, 2005, Durban, South Africa

- American Dietetic Association Food & Nutrition Conference and Expo, October 22-25, 2005, St. Louis, Missouri
- Food 3000: BHA Presentation to American Dietetic Association Spokespeople, April, 2006, Montreal, Canada.

The BHA also established the "Bean Health Research Program" for the purpose of adding to the growing body of scientific evidence regarding the health benefits of dry beans and related pulses. Four research projects have been completed thus far:

- Effect of Resistant Starches from Beans on Changes in Lower Bowel Bacterial Populations, Production of Short Chain Fatty Acids, and Changes in Blood Lipid Profiles

Northarvest Works to Develop Aggressive Health Promotion and Public Relations Plan for Dry Beans

The Health Promotion Committee (chaired by Alan Juliuson) of the newly consolidated United States Dry Bean Council is working with Marr Barr Communications in the development of an aggressive health promotion and public relations plan for calendar years 2007 and 2008.

Components of the plan under consideration include:

- Domestic Health Promotion – Increased consumption of U.S. beans among consumers in the United States (Increase health awareness of the health benefits of beans and increase per capita consumption of beans).
- Define Target Consumer Audience.

• Key Health and Food Influencer Programs (influence the influencers).

- Develop a “Bean Team.”
- Identify and train bean-health advocates in the nutrition, health, culinary fields.
- Train MBC RD spokespersons.
- Media Spotlight -- Create news about beans and build media relations focused on meaningful consumer health benefits to keep beans in the media spotlight.
- Utilize, Maintain, and Refresh Website
- Government Outreach
- Undertake Member Communications
- Conduct Consumer Research

The Health Promotion Committee has identified and discussed five key projects for early focus:

- Promote Beans for Health-related research results from the four research teams’ work which was underwritten by the BHA.
- Repeat BHA’s “Bean Alley” success with USDBC members’ booths clustered (three on each side of an aisle for added real estate and attention) at the American Dietetic Association’s annual meeting, the Food & Nutrition Conference and Exposition (FNCE).
- Promote the bean-related Dietary Guidance Message put forth by the FDA in January 2005.

• The new USDBC Website, which MBC is currently developing and whose budget is separate from the proposal.

- Develop fresh USDBC media kit, utilizing as many already-generated materials from various members.

All of the USDBC Committees are working toward a future of increased markets for Northarvest Bean Growers Association members. Mark Myrdal of Edinburg, North Dakota and Mark Streed of Milan, Minnesota represented Northarvest in 2005 with Alan Juliuson of Hope, North Dakota taking over for Streed in January 2006.

in Humans.

- Assessment of the Long-Term Effects of Pinto Bean and Black Eye Pea Consumption on Biomarkers for Heart Disease and Type 2 Diabetes Risk.
- Utilization of a Bean-Based Food to Improve Nutritional and Immune Status and Mortor Performance in HIV+ Children in Botswana.
- Defining the Health Benefits of Dry Beans.

The expectation of the BHA is that the scientific findings from these studies will be published in peer reviewed scientific journals within the coming year and thus stimulate interest within the health, nutrition and dietetics communities to focus more on beans and related pulses.

The Northarvest financial contribution to the U.S. Dry Bean Council consolidation will continue support for research and development projects such as these.

Other Market Development Highlights

Northern Crops Institute

The Northern Crops Institute is governed by the Northern Crops Council in conjunction with North Dakota State University. Northarvest Bean Growers Association is one of the Northern Crops Advisory Board members representing regional commodity groups and other interested parties in agriculture.

Northern Crops Institute supports regional agriculture and value-added processing by conducting educational and technical programs that expand and maintain domestic and international markets for northern-grown crops.

The Northern Crops Institute leads the effort in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and

South Dakota to establish northern-grown U.S. crops as the world’s choice for food, feed, and value-added applications.

Industry Members Sought for Country Subcommittees

The International Promotions Committee (IPC) met on March 30th. Recent actions of the International Promotions Committee included creation of subcommittees for Mexico/NAFTA, the United Kingdom and Japan. The subcommittees will examine developments (particularly political in Mexico) in these markets and recommend action plans for the IPC. Industry volunteers are still needed for each of the subcommittees.

Interested persons should contact Chairman Bob Green at (989) 224-1361 or mbc@mutualdata.com. Subcommittee members do not need to be a member of the USDBC board to participate.

Bean Promotion in the Philippines

The U.S. Dry Bean Council joined the 14th International Expo on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology held September 7-10, 2005 at the world Trade Center in Manila, Philippines. this was the USDBC’s first ever participation in a trade show in the Philippines. The purpose of joining the show was to promote U.S. dry beans.

Research

For the fiscal year 2006-2007, 25 percent of the Northarvest Budget was committed to research activities. Committee members reviewed 11 proposals and met with applicants to learn more about their research projects. The following nine projects were recommended to the board for approval and will receive a total of \$215,228 from the Northarvest Bean Growers Association.

Northarvest continues to maximize efforts to increase dry bean crop yields.

Resistance Against Fusarium Root Rot of Dry Bean

Dr. Carl Bradley and Dr. Jack Rasmussen, Department of Plant Pathology, NDSU (\$26,500)

Last year the team initiated a research project aimed at Fusarium root rot on dry beans. The eventual goal of this research is the development of germplasm and cultivars of dry bean with root rot resistance that are adapted to the

Northarvest region.

Since proposed experiments require year-round growth of plants to maturity, including seed production, the majority of the funds will be used to pay student labor. A small amount will be used for travel and for greenhouse supplies.

Dry Bean Improvement for the Northern Plains

Dr. A. A. Schneider, Department of Plant Sciences, NDSU (\$127, 500)

This has been a long-term program showing positive results. The objective of the program is to allow the dry bean growers of the Northern Plains to diversify into other market classes, thereby increasing the possibility of further exports. Breeding programs for dark and light red kidney, pink, small red, black, and great northern bean market classes are underway. In addition to these market classes small efforts have been placed on developing Flor de Mayo and Flor de Junio beans (two preferred bean classes in

Mexico) and Central American reds (preferred in many countries in Central America as well as by immigrants from these countries in the U.S.)

Northarvest funds are used for daily operational expenses of the breeding program. The majority of funds are used to hire technical staff and student labor for plot maintenance during the summer; for harvesting, threshing, cleaning, and limited data collection in the fall; and to help prepare for planting and greenhouse work during the winter. Funds will also support a research associate and the winter nursery.

Experimental Herbicides and Desiccants in Dry Edible Beans

Dr. Richard Zollinger, Department of Plant Sciences, NDSU (\$4,000)

Zollinger's research will focus these areas to increase efficiencies in dry bean production: testing KIH-485 for dry bean tolerance, determine

weed control and tolerance of halosulfuron to dry beans, determine rates and adjuvants for maximum dry bean desiccation from carfentrazone and also from an experimental compound.

Northarvest grant funds will be used for partial salary for a research specialist and for some travel expenses.

Development and Characterization of Omega-3 Fortified Extruded Bean Snacks

Dr. Mehmet Tulbek, NCI, NDSU and Dr. Clifford Hall, Department of Cereal Science, NDSU (\$35,900)

The three objectives of this

Research Committee

The Northarvest Research Committee plays a vital role in the research decision process. They screen all research proposals and requests for funding and then make recommendations to the full board. Current committee members are:

- Mike Beelner, Menahga, MN
- Mark Dombeck, Perham, MN
- Jon Ewy, Deer Creek, MN
- Gary Friskop, Wahpeton, ND
- Nick Kitsch, Webster, ND
- Brian Love, Chair, Euclid, MN
- Jim Sletten, Northwood, ND
- Tim Smith, Walhalla, ND
- Todd Sorenson, Fisher, MN
- Dan Webster, Penn, ND
- James Zenk, Danube, MN



Dry bean research plots at the NDSU Research Extension Center in Carrington.



Northarvest Bean plays a key role in supporting variety development research in the field and in the greenhouse.

research are to develop a method for producing extruded snack products from omega-3 fortified dry bean flour; to assess the shelf life and sensory properties of the extruded bean snack products; and to establish an optimal production method for converting omega-3 fortified dry bean flour into an extruded snack food based on sensory feedback from potential consumers.

Tulbek and Hall believe "If dry bean flour could be used as a raw material at 1% of all snack products, 65 million pounds of dry bean would be needed to supply the snack food industry."

Northarvest grant dollars will fund graduate student support, technical support from Northern Crops Institute, materials and supplies, equipment, travel, and data publication.

Dry Bean Stand Reduction and Defoliation Studies in Eastern North Dakota
Dr. Burton Johnson, Department of Plant Sciences, NDSU and Dr. Robert Henson, NDSU Carrington R/E Center (\$3,750)

This three-year project will evaluate dry bean response to simulated hail damage,

specifically stand reduction and plant defoliation reflective to the eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota dry bean production region. Johnson and Henson see benefits of their research results to the region's dry bean producers, dry bean industry, and crop insurance industry.

Funds will partially support undergraduate students to assist in seeding, tending of crops, harvesting, and cleaning and recording of plant and seed samples. Some funds will also be used for travel to study test-site.

Evaluation of Dry Bean Seed Treatments
Dr. Robert Henson, NDSU Carrington R/E Center (\$750)

The results of this research project should provide current information on the need for dry bean seed treatment and the effectiveness of a broad spectrum of fungicides in controlling root diseases. In addition to currently-labeled products, a series of new fungicides with suspected effectiveness will be tested for efficacy.

Funding will be used for technical support in the preparation, planting, maintenance, harvest, and processing of samples as well as for travel to the experimental area and the cost of materials needed to conduct the experiment.

Resistance to White Mold in Dry Bean
Dr. Jack Rasmussen, Department of Plant Pathology, NDSU (\$9,640)

Rasmussen has worked with Dr. Ken Grafton with Northarvest financial support to develop a long-term solution to economically damaging white mold. They continue to make progress toward their objective to develop white-mold resistant

dry bean germplasm and cultivars for the Northarvest region.

The majority of Northarvest funds will continue partial support of the research associate who has worked with the program for several years. Some funds will offset travel and greenhouse expenses.

Grower Survey of Pest Problems, Pesticide Use, and Varieties in 2006
Dr. Carl Bradley, Department of Plant Pathology NDSU (\$4,000)

Previous surveys have been delivered to producers using various methods with mixed response results. The 2006 survey will be mailed directly to Northarvest growers. In addition to other information, the responses should be useful in supporting research on variety improvement and providing information on major production problems.

Funds will be used for printing, mailing, and data analysis.

Development and Characterization of Omega-3 Bean Paste
Dr. Mehmet Tulbek, NCI, NDSU (\$3,188)

This project will research value added processing for dry edible beans with regards to improvement of nutritional components. Tulbek says, "Bean paste is a staple food consumed as a ready to eat product in the U.S. However bean and bean products are deficient in terms of omega-III fatty acids." The process will use black and pinto beans for experiments and will also utilize equipment available at the Northern Crops Institute.

Funds will be used for technical support, the purchase of an oilseed press, research supplies for nutritional analysis and lab supplies.

Promotion

Bean Lessons (September 27-28, 2005) -- The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences met in Philadelphia. Extension FCS staff use Northarvest's materials extensively with their community education programs. They were delighted to receive the cookbook, posters and CD-ROM with a power point "bean lesson" already prepared for their use.

Educating Twin Cities Educators (September 29, 2005) -- At the Minnesota WIC meeting in Minneapolis, Lynne Bigwood distributed Northarvest's new posters, CD-ROM and a sample of the revised cookbook to the attendees. She also left 25 packets of Northarvest's materials with a University of Minnesota Extension staff member to share with other nutrition educators in the Twin Cities. Several of the local WIC groups keep The Bean Cookbook in stock to distribute to their clients.

"Live to Be An Old Fart" (October 19-20, 2005) -- North Dakota Education Association met in Grand Forks for their 2005 Instructional Conference. Lynne Bigwood distributed Elementary Education kits to student teachers and posters to many teachers of all levels. The "Live to Be An Old Fart" poster was by far the most popular.

"Bean Alley" at ADA Expo (October 22-25, 2005) -- The Beans for Health Alliance coordinated exhibiting at the American Dietetic Association Food and Nutrition Conference & Expo in St. Louis, Missouri. "Bean Alley" had six booths, which included Northarvest, Bush Brothers, Idaho Bean Commission, Michigan Bean Commission, Trinidad-Benham from Colorado and Beans for Health Alliance. Northarvest



NHB Helps Sponsor "Eat Smart, Play Hard" Program

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association helped sponsor the "Eat Smart, Play Hard" program designed to encourage and teach children, parents, and caregivers to eat healthy and be physically active. The campaign offers resources and tools to convey and reinforce healthy eating and lifestyle behaviors that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the MyPyramid Food Guidance System.

"Eat Smart, Play Hard" information, featuring NDSU Bison athletes, is being distributed throughout N.D. Teachers receive a set of 16 mini-lessons on the MyPyramid and food safety, as part of the educational component. Bean recipes are included in the "Eat Smart, Play Hard" campaign.

The "Eat Smart, Play Hard" web site for parents: www.fns.usda.gov/eatsmartplayhardhealthylifestyle.

The "Eat Smart, Play Hard" web site for kids: www.fns.usda.gov/eatsmartplayhardkids.

shipped 2000 cookbooks, Beans: Agriculture to Health CD-ROMs and literature order forms along with the booth and samples of all our materials. Faye Courneya and Lynne Bigwood exhibited for three days and were overwhelmed by the response. They not only handed out all 2000 copies but also, had orders for another 360.

Living Ag Classroom (January 25-26, 2006) -- The Minot KMOT-TV Living Ag Classroom was held in conjunction with the Ag Expo at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds. Eleven commodity groups participated in three 1-1/2 hour sessions each day.

Almost 900 4th grade students and 50 teachers attended the two-day event. Thirteen new teachers requested teaching kits. Instructor comments about



Holly Arnold, NDSU Extension Food and Nutrition Program staff from Ward County talks "Bean Crazy" with a group of students at the Living Ag Expo in Minot.

what they find most valuable were, "I like your Ag Show demonstration; the children always mention this section" and "Each year the 'Bean Crazy' games is frequently recorded as a favorite Ag show activity when we return to our school to journal about the Ag Show!" Four classes got the maximum points and hit "Bean Crazy" playing the games this year. Normally there is one a day and two or three who either lose money or make very little.

"Beans: Ag to Health" (April 20-May 3, 2006) -- The National Women, Infant and Children's annual conference was held in Houston, Texas. Jo Singleton of Anadarko, Oklahoma, attended the conference as the Oklahoma State Laura K. Savage Award winner with her poster display. She printed out the "Beans: Agriculture to Health" lessons that Northarvest gave out at last year's conference and used them to make her prize winning display, "Quick and Easy Meals with Beans." Jo featured "The Bean Cookbook" as her recipe source and had a crockpot full of soup for everyone to taste. Lynne Bigwood exhibited for Northarvest Bean Growers. Over 1400 WIC staff attended with 600 from Texas. The rest came from around the USA including many tribal staff. Three hundred cookbooks, 350 Bean Cookery Curriculum CD Roms and 200 sets of the four Magical Fruit posters were a big hit! Ninety-five requests for samples of The Bean Cookbook were mailed out afterward.

Extension Ag Summit (April 22, 2006) -- North Dakota Agricultural Commodity groups, including Lynne Bigwood for Northarvest Bean Growers, hosted a tour site, Ag Summit, for Extension staff at their annual Spring Conference. Each commodity group gave a

US Dry Bean Featured in French School Menu Promotions

short talk on their resources and got a chance to visit with the attendees.

Bean Cookery Curriculum (April 23, 2006) -- Lynne had a second chance to meet more Extension staff at the North Dakota Nutrition Council Spring Conference at the Best Western Ramkota in Bismarck, ND. She gave out the new Bean Cookery curriculum, posters and cookbooks to many nutrition educators from across the state. The meeting had interesting speakers both morning and afternoon. The FDA and ND Public Health Officer had important information to share. North Dakota's Public Health Officer encouraged communities to follow last year's successful efforts in which the Northarvest Bean Growers Association did so well with the new MyPyramid.

In 2005-2006, the United States Dry Bean Council organized a US dry bean menu promotion, in cooperation with the French food service group, Avenance. Avenance is the Health and Education catering division of the Elior Group, #3 in the European food service market, with an annual turnover in sales of \$3.6 billion. Elior, with some 55,800 employees, serves 12,100 restaurants and outlets, providing meals for 2.4 million customers per day.

The target group was children aged 6 to 11 in French public schools. Over 200,000 children in 2,200 school canteens across France were served US Great Northern and dark red kidney beans.

The French Ministries of Health and Education is committed to a policy of healthy eating in schools, to help combat the rising level of obesity in French children. Avenance must, therefore, provide full nutritional information to the government for every food or food ingredient that it serves. The excellent nutritional profile of US dry beans played an essential role in getting the USDBC menu promotion approved by the French authorities.

In order to raise awareness of US dry beans and the health benefits of consuming all types of

dry legumes, all 200,000 children received two information cards, with a recipe printed on the back of each. Both information cards talk about dry beans, their American origin, where they are grown, how they are used, and why it is good to eat them. The cartoon character, "Lulu," tells the "story" of dry beans in the materials distributed to the children.

Two recipes were presented: a thick white bean and ham soup called "Appalachian soup" (for Great Northern beans) and "Californian croquettes" for dark red kidney beans. Each recipe carries the image of a small American flag. The recipes were designed to be quick and easy, to encourage the children to cook the dishes at home with their mothers.

In addition, a poster was displayed in each of the participating 2,200 school lunch rooms, showing all the different classes of US dry beans. The image used was taken from a US Dry Bean Council photo. The name of each of the US dry bean classes is given in French for the children to see and discuss with their teachers.

Following are samples of the various print materials produced for the French school menu promotion:

Promotion Committee

The Northarvest Promotion Committee members create and direct promotion activities for the organization. Current committee members are:

- Mike Beelner, Menahga, MN
- Mark Dombek, Perham, MN
- Jon Ewy, Deer Creek, MN
- Nick Kitsch, Webster, ND
- Alan Juliuson, Hope, ND
- Robert Landgren, Wilton, ND
- Jim Sletten, Northwood, ND
- Mark Streed, Milan, MN
- Julie Vculek, Crete, ND
- Dan Webster, Chair, Penn, ND



"Find the road that leads to Lulu." - a school poster showing US dry bean classes, with their names given in French. The title reads, "The energy power of dry beans." Lulu tells us that the French word, "haricot" (bean) comes from the Aztec word, "ayacotl."

Information card: "Lulu" tells the story of the white beans used to create the French traditional dish, cassoulet. A description of what cassoulet is and how it should be prepared is given at the bottom of the card. US Great Northern beans and navy beans are mentioned in the introduction.

Recipe card: "Appalachian Soup", made of white beans, potatoes, and ham. Flavorings include fresh chopped parsley, grated nutmeg, oregano, basil and bay leaf.

Information card: "Lulu" tells the story of dry beans: why they are good for you (protein, energy, fiber, vitamin B), where they were first found (American continent), and some of the best known classes (white beans, lima beans, dark red kidney beans and black beans).

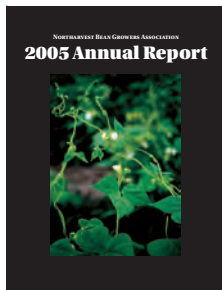
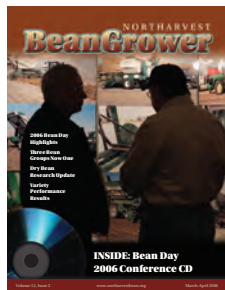
Recipe card: "California croquettes", using dark red kidney beans, bacon, onion and garlic. Bean patties are fried with a sprinkling of shredded cantal French cheese, and served with tomato sauce and a green salad.

Communications

Northarvest provides current information to member growers, consumers, and the general public with a user-friendly, current website. Growers can view information about their industry. Consumers can download order forms for bean pamphlets and posters, From breaking trade news to archived research reports, www.northarvestbean.org is a first-class model of what a web site should be.

The January- February Bean Grower magazine included Bean Day information and the Annual Report. The 2005 Dry Bean Research Update was included with the March-April 2006 magazine. Also in the March-April issue was a CD with all of the Bean Day presentation slides.

The four editions of Northarvest Bean Grower provided growers and associates with current news about market trends, pricing, production practices, promotion events, recipies, and many other topics.



Communications Committee

The Northarvest Communications Committee directs the projects that keep growers informed about the organization's activities, dry bean markets, and industry news. Current committee members are:

- Alan Juliuson, Hope, ND
- Mark Dombeck, Perham, MN
- Mark Streed, Milan MN
- Julie Vculek, Chair, Crete, ND
- Mark Welling, Montevideo, MN



Northarvest Bean Growers Association

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Frazee, MN 56544
PH: 218-334-6351
FAX: 218-334-6360
EMAIL: nhbean@loretel.net
WEB: www.northarvestbean.org

Additional Priorities

In addition to their work on the Research, Promotion, and Communication committees and representing Minnesota and North Dakota growers on the U.S. Dry Bean, Northarvest board members serve on the following committees:

Federal Crop Insurance

- Brian Love, Euclid MN
- Jim Sletten, Northwood ND
- Tim Smith, Walhalla, ND
- Don Streifel, Chair, Washburn ND
- Julie Vculek, Crete ND
- Mark Welling, Montevideo MN
- James Zenk, Danube, MN

Food Aid

- Alan Juliuson, Hope, ND
- Jim Sletten, Chair, Northwood ND
- Todd Sorenson, Fisher, MN
- Mark Streed, Milan, MN
- Mark Welling, Montevideo, MN

Legislative

- Mike Beltz, Chair, Hillsboro ND
- Gary Friskop, Wahpeton, ND
- Robert Landgren, Wilton, ND
- Brian Love, Euclid, MN
- Don Streifel, Washburn ND
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Contact Troy at (701) 857-2275
Lake Region Grain, Devils Lake, ND
Contact Reed at (701) 662-5051

Get Smart...Eat More Dry Beans



Pork and Pinto Loaf

"The best 'bean loaf' I've made"

By Lynne Bigwood
Northarvest Home
Economist

This recipe was inspired by a recent article in the Bismarck Tribune by Karen Matthews, AP Writer, and a recipe from Bill Phillips, American Bounty Restaurant, Hyde Park, NY, called Pork Stuffing with Wild Rice and Roasted Chestnuts.

It looked good because we – like most Americans, according to Matthews – are “passionate about stuffing.”

The recipe originally called for wild rice and roasted chestnuts, but I thought we could do better, with a little Northarvest creativity.

So I cut the recipe in half, changed the rice to canned pintos and left out the chestnuts. And presto, we have Pork and Pinto Loaf.

I used Morton's Sausage and Meat Loaf Seasoning Mix instead of fresh sage, savory and basil. I use Morton's seasoning both in holiday

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stuffing and sausage gravy served over biscuits. If you have a special stuffing recipe, you may want to use those herbs and spices. I date the bottle cap and keep it in the freezer for a couple of years so that it doesn't lose flavor.

I used whole wheat bread for the crumbs. Dry bread works the best. A blender or processor makes fresh, fine crumbs very easy.

This is the best "bean loaf" I have made. The loaf was very moist and good. The recipe made 8 servings which is 2 + ounces of meat/egg per serving. That is a little over half a regular serving of meat with an extra serving of vegetables stirred in. The leftovers freeze well.

Pork and Pinto Loaf

Ingredients:

- 1 15.5-ounce can pinto beans or 2 cups home cooked beans
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 tablespoon sausage seasoning
- 1 ¼ cups fresh bread crumbs
- 1 pound unseasoned ground pork
- 1 egg

Method:

- Preheat oven to 350° F.
- Grease a loaf pan with canola oil cooking spray.
- Drain and rinse pinto beans in a strainer or sieve. Mash beans in a large bowl with a large spoon until there are no large pieces. Set aside.
- Heat a large skillet. Add canola oil. Add chopped onion and celery. Sauté until onions are clear, about 10 minutes. Add sausage seasoning, stir until mixed. Remove from heat.
- Add the seasoned onion-celery and bread crumbs to the beans. Mix with your hands or a large spoon. Add ground pork and egg, mix well.
- Scoop the vegetable-meat mixture into loaf pan. Press mixture into pan and smooth out the top.
- Bake for 1 hour or until internal temperature reaches 160° F. Allow loaf to rest 5 - 10 minutes.
- Remove loaf from pan and discard fat. Slice into 8 pieces.
- Serve with mashed potatoes and sour cream, tomatoes and green salad.
- Cool and refrigerate or freeze leftovers.



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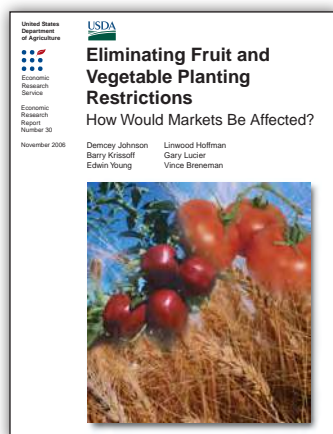
Eliminating Fruit and Vegetable Planting Restrictions

USDA analyzes how markets would be affected, including dry edible beans

A USDA analysis projects that if planting restrictions in the U.S. farm program were eliminated, program participants would expand dry edible bean plantings by about 83,000 acres. Non-participants would reduce dry bean plantings by 56,000 acres, leaving a net increase of about 27,000 acres.

The price of dry edible beans would subsequently decline, reducing gross returns per acre, while prices and gross returns per acre would rise slightly for other crops.

The USDA Economic Research Report (No. ERR-30, 54 pp, Nov 2006) was authored by Demcey Johnson, Barry Krissoff, Edwin Young, Linwood Hoffman, Gary Lucier, and



Vince Breneman.

It can be found online at www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err30 - there, the report can be found as a summary, in its entirety, and in segments that analyze:

- Base acreage and planting restrictions under the 2002 Farm Act
 - Agronomic and economic barriers to expanding fruit and vegetable production
 - Competition for land between program and fruit and vegetable crops
 - Planting dry beans on base acreage: economic tradeoffs
 - Discussion and implications
- Participants in U.S. farm programs are restricted from planting and harvesting wild rice, fruit, and most vegetables (nonprogram crops, including dry edible beans) on acreage historically used for program crops (known as base acreage). However, a recent World Trade Organization challenge

to U.S. programs has created pressure to eliminate planting restrictions. Although eliminating restrictions would not lead to substantial market impacts for most fruit or vegetables, the effects on individual producers could be significant, say the USDA study authors. Some producers who are already producing fruit and vegetables could find that it is no longer profitable, while others could profitably move into producing these crops. Producers with base acreage are the most likely to benefit, because they would no longer face payment reductions.

Eliminating the FAV Provision would affect some crops more than others. The authors

Continued on Next Page

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pointed out that because some fruit and vegetables are expensive to produce, program crop producers are more likely to switch to less capital-intensive crops, such as dry beans, or to processing vegetables, such as sweet corn or tomatoes, than to fresh fruit.

For example, producing cantaloupes in Arizona may

require shaping beds, laying plastic mulch, hand thinning and weeding, pollinating, several passes with chemical control agents, irrigating half a dozen times during the season, and removing and disposing of the plastic mulch. At harvest, growers must arrange for harvest labor, haul the melons to a cooler where field heat is removed, and have the product delivered to market quickly.

In contrast, harvesting equipment used in soybean operations would be more adaptable for dry beans, and many growers already have the experience needed to produce dry beans.

The Effect on Dry Beans

The study used a simple supply and demand model to illustrate potential adjustments that might occur for the dry bean market. Dry beans were selected as a case study,

because they are one of the commodities where producers would likely expand production if planting restrictions were eliminated, due to their agronomic and economic characteristics.

"Dry beans are unique for two reasons," the authors write: "1) they have more area devoted to them than area for any other fruit and vegetables, and 2) many producers could easily expand production because they already have the experience and equipment needed to produce dry beans."

If payments were not reduced when dry bean plantings increased, how much would these farmers raise production? Would producers who do not have a history of planting fruit and vegetables elect to produce dry beans or some other crop? The study authors looked at a model farm in Cass County, N.D. as a case study, and then considered the potential overall market adjustments if dry bean

acreage expanded nationally.

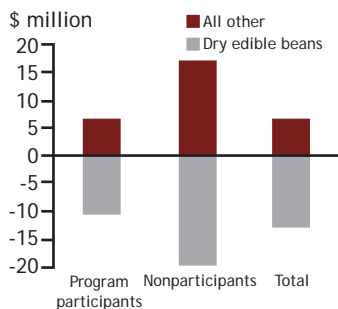
The authors say several points emerge clearly from the analysis:

- Eliminating planting restrictions induces a shift in planting of dry edible beans. Dry bean acreage would expand for program participants and decline for non-participants.

- A net increase in dry bean acreage would push down the average return per acre. Plantings of other crops simultaneously would decline slightly, and prices would increase slightly.

- Program participants would not necessarily gain market revenue from the policy change. Price declines for dry beans would negate some of the potential gain from planting flexibility. The effect on non-participants would also be ambiguous, with losses in revenue from dry beans offset (in part) by gains in revenue from other crops.

Change in market revenue for dry edible beans and other crops with planting restrictions eliminated



Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

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Lawmakers Request FAPRI Study Dry Bean Program Options

Ten federal lawmakers representing dry bean producing states in the U.S. have requested the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute to research payment rate and revenue insurance program options for dry beans.

"Planting restrictions are the top issue for the U.S. Dry Bean Council and a number of affiliated state organizations," the members of Congress wrote to FAPRI. "The recent World Trade Organization decision regarding the U.S. cotton program may prompt the consideration of changes to current planting restrictions, and a FAPRI analysis will provide us with important information as we debate potential policy changes."

Specifically, the lawmakers requested that it would be helpful if FAPRI provided the following:

1) An estimate of the payment rate required for historical producers of dry beans to receive direct, WTO-compliant income support that is fair and equitable in relation to the direct payments currently received by producers of program crops. As well, the annual cost of providing such direct payments to dry bean producers.

2) A description of the likely parameters of a WTO-compliant, multi-commodity revenue insurance program that provides a measure of price and yield protection for producers of dry beans.



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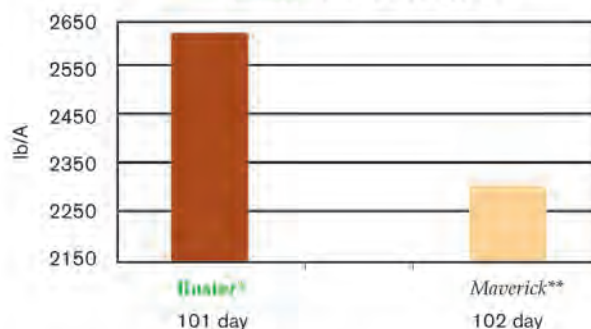
that means producers may enjoy a potential income increase of \$56.88 per acre.*



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2002 to 2006 yield data from ADM Seedwest test plots

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*Buster is a licensed Seminis variety (PVP). **Maverick is a registered NDSU variety.

'Beans sprout big role in region's economy'

If a product includes beans, there's a good chance they came from North Dakota or western Minnesota.

"If you buy five cans of beans, probably two of them are coming from this area," said Lynne Bigwood, home economist for the Northarvest Bean Growers Association, which represents dry bean growers in the two states.

North Dakota ranks first nationally in dry beans, with production valued at \$136 million, or about 26% of the U.S. total, according to the Agriculture Department. Minnesota ranks fifth, with production valued at about \$49 million, or roughly 9% of the national total.

"This is really a great area for dry beans. I'm not sure the general public realizes that," said Jim Vrolyk, who manages the Thompson bean plant in East Grand Forks. The plant cleans about 25,000 pounds of

dry beans each hour - enough for thousands of cans of baked beans.

Dry beans include varieties such as pinto, navy, lima and black beans, but not green beans, string beans or soybeans.

The Red River Valley's soil and rainfall has made it well-suited to dry bean production, said Duane Berglund, a North Dakota State University Extension Service agronomist. He said dry beans have fit nicely into many valley farmers' "rotation" - the farming term for annually rotating crops in a field to reduce crop disease.

It is unlikely that North Dakota and western Minnesota will give up their leading role in dry bean production anytime soon, said Randy Duckworth, executive director of the U.S. Dry Bean Council. Some farmers in Iowa and a few other states are experimenting with dry beans for the first time, but

the amounts involved are insignificant, he said.

Americans on average consumed 7.4 pounds of beans in 2002 - about 14% more than two decades earlier, according to the Agriculture Department. One reason cited is the fast-growing Hispanic population.

Dry beans' health benefits also help explain their growing popularity, said Mark Dombeck,

a Perham farmer and chairman of the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council. Federal Agriculture Department food guidelines introduced last year emphasize eating beans regularly, he said.

The Associated Press distributed this article nationwide on Northarvest-grown beans last fall.



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NDSU Has a New Bean Breeder

Juan Osorno's experience at NDSU, Puerto Rico, and at the largest bean breeding program in the world leads him to be an excellent selection, says Mike Beltz, Hillsboro, N.D., chairman of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council.

By Tracy Sayler

The Northarvest growing region has a new dry bean breeder. And while it's important to have a point person at the helm skilled at crop research corroboration as well as communication with producers and industry, Juan Osorno would emphasize two key facts about his appointment to this position:

- The dry bean breeding program at North Dakota State University is just that, a program that is bigger than any one person.

- Since the program involves more than one person, dry bean breeding efforts at NDSU did not shut down after longtime breeder Ken Grafton left the position to become director of the N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station, and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources.

Osorno is a native of Colombia, the country which links South America with Central America, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy in 1997. From 1996 to 2000, he worked at

CIAT, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture. This international research network is similar to CIMMYT, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, except that CIAT's work focuses on cassava, forages, tropical fruits, rice, and dry beans.

Bean improvement research at CIAT concentrates on two main tasks: 1) developing germplasm that offers farmers distinct advantages with or without purchased inputs and 2) designing strategies for managing diseases and pests in bean-based cropping systems.

Since CIAT's establishment in 1967, national agricultural research programs in 39 countries have released 362 bean varieties—including 238 in Latin America and 111 in Africa—based on germplasm provided by the Center. CIAT's bean improvement on the web: www.ciat.cgiar.org/beans/index.htm.

Among his research experience at CIAT, Osorno worked with the planning, planting, maintenance, and harvest of experimental plots, as well as:

Continued on Next Page

▼ *Dry bean research associate Gonzalo Rojas-Cifuentes (left) and bean breeder Juan Osorno in the NDSU Seed Testing Lab, where seed is prepared before planting in greenhouse or field trial evaluations.*



- Breeding for disease resistance to common bacterial blight, angular leaf spot, and anthracnose.
- Breeding for low fertility and drought tolerance.
- Applications of molecular markers in breeding for disease resistance.

"It's the largest bean research program in the world," says Osorno about CIAT, which works with about 21 market classes of beans. "It was a great opportunity to learn and work with the top breeders there."

From 2000 to 2003, he studied and worked at the University of Puerto Rico, where he received his Master's Degree in Agronomy. He researched resistance

to Bean Golden Yellow Mosaic Virus, evaluated breeding lines and made BGYMV inoculations in the field and greenhouse, worked with marker-assisted selection for common bean diseases, and was an instructor in the molecular markers laboratory. His research contributed to the release of three lines with resistance to BGYMV.

It was here that Osorno met NDSU's Ken Grafton. Several years can be eliminated from cultivar development if off-season winter nurseries are used, and Grafton conducted his off-season winter nursery evaluation of dry bean lines in cooperation with the University of Puerto Rico.

Osorno accepted Grafton's invitation in 2003 to come to NDSU to study for his PhD in Plant Sciences. Here, Osorno



NDSU's dry bean breeding program is a team approach, including research specialist Jody Vander Wal, who has been involved with the dry bean research program since the early 1980s.

worked and studied within the NDSU corn breeding program, with a primary research emphasis on the characterization of early maturing improved corn populations for grain quality.

Mike Beltz, Hillsboro, N.D., chairman of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council and a member of the NDSU dry bean breeder search committee, says Osorno's experience at NDSU, Puerto Rico, and at CIAT combined to make Osorno an excellent selection as NDSU's next dry bean breeder. "He's got a strong background," says Beltz. "He knows beans."

"Breeding beans a balancing act"

NDSU research specialist Jody Vander Wal has been involved with the dry bean research program here since the early 1980s, about as long as Grafton. "They essentially built this program," says Gonzalo Rojas-Cifuentes, a research associate who has worked within the program for over four years.

"There's a lot of genes involved with plant architecture, and changing plant structure can influence yield. Just as it is with other crops, bean breeding is a balancing act."

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Jean (Robert) Gelin has been involved in the breeding program the past few years as well, although he left for the private sector on September 2006, becoming a part of Syngenta Seed's new research station near Glyndon, Minn. Grad students and undergrads are also employed to help carry out research work.

The point is, a sustained public research and breeding program takes more than one person. It has to, especially since faculty usually have a teaching appointment along with their research responsibilities, and Osorno is no exception, with an 85% research, 15% teaching commitment.

It was VanderWal, Rojas-Cifuentes, and Gelin who continued to carry forth much

of the NDSU dry bean breeding program in the interim between Grafton's departure and Osorno's arrival.

For example, during the 2005 growing season, 39 research projects and dozens of preliminary and advanced breeding lines were evaluated at five locations in North Dakota, and at two locations in Minnesota. And at NDSU greenhouses in 2005, over 200 crosses were made (49% pinto, 23% navy, 14% black and 14% great northern and red beans).

Eclipse became the first black bean variety to be released by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station in 2004. Its development, like other dry bean varieties at NDSU, was made possible in part through

funds provided by the Northharvest Bean Growers Association. Two elite pinto lines are set for release in 2007, pending review committee approval.

Pintos, navies, blacks, great northern, and kidneys will continue to be the research focus under Osorno, and upright varieties as well. Upright plants are easier to harvest, and can help minimize disease risks. "However, breeding for upright plants is not an easy task," says Osorno. "There's a lot of genes involved with plant architecture, and changing plant structure can influence yield. Just as it is with other crops, bean breeding is a balancing act."

Osorno can be contacted by email: Juan.Osorno@ndsu.edu.

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TheLastWord

Great Plains Food Bank: Dry Beans Key Protein Source

By Tracy Saylor

You'd think that hunger wouldn't be a problem in the Northern Plains, with its ties to agriculture and food production, as well as a culture of friends and family connectedness that we like to think is stronger here than many other areas of the country.

Yet 1 out of every 8 people in our region live in poverty, and 1 in 12 North Dakotans seek food assistance each year, with 26,000 who seek emergency food assistance from charitable feeding programs supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank.

A program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, the Great Plains Food Bank is headquartered in an inconspicuous warehouse about nine blocks south of North Dakota State University in Fargo. Few people are aware of what goes on in this warehouse,

with the exception of the volunteers who help sort food for distribution.

Inside are rows and rows of canned, boxed, and bagged food items stacked high, a large warehouse setting that brings a Sam's Club to mind. It is a regional collection point where food is received from across the nation and then distributed to a network of 235 member agencies in 75 communities across North Dakota and Clay County, Minn. Over 70% of the food distributed by emergency food pantries throughout this region is supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank.

The Great Plains Food Banks is a part of America's Second Harvest national food bank network, which involves other food banks across the U.S. This network serve as a conduit for the estimated 27% of all food produced in the U.S. that never reaches the dinner table – dis-

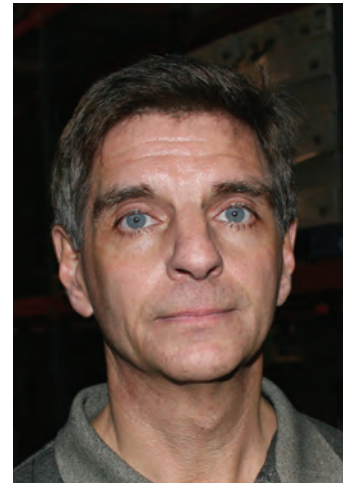
continued or surplus products, off spec items, production overruns, reformulations, seasonal items, mislabeled products, among other reasons for non retail – and the estimated 35 million Americans which the USDA classifies as having “low or very low food security.”

Most of the product distributed by the food bank is in fact surplus food donated by the local, regional, and national food industry. Hundreds of companies such as Nabisco, Cloverdale, Nash Finch, Cass Clay Creamery and Food Services of America donate product that is overproduced or nearing its code date. Another source is local food drives conducted by schools, churches, civic groups, and businesses.

Organized in 1983, the Great Plains Food Bank in 2005 distributed 5.64 million lbs of food in the region, valued at almost \$9 million. Almost half of those served are children.

Steve Sellent, program director of the Great Plains Food Bank, says assistance needs statistics in this area are close to that of the national average. He says demand remains steady year-round, although winter brings additional hardships for some with higher heating costs, and not being able to supplement food needs with outdoor gardens.

The Great Plains Food Banks receives and distributes

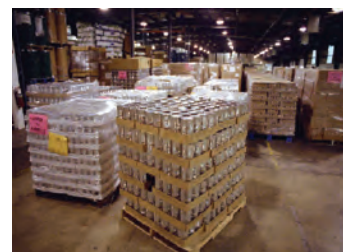


Steve Sellent, program director of the Great Plains Food Bank

canned beans, as well as beans in bulk, from companies and sometimes from USDA donation programs, which are repackaged in one or two lb packages. People in rural areas, native Americans, and immigrants are among the recipients.

Protein is one of the biggest needs for food bank recipients, yet including meat and dairy, is a food bank category that is one of the least stable with the shortest shelf life. That's where dry beans play a key role, says Sellent. “Getting protein products is a huge challenge, and dry edible beans fill a huge gap.”

Information about the Great Plains Food Bank can be found online under ‘Programs & Services’ at www.lssnd.org.





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