

Trade talks

Bean-focused trade missions come at opportune time to build relationships | Pages 10, 11 and 18



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT # 1570

INSIDE

PROMOTING THE
BIOAVAILABILITY OF
IRON IN BEANS | PAGE 8

Spring 2025

Agweek
101 5th Street N
Fargo, ND 58102

The BeanGrower is published by Agweek, a division of Forum Communications for Northharvest Bean Growers Association.

EDITOR
Jenny Schlecht
701-595-0425
jschlecht@agweek.com

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Chris Johnson

ADVERTISING
ads@agweek.com

To receive BeanGrower, email info@northharvestbean.org.

Visit us online!
northharvestbean.org



Table of Contents

Featured

06 Ag education

NBGA has a substantial footprint in Ag in the Classroom
By Ann Bailey

08 Bioavailability of iron

Research shows some dry bean varieties have superior iron bioavailability
By Ann Bailey

10 Trade team

Husband and wife trade team travels to Europe, Asia
By Noah Fish

11 Caribbean trade

Trade team looks at opportunities in Dominican Republic, Jamaica
By Michael Johnson

16 'Queen of Pulses'

Cindy Brown of Chippewa Valley Bean retires as CEO
By Ann Bailey

18 Plant-based growth

Well-timed trade visit to EU, UK builds relationships
By Michael Johnson

22 Rural leadership

Samuelson participates in Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership
By Ann Bailey

Plus

03	President's letter
04	Retirements
14	Harvest technology
24	Getting it Right
30	Bean There, Cooked That

On the cover:

A market development and trade mission trip to Spain, Portugal, and Morocco with the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, included Andy and Echo Hacker on behalf of Northharvest Bean Growers Association.
Contributed



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wishes for a happy, safe spring and more good work on behalf of bean growers



Eric Jorgenson
President, Northharvest
Bean Growers
Association

Hello, fellow members of the Northharvest Bean Growers Association,

I wish you a happy spring, and I hope this letter finds you in good spirits. It's nice to finally be seeing some spring; I hope yours will be a cooperative one since planting is just around the corner. Before I go into this Spring 2025 issue, I'd like to thank you for your support and dedication to growing

dry beans. We're grateful for your efforts, and we'll keep doing our best to support our fellow growers with ours.

As usual, our partners at Agweek do a great job covering a great deal in this issue of Northharvest BeanGrower. One of the people highlighted in this edition is Cindy Brown, whose career with Chippewa Valley Bean and a lifetime's work on behalf of our industry should be commended. Cindy has traveled the world to try to make inroads overseas for beans. You can read about her contributions in these pages, and NBGA wishes Cindy all the best in her well-earned retirement.

Some of our NBGA growers have been traveling internationally on behalf of the industry in recent months as well; Dubai, the Netherlands, Jamaica, and Portugal among other stops. Those trade missions will be covered in these pages, and those advocacy trips can be game changers when it comes to bean sales internationally.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Northharvest Directory

Executive Director
Mitchell Coulter
4844 Rocking Horse
Circle S, Suite 2
Fargo, ND 58104
701-365-5103

Marketing and Communications Director
Jed Brazier
4844 Rocking Horse
Circle S, Suite 2
Fargo, ND 58104
701-365-5101

Finance Director
Jennifer Hansen
4844 Rocking Horse
Circle S, Suite 2
Fargo, ND 58104
701-365-5102

NORTHARVEST BEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Garrett Thompson
District 1 - Director
728 E. 10th St.
Grafton, ND 58237
701-360-1259

Tony Richards
District 4 - Treasurer
13273 4TH St SE
Hope, ND 58046
701-430-3287

Eric Samuelson
District 7 - Past President
30966 280th St. SW
Crookston, MN 56716
218-289-0310

Dexter Cronquist
District 2 - Director
400 Eastern Avenue
Gilby, ND 58235
218-791-6260

Joe Mauch
District 5 - Vice President
8753 167th Ave. SE
Hankinson, ND 58041
701-640-1687

Cordell Huebsch
District 8 - Secretary
38132 470th Ave.
New York Mills, MN 56567
218-841-2364

Eric Jorgenson
District 3 - President
6509 55th Ave. NE
Leeds, ND 58346
701-739-6189

Justin Retterath
District 6 - Council Member
P.O. Box 645, 2626 8th St.
Washburn, ND 58577
701-315-0082

Jeff Kosek
District 9 - Director
18766 110th St.
Brownton, MN 55312
320-510-1828

NORTH DAKOTA DRY BEAN COUNCIL

David Wieler
District 1 - Council Member
12965 County 1
Walhalla, ND 58282
701-265-2883

Karl Jodock
District 3 - Chair
212 S Park St.
Northwood, ND 58267
218-779-6498

Rudy Dotzenrod
District 5 - Vice Chair
7855 Highway 18
Wyndmere, ND 58081
701-640-2683

Dwight Johnson
District 2 - Council Member
12895 66th Street NE
Park River, ND 58270
(701) 331-1418

Joshua Ihry
District 4 - Council Member
P.O. Box 161, 401 Bates Ave.
Hope, ND 58046
701-261-6712

Leann Schafer
District 6 - Treasurer
5810 19th Street NE
New Rockford, ND 58356
701-302-0568

MINNESOTA DRY BEAN RESEARCH & PROMOTION COUNCIL

Jacob Faugstad
Area 1 - Chair
39157 310TH ST SW
Climax, MN 56523
701-215-2438

Ryan Ammermann
Area 3 - Vice Chair
3085 140th Avenue SE
Clara City, MN 56222
320-295-8486

Robert Dombeck
Area 5 - Treasurer
45898 County Highway 60
Perham, MN 56573
218-371-1348

Norm Krause
Area 2 - Treasurer
21608 Briarwood Lane
Nisswa, MN 56468
218-296-0920

Dan Ohden
Area 4 - Secretary
15650 120th Street SW
Raymond, MN 56282
320-894-6411

NORTHARVEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Research
Norm Krause, (Chair), Karl Jodock (Vice Chair), Jeff Kosek, Joe Mauch, Ryan Ammermann, Dwight Johnson, Dan Ohden, Jacob Faugstad, David Wieler, Eric Samuelson, Ex. Officio, Eric Jorgenson

Education & Sponsorship
Leann Schafer (Chair), Dexter Cronquist (Vice Chair), Bob Dombeck, Ryan Ammermann, Rudy Dotzenrod, Cordell Huebsch, Justin Retterath, Joe Mauch, Tony Richards, Dwight Johnson, Ex. Officio Eric Jorgenson

Crop Insurance
Joshua Ihry, (Chair), Jeff Kosek (Vice Chair), Garrett Thompson, Tony Richards, Karl Jodock, Joe Mauch, Norm Krause, David Wieler, Jacob Faugstad, Bob Dombeck, Ex. Officio Eric Jorgenson

Marketing and Communications
Cordell Huebsch (Chair), Rudy Dotzenrod (Vice Chair), Leann Schafer, Dan Ohden, Dexter Cronquist, Justin Retterath, Josh Ihry, Tony Richards, Garrett Thompson, Eric Samuelson, Ex Officio Eric Jorgenson

U.S. Dry Bean Council
Delegate: Joe Mauch
Alternate: Eric Samuelson

Leadership Committee
Eric Samuelson (Chair), Eric Jorgenson (President), Joe Mauch (Vice President), Tony Richards (Treasurer), Cordell Huebsch (Secretary), Karl Jodock (ND Council Chair), Jacob Faugstad (MN Council Chair)

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

Ihry wraps up service with North Dakota Dry Bean Council

Josh Ihry has finished his service to the North Dakota Dry Bean Council after serving three consecutive three-year terms.

The Hope, North Dakota, dry bean farmer was elected to the council in 2016 and served on it for the next nine years. Ihry, who farms with his father-in-law, annually grows from 1,000 to 1,800 acres of small, red beans. In the past he also has raised pinto, navy and black turtle beans.

Ihry served on several committees during his terms, including policy, leadership and crop insurance.

One of Ihry's most important accomplishments as a committee member was his work on changes in the federal crop insurance policy that would provide better insurance benefits for dry bean producers. For example, Ihry played a role in changing the way enterprise units were defined. Before 2022, crop insurance enterprise units comprised the total of all dry beans a farmer grew, rather than for each separate class he or she raised.



Josh Ihry
Contributed / NBGA

In 2022, federal crop insurance began allowing enterprise and division by type for dry beans and dry peas, which prevents a gain on one type of crop from having an impact on an indemnity for a loss on another type.

For example, during a wet spring, if a farmer planted navy beans that produced a good crop, but pinto beans that were damaged by weather and yielded poorly,

the loss of the latter wouldn't affect the former.

"That's something I'm quite proud of," Ihry said.

Besides the work on crop insurance, Ihry also helped get dry beans included in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2, which provided funding for farmers who faced disruption marketing their 2020 crop.

Membership in organizations such as the North Dakota Dry Bean Council is a way that growers can influence policy change and improve growers' playing field, Ihry said. Besides the council, he has been a member of the local school board, water board and church board.

Ihry's advice to someone considering running for a board position is to do so for the "greater good."

"Don't always look at your individual situation. Do what's best for everyone. Go out and talk to producers — and listen," Ihry said. **NBGA**

Krause retires from Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council

Norm Krause has retired from the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council after serving since 2010. He represented Area 2 on the council and also served as treasurer.

Krause, grew irrigated white kidney, light red kidney, dark red kidney, black beans, corn, barley and hay near Staples, Minnesota. His son, Jon, and daughter-in-law, Samantha, have transitioned into the farming operation.

Krause served as the chair of the Northarvest Bean Growers Association Research Committee, which chooses research projects to support that can

improve dry bean production and marketing. Because there is little private sector research on dry beans, using checkoff dollars to support the improved growing and selling of beans has been a vital role for the NBGA, as well as the Minnesota and North Dakota councils. Krause also served on the Policy and Nominating Committee, Legislative Committee, Crop Insurance Committee, and Promotion Committee.

Krause represented Northarvest on the University of Minnesota Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer Program Board and on the Agriculture Fertilizer Research and Education Council. He also has served

on a variety of other boards related to agriculture and rural life.

Krause also participated in trade tours during his time with the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council, including traveling to South America during the 2024 growing season to get a firsthand look at Argentina's dry bean production. After the tour, he expressed his appreciation for the work done around the world by trade teams.

"It's to better understand world production, where the opportunities are and where some of the surpluses may result if there's overproduction anywhere in the world," he said. **NBGA**



The Biological Tool You've Been Looking For

AgZyme®

"I have never seen beans like this on the farm, came up quick and strong."

Jeff: Ramsey County, ND

"I started using AgZyme® in 2018, it has consistently brought me 200-300 or even more pounds per acre on my navy beans. Great ROI and easy to use without having to worry about tank mixing when adding to your starter program."

Brian: Reynolds, ND

"Our navy beans with AgZyme have been a trifoliate ahead of the control three years running and right around 300lbs more per acre. AgZyme works!"

Larry: Thompson, ND



Grand Forks, ND

Biologicals to Drive Performance on Your Farm Start Today!

(888) 388-1131 or sales@agconcepts.com

Founded
1986

AgConcepts®
corp
www.agconcepts.com


Proudly made
in the USA

Ag in the Classroom

Northharvest Bean Growers Association has 'a place at the table' in ag ed programs

By Ann Bailey

North Dakota and Minnesota Ag in the Classroom programs bring information to the table about edible beans and other commodities in their states.

The state programs are part of National Agriculture in the Classroom, which provides lesson plans to teachers in grades kindergarten to 12 that can be incorporated into their curriculums. North Dakota and Minnesota Ag in the Classroom program leaders told farmers who attended Northharvest Bean Growers Association Bean Day on Jan. 17, 2025.

In 2023, Agriculture in the Classroom state and territory programs trained 22,900 teachers in agricultural literacy and reached 2.7 million students.

Heather Lang, North Dakota Agriculture Department ag business development coordinator, leads the North Dakota Ag in the Classroom program. The North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner's budget includes about \$100,000 per biennium to develop and conduct programs.

Lang is looking forward to coordinating the North Dakota Ag in the Classroom program, which, in the past, was done by members of commodity organizations.

"I'm very passionate about seeing this program thrive," Lang said.



North Dakota Ag in the Classroom's many activities include "Garden in a Glove," in which students can grow their own garden in a glove. Heather Lang, Agriculture Business Development Coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, said pinto beans often are used in the activity. Contributed / Heather Lang

North Dakota Ag in the Classroom has free resources for teachers that include professional development, Ag in the Classroom grants and Ag Mag, a digital and interactive eight-page magazine for third-fourth- and fifth grade students that focuses on agricultural topics.

"That has been a great resource, North Dakota Ag Mag," Lang said

North Dakota Ag Mag issues include information on topics, such as agricultural history, profiles of people in the agricultural industry and commodities. A past issue, for example, highlighted pulses, including edible beans, giving information that included the classes, production, processing and marketing of the commodity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



THOMPSONS

Buyers of Navy

Pintos - Satellite for Central Valley Bean

Thompsons USA Limited

41703 US Hwy.2SW | P.O. Box374 | East Grand Forks, Minnesota 56721

Office: 218-773-8834

Email: jvrolyk@theandersons.com



*You need to talk about your industry.
It makes a difference when you share
your story, share your passion.*

— Ann Marie Ward



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, an Ag Mag issue featured specialty crops, including edible beans, highlighting where the crop is grown.

Lang and Ann Marie Ward, Minnesota Ag in the Classroom Foundation director, also travel to commodity organization events, such as Bean Day, to share information about their programs.

Jennifer Hanson, Northarvest Bean Growers Association finance director, has been an important part of the Ag in the Classroom programs in Minnesota and North Dakota, Lang said.

"Thank you, Jennifer, for all of your work and passion," she said.

One of the ways Hansen prompts Ag in the Classroom is to travel with other Northarvest Bean Growers Association leaders and board members to North Dakota Living Ag Classroom events, held in late January through March in several cities across the state to teach students about edible beans.

Minnesota Ag in the Classroom also highlights edible beans in other ways, such as hosting professional development sessions with teachers over Zoom. In January 2024, for example, teachers learned about where edible beans are grown in Minnesota, how they are produced and how they are used across the globe.

Northarvest Bean Growers Association, which has been working with Ag in the Classroom for 36 years, will be represented this summer at the National Agriculture in the Classroom conference, which will be held June 23-25, 2025, in Minneapolis, Ward said.

"I can tell you Northarvest has a place at the table," she said.

The farmers who are members of Northarvest Bean Growers Association also can share information about Ag in the Classroom as individuals. The National Ag in the Classroom website has agricultural facts on all 50 states and links to each state's program.

"If you do nothing else in the years ahead, tell one person about Ag in the Classroom," Ward told the farmers attending Bean Day.

Ward also encouraged farmers to complete agriculture censuses because they provide accurate information that Ag in the Classroom can use to teach young people about agriculture.

Farmers also have an opportunity to host farm camps or conduct tours of their farms and demonstrate to them how they produce their crops.

"You need to talk about your industry," she said. "It makes a difference when you share your story, share your passion," Ward said.



Alliance Valley Bean, LLC

3792 Elevator Road, PO Box 566
Larimore, ND 58251

Manager: Jake Hemmingsen
jhemmingsen@alliancevalleybean.com
701-343-6363

Alliance Black Bean Receiving Stations:

Alliance Valley Bean, LLC

Sharon, ND

701-524-2568

...

Central Valley Bean Co-op

Buxton, ND

Gen. Manager: Dan Fuglesten

701-847-2622

...

Central Valley Bean Co-op

Garske, ND

Manager: John Smith

701-795-4383

...

Central Valley Bean Co-op

Grafton, ND

Site Contact: Andrew Dusek

701-352-0407

...

Edinburg Farmers Elevator

Edinburg, ND

Manager: Mike Syrup

701-933-8421

Research shows classes of dry beans with most bioavailable iron

By Ann Bailey

Studies by USDA's Agricultural Research Service show that certain dry bean varieties are an important source of bioavailable dietary iron.

That's a significant finding because the percentage of people in the United States who have iron deficiency has risen to 14%, said Raymond Glahn, a USDA-ARS research physiologist at Cornell University

in Ithaca, New York. Children and women of childbearing age are especially vulnerable to being iron deficient, Glahn noted. Iron plays a central role in human metabolism and growth so it is especially important for the latter two groups,



Raymond Glahn

according to the USDA-ARS Under the Microscope website.

Iron, which is an essential micronutrient, plays a large role in people's health, in general. It is a necessary component of hemoglobin and myoglobin, blood proteins that transfer oxygen from the lungs to tissues. It also is necessary for physical growth and neurological development and cellular function and is a critical element for synthesis of some hormones, the website said.

But even if foods are high in iron, it doesn't mean that people's bodies can access it and use it. It's important that the iron is bioavailable, which means that the micronutrient can be absorbed and used in iron metabolism.



Some classes of dry beans – including the pinto beans used to make this Traditional Brazilian Beans recipe – are significant sources of bioavailable iron.

Courtesy / North Dakota State University

Dry beans, which are consumed by people across the globe, are part of many food systems, affordable and nutrient dense. That means that bean breeding and consumer education have the potential to reduce iron deficiency, Glahn said.

Classes of dry bean that are excellent sources of dietary iron include great northern, which is a white bean, and slow-darkening pinto beans, both which are grown in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Meanwhile, Manteca, a yellow bean variety that Glahn and Karen Cichy, a USDA-ARS dry bean breeder at Michigan State University in East Lansing, developed and released, also is a fast cooking legume that can be high in bioavailable iron. The Yellowjacket and Honeycomb Manteca varieties, released in 2024, were multiplied at foundation seed plots. More Manteca varieties that are even better for iron nutrition are in the breeding pipeline, Glahn said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





AMERICAN
BEAN

★ **Competitive Prices:** Get the best value for your edible beans.

★ **Save Time & Transport Costs:** With receiving stations in Petersburg, Oslo, Sharon, Angus, Borup, Cavalier, Doyon, Tolna, Garske, Webster, Nash, and Hamilton, you can cut both costs and time.

★ **Prompt Payment:** We believe in timely payments to keep your business moving.

★ **Fair Grading:** Trust in our transparent and honest grading process.

★ **Your Success, Our Commitment:** American Bean is dedicated to helping you market your edible beans effectively.

Contact Us Today!

Oslo 218-695-3040
Petersburg 701-345-8264

Marketing

Husband and wife team "speak the same message" in marketing U.S. dry beans

Andy and Echo Hacker serve on the leadership team for Bonanza Bean, with Andy managing procurement and Echo running international sales. The husband and wife work well together on trade missions, including two recent ones.

Bonanza Bean, based in Morris, Minnesota, is privately owned by 17 different investors and originates dark red kidney beans, light red kidney beans, black beans, pinto beans, and some white kidney beans.

"It's a huge advantage," Andy Hacker said of working with his wife. "We think alike, and when we're portraying Northarvest (Bean Growers Association), or North Central Bean Dealers and bean growers, we have the same mindset, and we're promoting the same things."

He said the messaging they relay is the region's "top notch" food safety programs and bean quality.

"We are trying to simply get you the best beans that you can buy, at a great value," he said. "When you have a husband and wife team, that's pretty pivotal, because we are speaking the same language."

Spain, Portugal and Morocco

This past November, Hackers were part of a market development and trade mission trip to Spain, Portugal, and Morocco with the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, on behalf of Northarvest Bean Growers Association.

In Spain and Portugal, the group met with buyers who were already buying the types of beans that Bonanza Bean supplies to the industry, Hacker said.

"We met with customers that would buy kidney beans and pinto beans, mostly," Hacker said. "I'd say the biggest want was dark red kidney beans in Spain and Portugal. They already buy a good sized quantity from the U.S."



Andy and Echo Hacker and Dan Schaefer of Bonanza Bean. Contributed / Bonanza Bean

He said the trip was mostly about identifying existing customers but also finding some new ones. Hacker said there was a demand for dark red kidney beans after a worldwide shortage from last year's crop.

"Argentina crop failure, the U.S. plantings were down — caused a little bit of a need for dark red kidneys, so everybody was asking for them," Hacker said.

Hacker called Morocco an emerging market for American dry beans.

"When you look at the shelves (in Morocco), there are probably some French customers we're already working with in the U.S., but in the marketplaces, there were a lot of white beans that were coming from Egypt," he said. "There wasn't really any dark reds in there, and I didn't see hardly any black or kidney beans."

Dubai

Hacker and his wife were also at this year's Gulfood Show in Dubai. His biggest

takeaway was the step up in international competition for dry beans.

"There's a lot of other countries that have been setting up big booths for dry beans," Hacker said of the show. "You're seeing Canada, Argentina, Brazil. There's a lot of places that are trying to pump up the bean industries in their countries, so there's going to be a lot of competition on that side, I think, for the U.S."

Hacker said the U.S. still has the best quality dry beans and food safety standards, but the attention to industries from different countries will be a challenge in the future as far as market competition.

"There's a large interest in buyers from Pakistan, India, Australia, China," Hacker said. "Other countries are really boosting bean production and just doing a lot of marketing, and they're just promoting themselves really well, and my hope is we're not getting behind in the U.S."

NBGA



Visit to Caribbean region sought to make strong trade stronger for dry bean industry

By Michael Johnson

Since the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement kicked off in 2007, agricultural export dollars to that region from the United States jumped 126% from about \$1 billion in 2007 to more than \$2 billion in 2024. The schedule called for the elimination of all tariffs on U.S. exports to the Dominican Republic as of Jan. 1, 2025. Dry beans are an important part of that overall trade.

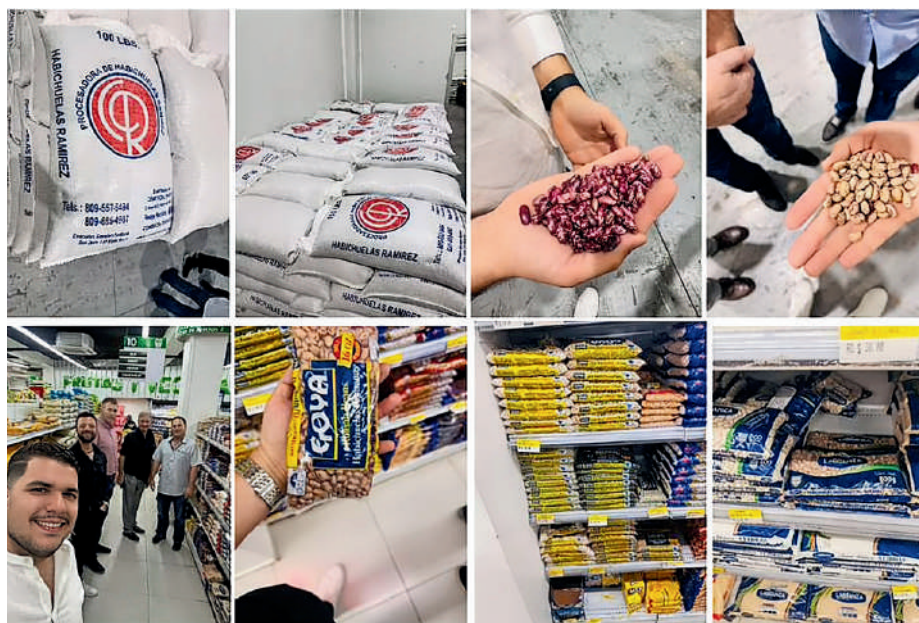
A market development trade mission sanctioned by the U.S. Dry Bean Council to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica by dry bean industry members sought to continue to strengthen that market. The results were swift during the Feb. 10–15 visit, according to Greg Ackerman of the Michigan Bean Commission.

“We met with some customers who were having issues obtaining permits to release containers of products from us,” Ackerman explained. “We were able to meet with (Foreign Agricultural Service) and help get the product moving. Remember, beans are a perishable product, so we don’t like to see them parked in that environment.”

Import permit delays from the Dominican Ministry of Agriculture posed a significant challenge to some buyers.

Joining Ackerman on the mission was David Scholand, bean dealer from Central Valley Bean in North Dakota; Jay Ewald, a Colorado bean dealer at Northern Feed and Bean; and Jose Barrios Turk, a U.S. Dry Bean Council representative.

The team wanted to show appreciation to the trade relationship that had been built up over the years and wanted to ensure their product was making it to the buyers in a timely fashion so they were getting



The trade mission to the Dominican Republic included visits to retail stores and storage facilities where U.S. beans make their way to consumers
Contributed / U.S. Dry Bean Council

the best quality. Continuing to monitor the container issue is important to Ackerman and the rest of the U.S. dry bean sector.

“The Caribbean region is an important market for U.S. dry beans,” Ackerman added. “We currently have open trade with them, which is important in today’s trade environment. They also prefer our beans, and we provide the best quality available anywhere in the world. Our growers and processors are onboard to provide the highest quality beans with the most stringent food safety standards known today.”

One buyer, Casa Chepe, noted the challenges of storing beans in the

Dominican Republic without refrigeration. This is a growing challenge as temperatures rise. He emphasized that the higher quality beans can handle storage better and hold coloration. Both make for a much more valuable bean.

Ackerman represents Michigan bean growers who produce over 400 million pounds of edible beans annually, the second-largest producer of total dry beans in the nation, trailing only North Dakota. Michigan leads the country in the production of organic beans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

With uncertainties building in other markets, it's all the more important to ensure relationships are maintained where trade remains free.

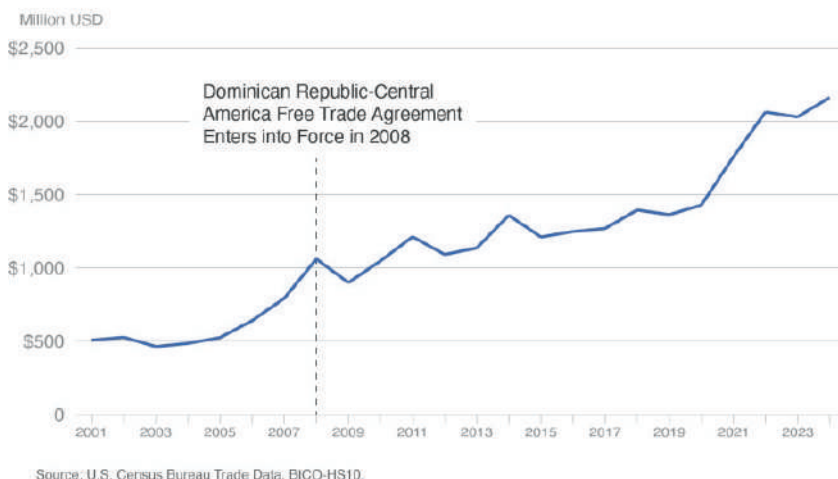
"Maintaining our relationship with countries like this is paramount today," he said.

The Dominican Republic is the largest economy in the Caribbean and the seventh-largest economy in Latin America, according to the USDA. The Dominican Republic is the 14th-largest export destination for U.S. agricultural products, importing \$2.2 billion in 2024, a 6% increase from 2023.

Regarding U.S. pulses exports, the United States exported from September 2023 to August 2024, \$53.87 million worth of dried beans in 2024, a 10% increase over the previous year.

The majority of the pinto and black beans imported there come from the United States.

U.S. Agricultural Exports to the Dominican Republic



U.S. agriculture exports to the Dominican Republic have increased 126% since 2007.
Courtesy / U.S. Census Bureau

Jamaica is also a significant importer of dry beans, particularly small red beans, with the United States being a major supplier. The U.S. exported from September 2023 to August 2024 \$4.46 million worth of dried beans to Jamaica, an 11% increase compared to the previous year.

Challenges persist with Jamaica as the U.S. must compete with duty-free Caribbean counterparts. Jamaica has a free trade agreement with Caribbean countries but places large tariffs on U.S. imports, bringing cost challenges. **NBGA**

BLACK PEARL

- Upright Short Vine, Erect Growth Habit, Suitable for Direct Harvest.
- Mid season maturity averaging 97 days after planting.
- Resistant to Anthracnose.
- Very Efficient Dry Down.
- Possesses Elite Canning Quality and Color Retention preferred by End Users.

For more information: Contact Michigan Crop Improvement today!



**Michigan Crop
Improvement Association**

517-332-3546 | Lansing MI 48909 | www.michcrop.com



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

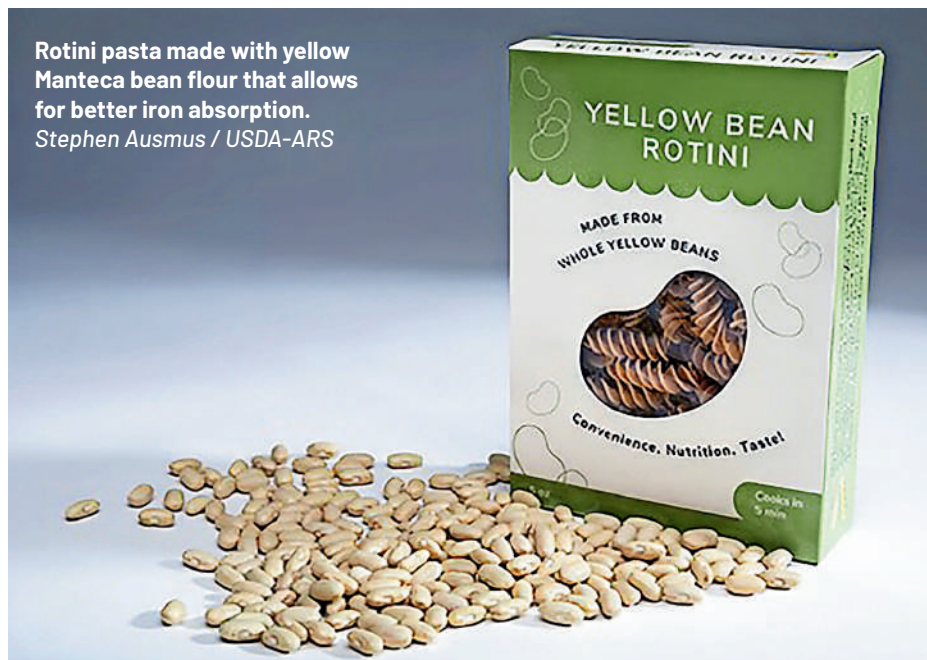
Other dry bean classes have nutritional value, but are low in bioavailable iron, he said. For example, black beans are low in bioavailable iron but are good sources of antioxidants.

Besides showing which dry bean varieties have the greatest amounts of bioavailable iron, the research also found that canning significantly increased the bioavailability, especially for great northern beans and possibly some red beans, Glahn said. Canning did not raise the bioavailability of black beans.

Besides canned beans, bean pasta that is made from white or yellow beans is a good source of bioavailable iron. Great northern bean puree added to recipes, such as corn muffins and infant cereals, is a way to enhance delivery of bioavailable iron, Glahn said.

The research findings have potential to give farmers who grow the varieties with high iron bioavailability a marketing edge resulting from increased demand, he said.

Rotini pasta made with yellow Manteca bean flour that allows for better iron absorption.
Stephen Ausmus / USDA-ARS



Food companies, meanwhile, can put information on the labels of the cans of classes that have bioavailability proclaiming that because they have the research to back it. Dry bean organizations and individuals also can put on their web

sites information about the bioavailability of certain classes of dry beans.

"I think we're making a lot of progress. It's not just experiments. It's a body of work and a body of evidence," Glahn said. **NBGA**



PICKETT EQUIPMENT

Harvest Beans Like You Mean It!



MADE IN USA

**New and Improved
Chopper Design**



**New 3-Point Quick Hitch
promoting effortless mounting
and dismounting.**
(A retrofit kit parts # 405077 is also
available for older machines)



**New 12" Touchscreen
Monitoring Display with an
Improved user interface,
reporting more combine
information**



**Visit us online for our full product line,
and a complete list of Authorized Dealers.**

PickettEquipment.com

(208) 678-0855

976 E Main St. Burley, ID 83318

Prioritize Quality



Combines

Bean Day panel gives the scoop on new combine options

By Ann Bailey

Farmers who attended Northharvest Bean Growers Association Bean Day in Fargo, North Dakota, learned from three company representatives about a variety of equipment that is available to harvest their edible bean crops.

Brady Olson, Pickett Equipment North American sales representative; Marco Barboza, Columbia North America branch manager; and Haley Buchholz, Butler Machinery Co. agriculture company accounts manager, gave presentations about their companies' harvest equipment and innovations that will improve the machines' efficiency.

Pickett Equipment's Twin Master, a high-capacity combine, has features that include — besides twin bucket elevators, twin vacuum system, twin straw discharge ports and twin central flow threshing cylinders — a heavy-duty drive train, detachable header system and in-cab Ag Cam and touchscreen monitor system. The touchscreen system also controls the pick-up head, on-off switch and speed control.

The monitoring system, introduced in 2023, gives the combine operator the ability to reverse plugs in the header from a monitor inside the cab of the combine, reducing a 20- to 30-minute manual job that required

being outside the cab to a few seconds, Olson said.

Pickett Equipment's Masters series combines, introduced 25 years ago in North America, also includes the Double Master Plus and Single Master. The Double Master, as the name implies, has a double rotor and the Single Master, a single rotor.



Pickett Equipment's Twin Master edible bean combine Courtesy / Pickett Equipment

None of the equipment is "worth a dang" without education about how to properly operate it, Olson said. Farmers who aren't familiar with the operation of Pickett Equipment should research when the company's dealerships are hosting

educational sessions on the equipments' operation and attend them, he said.

Colombo North America, which arrived on the continent in 2006, has two units, one for machinery and one for parts. Colombo, North America, was established in Adel, Georgia, to provide commercial, logistical and technical support for customers and dealers.

Colombo North America's first Avanti combine, used to harvest peanuts, was sold in North America in 2022.

Colombo North American sells its equipment across the United States, including Titan Machinery dealerships in North Dakota and Minnesota. The Pindorama, Brazil-based manufacturer now sells Double Master IV EVO, an edible bean harvester and thresher; Twin Master Bean Combine, a bean harvester and Winflex Draper CW 40, a bean cutting platform.

Features of the company's Twin Master, an improved version of the Double Master, include a multi-directional header, increased processing capacity and an auger with enhanced durability and lifespan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Our conveyors are **gentle** on grain and other types of product.

GRAINWAY

Belt Technology at its Best



641.869.3516



kenny@grainway.com

Lots of styles and capacity to choose from.



Wellsburg, Iowa



www.grainway.com



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Butler Machinery, founded 70 years ago in Fargo, North Dakota, and its division Butler Ag Equipment have locations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Montana.

Butler Machinery sells Fendt Ideal and Gleaner combines. There are four models of Ideal combine, ranging in horsepower from 476 to 779. Gleaner combines The S9 Super Series combines features include 390 bushel grain bin capacity, a two-stage cleaning process and low loss levels. The Gleaner T series, which will be available in 2024 includes the features of lightweight performance, efficient fuel usage and increased reliability.



The Colombo North America Twin Master bean combine Courtesy / Colombo North America

FIELD HISTORY OF
**WHITE
MOLD?**

VIEW OUR

DRY BEAN DATA

HeadsUpST.com **1.866.368.9306**

EPA REG. #81853-1

Ask For
Heads Up[®]
Seed Treatment

Defend Against

- WHITE MOLD
- ROOT ROT
- DAMPING OFF

**AVAILABLE PRE-TREATED
ON ALL DRY BEAN SEED**

Chippewa Valley Bean Co.

The 'Queen of Pulses' Cindy Brown retires as CEO of Chippewa Valley Bean

By Ann Bailey

MENOMINEE, Wis. — Cindy Brown, Chippewa Valley Bean Co. president and CEO, retired in March 2025 after a 42-year career with the Menominee kidney bean processor and exporter.

Brown began working for the family-owned company in 1982, nine years after her father, Russell, founded it. Chippewa Valley Bean Co. processes and exports dark red, light red, white and organic dark red kidney beans from more than 100 family farms.

Brown helped develop the international side of the business, which now exports to about 25 countries across the world. Chippewa Valley Bean is the largest kidney bean processor and exporter in North America.

Brown became president and CEO of Chippewa Valley Bean Co. in 2011 when her father retired. Her goal for that position was to perform a service for both farmers and buyers, she said.

"Our job is to make sure the revenue comes back to both ends of the supply chain because without revenue there's no job for us," Brown said. "My job has really been about managing relationships, "It's been interacting with growers and buyers, with policy makers."

Brown's son, Charlie Wachsmuth, who succeeded her as president and CEO after her retirement on March 31, called the past 13 years he's worked with his mom, "a good run."

Wachsmuth was hired in 2012. Brown worked hard to treat the company's sellers and buyers fairly and was even-tempered in her dealings with them, Wachsmuth said.

"She finds a solution to make people happy," he said. "She has a skill set that is extremely powerful. She made everybody she worked with feel important."



Cindy Brown Courtesy / Chippewa Valley Bean

"I can honestly say that I've learned from the best," Wachsmuth said.

"Her leadership has shown brightly to all of us who have had the opportunity to work with her in any capacity," said Mitch Coulter, Northharvest Bean Growers Association executive director. "She grew up in a farm family, so she understands the needs of the farmers that she works with, and I believe she carries that in her work ethic as the leader of Chippewa Valley Bean," Coulter said.

Brown's leadership in the dry bean industry has extended beyond Chippewa Valley Bean property lines and the nearby farm fields where she and her family raise the crop. Besides being the head of Chippewa Valley Bean Co. Brown was a member of and led several industry organizations.

She finds a solution to make people happy. She has a skill set that is extremely powerful. She made everybody she worked with feel important.

— Charlie Wachsmuth



CONTINUED ON PAGE 17





Chippewa Valley Bean is in Menoninee, Wisconsin. Contributed / Chippewa Valley Bean

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Brown has served as president of the U.S. Dry Bean Council and president of the Global Pulse Federation. Brown was the first female president of both organizations, blazing the trail for all of the female leaders who followed in her footsteps, he said.

"Cindy has been a lifelong champion for the bean industry," Coulter said.

Her work with the Global Pulse Confederation earned her the honorary title of "Queen of Pulses."

"The Northharvest Bean Growers Association wishes Cindy all of the best in her retirement and we know her legacy is strongly cemented in the example of business standards she has set for the United States dry edible bean industry," Coulter said.

Wachsmuth is grateful that he had the opportunity to have worked with his mother.

"I have some very big shoes to fill," he said. "It's different because I am a son following in my mother's footsteps, and you don't find that very often in agriculture."

Though Brown is retiring from her job as Chippewa Valley Bean Co. president and CEO, she intends to stay active in the pulse industry and to mentor others and share her knowledge on domestic and international issues, including policy, that are facing the industry.

Working for Chippewa Valley Bean Co. and being involved in the dry bean industry has been rewarding and Brown is grateful to her parents for offering her the opportunity to work in the family business.

"I've had a very wonderful career," she said. Though she officially is retired, Brown still will be chair of the Chippewa Valley Bean Co. board, she noted.

TRADERS, PROCESSORS, ORIGINATORS OF DRY BEANS

PINTO, BLACK, NAVY AND SMALL RED BEAN PROCESSORS • NEW CROP CONTRACTS • WESTERN CERTIFIED SEED

PROCESSING & RECEIVING FACILITY

GRAND FORKS

Cody Michael

7400 55th Street South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

T 701-775-3317

M 701-330-5528

cmichael@columbiagrains.com

WALHALLA

Matt Brown

1920 Hwy 32 North, P.O. Box 67
Walhalla, ND 58282

T 800-227-4494 | 701-549-3721

F 701-549-3725

mlbrown@columbiagrains.com

RECEIVING STATIONS

CGI VALLEY CITY

Garret Andel

3344 Hwy 22
Valley City, ND 58072

T 701-845-1921

gandel@columbiagrains.com

CGI LARIMORE

Cody Michael

7400 55th Street South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

T 701-775-3314

cmichael@columbiagrains.com

CGI GRAFTON

Ross Bolek

2 East 5th Street
Grafton, ND 58237

T 701-352-0461

rbolek@columbiagrains.com



Columbia Grain

CULTIVATING GROWTH

columbiagrains.com

f CGI-Columbia-Grain-International

t @ColumbiaGrain

@ columbia_grain_international

in columbia-grain



US Dry Bean Council

U.S. beans can play a key role in Europe's blooming plant-based growth By Michael Johnson

The United Kingdom and the Netherlands are central to Europe's growing plant-based industry. U.S. dry bean growers are hopeful their beans can find a place in this region and play a crucial role in that movement.

A group of U.S. dry bean industry members visited the United Kingdom and the Netherlands Feb. 8-14 to meet with key stakeholders. It turned out to be a critically timed trip as both sides were able to discuss their current relations, build new relationships and discuss the impact of impending tariffs. Team members included Matt Stawowy, Steele & Company; Eric Samuelson, Northarvest Bean Growers Association; Austin Chandonnet, Bayside Best Beans; and Alexa Tonkovich, U.S. Dry

Bean Council representative in the United Kingdom and European Union.

Samuelson, a bean grower near Crookston, Minnesota, considered the trip valuable and one he'd take again. He said the trip showed the value of the federal Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Programs available to the U.S. Dry Bean Council and other U.S. agricultural trade associations in sharing the cost of overseas marketing and promotional activities.

While the trip was a chance to renew relationships between buyers and sellers of beans, its timing was matched with announcements by the Trump

administration of the return of tariffs on steel imports. This was unsettling and a topic of focus at many of the preceding meetings for those involved.

Alexa Tonkovich, managing director of LOTUS' Food and Drink Division, serves as European representative for the U.S. Dry Bean Council. She said the success of the mission was in seeing an increased willingness to source U.S. dry beans compared to previous years. She added that the timing of the meetings led to frank discussions about potential tariffs on U.S. dry beans coming into the EU and the impact that will have on sales.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Trinidad
Benham Corporation

**THE RIGHT CHOICE
FOR GROWING BUSINESS**

**From
Bean Planting
to Harvest,
Trinidad Benham
Can Help with Your Needs**

CONTACT US:
Alek Berg, Plant Manager (701) 945-9301

LOCATIONS:
Colgate, ND (701) 945-2580
Courtenay, ND (CHS) (701) 435-2471
Pilsbury, ND (701) 945-2709

303.220.1400
www.trinidadbenham.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

The group discussed how traders who are not currently buying from the U.S. are afraid to do so and risk exposure to tariffs as high as 25%. Those currently sourcing from the U.S. are also concerned that contracted goods could be hit by tariffs. Questions lingered about whether the United Kingdom would have exemptions from the dispute, but details were cloudy at the time.

With plenty of unknowns at hand, the group focused on what they did know, which was the quality of U.S. beans and their value to the European countries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

The power of beans was on full display in this Albert Heijn XL store in Amsterdam.

Courtesy / U.S. Dry Bean Council



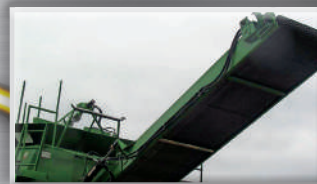
Specialty combine accessories that are proven for harvesting dry beans including Kidney beans



30' removable conveyor for X9 & S series combines



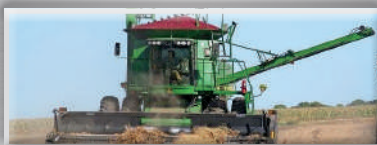
3 point hookup for Twin Master



Unload conveyor 20' long with 30" wide belt



Bucket elevator



Fully converted JD Combine



Discharge Beater with steel blades



Feed accelerator with rubber paddles



Rubber Paddles for X9 Combine



Pin rotor

DS WELDING
Hancock, MN • 320-287-0187



Plant-based protein powder is part of the Green Boy Group's lineup. The business is based in the Netherlands and the U.S. and is growing rapidly. Courtesy / U.S. Dry Bean Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

In 2024, the U.S. exported \$78,149,000 in dried beans to the European Union (up 1% year-over-year) and \$17,804,000 to the United Kingdom, up 48% year-over-year. The top exports to both markets are red kidney beans and navy beans. The UK is a traditional bean-eating market with "baked beans" and "beans on toast" (products traditionally using navy beans) being dietary staples. The EU imports a significant volume of beans for further processing (canning) as well as consumption, according to Tonkovich.

To build on that strength, the group first made a stop in London and were welcomed by Julie Nicholson, U.S. Dry Bean Council trade delegation to London. They heard a discussion of the United Kingdom market for dry beans. Later the group met with several food suppliers, retailers

and producers, including Chelmar Foods, Jumbo Foodmarkt, Albert Heijn, Princes, Corroos and Kraft Heinz.

Overall, the group collected multiple trade leads, received interest in reverse trade mission visits for 2025, and provided nutritional and cost data to interested parties.

The popularity of plant-based eating is growing in this region. Some of that is attributed to the trend toward eating different cuisines like Mexican, Brazilian, Indian, and others that rely heavily on pulses. That is helping to diversify the types of beans that Europeans consume, Tonkovich said.

"The diversity of cuisine types growing in popularity in Europe provides a great opening for different types of beans," she said. "For example, Mexican and Brazilian

cuisines are increasingly popular, providing an opening for pinto and black beans."

While the opportunity is there, the bean buyers need to have certainty in the market. The U.S. lost significant market share in both the UK and Europe due to previously instated retaliatory tariffs. The U.S. has gained a portion of that share back in the past two years since the tariffs were paused.

"There is concern among European buyers that tariffs will be reinstated and they will be forced to seek alternative suppliers," Tonkovich said.

It's interactions like the trade missions, which offer face-to-face interactions that help both groups grow in understanding and build strong trade relationships moving forward.

SRS COMMODITIES

GROWERS, ORIGINATORS, PROCESSORS
AND PACKAGERS OF PULSE CROPS

GROWER OWNED.
FAMILY OPERATED.
CUSTOMER DRIVEN.



WWW.SRSCOMMODITIES.COM

MAYVILLE, ND PORTLAND, ND WASHBURN, ND SPRINGDALE, AR BURLINGTON, WY

Samuelson participates in Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership

By Ann Bailey

Eric Samuelson, a Crookston, Minnesota, dry bean farmer, is a member of the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program's 13th class.

Samuelson, a past president of Northharvest Bean Growers Association, is one of 30 men and women from across rural Minnesota who are participating in the program. Samuelson, who raises navy beans on his farm near Crookston, and other MARL 13 class members, who include farmers, rural leaders and agricultural business owners, began the 18-month class in August 2024.



Eric Samuelson

international arenas, the MARL web site said.

The MARL program was launched in November 2000. Since then, 15 MARL classes have been held.

Brad Schlosser, an alumnus from the MARL class of 2022, administers the program from his office at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Toby Spencer, University of Minnesota leadership Extension specialist, is the MARL program leader. Spencer is based

The Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program is designed to develop the skills of its class members so they can maximize their effectiveness in local, state, national and



Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership visited the capitol in St. Paul.
Courtesy / MARL

at the University of Minnesota Regional office in Willmar. Schlosser and Spencer work collaboratively on the MARL program, which is known across the state as the premier agricultural and rural development program, the MARL web site said.

Samuelson is the second board member of Northharvest Bean Growers Association to participate in the MARL program. Cordell Huebsch, a New York Mills dry bean grower and owner of Otter Berry Farm, was the first board member to take part in the program.

Northharvest Bean Growers Association members decided they wanted to implement an ongoing leadership training

program after they held strategic planning sessions in 2022, said Mitch Coulter, Northharvest Bean Growers Association executive director. The members chose the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Council and the North Dakota Rural Leadership Council to enhance their members' long-term leadership training.

The MARL program 13 so far has focused on communication skills, including how to run a meeting, how to determine one's leadership style and how to communicate that style to a variety of people who are of different ages and who are in positions of leadership or who work under leaders, Samuelson said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program 13 members participated in packing meals – including pinto beans – at The Food Group in New Hope, Minnesota. Courtesy / MARL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Future MARL topics that will be covered include conflict resolution. The MARL program will conclude with international travel to rural businesses in March 2026.

Besides the leadership skills that Samuelson's class learned, his group traveled to Austin, Minnesota, to tour Hormel Foods, Warroad, Minnesota, to tour Marvin Windows and Doors, and Roseau, Minnesota, to tour a grass seed farm.

During the tours to those towns, the MARL members talked to city leaders about the issues facing them, which included a shortage of childcare and difficulty finding workers. Samuelson and his MARL class members also toured the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, where they met with legislators.

It's important for members of agricultural organizations, such as Northharvest Bean Growers Association, to be able to communicate their messages to legislators, Samuelson said.

"We need these leadership skills so we can do these types of things effectively," he said.

The Minnesota and North Dakota programs alternate application periods, which works well for Northharvest Bean Growers Association, Coulter said.

This year, Rudy Dotzenrod, a grower from Wyndmere, North Dakota, is applying for the North Dakota Rural Leadership Council. Rural Leadership North Dakota, according to its website, is an 18-month leadership development program offered through NDSU Extension. The program is for active and inexperienced leaders and features a mix of personal development, leadership study and location-related subject matter.

"We will always have a farmer leader participating in the two programs," Coulter said. "I am very proud of our farmer-leaders for the commitment they are making to enroll in these two-year professional programs. I would encourage all rural businesses to participate in the rural leadership program to establish a great professional board of directors or a staff member." 



Dan Fuglesten, General Manager
PO Box 162, Buxton, ND
Ph: (701) 847-2622

"Central Valley Bean is committed to meeting grower needs while providing a return on their investment."

Fast Unloading • Competitive Pricing
Patron Dividends • Western Grown Seed



Pinto Bean Receiving Stations At:

Alliance Valley Bean, Larimore, ND

Contact Jacob at (701) 343-6363

Alliance Valley Bean, Sharon, ND

Contact Jamie at (701) 847-2622

Central Valley Bean Garske, Webster, ND

Contact John at (918) 408-7536

Central Valley Bean Grafton, Grafton, ND

Contact Andrew at (701) 520-2608

CHS Harvest States, Lankin, ND

Contact Paul at (701) 593-6255

CHS Lake Region Grain, Devils Lake, ND

Contact Jason at (701) 662-5051

Thompsons, East Grand Forks, MN

Contact Jim at (218) 773-8834

Wilton Farmers Union Elevator, Wilton, ND

Contact Mark at (701) 734-6780

Getting it Right

Getting it Right Dry Bean Production Series offers the latest in bean research

By Jenny Schlecht

The 2025 Getting it Right Dry Bean Production Series offers seven videos with North Dakota State University Extension researchers explaining the latest in research and best practices in dry bean production.

Getting It Right is an annual crop production conference featuring the latest research-based production information presented by NDSU specialists. The dry bean series is sponsored by Northarvest Bean Growers Association.

This year's videos, recorded on Feb. 10, 2025, feature information on dry bean diseases, white mold, weed control, insect control, bean markets, bean varieties, and on NBGA activities.

The videos are available on the Carrington Research Extension Center's YouTube channel. Find the playlist at bit.ly/2025GettingItRight. Watching the videos will give you the best information for managing your crops, but the following are highlights from each video.

Dry bean diseases update: Rust, SCN, and more

Sam Markell, plant pathologist at NDSU, shared what researchers have learned over the years about three potentially devastating dry bean diseases: rust, soybean cyst nematodes and common bacterial blight.



Rust is a major problem in dry beans. Sam Markell / North Dakota State University

Rust causes cinnamon brown pustules with yellow halos on beans. It causes defoliation and can reduce yields significantly. It needs free moisture — rain, fog or dew — and spots often develop in the middle of the canopy.

Crop rotation can help control rust, Markell said, but not as much as for other dry bean diseases. Genetic resistance can be helpful, and ND Falcon has shown moderate resistance to rust. Proper fungicide timing works best, and "you're going to knock it down" if you spray within a week or two of a wet period, Markell said.

Soybean cyst nematodes are microscopic worms that feast on roots of plants as juveniles. Females form "cysts" on roots that are visible to the naked eye and stand out for their lemon shape and cream color.

The females eventually will die and turn brown, filled with eggs that will get knocked into the soil. SCN can go through several life cycles in the course of a growing season. The eggs can overwinter, leaving future susceptible crops grown in the soil at risk of infection. The cysts also are easily moved when soil is moved, on equipment, in water and by people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



EST. 2008

Over 75 years of experience
We are a Family of Farmers



Buyer, processor, and seed dealer of light and dark red kidney beans, and black beans.
Located in Central Minnesota.

Contact us for all your bean needs
(320) 585-BEAN or www.BonanzaBean.com

Bonanza Bean LLC., P.O. Box 164 Morris, MN 56267 • Fax (320) 585-2323 • andy.hacker@bonanzabean.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

While SCN are devastating to soybeans, which show no resistance to the nematodes, Markell said most varieties of dry edible beans have been shown to be moderately resistant or moderately susceptible to SCN. But SCN still can hit yields and also are highly invasive, so it's important to work on controlling SCN.

Sampling soil remains an important tool in SCN management, with focus on places like field entrances and shelter belts. Markell said crop rotation is "very helpful" in reducing SCN. Since SCN only impacts soybeans and dry beans, rotating to other crops is vital. He said seed treatments for dry beans will be evaluated in the coming years.

But choosing less susceptible varieties of dry beans to plant on fields with SCN problems is a viable management option. Most varieties of dry beans are less susceptible than soybeans, but ND Falcon has been shown to be moderately resistant, and Markell expects more resistant varieties will be developed.

Of the three diseases Markell discussed, common bacterial blight was the one with the least good news in terms of management options.

"This is really a beast," he said.

Research has found no statistical difference between treating and not treating beans for common bacterial blight. However, a glimmer of good news on CBB management is that some dry bean varieties are showing some resistance to CBB, including Rodeo and Falcon in pintos, Twilight in black beans, and Polar, Blizzard and T9905 in navies. Resistance may be the key, and Markell said NDSU bean breeder Juan Osorno and his team continue to look at it.

"Over time, I think this is going to make a big difference," Markell said.

Improving the management of white mold in dry beans

White mold continues to plague dry beans, and part of the problem remains that figuring out how to optimize fungicide timing, Michael Wunsch, research plant pathologist at the North Dakota State University Carrington Research Extension Center, said.

Wunsch said figuring out the proper timing for fungicide application is difficult in part because not every day is a good day for spraying or field entry.



While white mold can affect yield in soybeans, it can be a major quality issue in dry edible beans, along with causing a yield hit. The white mold can cause fuzzy or flaky beans, as in these pinto beans grown at the Carrington Research Extension Center. Photo taken Aug. 27, 2024. Jenny Schlecht / Agweek

When determining fungicide timing, Wunsch said it's important first to consider whether conditions are favorable for formation of white mold — typically hot and wet conditions.

"If conditions do not favor white mold as dry beans enter bloom, applications should be delayed until weather becomes favorable for white mold," he said.

But then the question becomes when to spray when the conditions are favorable for white mold — and how many times to spray.

Wunsch and his fellow researchers have looked at timing and interval spacing of fungicide spraying in pinto, kidney, navy and black beans and formed some hypotheses about what combination of spray intervals yields the best results.

An important thing to remember with white mold is that spraying early, before a plant has many pin pods, will not do much to prevent the spread of white mold, because the fungicide does not transfer to new growth. However, waiting too long risks the white mold infecting too much of the plant.

Spraying more than once can help alleviate some of that, with earlier applications taking care of early infection and later applications protecting new growth. But the timing of those sprays still is hard to determine, and farmers will need to determine whether the cost of application is worth the yield bump with multiple applications. Wunsch said it's important to read labels; some less expensive fungicides do allow for use in more than one application, which can make the return on

investment of multiple applications work out more easily.

Early results suggest that spraying pinto beans 12 days apart when doing two applications or 10 days apart when applying three applications provides better protection and thus a bigger yield bump. Similarly, spraying two applications 7 days apart in kidney beans and three applications 10 days apart are recommended.

Wunsch said more years of study are needed to confirm the results, but the preliminary results, combined with anecdotal evidence from farmers, suggest that three fungicide applications might be the best way to combat white mold with fungicide.

Weed control update

Joe Ikley, North Dakota State University Extension weed specialist, presented information about water hemp control, potential injuries from group 15 herbicides, the effects of land rolling on weeds, and desiccation options.

Researchers have studied ways to provide season-long water hemp control and found some methods that yielded 100% control, Ikley said. They used an Eptam plus Sonalan mix pre-planting incorporated method as the base for control, then tested different herbicides at different times.

"Where we did get up to 100% control is, we did have Reflex in the tank that did help us clean up those group or the water hemp there," he said.

Then he talked about the injury potential from group 15 herbicides.

"That one to three trifoliolate range is where we are trying to get this group 15 herbicide on," he said. "Again that's mainly to help us with more residual herbicide throughout the season. So certainly would help out with water hemp and could also help out with things like some late emerging fox tail, as those become more difficult to control in crop."

In trying numerous group 15 herbicides, researchers did not see significant problems in the plants. While there was some injury seen a week after treatment, the beans "outgrew that injury" by two weeks after treatment, Ikley said. Yield differences also weren't significant, and the fields were maintained weed-free for the season, he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

"By and large we did not see a whole lot of injury last year," he said.

Researchers also have looked at weed pressures after land rolling. Rolling in some places did increase weed pressures. But preliminary conclusions from the weed rolling project overall suggest that rolling stimulates weed emergence, which allows more weeds to get killed by a residual herbicide.

"We're seeing an overall benefit to reducing our weed seedbank by rolling," Ikley said.

In addition, he said the project also showed the importance of an emergence herbicide, particularly if you roll.

"If you're going to roll, get that residual down and it's going to help with our weed control," Ikley said.

He also focused on desiccation trials conducted in recent years. Reviton, though currently not labeled for desiccation, has been shown in trials to be as effective as Sharpen without as long of residual effects, which can become important when following



Water hemp Courtesy / Iowa State University

desiccated dry beans with a sensitive crop like sugarbeets. Reviton could be labeled by desiccation season in 2025, Ikley said.

He also said Sharpen can be used at a 1 ounce rate versus 2 ounces, unless weed control also is an issue. Meanwhile, Gramoxone did not appear to be a good product for desiccation but is beneficial for finishing off weeds. Defol, though not an herbicide, can be beneficial for resistance management.

What's Bugging You in Dry Edible Bean Production

Janet Knodel, Extension entomologist, talked about bug problems in dry beans, going through problems caused by wireworms, cutworms, potato leafhoppers,

grasshoppers, and foliage-feeding caterpillars like the thistlecaterpillar and the green cloverworm.

Knodel walked through how to identify each insect, the damage they can cause and when they cause it, and the economic threshold of each. She touted tools from the Crop Protection Network, available at cropprotectionnetwork.org/tools, for training your eye on defoliation levels.

Knodel also introduced three insects of which dry bean growers in North Dakota should be aware. The bean leaf beetle eats foliage and even pods of beans, she said. The soybean gall midge, which has been found in Minnesota and in far southeastern North Dakota, seems to prefer soybeans to dry beans but has been found in dry bean fields. And the Japanese beetle is an emerging threat to dry beans, she said. The metallic green beetle with coppery brown wing covers causes defoliation on trees, ornamentals, soybeans, dry beans and corn. While it has been found in traps in multiple North Dakota counties, including many along Interstate 94, the greatest number by more than 100 times

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

NDSU FOUNDATION SEEDSTOCKS

NDSU Dry Beans



NEW VARIETIES:

- **ND Rodeo** Slow Darkening Pinto Bean
- **ND Rosalind** Pink Bean
- **ND Redbarn** Dark Red Kidney Bean
- **ND Polar** Navy Bean

Competitive agronomic performance

- High yield
- Improved disease resistance
- Upright architecture
- Uniform dry down

Other varieties available:

- ND Whitetail White Kidney Bean
- ND Falcon Pinto Bean
- ND Pegasus Great Northern Bean
- ND Twilight Black Bean
- ND Palomino Slow Darkening Pinto Bean
- Eclipse Black Bean
- Rosie Light Red Kidney Bean
- Talon Dark Red Kidney Bean



Foundation Seed: 701-231-8168 or joyana.baumann@ndsu.edu
Registered/Certified Seed: 701-231-5400 or www.seed.nd.gov/field-seed-directory
ag.ndsu.edu/fss/dry-beans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

were found last year in Grand Forks County, a significant county for dry bean production.

Knodel said growers should use the North Dakota Field Crop Insect Management Guide for information on thresholds, insecticides and more.

Dry bean market update and contract considerations



Frayne Olson

compared to 2023.

North Dakota is the No. 1 producer of pinto beans, and 2024 was a big rebound year for pinto production in the state and nationally,

Frayne Olson, crops economist at NDSU Extension, said North Dakota had a much better 2024 for dry bean production than in 2023, with a 48% increase in total production. The U.S. had a 31% increase in dry bean production in 2024,

Olson said. As such, the crop refilled the pipeline needs, he said.

"That's obviously having some impact on pricing and forward pricing decisions," he said.

While 65-75% of U.S. pinto bean production is used domestically, the rest of the crop is exported, with Mexico and the Dominican Republic being the largest markets. While Mexico is usually the No. 1 customer for U.S. pintos, there can be instability involved. For instance, in years where Mexico's own crops are short, more sales are made into the country. And Olson said some "yellow flags" have arisen due to potential trade problems between the two countries.

Private analyst estimates indicate a large ending stock of pinto beans going into the growing season. Pinto contract prices for old crop right now are about in the middle of recent years' prices, Olson said, and he expects price movements to come if there are planting problems or concerns about the size of the 2025 crop.

Navy beans, of which North Dakota is typically the No. 2 or No. 3 producer in



Grasshoppers are among the noteworthy pests for dry edible beans. Jenny Schlecht / Agweek

the U.S., had an opposite past year, with small production nationally and larger exports, leaving private analyst estimates of small ending stocks. Olson said 50-65% of navies are used domestically, with the rest exported, largely to the United Kingdom, Italy and Canada, though Mexico also is often a large buyer. Italy last year bought more than was usual.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Treasure Valley Seed Co.

GroWest[®] Brand

North America's Reliable Dry Bean Seed Provider

Jim Whalen jwhalen@tvseed.com (720) 556-9349	Darren Krzesnik dkrzesnik@tvseed.com (208) 573-4993	Nathan Renard nrenard@tvseed.com (701) 640-1157
---	--	--

www.tvseed.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

But like pinto beans, Olson said navies could be facing tariff and trade issues, with rumors or potential tariffs on the European Union and resulting retaliatory tariffs.

And also like pinto beans, Olson doesn't expect much market movement for navies until the growing season.

At the time of the webinar, Olson hadn't heard any "real good quotes" for pinto or navy bean new crop pricing. But he said he wouldn't be surprised if pinto prices stay near where they are or drop a little, which could lead to "slight slippage in acreage." The navy bean market may be a little more aggressive to hold or increase acreage, though, given estimates of tight supplies. A lot of that will be driven by the No. 1 navy growing area, Michigan.

Variety trials recap: How to use them?

Ana Carcedo, NDSU Extension agronomist, recapped NDSU's dry edible bean variety trials and how to use them. Carcedo said it's important for NDSU research to use repetition and experimental design to ensure data reliability for variety development.

"We have some varieties that are always down, that probably we shouldn't choose, and we have some varieties that behave better in most of the years," Carcedo said. "Check your site, and then the second thing, check if you have more than one year of data."

Carcedo introduced NDSU's newest black bean variety, ND Galaxy, during the webinar.

"It's not easy to release a variety, and it's a lot of work until you find the right line that you want to promote, and then

Black Bean Agronomic Performance in North Dakota (2018-2024)

Variety	100 Seed Weight (g)	Days to Maturity	Height (cm)	CBB*	Canning Quality
ND Galaxy	18.1	97	52	2.8	3.0
Eclipse	18.6	96	53	4.7	3.0
ND Twilight	19.7	94	50	4.5	2.8
Zorro	18.7	99	52	5.1	3.8
BlackBeard^	21.3	96	59	4.3	-
Black Tails^	19.9	95	50	5.1	3.5

^{*}Data available from only 3 locations.
^{*}Common Bacterial Blight CIAT scale: 1-3=resistant, 4-6=intermediate, and 7-9=susceptible
[^]Canning quality is a visual score where 1 is unacceptable, 2 is poor, 3 is average, 4 is good, and 5 is excellent (Wang, et al., 2021).

North Dakota State University's new ND Galaxy variety of black beans appears to be a solid new addition, partly because of its resistance to common bacterial blight. Courtesy / NDSU

once you find it, it's not OK to just release it," she said. "It's been tested from 2017 to 2024 across 24 environments."

She said in terms of yields, Galaxy is close to other NDSU black bean varieties Eclipse and Blacktails.

"Comparing with the previous NDSU black bean varieties, it no longer has that purpling problem," she said. "And then when we're talking about canning quality, it will be similar to Eclipse."

However there is one thing that separates the new NDSU black bean variety compared to any other variety on the market, Carcedo said.

"It has way better behavior when we're talking about common bacteria blight," she said.

Northarvest Bean Growers Association update

Mitch Coulter, executive director of Northarvest Bean Growers Association, gave a brief update on NBGA activities. That includes advocating for a bean purchase program in the farm bill that "would equate to \$650 million over five years in bean purchases."

"So it's pretty critical to our industry," he said.

The organization also is advocating for \$10 million to supplement dry edible bean research in the region.

"And of course, that would boost North Dakota State University, the University of

Minnesota," he said. "We'd really love to get those dollars back to our region, so, you know, again, if you're talking to your legislators let them know about these two programs."

Coulter talked about the big win the bean industry got in the dietary guidelines, where dry edible beans went from 1 1/2 cups to 2 1/2 cups recommended per person per week, which will provide more opportunities for government sales into school lunches, military feeding programs, and adult food care programs.

He also talked about the NBGA Seed to Stovetop project and Juan Osorno's bean breeding program at NDSU and its wintering sites, as well as upcoming events like the "Bean there, cooked that" webinar series on dry bean nutrition.

(Reporter Noah Fish contributed to this article.)

From Producer to the World™



AGT
FOODS

A TRUSTED BUYER, PROCESSOR AND EXPORTER OF BEANS, LENTILS, CHICKPEAS, PEAS AND SPECIALTY CROPS





From Producer to the World

To market your beans, lentils, chickpeas, durum and hard red wheat or to discuss growing pulses, contact AGT Foods in Canada at 1-844-248-4AGT or in the U.S. at 1-877-751-1623.

1-844-41-BEANS agtfoods.com



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Back at home, NDSU Extension's annual "Getting it Right Dry Bean Production" seminar took place once again, and you can read about that along with an upcoming webinar – "Unpacking the power of Beans" – which we're looking forward to seeing on May 5. Details on how to view that are inside.

There's a whole lot of additional stories inside, too – educational outreach

efforts, recent research on beans and iron, and NBGA's involvement with the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, and more.

Before I forget, one last note: I want to thank two of our growers, Norm Krause and Josh Ihry, for their service. They've both served the councils and NBGA growers well, and we appreciate their efforts. Their terms are up, but both continue to be Northarvest Bean Growers.

On behalf of both the Minnesota and North Dakota councils and Northarvest, I wish you all a safe, successful spring. Your work in the fields is the very foundation of our entire dry bean industry. The world will always need to keep food in their pantries and on their kitchen tables. NBGA thanks you for your continued support. Thank you for reading.

Eric Jorgenson
Northarvest Bean Growers
Association President



From planning to planting: through harvest and beyond, Kelley Bean is here for you

KELLEY BEAN

C O M P A N Y

Since 1927 and here for future generations

www.kelleybean.com

Cavalier, ND – Cory Seim
Phone 701-265-8328
Mobile 701-331-0539
cseim@kelleybean.com

Cavalier, ND – Curt Kirking
Mobile: 701-520-0116
ckirking@kelleybean.com

Mayville, ND – Keaton Flanagan
Phone: 701-786-2997
Mobile: 701-331-2615
kflanagan@kelleybean.com

Hatton, ND – Dean Nelson
Phone: 701-543-3000
Mobile: 701-238-5228
dnelson@kelleybean.com

Oakes, ND – Deon Maasjo
Phone: 701-742-3219
Mobile: 701-678-4384
dmaasjo@kelleybean.com

Regional Manager – John Bartsch
Mobile: 612-759-5868
jbartsch@kelleybean.com

Perham, MN – Dave Hartmann
Office: 218-346-2360
Mobile: 218-841-1701
dhartmann@kelleybean.com

Perham, MN – Dale Shultz
Mobile: 218-371-1443

Bean There, Cooked That

Bean There... Cooked That Unpacking the Nutritional Power of Dry Beans



Spread the word about the 'Bean There, Cooked That' webinar series

An upcoming webinar series produced in conjunction with Northharvest Bean Growers Association aims to share valuable knowledge about dry beans' nutritional value and their benefits.

The webinar, "Bean There, Cooked That: Unpacking the Nutritional Power of Dry Beans," will be held May 5, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. The webinar will be recorded over Zoom and available online afterward.

Ana Carcedo, NDSU Extension broadleaf agronomist, developed the webinar at the request of Mitch Coulter, Northharvest Bean Growers Association executive director.

The series is aimed at consumers, to give them an understanding of the work dry bean farmers do to produce their crops, the nutritional value and health possibilities of including more beans in the diet, how to cook dry beans and how to substitute dry beans for allergenic ingredients.

The webinar will feature five 20-minute topics:

- One cup a Day keeps the Doctor Away: Shaundra Ziemann-Bolinskie, NDSU Extension food systems program

coordinator, will talk about the longevity benefits of dry beans and their impact on blue zone populations. Blue zones are geographic areas with lower rates of chronic diseases and longer life

- The Epic Journey of Your Meal: Carcedo presents a storytelling presentation on the journey of food from field to the table, highlighting implications for consumers. Carcedo explains the risks farmers take and the decisions they have to make during the growing season.

- Beans of Steel: Boosting your iron taking deliciously: Juan Orsono, NDSU dry bean breeder, will talk about new slow-darkening pinto beans with enhanced iron content developed in North Dakota, and their market debut.

- Safe and Sound: Mastering the Art of Dry Bean Cooking: Garden-Robinson will talk about important cooking safety tips, addressing kidney bean risk, trypsin indicators and how to minimize flatulence.



expectancy. Diet, fasting and exercises are factors associated with blue zones. Italy, Greece, Japan, Costa Rica and the United States are Blue Zones.

- Bean it to Win It: Nutritious Swaps for Every Dish: Julie Garden-Robinson, professor and food and nutrition specialist at NDSU, and Ziemann-Bolinskie will talk about how dry beans can replace allergenic ingredients in recipes, including the use of aquafaba and options in baking.

For more information about the webinar or to register for it, visit <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/academics/events/bean-there-cooked-unpacking-nutritional-power-dry-beans> or contact Carcedo at a.carcedo@ndsu.edu or 701-835-5736. Requests for accommodations related to disability should be made to the event contact person at least two weeks in advance of the event.

The Best Beans Deserve the Best Bags



We Offer a Full Line of Packaging Products:

You work hard to find, market and distribute exceptional beans from exceptional growers. Don't trust your beans—and your hard work—to anyone other than Northern Bag & Box Company.

With more than 100 years of combined industry experience, we provide the best bags to protect your beans—from large tote bags to small one pound bags.

1-800-551-6982



The Proof is in the Package.®

www.northernbagandbox.com

E-mail: info@northernbagandbox.com

- Bulk Bags (FIBCs)
- BOPP Bags
- Multiwall Bags
- Woven Poly Bags
- Polyethylene Film & Bags
- Sand Bags
- Corrugated Boxes & Sheets
- Thread & Tape
- Bulk Seed Boxes
- Stretch Wrap & Shipping Seals
- Pallet Stabilization
- Equipment, Parts & Supplies



BIOST[®]

NEMATICIDE 100

CHANGE THE NATURE OF YOUR SEED TREATMENTS.

PROTECT DRY BEANS AGAINST SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE & SOIL-DWELLING INSECTS.

BIOST[®] Nematicide 100 seed treatment from Albaugh delivers the power of nature for strong plant response and returns. With proven effectiveness on dry beans, you'll get improved root health and broad-spectrum protection against the most important nematode species, as well as soil-dwelling insects.

Discover the secrets of Nature's Science.[™]



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT
JAY STROH @ 218.405.0875

©2024 Albaugh, LLC. All rights reserved. Albaugh, the Albaugh logo and BIOST are registered trademarks and Nature's Science is a trademark of Albaugh, LLC. Always read and follow label restrictions, precautions, and directions for use. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status.

