

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ontario Bean Growers & AgScape Launch a New Teachers Guide on the Innovations of Ontario Dry Bean Farming in Celebration of Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month

ONTARIO – AgScape, working with the Ontario Bean Growers is launching a new Teachers Guide- an Exploration of Dry Bean Farming, for Ontario students Grades 4-10.

This new resource for Ontario educators invites students to explore - in three engaging, hands-on lessons - the nutritional benefits of beans, potential career opportunities as well as exploring the surprising innovations and technology utilized by Ontario bean farms. In particular it was important that the Teachers' Guide address the role bean farmers play as stewards of the environment. This resource also provides educators with an overview of the dry, bean industry, answering key questions around what does farming Ontario beans look like and what does it mean for the over health and sustainability of our province.

Jennifer Mitchell, Project Manager at Ontario Beans Growers said, "Looking at it from an industry perspective, it is important for us to highlight the many opportunities available in the agri-food sector. Imagine if, unbeknownst to us, a future bean breeder or weed scientist, or plant pathologist, is among the students exposed to our resources, and that exposure is what lights the spark for them to take that path."

"While working on this resource, my *own* family has deepened its appreciation of this amazing, versatile food. Learning *how* to use dry beans in our cooking has expanded our own food journey and encouraged our kids to become more curious about trying the foods grown right here in Ontario," said Shaunna MacQuarrie, AgScape Project Assistant and Ontario Certified Teacher.

An Exploration of Dry Bean Farming, Teacher Guide for Grades 4-10, is the featured resource being offered in celebration of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month, this March 2021. Educators interested in receiving this resource can register for AgScape's Teacher Resource Packages at: <https://bit.ly/AgScapeTR21>. It's never been more important for students to recognize the vital role they can play as informed consumers and supporters of Ontario food and agriculture sector.

To learn more about other activities AgScape is offering in celebration of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month: <http://bit.ly/CALM21>.

About AgScape

AgScape is a charitable organization providing objective, fact-based and curriculum-linked resources to Ontario schools on agriculture, food production, environmental sustainability, and related topics. AgScape was created in 1991 with the mission to empower Ontario students with impartial and accurate information to increase awareness of the agri-food system and ignite interest in related careers.

For more information, visit www.agscape.ca, follow us on Twitter [@AgScapeON](https://twitter.com/AgScapeON), Instagram [@AgScape_ON](https://instagram.com/AgScape_ON) and like us on [Facebook.com/AgScapeON](https://facebook.com/AgScapeON).

About Ontario Bean Growers

Ontario Bean Growers is a not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of farmers in Ontario that grow dry edible beans. Founded in July 2013, the organization is an amalgamation of the Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board and the Ontario Coloured Bean Growers Association. There are approximately 1000 farmers growing an average of 120,000 acres of dry edible beans annually, from the deep southwest in the Harrow/Windsor area to the opposite end of the province in the Ottawa valley.

Our mission is to collaborate with industry partners through research and development, to build an innovative, sustainable business environment and promote the consumption of dry edible beans, contributing to healthy growth for all stakeholders.

For more information, contact:

Mercedes Unwin
Program & Resource Manager, AgScape
programs@agscape.ca

Jordan Sloggett
Marketing & Communications Manager, AgScape
communications@agscape.ca

