

NORTHARVEST BEAN GROWER

WINTER 2025

A SEASON OF BEANS

NBGA's Summer Promotions
and Sponsorship Recap

**Dry Bean Harvest
Wraps Up Amid Weather
Challenges**

**DRY BEANS AND
THE AG ECONOMY**

**GROWING MORE
THAN CROPS**

Woman Farmer
of the Year,
Kris Huebsch

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WINTER 2025



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, fellow Northharvest Bean Growers –

This issue reflects a season of milestones and memories. We pause “In Remembrance” to honor two dry bean industry pioneers, Russell Doane and Lawrence “Larry” Sprague. Their decades of service remind us that our industry is built on people as much as on acres and yields.

You'll find a recap of 2025's harvest and how growers met this year's weather challenges, as well as policy updates from Washington on tariffs and federal changes affecting dry bean farmers in the Northharvest region. You'll also learn about the NBGA joining USA Pulses, international market-building efforts at the Seoul Food and Hotel Show and USA Pulses Summit, and how NBGA's summer promotions and sponsorships are raising awareness of dry beans here at home.

Inside are also updates on new council members & officers, the merger of the International Sugarbeet Institute and Bean Day conferences (more info at: isdbexpo.com), and a whole lot more.

Thank you for your continued support and for the work you do every day. Wishing you a safe winter and a successful year ahead.

– Tony Richards
NBGA President, Hope, ND

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NORTHARVEST BEANGROWER

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Remembering Russell Doane, *Chippewa Valley Bean Founder*

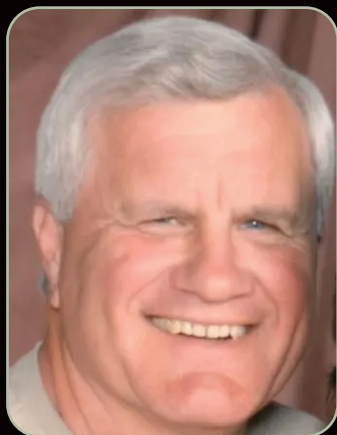
Northarvest Bean Growers Association and the entire American ag industry recently said goodbye to a legend. Russell Doane, founder of Chippewa Valley Bean, passed away at his home in late August 2025, surrounded by family and friends.

When awarded the UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honorary Recognition in 1998, Doane was introduced as a “kidney bean wizard and perpetual good neighbor,” a perfect description for a man who freely shared advice and insight with anyone who asked.

A true icon in agriculture, Doane was a man whose curiosity and intellect shaped not only his own life but the lives of those around him. Known for his pioneering work with the dark red kidney bean, Russell’s contributions to farming were both innovative and enduring. He believed deeply in the power of learning and research, from the development of seed to in-field techniques and processing advancements, and he wanted to test it all.

Doane founded Chippewa Valley Bean to help other growers produce and market their beans. His vision and leadership transformed the way kidney beans were grown, valued and shared with the world, setting the standard for high-quality beans in the global canning industry.

Russel Doane’s thoughtful guidance and generous spirit made him a pillar of his community. He leaves behind a legacy of innovation, compassion and deep-rooted love for his work, his family and the world around him.



Honoring the Life of Lawrence “Larry” Sprague

Lawrence Sprague II passed away on September 13, 2025, in Durand, Mich., surrounded by family.

A lifelong member of the Durand community, Sprague began his life of leadership at a young age. He was a star athlete in high school and received a full ride academic scholarship to Michigan State University, becoming the first in his family to attend college.

After graduating from MSU and completing a brief stint as a vocational agriculture teacher, Sprague embarked on a 47-year-long career in the agribusiness industry. His mission was straightforward: help farmers market their dry edible beans.

Sprague devoted years of service to the Michigan Crop Improvement Board, the Michigan Bean Shippers, Michigan Bean Commission, as well as the U.S. Dry Bean Council. In addition to his professional commitments, he also served his local community as a chair on the Vernon Township Planning Commission, an active member of Gideon’s International and even served as a volunteer EMT specialist for Durand Vernon Ambulance.

Known to all as “Larry,” Sprague was a warm ambassador for the bean industry who never knew a stranger. He was kind, generous and always willing to help someone in need or provide words of wisdom to help others succeed.



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International Sugarbeet Institute and Bean Day Conferences to Merge

The International Sugarbeet Institute (ISBI) began in 1963 and is the largest exhibit of sugarbeet equipment, related products and services housed in a single show in the United States. The Northharvest Bean Growers Association's annual "Bean Day" is the largest dry bean event in the United States. We are excited to announce a plan to merge the two shows scheduled for January 21-22, 2026, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND.

Nick Revier, President for the International Sugarbeet Institute states, "Bringing the two important events together will expand the influence for the growers, processors, equipment, seed, chemical, and university leadership. The large crossover of the farmers growing these two crops makes this a natural fit".

Eric Jorgenson, past President for Northharvest Bean Growers Association states, "The opportunity to expand equipment options, political awareness and expansion of the speakers makes this a win for everyone involved. We look forward to the collaboration".

There are many synergies between sugarbeet and dry beans in North Dakota and Minnesota. The commodities stand out in the region, producing 60% of the total production in the United States. The shared resources will allow us to better serve growers and industry partners in a single venue. The expansion in the programming will include research, education, market development and farm policy making this the premier event to look forward to in 2026. ■

About the International Sugarbeet Institute

The International Sugarbeet Institute (ISBI) represents the farmer members of American Crystal Sugar Company, Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association and Sugarbeet representatives from University Extension, Equipment, Seed, and Chemical industries. Additionally, ISBI is the largest exhibit of sugarbeet equipment and related products and services in the United States.

About Bean Day Conference

Bean Day conference represents the farmer members of the Northharvest Bean Growers Association representing the largest group of dry bean farmers in America, working together to fund research, promote, and produce the finest beans in the world.

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2026 ISDBE Schedule

Jan 21 – Day 1

8:00 AM Registration & Trade Show
9:00 AM Mainstage Sessions Begin
12:15 PM Lunch Speaker
2:00 PM Keynote Speaker
5:00 PM Doors Close

Jan 22 – Day 2

9:00 AM Registration & Trade Show
9:30 AM Mainstage Sessions Begin
2:00 PM Keynote Speaker
3:00 PM Doors Close

Schedule subject to change, for more info, visit: <https://isdbexpo.com>



Dry Bean Harvest Wraps Up Amid Weather Challenges

WRITTEN BY: APRIL KNUTSON

Another year, another crop safely stored in growers' warehouses or their local elevators. Even though the tractors are put away, North Dakota and Minnesota dry bean growers are still deciphering their harvest's quality after the summer and fall's unfavorable weather.

Nearly 90% of the nation's dry beans come from just four states, with North Dakota leading production. Varieties like kidney, navy, pinto, and black beans thrive in warm, dry conditions, making the region a key supplier for U.S. and global markets.

Rising interest in plant-based diets pushed many growers to expand dry bean acreage this year. Yet late-summer and early-fall weather challenges left mixed results—some report average yields, while others worry their beans won't make it to processing or store shelves.

"The beans looked great in the field throughout the summer," said Kurt Bollingberg, chief executive officer at Bollingberg's Seed Company. "Although similar to last year, when we harvested the beans, a portion of the crop suffered from white mold."

White Mold Threatens Yields

Bollingberg has farmed dry beans for decades, continuing the operation his father started in 1973. He now works alongside his son, and both were surprised to see white

mold after harvest. The disease develops during flowering and thrives in dense canopies that trap moisture. While the exact cause is unclear, Bollingberg and other Minnesota growers point to high moisture as a likely culprit.

Heavy Rains Delay Harvest

In North Dakota, wet harvest conditions damaged some fields, though others—like those at Central Valley Bean Cooperative in Buxton—reported strong yields. Stony Ridge Foods near Benson, Minnesota, reported heavy rains hurting their crop, while North Dakota growers cited an early September frost. Still, despite these setbacks, most growers say the overall dry bean crop is in good shape.

USDA Delays Final Data

Bollingberg and his neighbor began harvesting in late September and wrapped up by mid-October before moving on to the next crop. However, due to the month-long government shutdown, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has yet to release final harvest reports, including those for dry beans.

Policy Decisions Shape Future

Growers in North Dakota and Minnesota are still gauging how this year's harvest will shape next season. With beans now safely stored after a challenging few weeks, attention turns to policy decisions that could influence where those beans ultimately go. ■



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DRY BEAN POLICY REPORT FROM DC

North Dakota and Minnesota Dry Bean Farmers Hit Hard by Tariffs and Federal Policy Changes

WRITTEN BY: APRIL KNUTSON

Tariffs were implemented, which turned off our International purchases, and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) dismantled U.S.AID, which began a restructuring of Food Aid oversight. After the longest government shutdown in American history ended this fall, farmers are grappling with the reduced exports and a future that remains largely uncertain.

Jeff Harrison, senior counsel at Combest, Sell & Associates who's worked in policy affecting Midwestern agriculture for nearly 20 years, shared that in previous growing seasons, the government procurement of dry edible beans reached a 12-year high before plummeting in 2024 when pandemic-era funding for food aid programs expired. That high water mark of purchasing created optimism early in the spring.

"Going into the growing season, the market was strong," said Mitch Coulter, Northarvest Bean Growers Association's executive director. Mexico was purchasing every black or pinto bean they could after their growers faced a drought."

A 'Tariff Tale': Countries Respond

Harrison agrees with Coulter that these tariffs significantly disrupted the edible dry bean market. Key export markets

that typically purchase dry beans from North Dakota and Minnesota farmers include Canada, Dominican Republic, Italy, Mexico and the United Kingdom (UK). Each market faced unique challenges this year:

- Canada and the Dominican Republic reduced imports due to trade friction
- Italy implemented heightened sanitary and phytosanitary standards, potentially related to trade tensions.
- Mexico declared intentions to become more self-sufficient by increasing production 30 percent over six years.
- UK markets suffered from lingering Brexit complications and ongoing trade disputes.

Government Shutdown Delays Aid Assistance

Harrison cites DOGE's cuts and this fall's months-long government shutdown as factors in agencies' procurement reductions.

"The transfer of USAID's purchasing power to other state departments has led to yet further delays," Harrison said. "Even the USDA's \$50 million under its Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP Program) announced August 1 hasn't made it to farmers due to the federal government shutdown."



“Take pride in the fact that nearly 90 percent of dry edible beans produced in the United States are produced in the Midwest.”

Coulter estimates that dry bean purchases have decreased from \$325 million to \$93 million in a single year.

“State departments are not just equipped with the logistics and staff to keep the flow of commodities moving,” Coulter said. “This, with the combination of tariffs and aid cuts, has really harmed our bean processors and growers.”

What’s Ahead? Financial Strain in the Forecast

Growers now face depressed prices, lack of contracts, and processing plants carrying substantial inventory with nowhere to move it, creating enormous financial risk. However, Harrison cites the potential trade agreements currently in negotiation that could shine through the dark clouds.

“If the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) extends, then that should put to rest government imposed obstacles to dry edible bean exports to our biggest customers: Mexico and Canada,” Harrison said. “And implementations of U.S. agreements with the European Union (EU) and then the UK will also help.”

Harrison explained that all trade agreements underway must address weak foreign demand and unfair advantages enjoyed by foreign competitors, including South American countries.

“Two other extremely important pieces to the puzzle are correcting the collapse in government procurement of dry edible beans and providing for stability and reliability going forward,” Harrison said.

Support for Area Growers

Both Coulter and Harrison recommend growers decide what kind of safety net they could need in the near future. Organizations like the Northharvest Bean Grower Association have already taken action through funding a new NDSU Agricultural Risk Policy Center to study the tariff losses and the dry bean cost of production losses.

“The Association has shared the published data from Dr. Sandro Steinbach and Dr. Shawn Arita with legislators in the Senate and House agriculture committees to support them in their effort to develop an economic assistance program for dry bean farmers,” Coulter said.

Harrison emphasized that Minnesota and North Dakota have excellent leaders who deeply care about the agriculture industry.

“The industry quietly goes about the business of feeding the country and many places around the world, but it packs a huge economic punch for our region. That’s worth touting,” Harrison said.

Coulter and Harrison encourage consumers to support local dry bean growers through purchasing directly when possible.

“Individually and collectively – through schools, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. – we as North Dakotans and Minnesotans can put our money where our mouth is. The health benefits alone are worth it,” Harrison said. “Take pride in the fact that nearly 90 percent of dry edible beans produced in the United States are produced in the Midwest.” ■



NORTHARVEST REGION JOINS USA PULSES

A Strategic Move for Dry Bean Farmers

In July 2025, the Northarvest Board of Directors voted to join USA Pulses, marking a pivotal moment for dry bean farmers in North Dakota and Minnesota. The decision was driven by the need to support international market development, influence domestic market policy, and contribute to U.S. Dietary Guidelines. This membership would give farmers a stronger voice in global trade and policy discussions, helping secure a more sustainable future for their industry.

In August 2025, the North Central Bean Dealers Association followed suit, also voting to become a member of USA Pulses. This move aligned both organizations in their shared commitment to strengthening the dry bean market and advocating for policies that benefit farmers.

This increases opportunities for U.S. dry bean farmers on the global stage. The decision marked a significant step forward in ensuring that farmers have the resources and influence necessary to thrive in an evolving market. ■



2025 SEOUL FOOD & HOTEL SHOW

U.S. Dry Bean Council Brings Bold Flavors to the Global Stage!

The Seoul Food & Hotel Show, held from June 10-13, 2025, is South Korea's largest international food and hospitality trade event. The show featured a wide range of products and innovations in the food service industry. The US Dry Bean Council proudly showcased a diverse selection of dry beans and various products made with beans, highlighting their versatility in cuisine. Along with the booth, the visit offered attendees the chance to explore South Korean food culture through field visits to local grocery stores, department stores, bakeries, and a traditional outdoor market, providing a unique insight into the country's culinary landscape. ■





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NORTHARVEST AT THE USA PULSES SUMMIT 2025

Northarvest representatives Cordell Huebsch (NBGA VP) and Rudy Dotzenrod (ND Dry Bean Council Vice Chair) were invited to participate in the Grower Panel at the USA Pulses Summit 2025 in Spokane, WA. The event attracted a diverse, global audience, providing an opportunity for industry leaders to discuss the future of pulse crops and share insights on the challenges and opportunities facing growers.

“It was the biggest event to date, with more buyers participating than ever before. The three-day event was a whirlwind of discussions covering everything from pulse demand to local crop conditions. I had so many meaningful conversations with foreign buyers who are always interested in the farmer’s perspective. The questions were about how we grow things here, what we are seeing for an upcoming crop, and how we usually market our pulses. It was fun to take the bus tour and see how impressed these buyers were at our scale and efficiency in growing pulses. We at Northarvest Bean Growers are excited to start working in conjunction with USA Pulses and build a much broader-based coalition that unites our pulse industry. Exciting times in beans!” – Cordell Huebsch ■



A Season of Beans

NBGA's Summer Promotions and Sponsorship Recap

WRITTEN BY: EMMA RIEKE

Summer is always a busy season for the Northarvest Bean Growers Association (NBGA), and 2025 was no exception.

“Northarvest took part in a lot of new ventures in 2025,” said Jennifer Hansen, finance director for NBGA. “We are partnering with local BBQ competitions because beans

and barbecue are such a natural fit together.

Our involvement in events such as the Minnesota State Fair and local farm events gives us a chance to meet people and engage with them in a fun way. These events matter because the more people learn about and think

A busy summer of events helped NBGA share the power of dry beans with educators, families, and communities across the region.



about beans, the likelier they will pick up some on their next trip to the grocery store.”

From major educational conferences to family-friendly competitions and county fairs, NBGA spent the summer connecting with communities, supporting ag literacy, promoting healthy eating and celebrating the versatility of dry beans. Here’s a look back at where NBGA showed up, and why those moments mattered.

National Ag in the Classroom Conference

The season kicked off in Minneapolis with the 2025 National Ag in the Classroom Conference. This annual gathering brings together teachers, volunteers and agricultural literacy professionals from across the country.

The week-long conference offered valuable opportunities to share resources, make connections with other educators and highlight beans as a classroom-friendly crop that ties together nutrition, sustainability and real-world agriculture.

Bean There ... Cooked That Webinar

NDSU Extension continued its mission of promoting nutritious, affordable meals through its “Bean There... Cooked That” webinar – an online program that spotlighted the nutritional benefits of dry beans.

With NBGA’s support, the season helped home cooks and consumers better understand how beans can play a bigger role in everyday meals.

Kids Healthy Cooking Competition

The Kids Healthy Cooking Competition hosted by Family Wellness in Fargo encouraged young chefs to explore

using healthy ingredients (like beans) through hands-on cooking and creativity.

Fourth and fifth-graders from across North Dakota and Western Minnesota were invited to submit a healthy and tasty original recipe, with finalists facing off in a live healthy cooking competition against other finalists. It was a fun and energetic way to introduce young cooks that nutritious food can be both exciting and delicious.

Minnesota BBQ Society Sponsored Event

Beans belong at the table and NBGA’s partnership with the Minnesota BBQ Society this summer reached a big audience of backyard cooks, pitmasters and food enthusiasts.

“Beans and barbecue are such a natural fit together,” said Hansen, referring to the partnership.

Beans & More Workshop – Jamestown, ND

In Jamestown, the Beans & More workshop gave NDSU Extension Agents a chance to dive deeper into cooking beans, nutrition and agricultural production. This hands-on event was a great way to share knowledge and give community members a new way to look at a versatile food.

Red River Valley Fair Exhibit

Fairs are a summer staple, and NBGA’s booth at the Red River Valley Fair helped connect thousands of visitors. Demonstrations, conversations and educational materials gave fairgoers the chance to learn more about beans and the farmers who grow them as well as other commodities.

Minnesota Breakfast on the Farm Held in August, Minnesota’s Breakfast on the Farm event welcomed

families onto working farms for a firsthand agricultural experience. Northarvest's presence helped demonstrate how beans fit into sustainable, local food systems, while strengthening public understanding of the work farmers do every day.

Minnesota State Fair – Eco Experience Building

As one of the largest state fairs in the nation, the Minnesota State Fair provided an incredible platform for NBGA to share the power of plant protein. In partnership with Renewing the Countryside, Northarvest was in the Eco Experience Building as part of this year's "Plant Protein Power" theme.

Their popular Bean Trivia Game drew in visitors of all ages, while neighboring partners helped create a collaborative space centered on food and sustainability.

"I'm having great fun producing new games and content to present at future events," said Hansen. "It's very gratifying when people tell me they are enjoying our games and learning new things."

Chef's Taste of the Valley – Doubting Thomas Farms NBGA

NBGA participated in the Chef's Taste of the Valley, a farm-to-table event showcasing regional ingredients and the chefs who love them. It was a delicious way to highlight



the creativity and versatility of beans in local cuisine.

Scheels BBQ Bean Competition – October

The season wrapped with the Scheels BBQ Bean Competition in October, a crowd-pleasing contest that puts beans front-and-center in a spirited, community-driven setting. Events like this celebrate both the tradition and innovation behind bean-based recipes.

Looking Ahead

With a packed summer behind them, NBGA is already planning future outreach opportunities! If you know of an upcoming event or program that could benefit from NBGA involvement, contact Jennifer Hansen at 701-365-5102 or via email: jennifer@northarvestbean.org. ■

REMINDER: NBGA SCHOLARSHIP CLOSES IN JANUARY

NGBA SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now being accepted for the Northarvest Bean Growers Association School Year 25-26 Scholarships.

The application period is open through January 5, 2026, for two \$2,000 scholarships. These scholarships are available to the children or grandchildren of current dry edible bean growers in Minnesota and North Dakota. Applicants must be planning to enroll in a university, college or technical school.

The application is available at this link: <https://bit.ly/25-26Scholarship>, or by emailing info@northarvestbean.org. ■



APPLY HERE

NBGA Welcomes New Council Members



KYLE FUNSETH

The North Dakota Dry Bean Council and the Minnesota Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council are pleased to welcome two new faces to their respective councils.

Kyle Funseth has been elected to the North Dakota Dry Bean Council, where he will represent District 4, based in Hatton, ND.



NORM AND JON KRAUSE

Jon Krause has been elected to the Minnesota Dry Bean Research & Promotion Council, representing Area 2 previously held by his father, Norm Krause. Both bring valuable experience and fresh perspectives to their new positions. ■

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GROWING MORE THAN CROPS

Woman Farmer of the Year Honoree Kris Huebsch Shares How Agritourism and Dry Beans Shape Her Family's Operation



WRITTEN BY: EMMA RIEKE

When Kris Huebsch talks about her favorite part of running Otter Berry Farm, she doesn't hesitate.

"Watching kids taste a juicy strawberry for the first time," she said. "When the juice runs down their cheeks and their eyes light right up."

It's the kind of moment that reminds her why the work matters.

This year, the Minnesota Farmfest has named Kris its Woman Farmer of the Year, recognizing her leadership, commitment to agricultural education and the growth of Otter Berry Farm into a community-

focused agritourism destination.

A Lifelong Path in Agriculture

Kris is a sixth-generation farmer from Northeast Ohio. Agriculture has always been part of her life, long before she and her husband, Cordell, started their own operation.

After earning her B.S. in Animal Science from Montana State University, where she and Cordell met, the couple

moved back to Minnesota to join his family's bean and corn farm. Kris worked as the 4-H Extension Agent for Wadena County before the couple began thinking about how to diversify their portion of the operation as their family grew.

"We planted our first strawberries, then added the corn maze and pumpkin patch," said Kris. "Little by little, it turned into the Otter Berry Farm people see today."

In 2023, they added a bare-root plant business, fROOTZ, further diversifying their operation.

Agritourism With Purpose



While the agritourism side of the farm started as diversification, it quickly became something more.

“With fewer families having ties to farming these days, it’s meaningful to give people a chance to see what we do,” Kris said.

She says she hopes visitors leave with a better understanding of how food is grown and feel comfortable asking questions along the way.

“I want people of all ages to have a great experience. Not every strawberry looks the same, and that’s okay. I hope they make memories that last a lifetime.”

The Role of Dry Beans

While Otter Berry Farm’s strawberries and pumpkins attract the most attention, dry edible beans remain an important part of the operation. Cordell’s family has a long history with beans, and that continues today.

“Beans have been the niche crop that has kept the operation profitable through many cycles,” Kris explained. “They’re a reliable commodity and play an important role in our crop rotation.”

She appreciates knowing they’re growing “one of the most healthy, human foods,” adding, “Who doesn’t love a good bowl of chili or a delicious kidney bean brownie?!”

Adapting to Challenges

Weather remains one of the biggest challenges the family faces, especially during the short strawberry season. To adapt, they plant multiple varieties that ripen at different times, creating a longer harvest window.

Communication has also become a key part of the job.

“Conditions can change in a moment

during harvest,” Kris said.

Through social media, their website and a 24-hour phone line, they work hard to keep visitors updated and informed.

Sharing the Real Story Online

Kris has built a strong social media presence by sharing unscripted moments from the farm, like animals, daily tasks and the not-so-glamorous parts of agriculture.

“Most of what I post is happening right at that moment,” she said. “I think giving people a real look behind the scenes helps them understand and appreciate agriculture even more.”

A Meaningful Recognition

Kris admits she was surprised to be chosen for Woman Farmer of the Year.

“There are so many incredible women in agriculture,” she said.

“And the ladies standing on that stage with me are all doing amazing things. It’s such an honor. What means the most is that the award highlights the role women play in agriculture and shines a light on the everyday work and leadership that often happens quietly behind the scenes. It represents the hard work, the long days, the problem-solving and the dedication that go into keeping a farm running.”

Looking Ahead

Kris says she’s excited for what’s next – like continuing to grow fROOTz, adding new experiences at the farm and building something lasting for both their family and the community, to name a few.

“What excites me most is knowing we’re building something our kids can grow up with and our community can enjoy year after year,” she said. ■

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Northarvest Bean Growers Association Elects New Officers



TONY RICHARDS



CORDELL HUEBSCH



GARRETT THOMPSON



JEFF KOSEK

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association held its officer elections in March 2025, marking the start of a new two-year leadership term.

Tony Richards of Hope, ND, was elected President, with Cordell Huebsch of New York Mills, MN, serving as Vice President.

Garrett Thompson of Grafton, ND, will assume the role of Treasurer, and Jeff Kosek of Brownton, MN, will serve as Secretary.

The Association looks forward to continued progress and leadership under this newly elected team. ▀

Minnesota Dry Bean Research & Promotion Council Announces Election of Officers



RYAN AMMERMAN



ROBERT DOMBECK



DAN OHDEN



JACOB FAUGSTAD

The Minnesota Dry Bean Research & Promotion Council has announced the election of its officers for the upcoming term. During its July 2025 meeting, the Council recognized outgoing Chair Jacob Faugstad of Fisher,

MN, as he passed the gavel to newly elected Chair Ryan Ammermann of Clara City, MN. Officers' terms are two years.

The newly elected officers are:

- Chair: Ryan Ammermann, Clara City, MN
- Vice Chair: Robert Dombeck, Perham, MN
- Treasurer: Dan Ohden, Raymond, MN
- Secretary: Jacob Faugstad, Fisher, MN

The Council looks forward to continued progress under the guidance of the newly elected officers. ▀

North Dakota Dry Bean Council Elects New Officers



RUDY DOTZENROD



LEANN SCHAFER



DAVID WIELER

In July 2025, the North Dakota Dry Bean Council held its officer elections, ushering in a new leadership team. Chair Karl Jodock passed the gavel to Rudy Dotzenrod of Wyndmere, ND, who will now lead the Council. All officers will serve two-year terms.

Welcome to the 2025–2027 Officers:

- Chair: Rudy Dotzenrod, Wyndmere, ND
- Vice Chair: Leann Schafer, New Rockford, ND
- Treasurer/Secretary: David Wieler, Walhalla, ND



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Northharvest Bean Growers Association Selects Committee Leadership



ERIC JORGENSEN



TONY RICHARDS



CORDELL HUEBSCH



GARRETT THOMPSON



JEFF KOSEK



RYAN AMMERMAN



RUDY DOTZENROD



KARL JODOCK



DAN OHDEN



DAVID WIELER



LEANN SCHAFER



DEXTER CRONQUIST

The Northharvest Bean Growers Association has announced its committee leadership for the upcoming two-year term. The newly appointed leaders will guide organizational strategy, direct key initiatives, and support growers across our region.

Executive Committee

- Chair: Past President Eric Jorgenson, Leeds, ND

Officers:

- President: Tony Richards
- Vice President: Cordell Huebsch
- Treasurer: Garrett Thompson
- Secretary: Jeff Kosek
- Minnesota Council Chair: Ryan Ammermann
- North Dakota Council Chair: Rudy Dotzenrod

Research Committee

- Chair: Karl Jodock, Northwood, ND
- Vice Chair: Dan Ohden, Raymond, MN

Crop Insurance Committee

- Chair: Jeff Kosek, Brownton, MN
- Vice Chair: David Wieler, Walhalla, ND

Marketing & Communications Committee

- Chair: Rudy Dotzenrod, Wyndmere, ND
- Vice Chair: Leann Schafer, New Rockford, ND

Education & Sponsorship Committee

- Chair: Dexter Cronquist, Gilby, ND
- Vice Chair: Ryan Ammermann, Clara City, MN

The Association extends its appreciation to all committee members for their commitment to advancing the region's dry bean industry. ■

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DRY BEANS AND THE AG ECONOMY

WRITTEN BY: JEFFREY MILLER

It's no secret that corn and soybeans reign supreme in the North Dakota and Minnesota ag sector. In 2024, nearly 14 million acres were planted in soybeans in the two states combined, with another 9.7 million acres planted in corn. One advantage of the dominance of these two crops, however, is that there is significant room for specialty crops.

In September of 2025, NDSU's Dean A. Bangsund of the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics and Nancy M. Hodur, PhD of the Center for Social Research examined the dry bean industry in Minnesota and North Dakota. Their paper, "Economic Contribution of the Dry Bean Industry in Minnesota and North Dakota" was published in the Agribusiness and Applied Economics Report No. 834. Funding for the study was provided by Northarvest Bean Growers Association.

High acreage and high value crops dominated the region, and regionally important crops tend to be overlooked.

Now more than ever, however, diversification in agriculture is needed. The soil and climate of the region are great for growing a variety of crops, including dry beans. 95% of the dry beans grown include pinto, navy and black beans. The remaining 5% include kidney, pink, small red, cranberry and others.

Annually, dry beans were planted on nearly 900,000 acres in Minnesota and North Dakota, resulting in over 1,570 million pounds of production. 1.3 billion dollars of gross business volume contributed to nearly 4,400 direct and secondary jobs. No doubt, dry beans represent a powerful economic driver. Dry beans have been grown in the region since the 1970s, and the region is the largest producer of dry beans in the U.S.

It's not just the growing of dry beans that contribute to the economy. Most dry beans undergo at least some processing prior to shipping to distant markets or food manufacturing plants. These processing plants,

located near production areas, not only provide additional jobs and economic benefits but also allow for more acres planted into the crop. Shortening the distant between field and plants increases productivity and income.

In order to further policy on crop insurance, the federal farm program and trade, the dry bean industry has been working to examine and determine the economic size of dry bean growing and processing.

Currently, the majority of dry bean production is concentrated in the northeastern portion of North Dakota and the northwestern portion of Minnesota. However, there are at least some dry beans grown in nearly every county in the eastern third of North Dakota and the western half of Minnesota. Availability of seed, brokers and processing facilities are all factors in the acres grown.

Into the future, dry beans represent an important agricultural product in the two-state region, supporting increased economic investment. Northarvest Bean Growers Association is at the forefront of the industry, working to increase the market for these valuable legumes. As the world's number 1 most consumed legume, dry beans have a bright future in our region.

For more information, check out <https://ndcompass.org/wp-content/uploads/migration-assets/research-reports/aae816-drybeans.pdf>. ■



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Stay updated with the NBGA!

The Northarvest Bean Growers Association website is a one-stop shop for all things NBGA. Find seed dealers, processors, learn more information about the U.S. Dry Bean Council, delve into the details of marketing or find a variety of links, all relating to dry beans and the dry bean industry. It's all located at <https://northarvestbean.org/>

Northarvest Bean Growers Association was recently on **North Dakota Today** on KVLV. Find the clip at <https://www.valleynewslive.com/video/2025/10/22/north-dakota-today-northarvest-bean-growers/>

The Red River Farm Network delves into the dry bean world each week in the Dry Bean Scene. Listen to it on participating stations or online at <https://www.rrfn.com/>



Sign up for our newsletter!

Want the news brought right into your inbox? Sign up for the Northarvest monthly newsletter. NBGA staff, along with contributing writer Chelsea Didinger, compile the monthly newsletter that is chock full of the latest news, activities and videos of not only the NBGA but also the dry bean industry as a whole. Find it at <https://northarvestbean.org/newsletter/>



Looking for recipes, nutrition information or additional resources about the amazing health benefits of dry beans? **The Bean Institute** has an information packed website all about the nutrient packed bean. Find it at <https://beaninstitute.com>



The Northarvest Bean Growers Association website is a one-stop shop for all things NBGA. Find seed dealers, processors, learn more information about the U.S. Dry Bean Council, delve into the details of marketing or find a variety of links, all relating to dry beans and the dry bean industry. It's all located at <https://northarvestbean.org>



The Beangrower magazine is published 5 times a year and is an in-depth analysis of all things dry bean. Full color photography, well-written stories and news you can use, the Beangrower Magazine has it all. Best of all, it's free! Find it at <https://northarvestbean.org/beangrower-magazine>

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YouTube

Jed Brazier, NBGA Communication and Marketing Director, can be reached at 701-365-5101 or jed@northarvestbean.org.

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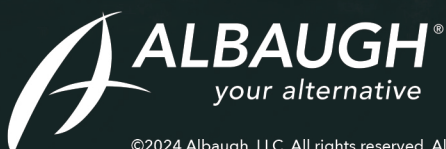
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