



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am penning this message after record breaking low temperatures on September 19th damaged many crops in the province. Luckily most plants were well advanced prior. I brought in aerial reinforcements to protect my double crop of cranberry beans but the damage was still extensive. It was an expensive endeavour but if I had not tried to save it, I would have always wondered what was possible. We'll see if it's harvestable. Never a dull moment when you grow beans.



We really missed hosting our annual research day and plot tour at the Huron Research Station this summer. I know it is one of the OBG highlights of the year for many of you. We did manage to hold a small-scale field day for our Directors and Delegates, socially distanced, of course. Stops on the tour included a white mold monitoring station, a

beautiful field of Dynasty dark red kidneys and the aforementioned double crop.

A small group also ventured up to the Dundalk area to check out the large seeded trials planted by board member Nick Cressman. This region has nice soils and cooler, more moist summers which are great for growing beans providing they mature before a killing frost. OBG is setting up trials here to see which varieties and market classes are best adapted for local growers.

Speaking of adaptation. We are hearing reports and documenting harvesting problems involving green stems and regrowth after desiccation in some varieties and market classes. We encourage everyone to pass any concerns you have on to OBG so we can pass this along to our researchers. The loss of glyphosate is making uniform plant senescence and drydown a key variety trait going forward.



On the promotions front, our work has shifted to an entirely digital focus including participation in the virtual trade show at a Type 1 Diabetes conference held recently. We have also increased our presence on social media with an aim at helping consumers to use up all the beans they purchased in the spring (and hopefully continue with their new purchasing habits going forward).

Government relations continues to be a top priority for OBG. We have been working closely with OMAFRA and Agricorp staff to find ways to enhance the programs they have on offer, making them work better for our growers.

Finally, I want to let you know that your Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to hold the AGM virtually in 2021. More details will come out with the December newsletter. Have a great safe harvest!

Mike



Due to ongoing concern around COVID-19, the OBG Board of Directors has made the decision to hold the 2021 AGM in a virtual format. Details on this and the election process will be made available in the December newsletter.

20-21 License Fees

The 20-21 OBG License Fees will remain at \$6.80/MT. Bean dealers are required to submit license fees on behalf of growers when buying beans. There are currently 10 Ontario Bean Dealers remitting license fees to OBG (see PDF at bit.ly/ONbeanddealers for listing). If you are selling to someone not on this list, they are not remitting license fees on your behalf. If you are unsure if license fees have been remitted on your behalf, please contact Jennifer at the OBG office at jennifer@ontariobeans.on.ca.



OBG LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

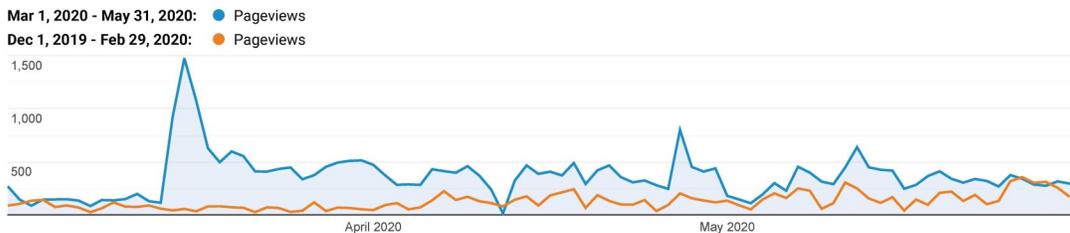
We are really excited to announce the launch of our new OBG website as of September 29, 2020.

While the former site looked good on the surface, its internal workings were archaic (by web development standards) so it was time for a complete overhaul. Growers can navigate to the “Industry” tab at the top left of the landing page to access the grower side of the site.

We will also be launching a stand alone dry bean agronomy website. Drybeanagronomy.ca will be a one stop shop for all things dry bean agronomy related. It will outline agronomic management practices for dry bean production in Ontario and brings together expertise and research results from extension specialists and academic researchers. The site is being developed in cooperation with and will be managed by Meghan Moran, Canola and Edible Bean Specialist, OMAFRA.

Speaking of websites, it seems that COVID-19 has played a huge roll in driving people to ours. The blue line on the graph below represents the period from March 1 to May 31, 2020, and the orange line, the 3 preceding months (Dec. to Feb.). The spike in March comes on March 16th - the day everything started to shut down.

The most viewed page was our “how to cook page”. Pageviews increased from 114 during the preceding three months to 12,336 from March-May.



RESEARCH CONTINUES DESPITE PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

Despite the many restrictions put in place due to COVID-19, dry bean research at the University of Guelph and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has carried on, for the most part, as normal. Ontario Bean Growers (OBG) was in touch with all of our researchers during the early weeks of the pandemic and each of them gave assurance that they were stressing the importance of the continuation of dry bean research at their respective institutions. Losing a year of work, especially in the breeding programs, would have been a huge set back for the industry.

Since Dr. Jamie Larsen and his team at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada- Harrow took over the dry bean breeding program, they have put significant effort into improving the speed at which varieties are released to Ontario bean growers. Part of this was designing and installing an automated “speed breeding” system in the winter of 2020 which uses LED lights and hydroponics to cut off 2-3



AAFC staff found a creative way to stay physically distanced during planting this spring.



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ACREAGE REPORT

	White Beans	Black Beans	Cranberry Beans	Kidney Beans	Japan/Other Beans	Adzuki Beans	Pinto Beans	Small Red	Great Northern	Other	Total
ON	75,548	17,372	11,130	21,560	10,670	21,283					157,563
MB	42,923	20,940	5,258	12,402			95,417	631		7,538	185,109
AB		4,800					27,200	3,000	23,600	4,500	63,100

Ontario Data provided by Agricorp

Manitoba Data provided by MASC

Alberta Data provided by AFSC

US Data provided by USDA

Planted acres in Ontario are up significantly this year from 130,670 in 2019 to 157,563. White beans acres increased by 13,615 from 61,933 in 2019 to 75,548 in 2020. For the second year in a row, Adzukis had the next largest acreage to whites gaining 1,312 acres over 2019. Blacks, kidneys and Japan/other (comprised mostly of Otebos) are up by 6,788, 4,978 and 1,767, respectively, over the previous year. Crans saw a decrease of 1,567.

Manitoba's acres are up by 30,571 to 185,109 in 2020.

In the US, North Dakota continues to lead bean production with 790,000 acres planted this season, up 175,000 over 2019. Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska follow with 258,000, 255,000 and 140,000 acres respectively. Colorado saw an increase of 16,000 from 37,000 in 2019 to 53,000 in 2020, pushing Idaho out of the fifth place spot with 41,000 (a decrease of 6,000 acres from 2019). Total US dry bean planted acres for 2020 is 1.628 million, up from 1.287 million in 2019.

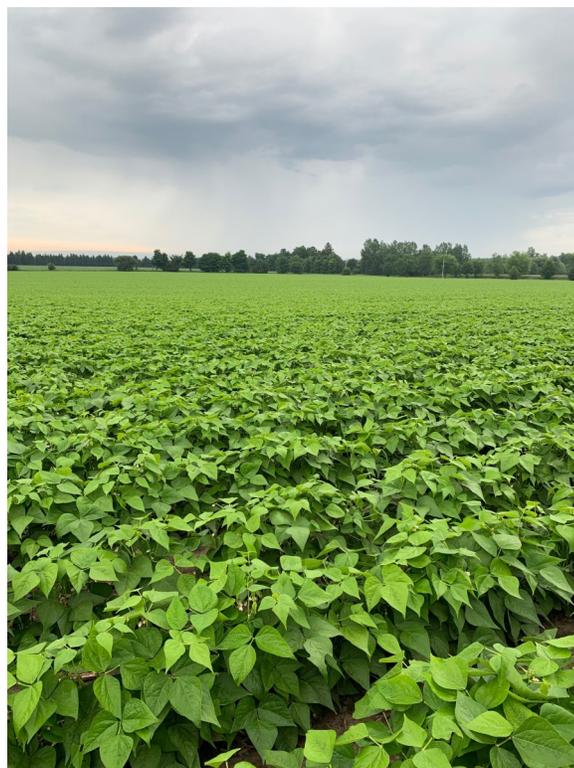
The acreage in Ontario is the highest it has been since OBG's inception in 2013, and even before that. While the global pandemic can account for increased demand, there were a number of other factors at play. Marion Hunt from Hensall Co-op provides the following overview:

“Poor harvest conditions in 2019 – in the western regions of Canada/USA acres were lost, yields were reduced and quality was challenging due to wet weather, including snowfall. As a result, lower than anticipated production came from the 2019 crop in Canada/USA

Covid-19 – increased global retail demand for pulses, both packaged and canned, as countries went into lockdown, along with increased food aid interest.

More attractive grower programs versus other commercial crops during the planning and planting season of 2020.

As a result, we've seen increased acreage in all Canada/USA growing regions. Up until recent frost scares in the western growing regions, we have had an optimistic expectation for solid yields, however, we know not to count the beans, before they're in the bins. “



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years from the usual 8-9 years that it takes to get a new bean variety registered. A large portion of certified seed production for Ontario is completed in Idaho. This leads to significantly increased cost of production to farmers. The long term goal of Larsen's program is to bring all dry bean seed production back to Ontario, by the time he retires, through development of high yielding and disease resistant varieties. This speed breeding system, which is the only one like it in the world, is a key step in that direction.

COVID-19 required re-thinking and prioritization of objectives for all indoor and outdoor research programs across Canada, regardless of organization. The end result of COVID-19 for Larsen's breeding program was a group-based brainstorming effort with AAFC staff at Harrow and London to streamline field work. As a result, the program was able to successfully complete all the field work of a normal year with less resources. This includes yield trials that generate variety performance data for GoBeans.ca and field work funded by OBG research initiatives like disease nurseries (bacterial blights, white mold and root rot) and breeding program activities.

The breeding team at AAFC-Harrow encourages you to reach out and contact them with questions or issues you are seeing in the field.

E-mail : Jamie.Larsen@canada.ca or by phone 226-935-8267

You can follow and interact with the breeding program on Twitter: @Jamie_larsen or @BeansAndGenes

The University of Guelph Bean Breeding and Genetics group continued all aspects of the bean breeding research, in spite of the limitations that were faced because of the pandemic. However, they scaled back the number of tests by 25% to accommodate the extra steps and measures that are required to keep research personnel safe in travelling to the field, on equipment in the field and in the lab. Details of the field research that was conducted this season is available at this link to the virtual open house that was held in late August <http://bit.ly/UGvirtualtour>.



Harvesting the plots at U of G

Both of the breeding programs receive funding through a five-year research investment into bean research projects by Ontario Bean Growers and the Pulse Research Cluster.

The cluster also includes Alberta Pulse Growers, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Pulse Canada and is supported by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada AgriScience Clusters Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.



Dr. Peter Sikkema presents plans for the next two years of weed management research during a research committee meeting held in August.

On the weed management side of things, OBG's three year CAP funded project with the University of Guelph's Dr. Peter Sikkema wraps up this fall. Dr. Sikkema shared his plans for the next round of funding at a socially distanced research committee meeting held in late August. One hot topic as of late is desiccation and harvest aids. With the loss of glyphosate in 2019 due to market access concerns, growers have had to move to using less effective products. Issues with green stem have been prevalent during harvest and it is clear that we need to focus our efforts on finding solutions for this.

Annual Research Report Coming Soon!

The report should be completed by the end of November and will be posted on the website. Be sure to sign up for the Eblast list (see inside newsletter) to receive notification when the report is published.

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