

Bean Commission News

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Mexico Issues Import Permits

Special points of interest:

- Mexico Dry Bean Production set at 343,468 metric tons
- Mexico Dry Bean Consumption set at 910,000 metric tons
- Mexico currently has issued 150,000 metric tons of import permits

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On January 17, SENASICA, the Secretariat of the Economy in Mexico, issued import permits for dry beans in the amount of 100,000 metric tons. That is just over 2.2 million bags of beans.

The move was initiated by the extremely low production of dry beans in the country for the Summer/Fall cycle. (See top of page 3)

The estimated total production of 343,468 metric tons was prepared by an Ag Consultant hired by the U.S. Dry Bean Council in October. The Council used to have its members do the survey, but due to the present "unsettled" conditions in Mexico, the Council decided it was safer to have

a Mexican Company do the assessment.

You must add to that the production estimate of 248,000 metric tons from the Fall-Winter crop, plus an estimated 48 thousand tons of carry-over, making the total available of 639,000 metric tons.

The second table (bottom of page) on page 3 shows the estimated consumption in Mexico of dry beans. This leaves a deficit of about 270,000 metric tons. With the U.S. exports to Mexico somewhere in the 100,000 to 120,000 tons annually to Mexico, this year's shorter dry bean availability pushed the Mexican Government to act on dry bean imports.

The import permits or Cupos, were issue on January 17th. The first 90,000 metric tons were issued to "Traditional bean importers that participated in previous auctions in 2005-2007 and that presented applications in 2008 and yesterday." The permits were issued on a first come, first serve basis. Eleven companies (of the 63 that applied) who are very familiar with dry bean importing received the 90,000 metric tons. The remaining 10,000 tons were assigned to "new" participants that do not have the "traditional" profiled. Again this was done on a first come, first serve basis with each company receiving 1,000

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Bean and Beet Day

The 2012 State Bean and Beet Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, at the Horizon Center in Saginaw.

Doors will open at 8:00 AM and the event will close at 4:00 PM that day.

We currently have 100 booths reserved by a variety of vendors. You will have the opportunity to talk to elevators, financial institutions, crop insurance writers and related dry bean and beet

industries.

The beet program will start in the morning at 9:30 AM and the Dry Bean program will start at 1:30 PM. See page 2 for the complete Dry Bean Program.

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2012 State Dry Bean Day Program

- 1:30 pm Afternoon Dry Bean Program Welcome and Introductions
Ross Voelker, Chair, Michigan Bean Commission
- 1:35 pm United States Dry Bean Council Report
Dennis Engelhard, Chair, United States Dry Bean Council
- 1:40 pm Dry Bean and Narrow Row Research Results
Greg Varner, Research Director, Dry Bean Production Research Advisory Board
- 2:00 pm Herbicides and Desiccants in Michigan Dry Bean Production Systems
Dr. Christy Sprague, Weed Scientist, Michigan State University
- 2:30 pm Canada's Future in the Dry Bean Business
Tino Breuer, Manager, Ontario Bean Producers Marketing Board
- 3:00 pm Dry Bean Markets For Michigan Growers
Larry Sprague, Kelly Bean Company

Research Report Released

The 2011 Dry Bean Research Report was released in January. It was available in print at most County Bean days and will also be available to all growers at the Bean and Beet Day at the Horizon Center on February 21st.

The research and the Research Report were both funded the USDA through the Specialty Crop Block

Grant. This grant was obtained by the Michigan Bean Commission and administered through the Production Research Advisory Board.

Greg Varner, the lead researcher on the project, concentrated on "Assessment of Narrow Row Technology" and was assisted in the project by Dr. Jim Kelly and Dr. Christy Sprague of Michigan State University. Paul Horny, Farm Manager of the Saginaw Valley Research Farm and Extension Center, was also a major contributor to the research. The Michigan Bean Commission also did a 50% match on

the grant.

Expected outcomes of the project include: Identification of adaptable dry bean cultivars, Identification of two new fungicides for control of white mold disease, Identification of approved herbicides and plant desiccants with no adverse food safety implications, knowledge of row spacing and plant density impact to enable sound recommendations to growers, and understanding and quantification of the economic benefits and improved management strategies associated with narrow row technology.

Export Numbers Released

FAS (Foreign Agricultural Services) released their export numbers for the marketing year 2010/11. That year runs from September 1, 2010, to August 31, 2011 for all beans.

World total exports were 391,174 metric tons as compared to the previous year's (2009/11) 400,289 met-

ric tons.

The biggest export market was again Mexico, with 110,645 metric tons, or 28% of total exports. This was down significantly from the previous year's 143,927 tons.

Canada and the United Kingdom came in 3rd and 4th, with Canada having 42,600 exports from the U.S.

and the U.K. having 41,700 tons.

Next in line was Taiwan, Dominican Republic, Italy, CUBA, Japan, and Angola in order.

Biggest surprise was New Zealand with over 5,000 tons. Previous high in any given year for them was 600 tons in 2009/2010.

Mexico's 2011 Summer/Fall Crop By State

| State | Blacks | % | Pintos | % | Other | % | Total |
|-------------|---------|-----|---------|-----|--------|----|---------|
| Zacatecas | 82,285 | 70 | 23,510 | 20 | 11,755 | 10 | 117,550 |
| Durango | 2,385 | 6 | 35,775 | 90 | 1,590 | 4 | 39,750 |
| Chihuahua | | | 31,220 | 100 | | | 31,220 |
| Guanajuato | 3,624 | 15 | | | 20,534 | 85 | 24,158 |
| S.L. Potosi | 3,678 | 20 | 3,678 | 20 | 11,034 | 60 | 18,390 |
| Chiapas | 23,969 | 100 | | | | | 23,969 |
| Sub Total | 115,941 | | 94,183 | | 44,913 | | 255,037 |
| Other | 53,059 | 60 | 8,843 | 10 | 26,529 | 30 | 88,431 |
| Total | 169,000 | | 103,026 | | 71,442 | | 343,468 |

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metric tons.

Imports from Argentina are already arriving and reports indicate quality is not up to U.S. standards. Meanwhile, other origins are trying to get their product approved. Phyto-sanitary concerns continue on Chinese originated beans, but many importers feel this issue will be resolved in the near future.

Reports indicate that Brazil has been unusually active in black bean

purchasing in recent weeks. Drought has also caused Brazil some difficulty.

(Editors Note: On January 31, 2012 the Director of Grain Quota Permits at the Secretariat of the Economy announced that they will soon authorize an additional 50,000 metric tons of bean quota permits to bring beans from countries other than NAFTA and Nicaragua valid until December 31st, 2012. This 50,000 tons would be assigned to the importers on the two lists that did not get permits on the January 17th

allotment. The Quota will be divided with 6,000 tons going to Diconsa (Food supply agency), 39,600 to traditional importers, and the last 4,400 tons to new importers. Diconsa received 10,000 tons of "cupos" 10 years ago, all of which went unused. We understand the current food supply issue in Mexico is critical. No corn, no beans, lots of cattle dying and lots of peasant farmers with no food. The Government of Mexico is taking aggressive measures to secure food to the population.)

Mexico Consumption By Class By Month and Annual

| Class | Monthly | Annual |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Blacks | 37,500 | 450,000 |
| Pintos | 20,000 | 240,000 |
| Colored | 8,333 | 100,000 |
| Azufrados* | 10,000 | 120,000 |
| Total | 75,833 | 910,000 |

*Azufrados = Mayocoba, Enola, and/or Mexican Yellow beans

Varner's Voice

The 2011 Dry Bean Research Report is available to Michigan dry bean growers. This report has the summary of the second year of research on Narrow Row Technology. The dry bean research was conducted by Greg Varner, Dr. Jim Kelly and Dr. Christy Sprague. This report can be found at dry bean elevators, extension offices and at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center (SVREC). This Report can be found online at www.michiganbean.org and www.agbioresearch.msu.edu/saginawvalley/index.html in the Beam Info link. The report has two navy trials, two black trials and one pinto bean strip trial conducted on dry bean grower's farms. A nitrogen rate strip trial is also included in the report. Small trials evaluating 15, 20 and 30 inch row width of Vista and Medalist navy, Shania

and Zorro black and Merlot small red beans were conducted at the SVREC and on Stoutenburg Farms in Sanilac County. Plant populations were also evaluated on Zorro black and Merlot small red beans at the two locations. White mold fungicides trials included Endura, Omega, Proline, Propulse and Approach treatments. Propulse may have a label for use during the 2012 growing season. Dr. Jim Kelly's Standard Navy bean and Black bean variety trials are presented. These trials have the commercial dry bean varieties and advanced experimental lines. Dr. Christy Sprague has results of the effect of row width, population and herbicide treatment on dry bean yields. Row widths were 15, 20 and 30 inches and low, medium and high populations were used. She conducted these trials at the SVREC and the MSU Agronomy Farm in East Lansing. Dr. Christy Sprague's desiccant trial conducted at the SVREC site highlights the standard and new desiccants. Overall yields were

much higher at the SVREC site than in 2010 when dry conditions caused 30-40% yield losses in the dry bean trials. The 2011 Michigan Dry Bean Variety Trials are also in this report. The trials consist of six locations and over 110 individual variety and lines tested. On the far right side, growers can view the lodge ratings for direct harvest. Dry bean variety characteristics are shown on page 25 of the report. There are 560 data points on this page showing maturity, plant type, disease ratings and much more on 40 commercial varieties of dry beans commonly grown in Michigan. We finished up the report by placing Dr. Christy Sprague's weed control and pre-harvest treatment recommendations in dry beans. We hope you find this report to be a benefit to your farming operation and if you have any suggestions of other things to include, please let us know.

A correction from last month's article. I forgot the b in the agbio-research website.