



NEWS & VIEWS



From the Bean Field

DECEMBER 2023

Message from the Chair

Another year is pretty much in the books and fortunately it turned out to be a good one for most farmers. The weather gave us some challenges, which is not uncommon. Our season started with a protracted very dry spell at planting, but once it started to rain it would not stop. Our fungicide applications ability to control white mold were put to test with varying degrees of success given the record rainfall. We were very fortunate to get Dr. Michael Wunsch from North Dakota State University who specializes in white mold application research to speak at our upcoming annual meeting on February 20th, 2024. However, in the end yields and harvest conditions ended up being very favourable for the most part allowing most growers to call 2023 a successful crop year. From my personal perspective, this was an extremely positive experience again to call myself a Canadian, or more specifically, a Canadian farmer in Ontario.



The Ontario bean industry has been dealt an unfortunate hand this past year as we have a crop of hard-working key industry people retiring. Peter Pauls, Peter Sikkema and Chris Gillard all from the University of Guelph are retiring. There is a silver lining with this news that these key people will remain engaged to ensure that quality replacements are found and will help the transition go smooth.

Knowing that these scientists and teachers have been instrumental in mentoring a new generation of enthusiastic individuals, I have no doubt that we will be in good hands going forward. I personally want to extend a thank you to these key individuals as I have experienced a relationship with them all the back to when I was a student at Guelph myself.

OBG is also losing our very own Jennifer Mitchell who has been an extremely important part of our staff from KCI for the past 8 years and I am very sad to see her go. Congratulations to Jennifer as she is moving on to a new chapter in her career and we wish her well.

Looking towards next year as some commodity prices are struggling to stay profitable, it looks like the dry bean prices are remaining much more stable. For those growers who have been a part of this industry for years, this is the key reason that we grow the crop. Combine the current price and increased yields we are seeing with new home-grown varieties, the dry bean industry will remain a very important pillar of profitability for Ontario farmers now and into the future.

As the harvest and fall work season is coming to a close, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

Dave Woods

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Registration is now open!
February 20, 2024
Arden Park Hotel
Stratford

Register here: <https://obgagm2024.eventbrite.ca>

Pre-registration is required.

Visit
<https://bit.ly/obgagm2024>
for more details including:

Agenda
2022 Financial Statements
Election procedures

See inside the newsletter for
details on Director and
Delegate Nominations.

Resolutions

The submission deadline for resolutions is **February 16 at 4:00pm**. Resolutions should be submitted via the form found here:

<https://bit.ly/obgresolutions24>

**BETTER
WITH BEANS™**

Call for Director and Delegate Nominations

In 2023, the membership will elect three directors to the Ontario Bean Growers Board of Directors to a two-year term – one from each of the three districts.

District 1	District 2	District 3
Brant, Chatham-Kent, Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Hamilton, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk & Oxford	Bruce & Huron	Perth, Waterloo, Wellington & all other geographic areas not within Districts 1 & 2

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 2022 and/or 2023 and paid their annual license fees, or if they have a contract to grow beans in 2024. New growers who plan to grow beans in 2024 will be asked to complete an affidavit signed by their bean dealer as an indication of their commitment to grow beans in 2024 and pay board license fees. 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, the individual voting on behalf of the business must identify themselves as such on the online registration form.

A grower who produces beans in more than one district may vote and run for the position of director to the OBG Board of Directors in only 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 Board Office in written form on or before **January 16, 2024**. Such a declaration will change the grower's district designation in the OBG database until such time as a different written declaration is received by the OBG Board Office. Otherwise, each grower will be assigned to the district in which they reside according to the current OBG database.

Nomination Process

Director Nominations

Nominations for District Directors must be made using the online nomination form available on OBG's website. All nominations must be submitted by the deadline of **4 pm EST on February 13, 2024**.

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.

District Delegate Nominations

In an effort to streamline the election process, we are strongly encouraging that nominations for District Delegates to be made in advance of the AGM. Nominations can be made using the online form available on the OBG website. There will also be a call for nominations from the floor. If any elections for the board of directors are held, unsuccessful candidates can choose to have their names added to the Delegate ballot for their district. There are six positions open for each of the three districts. District delegate elections will take place following the director elections.

More information as well as the online nomination forms can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/obgagm2024>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Woods

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A MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER

It is with much sadness that I share the news that I will be wrapping up my time with OBG in the coming months. Earlier this year, I was presented with the opportunity to gradually take over Susan Fitzgerald's consulting business as she makes plans for retirement in the coming years. Like OBG's administrative services are provided by Koeslag Consulting Inc., Fitzgerald & Co. provides services to 14 agricultural-focused organizations ranging from the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners to the Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association, to the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame. Click here for a full listing of clients: <http://www.fitzgerald-and-co.com/associations.html>

As I've told many of you, I thought I was going to be a lifer with OBG. I was very happy with the work, well most of it - trying to secure leveraged funding for research projects in this day and age where every project needs to save the planet from climate change hasn't been much fun. We all know the work done in weed management, pest management, and bean breeding incrementally increases sustainability (both for the farm operation and the planet) - but this work isn't new and sexy. Despite the challenges, we managed to get most of what we needed for the next 5 year funding cycle. Hopefully, we'll be able to share more specifics on this at the AGM.

Speaking of the AGM - I start full-time hours with Fitzgerald & Co. in January, but will also be continuing to support OBG through to the AGM on February 20th.

Highlights of my time with OBG include:

- Research Days (I'm going to miss that steak) and AGMs
- pulling together the nomination for Dynasty for Seed of the Year...and then surprising Peter Pauls and Tom Smith that Dynasty had been name Seed of the Year
- calling Peter Twynstra to let him know that he was being inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame
- participating on the committee that brought the Canadian Pulse Research Workshop to Windsor.
- The Love Canadian Beans campaign winning Best Microsite and Best in Show - Digital at the 2023 Canadian Agri-food

Marketers Alliance Awards

- Working with board members and delegates to deliver on OBG's Vision and Mission

I will really miss working collaboratively on the National Bean Strategy with colleagues at Pulse Canada, Alberta Pulse Growers, and Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers and attending Pulse Canada meetings.

I will also really miss the consumer-focused work - promoting Ontario beans and bean recipes on social media and taking the bean booth to events like Farm and Food Care's Breakfast on the Farm. When my daughter found out we wouldn't be doing that anymore, she cried. She helped me at all three Breakfasts held in 2023. She loved promoting beans as much as she loved eating beans (mostly in black bean brownie form).

Olivia Yemam will be taking over from me beginning in January. Olivia joined the Koeslag Consulting Team a year ago to cover a maternity leave for the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. I will be working with Olivia in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition.



Promoting beans at Breakfast on the Farm in Napanee.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to Ryan Koeslag. Working with you has been one of the best parts of this job. You trusted me to build systems, make creative decisions, and lead projects. OBG thrives because of your leadership and it has been a privilege being a part of your team.

It has been such a pleasure getting to know so many of you over the past (going on) eight years and I hope our paths will cross again. If anyone wishes to stay in touch you can find me at jennifermitchell933@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Sign up for Ontario Bean Growers' e-newsletters by scanning the QR codes below or sending your contact information to jennifer@ontariobeans.on.ca. Be sure to indicate which list(s) you would like to be added to.



OBG EBLAST

Monthly newsletter including timely topics for growers and industry stakeholders.

THE BEAN SCENE

Consumer focused newsletter sent quarterly.



University of Guelph Variety Licensing Agreement - Info for Growers

In 2020, the Ontario Bean Growers Board of Directors and the Office of Research at the University of Guelph (UofG) established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming the Variety Commercialization Advisory Committee (VCAC). The purpose of the VCAC is to provide a forum for collaborative strategic discussion to enhance the commercialization process and maximize the economic impact of varieties developed by the Breeding Program.

A recent outcome of this MOU is the addition of a clause that will ensure access to UofG varieties to Ontario dry bean growers, regardless of which dealer they contract with. Any Ontario bean dealer licensing a UofG variety will be required to make every effort to meet the demand for seed for their own growers, as well as any other Ontario growers who wish to grow that variety. Recognizing, of course, that seed supply can be a challenge at times.

This clause applies only to UofG varieties licensed after August 2020.

Make sure you include dry beans in your 2024 crop plan!

There are currently 15 Ontario Bean Dealers remitting license fees to OBG - 12 of which have agreed to OBG promoting their company (see PDF at <https://ontariobeans.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Dealers-list.pdf>)

If you are unsure if license fees have been remitted on your behalf, please contact the OBG office at info@ontariobeans.on.ca.



**ONTARIO
Bean
GROWERS**

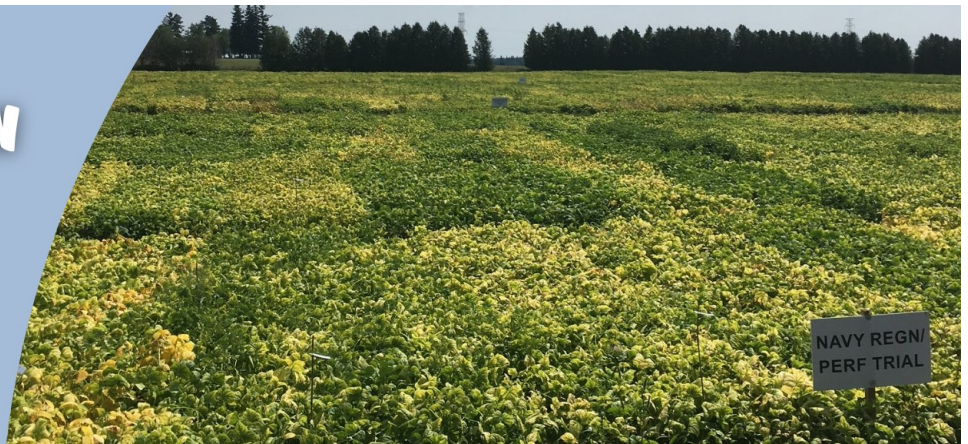
Contact an
Ontario Bean
Dealer today for
contract
information

**GROW
DRY BEANS
IN 2024**

2024 ONTARIO DRY BEAN VARIETY TRIALS

VISIT GOBEANS.CA

Data Collected 2019-2023



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Growers



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