

# Bean Commission News

Volume 18, Issue 1

January 3, 2012

**Special points of interest:**

- Michigan again Number one in Black Bean Production
- Navy Bean Production second to North Dakota
- Navy Yield tops all Classes at 2,100 lbs.
- All County Bean Days set with location, date and time

**Inside this issue:**

December 9th Crop Report	2
Bean Acres by Class	3
County Bean Days Set	3
Varner's Voice	4

## ***Small Crop Helps Dry Edible Bean Prices Hold Firm***

***Firm*** By Gary Lucier, Lewrene Glaser, Susanne Thomsbury, & Alberto Jerado. ERS

Dry bean markets will end the calendar year on a relatively quiet note with the majority of product movement occurring under contract. Because open market sales volume has been slow, price discovery in the U.S. dry bean market has been limited. Combined with the traditionally sluggish movement over the holiday period in December, little additional price information will likely be forthcoming until early 2012. So far in 2011/12, growers remain tight holders of limited stocks and buyers remain relatively resistant to the current price structure. Buyers of some dry bean classes may resort to the import market to secure product matching their pricing points. If sufficient quality product is available via the

import market, this could eventually erode grower bids and result in some weakening of prices this winter. If this occurs, there may be ramifications for the 2012 crop, with a lower pricing structure that persists into the early spring dissuading dry bean plantings.

In 2011, the U.S. dry edible bean crop was estimated to be 19.729 million cwt—down 38 percent from a year earlier. Although harvested area was also down 38 percent, open fall weather in most major growing areas aided the harvest progress of a late-maturing crop. As a result, the preliminary national per-acre yield was down less than 1 percent from a year earlier at 17.19 cwt. Al-

though 1 percent greater than the average of the previous 5 years, this yield remains well below the record high of 17.68 cwt set in 2008.

With lower yields than forecast earlier, production plummeted 58 percent in North Dakota to the lowest since 2004. However, North Dakota retained the top spot among dry bean States, with 25 percent of the 2011 crop—down from 36 percent a year ago. Michigan's expected yield of 20 cwt per acre would be second only to the State's 1999 record. Michigan remained the second-leading producing State with 17 percent of the crop. Dry bean output in Minnesota, the third-leading producer, fell 26 percent to

*(Continued on page 3)*

Published by the:  
Michigan Bean Commission  
1031 S. US 27  
St Johns, Michigan 48879  
989 224 1361  
Email: [green@4ubi.net](mailto:green@4ubi.net)  
Web site: [www.michiganbean.org](http://www.michiganbean.org)

## **Mexico's Contingency—"Rest of the World" Dry bean Import Quota**

Aiming to secure the availability of dry beans throughout all of Mexico, the Mexico Foreign Trade Commission (COCEX) approved the extension of the term of the quota program until 2012 for 100 thousand Metric tons

of dry beans. (Approximately 2.2 million bags.)

With this announcement the Economic Secretariat seeks to satisfy domestic supply of beans with importations. The importations were necessitated

by a severe drought throughout most of the dry bean growing area in Mexico in 2011.

It is expected that both Argentina and China will be the most likely beneficiaries of the quota.

### Dry Edible Bean Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production – States and United States: 2010 and Forecasted December 1, 2011

State	Area planted		Area harvested		Yield per acre <sup>1</sup>		Production <sup>1</sup>	
	2010 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2010 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2010 (pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2010 (1,000 cwt)	2011 (1,000 cwt)
Arizona .....	13.0	8.2	12.9	7.9	1,880	1,870	243	148
California .....	63.5	46.0	63.0	45.1	2,320	2,200	1,462	990
Colorado .....	70.0	38.0	66.0	36.0	1,900	1,600	1,254	576
Idaho .....	135.0	95.0	134.0	94.0	1,900	2,000	2,546	1,880
Kansas .....	9.5	6.5	9.0	6.0	2,600	1,900	234	114
Michigan .....	236.0	170.0	235.0	168.0	1,800	2,000	4,230	3,360
Minnesota .....	185.0	140.0	175.0	135.0	1,750	1,680	3,062	2,281
Montana .....	18.8	15.0	17.7	14.5	2,030	1,970	359	286
Nebraska .....	170.0	110.0	155.0	105.0	2,060	2,000	3,193	2,100
New Mexico .....	13.8	12.5	13.8	12.5	2,330	2,230	322	279
New York .....	15.0	12.0	14.9	11.8	1,890	1,400	282	165
North Dakota .....	800.0	410.0	770.0	375.0	1,490	1,300	11,473	4,875
Oregon .....	7.1	6.4	6.9	6.4	2,160	2,410	149	154
South Dakota .....	12.5	10.2	11.3	9.0	2,040	1,770	230	159
Texas .....	21.0	15.0	19.0	13.0	1,210	1,000	229	130
Washington .....	86.0	70.0	86.0	70.0	1,600	1,900	1,376	1,330
Wisconsin .....	6.2	5.3	6.2	5.3	2,150	2,080	133	110
Wyoming .....	49.0	35.0	47.0	33.0	2,180	2,400	1,024	792
United States .....	1,911.4	1,205.1	1,842.7	1,147.5	1,726	1,719	31,801	19,729

<sup>1</sup> Clean basis.

### Dry Edible Bean Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production by Commercial Class – States and United States: 2010 and Forecasted December 1, 2011

Class and State	Area planted		Area harvested		Yield per acre <sup>2</sup>		Production <sup>2</sup>	
	2010 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2010 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2010 (pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2010 (1,000 cwt)	2011 (1,000 cwt)
<b>Large lima</b>								
California .....	17.5	10.7	17.3	10.6	2,310	1,970	399	209
<b>Baby lima</b>								
California .....	12.2	10.0	12.2	10.0	2,490	2,570	304	256
<b>Navy</b>								
Idaho .....	5.4	3.7	5.4	3.7	2,460	2,730	133	101
Michigan .....	70.0	50.0	70.0	49.5	1,840	2,100	1,290	1,040
Minnesota .....	65.2	50.5	62.0	48.3	2,000	1,800	1,240	869
Nebraska .....	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	2,110	2,220	19	20
North Dakota .....	132.0	94.0	128.0	84.0	1,530	1,360	1,958	1,142
South Dakota .....	3.3	3.6	3.1	2.7	2,300	1,850	71	50
Washington .....	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.5	2,710	2,800	38	14
Wyoming .....	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.4	1,890	2,250	17	9
United States .....	279.5	203.7	271.7	190.0	1,754	1,708	4,766	3,245
<b>Great northern</b>								
Idaho .....	3.9	2.6	3.9	2.6	2,330	2,500	91	65
Nebraska .....	67.0	54.2	58.8	53.4	2,020	1,960	1,186	1,046
North Dakota .....	5.6	1.8	5.3	1.7	1,530	700	81	12
Wyoming .....	2.0	3.4	1.9	3.2	2,370	2,470	45	79
United States .....	78.5	62.0	69.9	60.9	2,007	1,974	1,403	1,202
<b>Small white</b>								
Idaho .....	0.4	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.4	( <sup>1</sup> )	2,250	( <sup>1</sup> )	9	( <sup>1</sup> )
Oregon .....	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	2,740	2,800	25	29
Washington .....	1.4	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.4	( <sup>1</sup> )	2,640	( <sup>1</sup> )	37	( <sup>1</sup> )
United States .....	2.7	1.1	2.7	1.1	2,630	2,800	71	29

(Continued from page 1)

2.28 million cwt as prevented-planting and an early frost took a toll. In Nebraska, the fourth leading producer, dry bean production declined 34 percent to 2.1 million cwt—equal to the 1993 crop, which was the smallest crop since 1976.

### **Output of Most Bean Classes Drops**

The first estimate of dry bean production by class was released by USDA on December 9. With the exception of small red and small chickpeas, production of all the identified bean classes declined from a year earlier, with the biggest percentage reductions for pinto, large lima, blackeye, and black beans. With the total dry bean crop down substantially from a year ago, most classes of dry beans experienced reduced output in 2011. Production of navy beans, the second-leading dry bean class, fell

North Dakota (down 42 percent), Minnesota (down 30 percent), and Michigan (down 19 percent). Output of black beans was also reduced as a 37 percent reduction in harvested area outweighed a 2-percent gain in 57 percent from a year earlier as a reduction in harvested area combined with lower yields. If realized, this would be the largest yield. Pinto bean production plummeted year-to-year percentage reduction in the national pinto bean crop since 1934. Despite the hefty decline, pinto beans easily remained the top bean class with 30 percent of the 2011 crop—down from 43 percent a year earlier. Pinto bean harvested area was down 59 percent to 208,000 acres, while average yield fell 4 percent from last year's favorable level—lower national yields were driven primarily by lower yields in North Dakota and Colorado. Pinto bean output was down in each of the 12 reporting States. Production in North

Dakota, the leading State, fell 63 percent from the State's record-large 2010 crop. Output of pinto beans fell 52 percent in Nebraska, the second-leading producer, largely because of a 49-percent reduction in harvested area and an 18 percent cut in yield. Although carryover from 2010's large pinto bean crop was sizeable, grower prices (ND/MN) for pinto beans began the marketing year in September at \$39.00 per cwt, up 129 percent from a year earlier. With periods of uncertainty in world commodity markets this fall and the usual harvest time lull, pinto grower prices weakened for a time during the fall. Ultimately, the effect of limited open market activity and tight holdings of stocks pushed North Dakota-Minnesota grower bids to \$43.00 through mid-December—139 percent above the weak levels experienced last December.

## **Bean Acres by Class disclosed**

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture report also included all colored beans grown in each state along with their respective yield.

Black beans remain the top produced bean in Michigan. This year Michigan planted 80,000 acres of black beans, Harvested 79,000 of them and a yield of 2,030 lbs per acre. This gave Michigan 1,602,000 bags out of the total U.S. production of 2,994,000 or 53.5% of U.S. production.

Navy beans, while second in acres in Michigan with 50,000 planted acres and 49,500 harvested acres, still had the highest overall yield of 2100 lbs of all beans grown in Michigan. Total production was 1,040,000 bags, which was 102,000 bags less than North Dakota, the top producing state for navy beans. Total U.S. production of navy beans was 3,245,000 bags.

Michigan Light Red Kidneys saw 7,000 acres with a yield of 1,960 lbs

per acre. Dark red kidney saw 2,900 acres with a yield 1,000 per acres.

Michigan almost doubled its acres of small red beans going from last year's 9,300 acres to this year's 18,000 acres. Yield jumped up a bit as well coming in third in the yield race in Michigan with 1,950 lbs compared to last year's 1,860 lbs.

Cranberry dropped a bit again this year to 3,800 acres with a yield of 1,460 lbs per acre.

## **County Bean Days Set**

The County Bean days for 2012 have been set. These meetings give growers a chance to see what is happening on dry beans in several ways including marketing, research both agronomic and health, trends and other information related to bean production and the opportunities that production presents.

The County Bean days and their venue and times are:

Gratiot: Monday, January 16th, starting at 9:30 at Winding Brook Golf Course.

Saginaw/Tuscola: Wednesday, January 18, starting at 9:00 AM at the American Legion Hall, Richville.

Bay: Friday, January 27, starting at 9:00 AM at the Pinconning Cheese House.

Montcalm: Monday, January 30, starting at 9:30 AM at the Douglass Township Hall in Entrican.

Huron: Wednesday, February 1, starting at 10:30 AM at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bad Axe.

Sanilac: Wednesday, February 1, starting at 10:30 Am at the West Park Motor inn.

FIRST CLASS PRST  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 979

## Varner's Voice

Two products dry bean growers and industry asked about in the past few years have been Contans and Pod Ceal. Contans is a biological fungicide applied to the soil prior to planting to destroy the white mold sclerotia fruiting bodies. Contans should be used as a full IPM strategy to control white mold. When applied correctly, Contans will reduce the viable sclerotia that produce the white mold apothecia. Fall applications can also be done. The need for excellent soil incorporation is essential because the Contans must be in contact with the sclerotia to destroy it. Contans does not move in the soil. This is very similar to our herbicide pre-plant incorporated products. Treated soils should not be worked to avoid bringing up untreated sclerotia. Rates of 1-2 pounds are suggested with Contans and I'm sure 2 pounds is better than 1. The label says Contans should be applied at least three months prior to the typical onset of white mold disease. The soybean yield contest winner, Kip Cullers used Contans to control white mold in his irrigated soybeans. I think he used 5 pounds. The big question is will Contans be economical to

use every year and every field. I would suggest growers try Contans on their worst white mold problem fields to see if they can reduce the sclerotia. An application of a foliar fungicide should be part of a white mold control program. Many feel the 5-10 % of sclerotia that is not destroyed, will be enough to inoculate a field.

Pod Ceal is a product sprayed the same time as most desiccants. Pod Ceal will prevent shatter/harvest loss problems and preserve the quality of the bean pod if wet weather delays harvest. In dry areas like the Western states and Canada, Pod Ceal has more of a place than Michigan. Also the small pod crops like canola and lentils have more shatter and harvest loss associated with pod breakdown in the field. Pod Ceal has the same active ingredient, cyclohexane, as an earlier product called Spodnam. Literature says Spodnam had a two-week life and Pod Ceal has a 40 day life. We did contract research on Spodnam and could not achieve yield increases in the late 1980's. Use Pod Ceal as a tank mix with your desiccant. I hear it is in the ten dollar range. Maybe

certain fields with uneven maturity, fields with delayed harvest or certain varieties are candidates for Pod Ceal. In Michigan, it will probably be an insurance policy in most years.

This time of year, I sometimes will suggest websites for dry bean growers to visit and learn more about research on dry beans. The Saginaw Valley site: [agioresearch.msu.edu/saginawvalley/index.html](http://agioresearch.msu.edu/saginawvalley/index.html) has the past 15 years of variety trials and also MSU's dry bean trials. A new site from the Bean Cap is [www.beancap.org](http://www.beancap.org), this site features ongoing results of the 4 million dollar research effort by dry bean scientists in the U. S. I have visited many sites for air reels and the different headers used for direct harvesting. Just google AWS, CWS, Draper, MacDon and others to find many equipment options.

Other sites I'd suggest would be Sclerotinia.com, [pulsecrsp.msu.edu](http://pulsecrsp.msu.edu), [legumeipmpipe.org](http://legumeipmpipe.org), [northharvest.com](http://northharvest.com), [michiganbean.org](http://michiganbean.org).