



Photo courtesy of Spencer Wenzelbach



Message from the Chair

With Spring in full force, planting is top of mind! That being said, what with very little winter to speak of, it is not going to be a super early planting season, as we were perhaps thinking back in late January or into February. IF indeed climate change has caused this "close to no winter," who knows where this roller coaster will take us! We will have all the answers on this spring by June 20th! It is interesting to note that back many years ago, indeed many many years ago in February of 1890, farmers were planting oats in McGillivray Township, which is now part of North Middlesex (County).

Generally new crop edible beans, though with prices slightly weaker, at least at this early stage of the crop year, versus the last 2 crop years, still look attractive to growers, if one can get a good yield, and have price coverage, perhaps, on at least a portion of one's crop. In fact, in some market classes, today's prices are close to 2021 levels! The "Wild Card" here again, as is usually the case with edibles, is the yield/weather/market interaction. Again, before Christmas, one may have all the answers!! Mexico's moisture (drought) issues might make things interesting once again!!!!

I HOPE, literally, everyone that farms in "ONTARIO", is very aware of major weed issues that have really started to expand their footprint across the province!! WATER HEMP, for sure, (and possibly Palmer Amaranth) has reared its ugly head, now getting into some areas of the best edible bean acres ----> Perth and Middlesex Counties, for sure!! Obviously, Water Hemp is no stranger to the South West part of Ontario, but in its most recent "expansion phase," through mechanical movement and very poor weed control; it's on the verge of EXPLODING in edible bean areas. This could well become a DISASTER for all edible bean growers as our herbicide options are basically VERY VERY LIMITED!! One can only hope that these specific, already infested acres, are managed to the highest level of weed control possible. IF NOT, only the newest GMO crops will be the only means of having success. I am not trying to single out any specific individuals at all in this case, BUT, PLEASE, if one sees a weird looking pigweed, or whatever in your fields this year, please reach out for advice on how to deal with it. These TWO BAD ACTORS (Water Hemp and Palmer Amaranth) are like getting CANCER - at the very least; if one is proactive on identifying and then keeping them under control (absolutely no tolerance for seed set), at least, we have a chance of at least slowing down their damned progression!!

- MAY EVERYONE have a) a very safe planting season
- b) an enjoyable planting season

Jamie Payton
Chair
Ontario Bean Growers



Pigweed



Waterhemp



Palmer Amaranth



ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY PLOT TOUR & BBQ

Registration is now open!
August 21, 2024

Huron Research Station

1:00pm - Research
presentations
4:00pm - Plot tour

Steak BBQ to follow tour

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