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BEAN GROWER

SPRING 2026

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SPRING 2026



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Northarvest members –

By the time you read this, most of us have been watching the weather, watching the markets, and doing that winter math we all do—figuring what last year taught us and what we can do better next time.

This issue covers a bit of everything: help that's finally showing up, and the long game of keeping demand strong for our beans. USDA has rolled out assistance for folks who had losses in 2023–2024. There's also support for growers facing unfair market disruptions. If you think you might qualify, don't wait around—check in with your local FSA office and get your paperwork moving quick. Deadlines aren't anybody's favorite, but missing one can cost you.

Northarvest has been putting miles on—meeting with buyers and food companies in places like Zurich, Düsseldorf, and Berlin, and showing up at major food and beverage events. That work matters. It keeps U.S. dry beans on menus, in plants, and in purchase orders worldwide.

Things have been happening here at home, too. I wanted to say hats off to everyone who helped make the first International Sugarbeet & Dry Bean Expo a success—one expo, two industries, shared priorities, and a great turnout. I think that's a good sign for what's ahead.

Wishing you all a safe spring plant. Thanks for being part of this.

– Tony Richards
NBGA President, Hope, ND

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NORTHARVEST
BEANGROWER

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The Trump Administration Delivers Second Stage of Crop Disaster Assistance for Farmers

America's farmers and ranchers are receiving a powerful boost as the U.S. Department of Agriculture delivers billions in disaster relief and keeps critical support services running when they are needed most. With a renewed commitment to putting producers first, federal leaders are accelerating aid, reopening local offices, and ensuring that those who feed the nation have the resources they need to recover, rebuild, and thrive.

(Washington, D.C. Nov. 2025) Today, the USDA will continue to support farmers and will release billions in disaster assistance for those recovering from natural disasters across the country.

“President Trump continues to put Farmers First and provide relief to American farmers reeling from the devastating natural disasters that struck across the United States in 2023 and 2024. The continued financial success of our farming and ranching operations is a national security priority,” said Secretary Brooke Rollins. “USDA is doing whatever it takes to make good on President Trump’s promise to expedite disaster recovery

assistance to U.S. farmers and ranchers, ensuring viability, prosperity, and longevity for these men and women who dedicate their entire lives to our nation’s food, fiber, and fuel production. The majority of payments from the first stage are already in the hands of producers, helping them prepare for and invest in the next crop year.”

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering more than \$16 billion in total Congressionally approved SDRP assistance. This is on top of over \$9.3 billion in Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) assistance to over 560,000 row crop farmers and over \$705 million in Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) assistance to over 220,000 ranchers. Stage Two of SDRP covers eligible crop, tree, bush and vine losses that were not covered under Stage One program provisions, including non-indemnified (shallow loss), uncovered and quality losses. For Stage Two program details, including fact sheets, please visit fsa.usda.gov/sdrp.

The first stage, announced in July, remains available to producers who received an indemnity under crop





insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for eligible crop losses due to qualifying 2023 and 2024 natural disaster events. FSA county offices began accepting SDRP Stage Two applications on November 24, 2025. Producers have until April 30, 2026, to apply for both Stage One and Stage Two assistance.

Since March 2025, USDA has supported U.S. farmers and ranchers with more than \$16 billion in supplemental disaster assistance mandated by Congress in the American Relief Act, 2025 including \$9.3 billion through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program, over \$1 billion through the Emergency Livestock Relief Program and, to date, more than \$5.7 billion in SDRP Stage One payments.

With billions in disaster assistance delivered and more on the way, USDA's continued action underscores a steadfast commitment to America's farmers and ranchers. These investments not only help producers recover and rebuild, but also strengthen the long-term resilience and security of the nation's food and agricultural economy. ■

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). November 17, 2025. [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).



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USDA Announces Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers Impacted by Unfair Market Disruptions

Specialty Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for March 2025 is March 13

(Washington, D.C., February 13, 2026) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing \$1 billion in Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Program assistance for specialty crops and sugar, commodities not covered through the previously announced Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program. These one-time bridge payments will help address market disruptions, elevated input costs, persistent inflation, and market losses from foreign competitors engaging in unfair trade practices that impede exports. Specialty crop producers have until March 13, 2026, to report 2025 acres to USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

“President Trump has the backs of our farmers, and today we are building on our Farmer Bridge Assistance program with the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers

(ASCF) Program. Our specialty crop producers continue to feel the negative effects of four years under the Biden Administration, suffering from record inflation, a depleted farm safety net, and delayed disaster assistance,” said Secretary Rollins. “President Trump and the entire cabinet are working every day to fight bidenflation and lower prices for consumers. If our specialty crop producers are not economically able to continue their operations, American families will see a decrease in the food they rely on, wholesome and nutritious fruits and vegetables. Putting Farmers First is essential to the Make America Healthy Again movement and we are doing both at USDA by expanding market opportunities and improving the farm economy for all producers. Today's specialty crop announcement builds on our efforts to improve markets for real food into American schools, institutions, and family dinner tables.”



**“Today's specialty crop announcement builds on our efforts to improve markets for real food into American schools, institutions, and family dinner tables.”
– Secretary Rollins**

The Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers Program is authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and will be administered by FSA.

Eligible Specialty Crops

ASCF-eligible specialty crops include: **(A)** Almond, Apple, Apricot, Aronia berry, Artichoke, Asparagus, Avocado **(B)** Banana, Bean (Snap or green; Lima; Dry edible), Beet (Table), Blackberry, Blueberry, Breadfruit, Broccoli (including Broccoli Raab), Brussels Sprouts **(C)** Cabbage (including Chinese), Cacao, Carrot, Cashew, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Cherimoya, Cherry, Chestnut (for Nuts), Chive, Citrus, Coconut, Coffee, Collards (including Kale), Cranberry, Cucumber, Currant **(D)** Date, Dry Edible Beans and Peas* **(E)** Edamame, Eggplant, Endive **(F)** Feijou, Fig, Filbert (Hazelnut) **(G)** Garlic, Gooseberry, Grape (including Raisin), Guava **(H)** Horseradish **(K)** Kiwi, Kohlrabi **(L)** Leek, Lettuce, Litchi **(M)** Macadamia, Mango, Melon (All Types), Mushroom (Cultivated), Mustard and Other Greens **(N)** Nectarine **(O)** Okra, Olive, Onion, Opuntia **(P)** Papaya, Parsley, Parsnip, Passion Fruit, Pea (Garden; English or Edible Pod; Dry edible), Peach, Pear, Pecan, Pepper, Persimmon, Pineapple, Pistachio, Plum (including Prune), Pomegranate, Potato, Pumpkin **(Q)** Quince **(R)** Radish (All Types), Raspberry, Rhubarb, Rutabaga **(S)** Salsify, Spinach, Squash (Summer and Winter), Strawberry, Suriname Cherry, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Swiss Chard **(T)** Taro, Tomato (including Tomatillo), Turnip **(W)** Walnut, Watermelon

*Dry edible beans and peas covered by FBA will not be eligible for ASCF.

ASCF payments are based on reported 2025 planted acres.

Eligible farmers should ensure their 2025 acreage reporting is factual and accurate by 5 p.m. ET on March 13, 2026. Commodity-specific payment rates will be released by the end of March. Crop insurance linkage will not be required for the ASCF Program. However, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) risk management tools to best protect against price risk and volatility in the future.

More information on ASCF is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/fba or producers can contact their local FSA county office. ■

Resetting U.S. Nutrition Guidelines

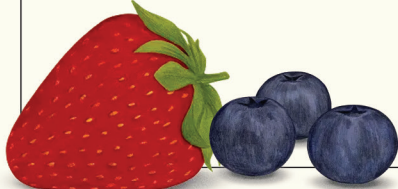


The new Dietary Guidelines represent a step forward in promoting healthier lifestyles for individuals and families nationwide. By emphasizing balanced, whole-food choices and practical recommendations, the guidelines provide clear, science-based direction to help people make informed decisions that support long-term health.

The guidance promotes a flexible, whole-food framework designed to accommodate varying needs, preferences and budgets. Rather than prescribing

a single eating pattern, it offers a broad range of options across food groups.

The guidelines encourage a variety of protein sources, including chicken, pork, eggs, seafood and red meat, along with plant-based options such as beans, lentils, legumes, nuts, seeds and soy. Dairy options span price points and include whole milk and full-fat products. The guidance also recommends incorporating fruits and vegetables in fresh, frozen, dried or canned forms and prioritizing fiber-rich whole grains.



Protein, Dairy, & Healthy Fats

We are ending the war on protein. Every meal must prioritize high-quality, nutrient-dense protein from both animal and plant sources, paired with healthy fats from whole foods such as eggs, seafood, meats, full-fat dairy, nuts, seeds, olives, and avocados.



Vegetables & Fruits

Vegetables and fruits are essential to real food nutrition. Eat a wide variety of whole, colorful, nutrient-dense vegetables and fruits in their original form, prioritizing freshness and minimal processing.

A central focus is reducing consumption of highly processed foods high in refined carbohydrates, added sugars, sodium, unhealthy fats and chemical additives. For the first time, the guidelines explicitly caution against highly processed packaged and ready-to-eat foods, particularly those high in salt or sugar. The recommendations also take a stronger stance on added sugars, stating that added sugars and non-nutritive sweeteners are not recommended as part of a healthy diet and advising parents to avoid added sugars for children younger than 4.

The guidelines shift away from discouraging fats overall and instead promote healthy fats from whole-food sources, including seafood rich in omega-3 fatty acids, nuts, seeds, olives, and avocados, as well as cooking with olive oil.

The guidance states: “Prioritize fiber-rich whole grains” and “significantly reduce the consumption of highly processed, refined carbohydrates, such as white bread, ready-to-eat or packaged breakfast options, flour tortillas and crackers.”

It also acknowledges that lower-carbohydrate diets may help some people with chronic diseases improve health outcomes. Overall, the guidelines advocate for nutrient-dense, minimally processed foods as a practical approach to improving long-term health nationwide.

More information is available at realfood.gov. ■

Whole Grains

Whole grains are encouraged. Refined carbohydrates are not. Prioritize fiber-rich whole grains and significantly reduce the consumption of highly processed, refined carbohydrates that displace real nourishment.





The Northarvest Bean Growers Association Invited to the Business Centers of Zurich, Düsseldorf, and Berlin

From Nov. 15–21, 2025, Jon Krause represented the Minnesota Dry Bean Research & Promotion Council on a trade mission to Germany and Switzerland, accompanied by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. The trip included representatives from various agricultural industry commodity and business groups.

Council representatives visited the business centers of Zurich, Düsseldorf, and Berlin. Among the delegation was Minnesota farmer Jon Krause of Staples, representing the state's dry bean industry and reflecting the passion and expertise of regional producers.

The goal of the trip was not sightseeing but building partnerships. Through meetings with importers, distributors, food manufacturers, and government agencies, the council highlighted Minnesota's agricultural innovation and explored opportunities for collaboration on food security and product development. As global

consumers increasingly seek healthier, plant-based protein options, the discussions helped position sustainably produced U.S. beans in international markets.


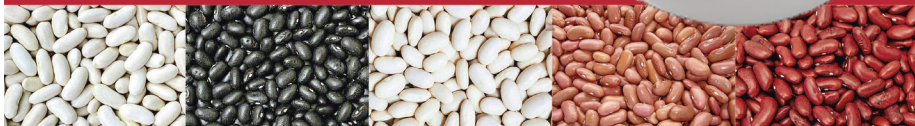
Agricultural leaders said each handshake and conversation abroad supports communities at home. Behind every shipment of beans is a network of family farms, local businesses, processors, researchers and rural economies working together. Expanding global markets, they added, does more than move product — it supports livelihoods, fuels regional growth and reinforces Minnesota agriculture's reputation for excellence.

From the fertile plains of the Upper Midwest to business centers in Europe and dining tables around the world, Minnesota's dry bean growers are cultivating more than crops. They are nurturing partnerships, strengthening communities and helping meet rising global demand for healthy, sustainable protein — one harvest at a time. ■



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Hoeven Talks FY26 Agriculture Appropriations and Producer Roundtable

Senator John Hoeven outlined how priorities he worked to include in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Agriculture Appropriations legislation will provide more than \$50 million to strengthen North Dakota's role as a driving force in the development of future agriculture technology and policy. Hoeven made the remarks as part of a roundtable he held at North Dakota State University (NDSU) with agriculture researchers, producers and commodity groups. The senator discussed his efforts as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee to secure the following priorities in the agriculture funding legislation.

Approximately \$25 million for ag research in North Dakota with NDSU and its partners, funded through the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

These programs cover a wide variety of commodities, supporting better yields and disease resistance for crops like wheat, soybeans, barley, oats, potatoes, pulse crops and canola, among others.

\$18.5 million for NDSU-led research initiatives, ranging from autonomous technologies to machine learning and data security in agriculture.

Nearly \$2.5 million for the NDSU Agricultural Risk Policy Center, which provides timely economic analysis on high-impact issues in farm country.

This brings the total funding Hoeven has secured for this initiative to nearly \$6.5 million since FY2024.

Hoeven stressed the leading role that NDSU is now playing in agriculture policymaking for the nation, providing insights and driving policies that have a real-world benefit for producers. For instance, the policy center's analyses have been key in shaping the updates to crop insurance and reference prices that Hoeven advanced in the One Big Beautiful Bill, as well as ongoing work on an agriculture assistance package.

\$5 million for the AgTech Cooperative Agreement between Grand Farm, NDSU and ARS. This includes \$2 million

to establish an ARS work site at Grand Farm and brings total funding for the partnership to \$11 million.

The partnership is working to develop the next generation of precision agriculture technologies, helping to secure U.S. farmers and ranchers' competitive edge now and into the future.

\$3 million for continued renovations at the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, bringing total funding for the project to \$18 million since FY2022.

"North Dakota has long been a powerhouse in agriculture, but with these latest initiatives in agriculture policy and technology, we are truly taking our leadership to the next level," said Hoeven. "NDSU's Ag Risk Policy Center is just over a year old, but it has already proven to be a key tool for policymakers and is shaping our nation's ag policy to the benefit of farmers and ranchers as we speak. At the same time, the university's AgTech partnership with Grand Farm and ARS is breaking new ground to empower our farmers to produce greater yields with fewer input costs. That's just two examples of the cutting-edge work that we've funded in our FY2026 appropriations legislation."

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

In addition, Hoeven worked to ensure the FY26 agriculture funding legislation continues to provide strong support for farmers and ranchers, which includes:

- Helping ensure producer access to credit by fully funding the demand for the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) direct and guaranteed operating and ownership loans.
- A measure prohibiting the closure of FSA offices.
- \$500,000 for blackbird depredation in the Northern Great Plains.

Priorities for North Dakota livestock producers, including:

- \$13.5 million to help ranchers comply with electronic identification (EID) requirements.
- Support for avian influenza and chronic wasting disease (CWD) prevention and research efforts.
- Measures to promote competition and transparency in cattle markets, such as: \$1 million to continue Hoeven's cattle contract library pilot program. Funding to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act. ■

**AG News Nov. 2025*

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Minnesota Bean Grower Joins U.S. Dry Bean Council in Italy Trade Mission



Promotion of U.S. Dry Beans in the region is full speed ahead as USDDB delegates traveled to Italy in Nov. 2025 for the annual European trade mission, participating in productive meetings with Italian customers and the World Food Programme in Rome.

There continues to be a wealth of opportunities to promote beans in the UK, with strategic partners like the Food Foundation, VegPower, and Bold Bean Co all investing heavily to increase consumption.

November 9th - 15th 2025, Green Hill Band (ghb) led a USDDB delegation to visit key customers in southern and northeast Italy – where a significant portion of Europe's pulses are processed/canned.

With a processing level of 5.3 million tons of tomatoes and legumes in 2024, Italy retains its position as the third largest canning industry in the world after the U.S. and China.

Because the decisions for World Food Programme commodity purchases are made in Rome, Italy, it is important to have regular visits with this office to inform

WFP purchasing agents of the benefits, uses and pricing prospects for dry beans and which food assistance countries are good prospects for U.S. dry beans.

As well as meeting with WFP, the delegation visited the U.S. Embassy and met with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Rome team.

The delegation had productive and successful meetings with key takeaways:

- There is strong recognition of U.S. bean quality, especially for canning performance, amongst Italian companies.
- Continued interest in navy, pinto, black, and DRK beans from multiple buyers.
- Growing market attention to sustainability, glass-jar lines, and packaging innovation.
- Some uncertainty over political/tariff impacts, though buyers remain optimistic overall.
- Interest in more information, newsletters, and market updates from USDDB.
- Multiple companies expressed interest in visiting the U.S. in 2026. ■

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Northarvest at Major International Food & Beverage Show

Northarvest recently represented our industry at ANUGA in Germany, one of the world's leading food and beverage trade shows. The event provided an important opportunity to connect with global partners and promote U.S. pulses and dry beans to an international audience.

ANUGA is a leading trade fair for the food and beverage industry that is held once every 2 years in Germany. This year, NBGA Director Jeff Kosek, Echo Hacker, and Andy Hacker of Bonanza Bean joined the trade team from USA Pulses and the US Dry Bean Council to attend the show and represent our industry.

USA Pulses and USDBC shared a corner booth in the USA Pavilion and hosted a joint reception at the show. Around 145,000 visitors from over 190 countries attended this year's ANUGA.

Northarvest wishes to thank Kosek and the Hackers for attending, all other members of the trade team, and the organizers for facilitating our involvement in this important trade show. ■



Jeff Kosek
NBGA District 9 Director / Secretary

Echo Hacker
Office Manager / International Sales
- Bonanza Bean

Andy Hacker
Procurement / Seed Manager
- Bonanza Bean



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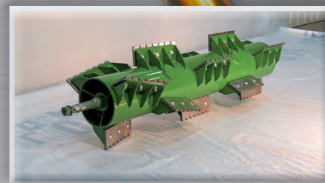
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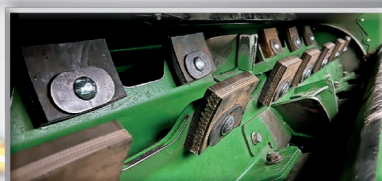
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USA Beans, Peas, Lentils, Chickpeas MX-Latam Conference 26

The USA Beans, Peas, Lentils, Chickpeas Mx-Latam Conference 2026 is an educational and networking event centered on pulse production and trade trends from the United States and beyond.

The conference covered dry beans, peas, lentils, and chickpeas, offering attendees the chance to engage with expert panelists, presentations, and discussions that provide valuable

insights and market trends for 2025-2026 and beyond.

With a strong history of successful events, industry professionals from the USA and Latin America came together in Puerto Vallarta on February 12-14, 2026, for this unique opportunity!

Watch for full coverage and a recap in a future issue of Northarvest Beangrower Magazine. ■



The Midwest Dry Bean Coalition Takes Farm Concerns to Washington, D.C.

Midwest Dry Bean Coalition (MDBC) takes farm concerns to Washington; fly-in highlights financial stress, calls for commodity purchases, export momentum, and nutrition recognition.

Members of the Midwest Dry Bean Coalition (MDBC) traveled to Washington, D.C., this week for a three-day fly-in aimed at pressing lawmakers, congressional staff, and Trump administration officials on the growing economic strain facing the dry edible bean sector.

Representing farm families, processors, dealers, and factory workers across the Midwest, coalition members underscored the severe financial pressures confronting producers, driven by depressed prices, elevated input costs, stalled export demand, mounting per-acre losses,



and historically high stocks-to-use ratios that continue to weigh on the market.

During meetings, MDBC participants urged policymakers to pursue meaningful relief measures, including increased government purchases to move excess supplies, initiatives to boost domestic consumption, and actions to restart and expand export opportunities. The coalition also emphasized the nutritional value of dry edible beans, calling for their proper recognition and prioritization in forthcoming federal Dietary Guidelines, arguing that stronger policy alignment could support both public health goals and market demand for U.S.-grown beans. ■

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Regional Leaders Commit to Growth Through Advanced Leadership Programs

Leadership development continues to play an important role in strengthening agriculture and rural communities in North Dakota and Minnesota.

North Dakota Council Chair Rudy Dotzenrod is participating in the Rural Leadership North Dakota program (RLND) an 18-month leadership development

experience offered through NDSU Extension. The program is designed for both experienced and emerging leaders and includes seminars that combine personal development, leadership training and location-specific subject matter. RLND is geared toward individuals committed to strengthening agriculture, their communities and the future of North Dakota.



In Minnesota, NBGA Past President Eric Samuelson is participating in the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program (MARL). The two-year experience is designed for engaged agricultural and rural leaders. It features nine three-day in-state seminars, a six-day

national study seminar, and a 10- to 14-day international study seminar. The program focuses on developing leadership skills to help participants maximize their effectiveness and impact at the local, state, national, and international levels. ■



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Prioritize Quality





One Expo, Shared Priorities

Innovation and Collaboration Drive the Inaugural International Sugarbeet & Dry Bean Expo

WRITTEN BY: EMMA RIEKE
PHOTOS BY: SCOTT THUNE / THUNE STUDIOS

For more than 50 years, two cornerstone events have served producers in the Red River Valley and beyond: Northarvest Bean Growers Association's Bean Day and the International Sugarbeet Institute.

This January, those long-standing traditions came together for the first time under one roof as the International Sugarbeet & Dry Bean Expo (ISDBE), creating a unified forum for two industries that share geography, grower bases and many of the same production realities.

Held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, the inaugural Expo brought together growers,

researchers, equipment manufacturers, seed companies and industry leaders for two days of technical education, market analysis and trade show interaction. The combined format reflected a practical shift, one designed to make better use of growers' time while acknowledging the crossover between sugarbeet and dry bean production in the region.

"The combined Expo is an excellent way to better serve growers and members of the industry," said Harrison Weber, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association. "There is substantial crossover with our two industries



“The combined Expo is an excellent way to better serve growers and members of the industry.”
– Harrison Weber, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association

both in the grower base, the companies providing solutions, as well as the size and regionality of domestic production. The Expo allows growers better use of their time to learn about important issues impacting their operations.”

CONFRONTING DISEASE AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE

Among those important issues, one challenge continues to dominate conversations in sugarbeet production: Cercospora leaf spot.

“Cercospora is public enemy number one for sugarbeet growers,” Weber said. “This leaf disease robs us of sugar content in the beet and is having devastating financial impacts on our farms and cooperatives.”

Cercospora leaf spot (CLS), a fungal disease that damages leaf tissue and reduces photosynthetic

capacity, directly affects both tonnage and sugar concentration, key drivers of grower revenue and cooperative returns. In a year already shaped by tight margins and market uncertainty, disease pressure compounds financial strain.

Nick Revier, Regional Sales Manager for SES VanderHave, echoed those concerns from a seed and market perspective.

“The major challenge right now is the price of sugar,” Revier said. “Low prices are making it very difficult for growers to operate in the black. Other challenges include higher input costs and sugarbeet disease challenges. One of the major disease challenges is Cercospora leaf spot, a fungal disease of the leaves that destroys parts of the leaf and impacts performance in the sugar factory.”

The intersection of lower commodity prices, rising



input costs and aggressive disease pressure has sharpened the focus on innovation, particularly in genetics and resistance breeding.

SESVanderHave, through its parent company United Beet Seed, is advancing a multi-gene resistance strategy aimed at improving CLS tolerance.

“SESVanderHave is working diligently on a new and innovative approach to Cercospora leaf spot control through its CERCO TECH technology, which takes a multi-gene approach to breeding better CLS resistance,” Revier said.

A FORUM FOR EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION

While the trade show floor featured the latest equipment, inputs and agronomic solutions, conversations consistently circled back to efficiency and profitability. According to Revier, growers across crop segments are focused on doing more with less.

“Farmers in general, whether they grow sugarbeets, dry edible beans, corn or soybeans, are all looking for new innovations to make their operations more efficient and profitable,” he said.

That cross-crop mindset underscored the logic behind combining the Expo. Many producers in the Red River Valley grow multiple crops, work with overlapping suppliers and face similar regulatory and market pressures. Bringing the industries together allowed growers to evaluate solutions in one setting and compare insights across production systems.

Events like the ISDBE also reinforce the importance of direct dialogue between producers and industry partners.

“Events like the ISDBE are the best places for producers and industry people to share needs, wants and innovations,” Revier said. “It is the perfect place for face-to-face conversations on



“It was a great turnout. People really enjoyed the presentations and I got a lot of great feedback about the larger show. It’s really nice to be able to show equipment and people seemed to like that.”

– Tony Richards, NBGA President and Bean Grower

what producers desire and what the industry has to offer.”

LOOKING AHEAD

For organizers and industry leaders, the success of the inaugural Expo signals a forward-looking shift rooted in collaboration.

“While change can be unsettling, working together for the same goal will put us further ahead in the end,” Weber said. “Both of these separate shows existed on their own for over 50 years. Looking ahead, we hope to have this combined expo thrive for another 50 years.”

The International Sugarbeet & Dry Bean Expo not only honored the legacy of two longstanding events, but also acknowledged the evolving realities of modern agriculture. With disease pressures intensifying, input costs rising and market conditions fluctuating, growers are seeking

actionable research, genetic advancements and practical efficiencies.

By bringing sugarbeet and dry bean producers together, the Expo created a consolidated platform for shared learning and strategic planning – one that reflects both the challenges and resilience of agriculture in the Red River Valley. ■

“Farmers in general, whether they grow sugarbeets, dry edible beans, corn or soybeans, are all looking for new innovations to make their operations more efficient and profitable.”

– Nick Revier, Regional Sales Manager for SES VanderHave

Beans, Beads, and Big Smiles at Pride of Dakota

WRITTEN BY: APRIL KNUTSON

When Jennifer Hansen, Sponsorship and Education Coordinator for the Northarvest Bean Growers Association (NBGA), packed up the organization's iconic Legume Banner and headed to Bismarck's Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase this past December, she came prepared for two full days of connecting the public with one of North Dakota's most delicious and nutritious crops — the dry edible bean.

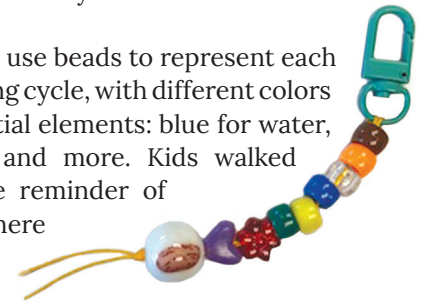
The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase, held annually in Bismarck, celebrates North Dakota-made products and the hardworking producers behind them. Invited to participate by Heather Lange, ag business development coordinator at the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Hansen attended the annual holiday event as part of the expansion of the ag in classroom initiative.

"Heather (Lange) has been growing North Dakota's Ag in the Classroom program and finding new ways to showcase North Dakota commodities," Hansen said. Since October 2021, Hansen has led the Northarvest Bean Growers Association's education and sponsorship committees in addition to her role as finance director.

The NBGA booth became a hub of activity over the two-

day event. The signature Legume Banner drew curious glances and opened conversations, but it was the hands-on programming that really brought families in. On Friday at 4 p.m., Educational Outreach Associate Jon Hansen took the stage for a lively round of Bean Trivia, keeping parents and attendees on their toes with fun facts about North Dakota's dry bean industry. Meanwhile, Jennifer led children through one of NBGA's most popular educational crafts: the "Bean Lifecycle Keychain."

The colorful keychains use beads to represent each stage of a bean's growing cycle, with different colors symbolizing the essential elements: blue for water, yellow for sunshine, and more. Kids walked away with a wearable reminder of how food grows right here in their home state.



"I very much enjoy creating games and educational content to engage the public — both students and adults — to learn more about the versatile and delicious dry bean," Hansen said. Events like these, she explains, are meaningful precisely because they close the gap between consumers and the growers producing the dry edible beans.



"I very much enjoy creating games and educational content to engage the public — both students and adults — to learn more about the versatile and delicious dry bean."
— Jennifer Hansen



For Hansen and the NPGA team, Pride of Dakota is just one stop on a busy outreach calendar. Looking ahead, bean enthusiasts can catch NPGA at a people's choice bean dish competition tied to the Scheel's BBQ Competition on May 1 at Scheels Home and Garden on 13th Avenue in Fargo. The team will also appear at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot on July 19th, where Heather Lang's Ag in the Classroom program is expanding its presence as well.

For those wanting to explore more North Dakota-made products, visit the official Pride of Dakota website at www.prideofdakota.nd.gov.

Still wondering what to do with that bag of dry beans sitting in your pantry? Visit beaninstitute.com for recipes as well as nutritional information, and northharvestbean.org for educational resources. ▀

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TONY RICHARDS



ERIC SAMUELSON



JACOB FAUGSTAD

With participation from growers across the region, this year's leadership elections reflect the confidence members place in experienced leaders to help guide the industry forward.

District 3: Eric Jorgenson of Leads, ND

District 4: Tony Richards of Hope, ND

District 7: Eric Samuelson of Crookston, MN

In addition, Jacob Faugstad of Fisher, MN, was elected to a three-year term with the Midwest Dry Bean Coalition. Congratulations on your election victory. We look forward to your continued leadership. ▀



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