

Photo Credit: Chris Fischer

NEWS & VIEWS

# From the Bean Field

OCTOBER 2026

## Message from the Chair



As August comes to an end, I reflect on last weekend, in the St. Marys area (almost 5 inches of rain over 2 days) and some rather, in my opinion, to say the least, disappointing decisions made by a certain person, in an oval office, WOW, life, in many ways, can be very interesting!!

Obviously, one cannot control environmental or political issues, but overall, Ontario is still a tremendous place to live. Weather, as usual, was hit and miss again this year, with some areas in the province excessively rained on, others, for example in the St. Marys area, only having received 0.3 inches from July 2nd up to July 31st. There was some replanting of edible beans this year. August, for a lot of areas, did come across with drought-breaking precipitation. A lot of edible bean areas look to have great yield potential, some too much so as mould outbreaks are being reported, although in the Wingham area and likely elsewhere, with droughty conditions carrying on for too long, mould in those specific areas will not be an issue as those plants were stressed, moisture-wise, for too long of a period, causing a smaller than normal stature.

Research-wise, we are sitting in great shape, except for one SNAG!! We have Dr. Mohsen, Dr. Isabelle Aicklen, and John Fluttert (Meghan Moran's replacement) on board, We also know we have Dr. Irish Pabuayon (Chris Gillard's replacement) approved, but Irish is currently awaiting immigration approval into Canada. Federal government politicians have indicated they are aware of her situation and have promised to help expedite her specific case. Hopefully, this will be dealt with immediately. In the big picture, with the aforementioned people, along with our support staff, and Dr. Jamie Larsen and staff at AAFC, Ontario edible bean growers should benefit greatly in the future, with such a strong, dynamic team.
With some farmers talking of desiccating early-planted, early-season edibles very shortly, obviously harvest is just around the corner, with September here in less than a week. (Where did another summer just go??)

PLEASE, EVERYONE, think, not only safety for our own families and friends, but also for ALL of those outside of agriculture! It just seems, especially on our roads, whether paved or not, some folks just do not understand how big and slow our machines are relative to their MACH ONE speeds—this small minority of aggressive drivers pose a great risk to themselves and our families.

MAY everyone have a HAPPY, HEALTHY and SAFE Harvest for 2026.

Jamie Payton
Chair
Ontario Bean Growers




### SAVE THE DATE

**Annual General Meeting**

**February 23, 2027**

Arden Park Hotel
Stratford

### 2026-27 LICENSE FEES

The 2026-27 OBG License Fees remain at $5.50/MT.

Bean dealers are required to submit license fees on behalf of growers when buying beans. There are currently 13 Ontario bean dealers remitting license fees to OBG (see PDF at https://ontariobeans.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Dealers-list-2025-26-FINAL.pdf 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 Olivia at the OBG office at olivia@ontariobeans.on.ca

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## Acreage Report

Dry bean acreage declined across several major growing regions in 2026, following a strong planting year in 2025.

In Ontario, total planted acres fell from 129,520 in 2025 to 117,845 in 2026, a decrease of 11,675 acres (9.0%). White beans remained Ontario's largest dry bean class, with 57,430 acres planted, down 6,098 acres from the previous year. Black bean acreage also declined, falling by 9,729 acres to 10,820. Kidney beans were a bright spot, increasing by 2,571 acres to 21,881, while Japan/Other beans rose to 7,804 acres.

In Manitoba, planted acreage declined from 209,195 acres in 2025 to an estimated 151,500 acres in 2026, a decrease of 27.6%. Despite the reduction, Manitoba remained a major contributor to Canada's edible dry bean acreage.

| Region | 2025 Planted Acres | 2026 Planted Acres | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ontario | 129,520 | 117,845 | -11,675 (**-9.0%**) |
| Manitoba | 209,195 | 151,500 | -57,695 (**-27.6%**) |
| Alberta | 59,631 | *Not confirmed* | — |
| Saskatchewan | *Not confirmed* | *Not confirmed* | — |
| United States | 1,366,000 | 1,161,000 | -205,000 (**-15.0%**) |

*Ontario Data provided by Agricorp*
*Manitoba Data provided by Dry Bean World*
*Alberta Data provided by Dry Bean World*
*US Data provided by USDA*
*Saskatchewan Data not available at time of publish*

Across Canada, Statistics Canada estimated total dry bean acreage at 337,200 acres in 2026, down from 425,900 acres in 2025—a decline of approximately 21%. The decrease reflects a smaller planted area following the previous year's larger crop.

In the United States, dry bean acreage was estimated at approximately 1.16 million acres in 2026, down from 1.366 million acres in 2025. This represents a reduction of about 205,000 acres (15%). The USDA forecast U.S. dry bean production at 1.06 million tonnes, approximately 13% below the previous year.

With reduced planted acreage in both Canada and the United States, North American dry bean supplies are expected to tighten. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada forecasts the average Canadian dry bean price to rise to $900 per tonne in the 2026–27 crop year, reflecting lower expected North American supplies.

## 2024-25 Research Report Available

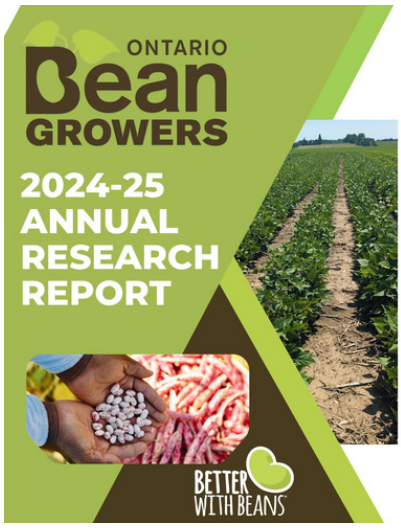
We're pleased to share the release of the Ontario Bean Growers' 2024-25 Research Report, highlighting the research and innovation helping move Ontario's dry bean sector forward.

The report features a range of OBG-supported research projects focused on key priorities for growers, including crop production, pest and weed management, variety development, sustainability, and the nutritional and market opportunities for beans.

Designed to keep growers, industry partners, and stakeholders informed, the Research Report provides an update on the progress being made through grower-funded research. Each project highlights the collaboration between Ontario bean growers, researchers, and industry partners to address challenges and identify new opportunities for the sector.

The latest Research Report is now available in print and online. View and download the digital report here: https://ontariobeans.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Dealers-list-2026-27-FINAL.pdf

We encourage you to take a look and see how your investment in research is helping drive innovation, address challenges, and build a stronger future for Ontario's bean industry.




## COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

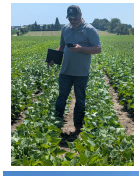
Sign up for Ontario Bean Growers' monthly e-blasts or consumer e-newsletter by scanning the QR code or sending your contact information to olivia@ontariobeans.on.ca.
Be sure to indicate which list(s) you would like to be added to.

**OBG EBLAST**
Monthly newsletter including timely topics for growers and industry stakeholders.

**THE BEAN SCENE**
Consumer focused newsletter sent quarterly.

## Delegate Meeting & Tour - August 2026












In early August, OBG held its annual Delegate Summer Meeting and Tour, bringing delegates together to discuss the current season and see some of OBG's research investments firsthand.

The morning meeting included discussions on current crop conditions, ongoing research and projects, organizational priorities, and the challenges facing growers. Delegates also reviewed the upcoming year's budget, set license fees, and discussed OBG's plans and priorities moving forward.

Following the meeting, delegates visited OBG's grower-funded "Year Zero" research plot in Grey County, just outside Dundalk. The trial is part of OBG's investment in this emerging bean-growing region and will help us better understand the opportunities and challenges of growing dry beans in the area. The tour also included an introduction to the use of drones in agriculture, with delegates seeing a live demonstration of the technology in the field.

We sincerely appreciate the time, input, and commitment of our delegates. Their participation and insight help guide OBG's work and ensure we continue to represent the interests and priorities of Ontario's bean growers.

## OBG Annual Research Day

On August 19, the Ontario Bean Growers hosted our annual Research Day at the Huron Research Station, bringing growers, researchers, industry partners, and guests together to learn about the latest research supporting Ontario's dry bean sector.

The afternoon featured updates from researchers and industry partners across a range of areas. Ted Vanhie provided an update from the Huron Research Station, while John Fluttert of OMAFA shared a crop update. Dr. Peter Pauls, Dr. Mohsen Yoosefzadeh Najafabadi, and Dr. Jamie Larsen provided updates on bean breeding research and cluster projects, while Dr. Isabelle Aicklen highlighted the Weed Professorship Program. Attendees also heard from Dr. Shari Hekmat on a functional food project, along with updates from Mike Donnelly-Vanderloo of OBG and Jeff English of Pulse Canada.

Following the presentations, attendees toured the research plots, getting a firsthand look at the research underway in the field and an opportunity to connect with the researchers behind the projects. The day wrapped up with a hearty steak BBQ, giving everyone a chance to continue the conversation and enjoy some time together.

A special thank you to Ted Vanhie, Don Depuydt, and the Huron Research Station team for delivering an excellent plot tour and preparing the station for the day.

We would also like to sincerely thank our event sponsors for their ongoing support. Your contributions help make Research Day possible each year.

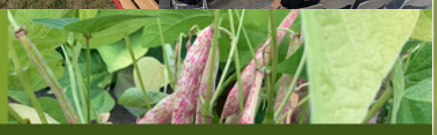
We appreciate everyone who attended, asked questions, and supported Ontario bean research. Research Day continues to be a valuable opportunity to connect growers with the research their investment is helping support.











*Resources for Ontario dry bean growers*

**drybeanagronomy.ca**



ONTARIO Bean GROWERS

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# FEATURE RECIPE: Chili-Stuffed Baked Potatoes with Chipotle Cream



Prep Time: 15 minutes | Cook Time: 2 hours 30 minutes | Total Time: 2 hours 45 minutes | Yield: Serves 15

Ingredients:

**Chili**

1 lb ground beef
1 lb ground pork
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
4–5 tbsp chili powder
2 tbsp cumin
1 sweet red pepper, chopped
1 zucchini, chopped
1 bottle beer
6 cups tomato purée
1 cup frozen or canned corn kernels
1 can red kidney beans, drained
1 can black beans, drained
Kosher salt and pepper
Handful cilantro stems, tied with string
Juice of 2 limes (to taste)
1 tbsp masa harina (optional, for thickening)

**Chipotle Cream**

¼ cup Greek yogurt
2 tsp mayonnaise
2 tsp chipotle in adobo purée (or just sauce for less heat)
Juice of ½ lime
Pinch of kosher salt

**Garnishes**

Chopped cilantro
Extra lime juice
Shredded cheddar, cotija, or feta

1. Cook the base: Heat oil in a heavy pot over medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic until softened. Add beef and pork; cook until browned, spooning off excess fat if needed.
2. Spice it up: Stir in chili powder, cumin, salt, and cook 2–3 minutes. Add red pepper and zucchini; cook 1 minute.
3. Build the chili: Pour in beer, tomato purée, and beans. Submerge the tied cilantro stems. Bring to a simmer, then reduce heat to low. Cook gently for 1½–2 hours, stirring occasionally.
4. Finish: Remove cilantro stems. Stir in lime juice, adjust salt and pepper. If using masa harina, add during the last 15–20 minutes to thicken.
5. Make chipotle cream: Mix yogurt, mayo, chipotle purée, lime juice, and salt until smooth.
6. Bake potatoes: Bake large potatoes until tender. Halve them, fluff the insides with a fork.
7. Assemble: Place half a potato on a plate, spoon chili over top, add a dollop of chipotle cream, and garnish with cilantro, lime, and cheese.







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