



FROM THE CHAIR ↘

Introduction from the Chair

2013 was the tale of two dry bean crops. Early planted beans were harvested with good quality and above average yield, while the majority of June planted dry beans were/are still swimming in the field as of mid-November. The quality of later planted beans has surprisingly held up well although yields in many cases were unfortunately below average. I would like to give credit to those professional dry bean growers who persevered this fall, working through very challenging conditions, doing their very best, to bring in the high quality dry edible beans Ontario is known for!

2014 crop prices have held steady, providing a strong positive cash flow opportunity for dry edible bean growers. This reality is currently not afforded by other Ontario cash crops. Finally, the premium that dry edible beans deserve and are known for is back, albeit at the expense of our other main crops.

Your Board has been active since its inception putting operating policies and procedures in place. We now have a full complement of focused and dedicated staff actively working for Ontario Bean Growers. Your Board has negotiated stable pick and dry bean handling rates for the next three years, as well as agreed to a continuation of the drying charge formula established for navy beans. This all meant to provide some expense stability to producers over the next few years. Additionally, the board is preparing for a dynamic AGM in the New Year where we will share our research and market development objectives as well as a number of other high level goals driven by our new strategic plan. I sincerely look forward to greeting you all there. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any issues, concerns, or even compliments that you may have regarding Ontario Bean Growers. Good luck with the balance of your harvest operations and please remember to work safe as the days get shorter.

STEVE TWYNSTRA, OBG CHAIR



↘ 2014 POOL ELECTIONS

Beginning in 2014, all growers will only be required to elect navy beans to the pool. An election form has been included with this newsletter for reference. For direct marketed beans of all types, no election form is required.

In order for navy beans to be included in the 2014 pool, election forms must be received in the **Ontario Bean Growers** office on or before June 30, 2014.

Drying/pick Charges

Your Ontario Bean Growers board met with the dealers this fall and successfully negotiated for pick and handle charges on pooled navy beans to remain stable for the next three years at the values circulated in the last newsletter and posted online at www.ontariobeans.on.ca/producers/news. Additionally, your board has worked with the dealers to maintain the drying formula for pooled navy beans for the same three year time period to bring stability to producer expenses.

PREMISES ID

Ontario Bean Growers would like your Premises ID. As a requirement of our Traceability Foundations Initiative funding that has allowed us to update our producer database, the database must include the Premises ID numbers of our members.

Please provide them to Erin Morgan at emorgan@ontariobeans.on.ca or 519-271-8641 so we can keep our files up to date.

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for **Ontario Bean Growers** will take place February 25, 2014 at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre at 70497 Road 164 (Highway 23). The meeting will commence at 9 am.

The agenda will include updates from Chair Steve Twynstra and General Manager Erin Morgan as well as the presentation of both the OBPMB and OCBGA financial statements. A guest speaker will provide insight into the industry and lunch will be provided.

RESOLUTIONS

Ontario Bean Growers would like to hear from our members through a resolution session held at the Annual General Meeting. We ask that all resolutions be submitted in writing to the General Manager by noon on the day of the meeting.

ELECTION

In 2014, the membership of OBG will elect three directors to the Ontario Bean Growers Board of Directors to a two-year term – one from each district. The districts are:

District 1 – Brant, Chatham-Kent, Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Hamilton, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk and Oxford

District 2 – Bruce and Huron

District 3 – Perth, Waterloo, Wellington and all other geographic areas not within Districts 1 & 2

A grower who produces beans in a district is eligible to vote and be elected as a director on the Ontario Bean Growers Board of Directors for that district. If a grower produces beans in more than one district, that grower may only vote and run for the position of director to the OBG Board of Directors in one district. If a grower wishes to vote and/or be nominated to run for the position of director to the OBG Board of Directors, in a district other than the district in which they reside, that grower must make declaration to the OBG General Manager in written form on or before January 14, 2014. Such a declaration will change the grower's district designation in the OBG database until such time as a future written declaration is received by the OBG General Manager. Otherwise, each grower will be assigned to the district in which they reside according to the current OBG database.

A grower is eligible to vote and run for a director position on the Board of Directors if they grew dry edible beans of any market class in 2012 and/or 2013, or if they have a contract to grow beans in 2014. If the farm is not individually owned, only one person may represent that farm entity. This can be an employee, shareholder, director or partner in the business. In order to vote on behalf of a farm with multiple owners, a 2014 Farm Representative Designation form must be completed prior to or on the day of the AGM, prior to the election. The form has been included with this newsletter – please complete it and bring it with you to the AGM on February 25, 2014.

Nominations for director positions on the **OBG Board of Directors** will be accepted in writing by the OBG General Manager at the Stratford office.

Nominations must be in written form using the form supplied by OBG that includes the name of the nominee, the names of the nominator and seconder and the signatures of all three. All nominations must be received or postmarked by the deadline of 5 pm Eastern Time 10 business days prior to the Annual General Meeting (February 11, 2014).

The nomination form is included with this newsletter and is also online at www.ontariobeans.on.ca.

For those who have previously served as a director on the Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board and/or the Ontario Coloured Bean Growers Association, there is a maximum 15 combined years of service after which a grower is not eligible to run for a director position on the OBG board. Years of service as a delegate and/or committee man do not count in this aggregate.

More information on the election process and eligibility can be found in the Farm Products Marketing Act here:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2013/elaws_src_regs_r13162_e.htm.

COMMITTEE UPDATES ▾

	RESEARCH	MARKET DEVELOPMENT	FINANCE & AUDIT	GOVERNANCE
MEMBERS	Jeff Allan Marinus Bakker Larry Jenner Grant Jones Bob Luyben Warren Wolfe	Hugh Aerts Gary Fluttert Jim Gowland Walter McKenzie Steve Twynstra	Hugh Aerts Larry Jenner Bob Luyben Steve Twynstra	Gary Fluttert Larry Jenner Grant Jones Bob Luyben
ROLE	Guide annual research priorities, review project proposals, results and funding opportunities to make research recommendations to the board.	Guide annual market development priorities, review market development initiatives and investments for results based on priorities and evaluate funding opportunities to make market development recommendations to the board.	Review the financial statements of the board including the quarterly profit and loss statements and year-end audit for accuracy and performance based on budget and develop and recommend the annual budget to the board of directors.	Guide policies, procedures and by-laws of the board, plan the Annual General Meeting including elections, procedures and guest speaker and make recommendations to the board on such matters.
REPORT	There are 18 research projects in the current OBG research budget. Seven of the projects will be finalized this fiscal year, with the majority of the new project commitments being through the national pulse cluster administered by Pulse Canada. The Committee has set four research priorities for the next fiscal year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insect resistance ▪ Root disease management ▪ Leaf disease management ▪ Plant architecture 	After the review of recent market studies and information from industry, OBG will focus market development efforts in four areas. Targeting North American market opportunities for the black bean market class, improving navy bean performance through end user variety testing, working to eliminate international marketing barriers in partnership with Ontario bean dealers and market research into European kidney bean marketing opportunities.	The draft OCBGA and OBPMB financial statements have been reviewed. More work is required to ensure the statements are consistent with one another. The committee will meet again ahead of the Annual Meeting to review and recommend the statements for approval by the board.	The Committee made recommendations to the board on AGM and election structure including the nomination procedure, zone representation and voting. A date and location were set for the Annual Meeting and speakers were discussed and recommended. Per diems and meeting minutes' structure were also discussed. It was recommended minutes follow Roberts Rules.

Pulse Canada – Mission ImPULSEible

The Mission: ImPULSEible food development competition was created by Pulse Canada in 2009 as a way to get university and college students interested in using pulses and pulse ingredients in the development of new food products. Post-secondary students enrolled in Food Science or a related discipline or a culinary arts program at a University, College, Technical College or Culinary School are invited to participate in Mission: ImPULSEible. Each province holds a competition and the winners in each province compete nationally. The result is innovative, tasty and marketable food products containing whole pulses or pulse ingredients.

2013 marked the fifth annual Mission: ImPULSEible Student Food Product Development Competition. Provincial competitions were held in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and in Nova Scotia in early 2013. On August 21st, the provincial winners met in Toronto to present and market their innovative food products to a panel of judges.

This year, **first place** was awarded to **Team Ontario**, represented by Margaret Clark and Camille Shniffer from the University of Guelph. Their award-winning “*Nutrisnaps*” crackers are made with lentil, pea and pinto bean flours and were presented in three flavour combinations: rosemary and sea salt, sundried tomato and herbs, and roasted chili and tamarind.

MARGARET CLARK AND CAMILLE SHNIFFER
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH



▼ ASSESSMENT OF FOOD HEALTH CLAIM POTENTIAL OF BEANS

Through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's (AAC) CAAP program, the Ontario Bean Growers were able to leverage grower dollars to fund a project which searched and evaluated published clinical evidence regarding beans and cholesterol-lowering properties within the regulatory guidelines for food health claims in Canada and the USA. The project also looked to validate this evaluation with an expert panel workshop to come to a consensus on whether the evidence is strong enough to gain regulatory approval as a recognized health claim in Canada and/or the USA.

Through this project, existing clinical evidence was evaluated in the context of health claim requirements in Canada and the USA. While the evidence to support a health claim for beans and cholesterol-lowering properties is consistently favourable (as determined through Nutrasource Diagnostics Inc.'s systematic literature review and confirmed by academic researchers at the expert panel workshop), the strength of this evidence as it relates to statistical significance in clinical studies is weak. Based on expert recommendations and commentary from the expert panel workshop the Ontario Bean Growers and Pulse Canada have decided to not proceed in filing a health claim application to Health Canada or the US FDA at this time. Based on these outcomes, the Ontario Bean Growers have decided to explore an alternative option and have partnered with Pulse Canada to fund a project which will conduct a systematic literature review on beans, peas, and chickpeas and how they control blood sugar. Ideally the results from this new project will result in a health claim submission in Canada and the USA.

A NOVEL METHOD *for the* PRODUCTION *of* HIGH FUNCTIONAL PROTEIN *from* WHITE BEAN FLOUR

White bean is primarily consumed as a baked or canned bean but there is growing interest in its utilization as a protein ingredient. The conventional techniques for bean protein production involves the use of solvents, concentrated bases and acids which results in protein denaturation and solubility loss. These processes also generate a large volume of environmentally hazardous wastes.

The overall objective of this project was to develop a novel method of protein extraction method that would preserve the protein functionality and at the same time, would be environmentally clean and economically feasible. This proof of concept project explored the potential of an electrostatic separation technique (a solvent-free separation process) for the production of protein rich fraction from bean flour. The protein, carbohydrate, and other ingredients contained in the bean flour were charged and passed through an electric field which deflected the particles according to the size and type of their charge.

A comprehensive literature review was performed on structural features and chemical compositions of beans, available protein separation technologies, and electrostatic separation techniques. An electrostatic separator prototype was designed and fabricated by Advanced CER T Canada Inc. for charging and separating the proteins from the bean flour. The set-up was modified several times to overcome process challenges. In the end, Advanced CERT was able to increase the protein content of bean flour from 22-26% in the feed to 35-38% in the protein rich fractions.

The process evaluated produces protein-rich flour from beans without consuming solvents and chemicals. Once perfected the process should result in reduced capital and operating costs for extracting and or concentrating the protein fraction in dry beans. It also significantly reduces the waste and its associated bio-hazardous risks and treatment costs. As a result from the outcomes of this project, CERT Canada will pursue additional funding to optimize the extraction of protein and then to scale up the process to a more industrial size.

Investment in this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Ontario, this program is delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.

HEINZ HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT
BUYER OF ONTARIO NAVY
AND KIDNEY BEANS



➤ HEINZ PLANT CLOSING

In mid-November Heinz announced their intention to close their Leamington canning plant in a staged process over the next six to eight months. Two other facilities in the United States were also closed at the same time – one in Florence, SC and the other in Pocatello, ID. It is their intention to shift the production from these facilities to other factories in Canada and the US.

Heinz has been a significant buyer of Ontario navy and kidney beans for decades and there has been no indication from the company that there is any intention to shift purchasing away from Ontario dry edible beans. Ontario Bean Growers will continue to work with dealers and end users, including Heinz to build and maintain markets for Ontario's dry edible beans.

2013 Risk Management Program

Pre-harvest market prices are now available on agricorp.com for the 2013 Risk Management Program (RMP) plan for grains and oilseeds. Dry edible beans did not trigger a payment in the pre-harvest period of this crop year. For more information on the crops that did trigger payments and on 2013 program details, visit agricorp.com.

▶ REPORT YOUR YIELDS TO AGRICORP BY DECEMBER 15

Don't forget December 15 is the Production Insurance yield reporting deadline. If you still haven't reported your yield, call Agricorp at 1-888-247-4999 Monday to Friday, 7 am to 5 pm.

When you call, make sure you have your total dry yield or bin measurements, your final harvest date and the cause of loss if you are in a production claim.



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▶ www.ontariobeans.on.ca

NEW WEBSITE

Throughout the fall, **Ontario Bean Growers** has been working with Brick House Productions to update the website to reflect the branding and outlook of the new organization. The site will be developed in two phases with the first stage being a migration of the current content to the newly branded site. The second phase will include the addition of new content including new recipes, a larger section for growers with board information easily accessible and a blog to keep consumers informed about the latest bean news.



OBG Receives Strategic Planning Funding

Ontario Bean Growers was successful in receiving funding under Growing Forward 2 for our strategic planning project with Dr. David Sparling from the Ivey Business School.

The objective of the project is to work with Dr. Sparling as a facilitator and members of the value chain including the OBG board of directors, dry edible bean dealers and end users to identify the best opportunities within the bean value chain for the Ontario Bean Growers to focus efforts that will maximize the value back to Ontario's bean growers and dry edible bean industry.

The strategic plan will focus on increasing acres of dry edible beans in Ontario, increasing bean yield and identifying market opportunities for Ontario's dry edible beans through existing and new marketing channels. The strategic planning process will focus our efforts into the areas where the most value will be gained for growers and the industry as a whole.