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2022 DRY BEAN PRODUCTION PRACTICES SURVEY

Scott Bales; MSU Dry Bean Specialist & Joe Cramer; MBC Executive Director

A major focus of The Michigan Bean Commission (MBC) and the Production Research Advisory Board (PRAB) is the continued improvement in the sustainability and profitability of dry bean production in Michigan. This continued advancement requires an active dedication to research. The Michigan Bean Commission has successfully authored and executed Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Specialty Crop Block Grants (SGBG) since 2010. In total this has leveraged over \$1,400,000 in funding for agronomic and market research. These projects also often assist in the funding of MSU Specialist when addressing issues such as bean breeding / variety development, herbicides use, and disease management. Key projects since 2010 have included: Narrow Row



Bales shares results of the bean production practices survey with growers in Montcalm County. | Photo by Michigan Bean Commission

Testing, 'Project North' which tested dry beans in non-traditional areas, Black Bean Color Retention, Direct Harvest, Sustainability, Nutrient Management and now focusing on natural plant maturity across locations and

weed control.

As we look back on the past and see advancements in production it is clear that MBC research has been well timed, focused, and applicable to Michigan's dry bean producers. As we move into the future and incorporate a new generation of dry bean growers it is important that we maintain this status as the leading edge of industry innovation. In the modern age of farming, production practices, tools, and technology are advancing rapidly. To keep up with this evolving industry PRAB implemented a digital grower survey in 2018. The purpose of this survey is to document common production practices, as well as the shift

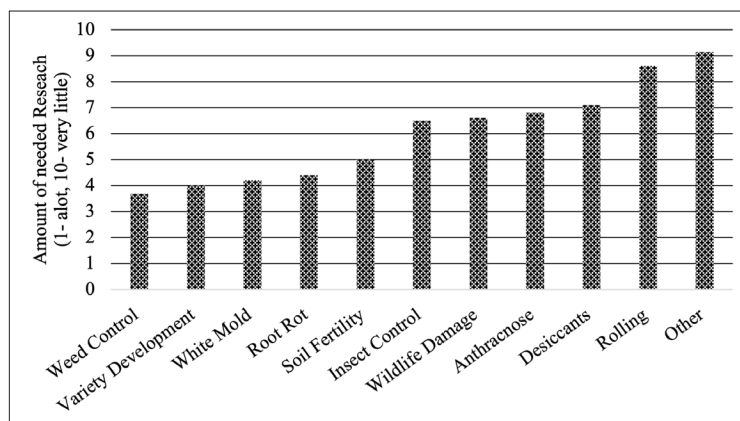


Figure 1. N=67 Farmers ranking the areas of needed research to improve dry bean production on their farm (1- needs the most research, 10- needs the least research).

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CLINT STOUTENBURG ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE US DRY BEAN COUNCIL

USDBC convened its annual winter board meeting in San Diego, CA January 27 & 28. During the day and half meeting, all standing committees met to conduct business and review 2022 priorities before moving to a plenary session to conduct association business and hold officer elections. Meeting highlights included a review of strategies to re-engage in food assistance programs, a discussion of USDBC's new global public relations plan to launch in February 2022, a review of upcoming opportunities to conduct business in Cuba, and a discussion of industry priorities in light of upcoming Farm Bill deliberations. During the plenary session, board members discussed new funding from three Global Broad Based Initiatives (GBI) programs funded by USDA/FAS that cover the challenge of Global MRLs, a Pulses for Health Initiative in Mexico/Latin America, and a newly funded program focused on the carbon neutrality of pulses to take place in Europe. Board members heard from Chef Brad Barnes about ongoing promotion of bean ingredients and other bean innovation initiatives in partnership with the Culinary Institute of America.



Clint Stoutenburg, center, was named President of the U.S. Dry Bean council at the USDBC annual winter board meeting.

The meeting ended with the election of a new slate of officers naming Clint Stoutenburg – Michigan Bean Commission as President, Courtney Schuler of Rocky Mountain Bean Dealers as Vice President, and Kevin Regan of Northharvest Bean Growers as Treasurer. Congratulations to the new officers who face another busy and exciting year ahead for the U.S. dry bean industry.

USDA PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS - MARCH 2022

Growers intend to plant 1.31 million acres in 2022, down 6 percent from the previous year. Planted area is expected to be below last year in all estimating States with the exception of Colorado, Washington, and Wyoming.

Dry Edible Bean Area Planted – States and United States: 2020-2022

[Excludes beans grown for garden seed]

State	Area planted			Percent of previous year
	2020	2021	2022 ¹	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
California	25.0	16.0	14.0	88
Colorado	57.0	33.0	33.0	100
Idaho	68.0	58.0	47.0	81
Michigan	255.0	210.0	200.0	95
Minnesota	275.0	240.0	200.0	83
Nebraska	165.0	120.0	105.0	88
North Dakota	815.0	660.0	650.0	98
Washington	39.0	40.0	45.0	113
Wyoming	28.0	17.0	19.0	112
United States	1,727.0	1,394.0	1,313.0	94

¹ Intended plantings in 2022 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Continued from page 1

in production practices as the industry progresses. This survey was distributed and taken electronically with a total of 50 questions in December 2021-March 2022. All participants were completely anonymous. The 2022 survey had tremendous response from both growers and crop advisors, we would like to thank all who participated.

The 2021 Dry Bean Production Practices Survey had 67 total completed responses. Through the series of questions participants were categorized by occupation (Farmer or Crop advisor) and production type (conventional, organic, or both). Of the 67 participants 93% were conventional, 3% organic, and 3% produced both organic and conventional dry beans. The individuals who participated in the survey were also questioned about what part of Michigan they primarily worked in, the most common responses were Huron, Tuscola, Bay and Montcalm County. However, 8 different locations in Michigan were represented within the survey results. This type of response on location is validated by annual USDA reports as well, in a given year up to 80% of Michigan's dry bean acres can be located in the Thumb and Saginaw Valley.

As the survey transitioned into asking producers how they specifically manage dry beans on their farm a few key changes from the past are evident. Questions that display

these changes in production include: Row widths planted (2% < 15", 44% in 20-22", and 48% in 28-30"), Planted populations (109,000/A for black and navy, 97,000/A for small red, and 76,000/A for kidney and cranberry), and harvest method (80% Direct harvest). Major agronomic shifts have taken place in dry bean production that are clearly demonstrated by the responses to these three questions in the past 10-20 years.

While documenting common production practices and shifts over time is an important purpose of this survey, identifying future research objectives remains a major priority. The final question presented by the survey was, "What challenges to dry bean production needs the most research on your farm?" Eleven options were ranked from the highest priority (1) to the lowest (11) (Figure 1). A key change that has taken place in the results of this question, weed control has surpassed white mold for the first time in the history of the survey when ranked for amount of needed research.

While one may assume that this change is driven by the emergence of new, herbicide resistance weed species in the region, the majority of respondents (>50%) indicated that the management of water hemp, horseweed (mares tail), or Palmer amaranth are not a challenge in dry bean production on their respective farms. This would indicate that our traditional weed species are being more challenging to

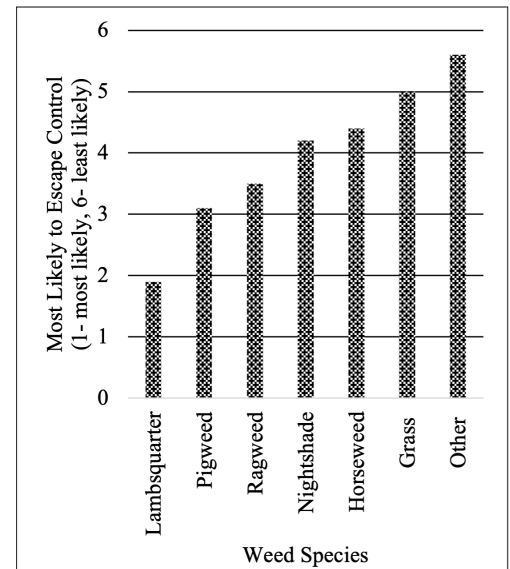


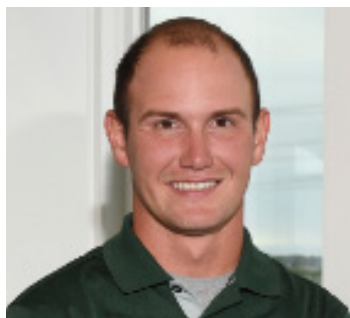
Figure 2. N=67 Weeds most likely to escape control (1-most likely, 6-least likely).

manage (Figure 2). Of the common weed species most likely to escape control. Common lambs quarters remains the most difficult to manage in dry beans.

Overall, this information and input from growers and industry helps MBC focus research on the challenges to production today, as well as better prepare for the challenges of the future. I would like to thank all of those who participated in this year's survey and look forward to continuing this survey in 2023. Complete survey results for all 50 questions is available on **Michiganbean.com**.



Dry bean specialist to tour Argentina



Bales

MBC-MSU Dry Bean Specialist Scott Bales will tour some of Argentina's dry bean production region next month on behalf of the U.S. bean Industry. For several years, the US Dry Bean Council has funded a mission to Argentina to evaluate the size and condition of the crop and to learn more about production practices in the region. Michigan Bean Commission Executive Director Joe Cramer said "Bales was chosen to make the trip in 2020 and 2021 but the pandemic prevented that from happening. We're anxious for Scott to get down there and experience first-hand some production practices that may have an application here." Bales is committed to making this trip again in 2023 and 2024.



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