Great Northern Virgo <13172> is a broadly adapted great northern bean variety ideally suited to Nebraska and Colorado production regions.

Virgo has shown significantly higher yield potential than traditional great northern beans, such as Marquis and Beryl. It’s upright architecture allowing for ease in direct harvest provides great flexibility for farmers come harvest time. In addition the Virgo’s architecture keeps the plant standing through potential rains as it matures which aids in retaining product quality.

Assuming a 321 lbs./AC yield advantage compared to Marquis. Growing Virgo will potentially increase your profit by $80/AC on $25/cwt. beans. This amounts to $8,000 on 100 acres and the added benefit of upright architecture.

Plant Variety Protection for GN Virgo <13172> is applied for. Unauthorized propagation of this variety is prohibited.

- A flexible variety that performs well on a range of different soil types.
- Excellent upright architecture suitable for direct harvest.
- Matures 91-95 days or about 3 days later than Marquis.
- Approximate seed count is 1,264 sds./lb. compared to Marquis seed count of 1,473 sds./lb.
- It has shown resistance to prevalent strains of rust that currently affect the Nebraska and Colorado growing regions.

To purchase seed, Contact Your Local Kelley Bean Co. representative www.kelleybean.com

All variety information presented herein is based on field and laboratory observations. Actual crop yield and quality are dependent upon many factors beyond our control. Since environmental conditions and local practices may affect variety characteristics and performance, we disclaim legal responsibility therefore. Read all tags and labels. They contain important conditions of sale, including limitations of warranties and remedies.
By Dan Hinman
NDBGA Board President

Harvest is rapidly progressing and will soon be a memory. In the busy hustle of harvest time, it is sometimes difficult to see what we have done. One item in the news that caught my attention was that USDA and NASS are reporting that dry edible beans are predicted to have the highest production increase of all reported crops in NE from 2019 to 2020. Total production of dry edible beans in NE is estimated to be up 54%, and production per acre is projected to be 360 pounds per acre higher than 2019. Another recent USDA finding was that the average consumption of dry edible beans per person in America was 7.5 pounds. A little math would tell me that we are feeding just over 45 more people with every acre of beans we produced this year than last. Earlier this year when grocery store shelves were rapidly becoming empty, the value of a secure reliable food source became apparent and important.

In the chaos of harvest sometimes it is easy to get distracted with things that didn't go right. Variety selections that didn't perform as planned, weed control failures, heat stress and irrigation difficulties, hail storms, one of the earliest killing fall freezes in recent history. Many of these issues challenged us as producers. However when I think about the news of our production increase in the face of these issues, and put thought into how many more people we were able to produce food for, says a lot about you as dry bean growers and the dry bean industry as a whole. Through all the challenges and problems we overcame this season we were able to be a great source of reliable, nutritious food. You as producers and the industry as a whole are owed a big Thank You for what you do.

I hope everyone has a safe successful harvest, and THANK YOU!

About the Bean Bag

The Bean Bag” is a regional publication for the dry bean industry targeted to growers and decision-makers involved in the production and sales of Nebraska-grown dry edible beans.

“The Bean Bag” is published four times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn editions by the Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association, a nonprofit organization of dry edible bean growers in Nebraska.

Publishing articles or advertisements in “The Bean Bag” does not constitute an endorsement of the views or products by the Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association.

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The Bean Bag
4502 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE
308-633-1387
Editor: Lesli Howell

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Pictures for “The Bean Bag”.

If your picture makes the cover, we’ll pay you a reward.
(The picture must be about beans)
Please send all pictures as an attachment to our email at:
nebeangrower@allophone.com

On a side note, we’re also looking for anyone interesting in being part of a feature article.

100+ Years of Dry Bean Experience Partnering with You For Success!

Field Representatives:
Courtney Schuler – 308.225.1775
Matt Schmidt – 308.641.6197

Receiving Locations:
Alliance – 308.762.1866 - Bayard – 308.586.1010
Bridgeport – 308.262.1361 - Gering – 308.225.1775
Imperial – 308.882.4363 - Sterling, CO – 970.522.3595

www.TrinidadBenham.com
Wow, where has the year gone? And, what a year – to remember or forget? I’ll leave that decision to you, but there is a lot going on with elections, commodities, trade, taxes, riots, virus’s and pandemics, just to name a few.

Bottom line, I think we are fortunate and blessed to live where we do! Many of the stories and headlines in the news do not necessarily impact us as much as other areas of our country. As farmers, ranchers, and ag businessmen, it seems we always do what is necessary to get the job done – without too much complaining or protesting.

At this time of year, many are heavy into harvesting crops and handling livestock. At NDBGA, we’re hoping that your yields and prices are abundant and profitable. Most importantly, be SAFE, especially with heavy equipment and truck traffic.

NDBGA is still planning on hosting Bean Day and the Annual Meeting in February, 2021. As we get closer to the date, and we find out more about COVID restrictions and regulations, we’ll post what we know on our website and the Winter edition of The Bean Bag.

In the meantime, good luck with harvest and best wishes for the upcoming holidays!
On the Cover

2020 Autumn Winner: Photo submitted by Gary Stone.

2020 Summer Winner: Photo submitted by Chris and Tanya Cook.
A Bit of History

What a wonderful surprise we received when Ce Merrigan decided to send in photos of their bean farming operation from the 70’s and 80’s! I had the great opportunity to talk with Ce and her son Court about their farming operation, how things have changed, and what the differences are between then and now.

Jim and Ce Merrigan started farming in the late 70’s with Jim’s dad and brother, 1/2 mile south of Lake Alice School. They raised 4 children – Court, Trav, Nate, and Michaela and farmed until 2012. Today, Court and his brothers manage their farm and are the 4th generation in the family to do so.

“We started at the absolute worst time”, stated Ce. Land prices and interest rates were at historical highs, and then the farm crisis hit in ’81 and rock bottom prices for commodities, grain embargos, and debt definitely took their toll. We raised everything from the traditional corn, hay, and pinto and white beans to onions, carrots, and barley. We also attempted a few cattle and pigs. We raised wonderful crops of vegetables but just didn’t have a big enough market outlet for them at the time. We both had outside jobs to try and help pay for everything and to make ends meet. And of course we had a huge garden. Ce would occasionally sell vegetables to Alexanders (a grocery store by the sugar factory) and Baileys Town and Country. “We just persevered and did the best we could”, stated Ce.

The farm originally belonged to the Kellett Brothers and there is a historical video/film of them at the Legacy of the Plains Museum. The farm was homesteaded and Ce said they had a title signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The engineering was pretty amazing as their water supply for the house, yard, garden, and livestock was built around a windmill, a cistern, and a series of ditches and canals. The windmill was struck by lightning in the mid 80’s and then we converted everything to a well.
And Court remembers all the physical labor, especially with the beans. Dad always hired migrant crews to help with the weeding. However, during harvest, we were still constantly having to untangle weeds from the equipment and walk ahead of the combine and pull weeds out of the windrow. Everybody helped no matter the age - Aunts, Uncles, cousins – it was definitely a family affair. In college, I got paid $9-10 per acre to hoe beans as a summer job. “I have fond memories of weeds – it was always a hot, dirty, dusty job with bugs and an occasional rattlesnake. Thank goodness for the herbicide programs that exist today.”

Today the farm is under pivot irrigation, but back then everything was furrow irrigated. “I know Dad did it deliberately, but he would just drop us off and say ‘change the water’ and leave. It definitely taught us problem solving skills because you had to figure out how to fix things if they went wrong.” Court now works as a Farm Manager, and learned how to manage a farm out in those bean fields - keeping the family tradition alive, more or less.

And Ce remembers the hail storm that hit in ’87. “It was terrible and devastating. All our hard work was gone in an instant. Thank goodness for insurance today.

I went back thru our historical records and found Jim’s name listed as one of the original founders and board members of NDBGA. The Merrigan’s couldn’t remember the details, but Court stated, “Oh yes, that’s sounds exactly like something Dad would do.”

We would like to thank the Merrigan’s for sharing their family history and memories! I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated their input, time, and stories! If you get a chance and see them, take time to thank them for their contribution.
Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association (NDBGA) is offering a college scholarship opportunity for children and grandchildren of a NDBGA member.

These scholarships are for students pursuing a degree related to agriculture and are available for any college class level, and for non-traditional students.

Applications must be received in the NDBGA office, 4502 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE 69361 by mail, email or dropped off before 5:00 pm, January 1st, 2021.

The scholarships awards will be presented during our 2021 Bean Day and you will be invited to attend.

Please type responses to the following questions on a separate piece of paper and keep each response to 200 words or less.

1. List your scholastic achievements (GPA, academic awards, scholarships, etc.) Include a copy of your current transcript and an up to date resume of your work history.

2. List offices held in high school or college, projects directed, athletic involvement, band, choir, FFA, student council, boys/girls state, etc.

3. Include community service, theatre groups, coaching and any other volunteer activities which have contributed to the betterment of your community.

4. Personal statement that addresses your experience with agriculture and future plans or career goals regarding agriculture.

5. Two letters of reference addressing your potential for success: one from a teacher, counselor or principal and another from a non family member.

6. Recent photo of yourself to be used in media if you are selected to receive one of the two scholarships.

**Scholarship winners will be contacted prior to February 1st and invited to attend the 2021 Bean Day February 9th, at Gering Civic Center. Please be prepared to give a short acceptance speech.

**By signing this application you agree that Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association may use your name and photo in media announcements and their Spring 2021 edition of “The Bean Bag”.

SIGNATURE: _____________________________
Our office receives a “ton” of information via websites, articles, and emails. In each issue, I will try to list pertinent information and/or list websites that come across my desk that bean growers may find of interest.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**2021 BEAN DAY & ANNUAL MEETING**

*Tuesday, February 9th, 2021*

*Gering Civic Center, Gering, NE*

**NDBGA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE**

*January 1, 2021 5 pm. See enclosed application for details!*

**Can Dry Beans Be Fed to Cattle?**

An early frost caused damage to some of the dry edible bean crop. Can those frost-damaged beans be fed to cattle? Yes and no, according to NDSU Extension. At around 20% crude protein and 86% total digestible nutrients, dry beans have okay feed quality. However, they can cause gastric disturbances in cattle. Dry beans should be limited to 10% of the ration on a dry matter basis. That may be increased to 20% of the ration, depending on the degree of scours or reduction of intake.

**BeanCon21 Website is Live**

BeanCon21 is set for March 3-5, 2021 in Las Vegas. This is a first of its kind global conference on everything beans, focusing strongly on innovation. Also, it will be a one stop shop for buyers and sellers.

Additional information is available at [beancon21.com](http://beancon21.com).
**Dry Edible Bean Production Included in Program; Application Deadline Set for Dec. 11, 2020**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is implementing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP) for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. The CFAP 2 application window is open at Farm Service Agency offices across the state through **December 11, 2020**. CFAP 2, like the initial CFAP rolled out earlier this year, is a direct payment program designed to assist farmers and ranchers due to the negative impacts of the global pandemic.

CFAP 2 does vary from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1, including the addition of some new commodities to the program. CFAP 2 is a separate program from CFAP 1, and farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2.

All producers should visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) and click on the “eligible commodities finder” to review which commodities are eligible and to learn about the payment structure for each commodity. Most Nebraska commodities, both crops and livestock, are eligible for CFAP 2, and this includes dry edible beans.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of payment calculations, including price trigger commodities, flat-rate row crop commodities and sales commodities. Dry edible bean payments fall under the sales commodities category. This means a producer’s payment will be based on his or her 2019 sales of dry edible beans multiplied by the payment rate associated with the amount of sales made. There are five sales ranges and a declining payment factor associated with each sales range.

Below is the chart to be used. For example, if a producer’s 2019 sales of dry edible beans totaled $75,000, the payment is calculated as $49,999 times 10.6% plus $25,001 times 9.9% to equal a total payment of $7,775.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Sales Range</th>
<th>Percent Payment Factor for the Producer’s 2019 Sales of Eligible Commodities Falling in the Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 to $49,999</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $499,999</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000 to $999,999</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales over $1 million</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dry edible bean producers who operate diversified farms also will want to explore with their local FSA office other commodities they produce which could qualify for CFAP 2 payments.

To apply, producers are encouraged to contact their county office for guidance on the best method for completing an application. Producers also have the option to apply for CFAP 2 online through the [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) application portal.
USDA Designates Six Nebraska Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Emergency Support to Producers in Surrounding Counties/Border States Also Available

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue designated six Nebraska counties as primary natural disaster areas. Producers in Colfax, Cuming, Dawes, Dodge, Stanton and Thurston counties who suffered losses caused by recent drought may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

This natural disaster designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

Producers in the contiguous counties listed below are also eligible to apply for emergency loans:
- Nebraska: Box Butte, Burt, Butler, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Madison, Pierce, Platte, Saunders, Sheridan, Sioux, Washington and Wayne
- Iowa: Monona and Woodbury
- South Dakota: Fall River and Oglala Lakota

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is May 11, 2021.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; Emergency Conservation Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Operating and Farm Ownership Loans; and the Tree Assistance Program.

Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at farmers.gov/recover.
Life certainly has a way of handing us many unexpected challenges and opportunities. Even our best efforts of planning and focusing on our priorities often get shifted or completely flipped over from what we expect. As I approach the start of my fourth year serving as the Nebraska Director of Agriculture, I can positively say it has been an experience that I didn’t expect. Who would have predicted historic flooding, an irrigation tunnel collapse and a world health pandemic all within a two-year span?

The constant positive for me, and thankfully for Nebraska, is the persistent response and productivity driven by our farmers and ranchers. Agriculture is the heart and soul of Nebraska and our 45,000 farm and ranch families keep pumping life throughout our state year after year. Once again Nebraska agriculture has delivered an abundant, safe, healthy and sustainable supply of food, feed and fuel for us and for consumers around the world. Agriculture continues to be Nebraska’s largest economic driver and job creator by supporting 1 out of 4 jobs plus delivering over $20 billion of gross receipts. As ag production supports jobs, the individuals in those jobs support agriculture. We need each other. We all knew that already, but the impacts from COVID-19 brought that reliance upon each other into the forefront for our businesses, communities and food supply. It is important that we remember the lessons learned as we move into the future.

Speaking of the future, Nebraska is proud of our talented youth and their accomplishments. One of the programs at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI). This year’s Institute was held virtually and was a big success with over 165 high school participants. Thank you to the NDA team and the youth for making this a great event. We are looking forward to a special 2021 program celebrating our 50th NAYI.

Prior to fair season, members of NDA led a committee formed by Governor Ricketts tasked to ensure our fairs and livestock shows on the county and state level could be held safely this year. The Nebraska State Fair, Aksarben and many counties delivered experiences for all to enjoy while featuring agriculture. These efforts provide opportunities for learned skills through 4-H and FFA that benefit our youth and lead to more success in the future. Congratulations to the organizations’ leadership, 4-H and FFA leaders, volunteers and the youth.

After months of negotiating the details, the 2020 Nebraska Legislature passed LB 1107 giving much needed and overdue property tax relief to Nebraskans. The bill delivers relief in two ways. First, it protects the current state Property Tax Credit Relief Fund at a minimum level of $275 million annually. This fund was created in 2007 and is applied directly to a taxpayer’s property tax bill. The second provision of tax relief is the creation of a new refundable income tax credit based on property taxes paid to schools. The credit is allowed for individuals, businesses or other entities that pay school district taxes. Once fully phased in, the state will provide an additional $375 million in property tax relief delivered as a credit to the taxpayer through the state income tax return. At full implementation, Nebraska taxpayers will see up to $650 million annually in property tax relief resulting in a 15% reduction in property taxes paid. Thank you to Governor Ricketts and the supporting State Senators for delivering this relief.
The COVID-19 pandemic aside, 2020 and the few months leading up to it, were marked with progress in international agricultural trade. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement was signed and ratified. The United States reached a deal with Japan putting Nebraska’s farmers and ranchers in position to fulfill the needs of our largest and most consistent ag export market. And history was made when the United States and China signed the phase one agreement in January. Each of these agreements mean specific breakthroughs for four out of Nebraska’s top six markets.

Even with this progress, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture remains ready and focused to help our farmers and ranchers provide safe, high quality products to new customers around the globe. There is great promise through a potential free trade deal with the United Kingdom and in Southeast Asia countries, like Vietnam, where Nebraska’s reputation as a premier agricultural producer is growing exponentially. NDA looks forward to helping our agriculture exports and our state grow.

While we cannot predict the details of what is coming in the future, we can set our priorities and expectations to move forward boldly. Be assured that the NDA will continue to celebrate and support Nebraska’s farmers and ranchers along with the communities that support them. We must collectively work together and do what we do best, persist through the unanticipated. Under my direction, NDA will continue to serve Nebraska’s farmers and ranchers, assist with opening additional markets and provide opportunities for our youth, Nebraska’s future, to thrive. We are blessed to live in the United States and especially the great State of Nebraska.

Pictured L-R: Congressman Adrian Smith, Governor Pete Ricketts, NDBC Chairman Brian Kaman, New Alliance Bean Field Rep Dave Dietrich, NDBC Exec Dir Lynn Reuter, Ambassador Gregg Doud, NE Dir of Ag Steve Wellman

“September 2nd and 3rd was a special time for myself and Assistant Director Amelia Breinig as we had the pleasure of joining Governor Pete Ricketts, Ambassador Gregg Doud and Representative Adrian Smith for bean and beet harvest and meetings in the Scottsbluff area. Thank you very much to the Dry Bean Commission and Growers Association, staff and farmers, for hosting us. It was a fun and memorable experience.”
Fusarium root rot

We continued a study for Syngenta with some new seed treatment products for managing Fusarium root rot, caused by *Fusarium solani f. sp. phaseoli* (FSP). This disease is particularly problematic due to its soil-inhabiting nature and difficulty in reaching it with fungicides. Additionally, very few fungicides have been developed to date that effectively target and control FSP. Thus, if chemical fungicides are to be utilized, treating the seeds before planting is the most efficient method of delivery for the fungicide. We have had difficulty over the last two years with our studies, which has prohibited attaining good data. In 2019, severe hailstorms destroyed the plots, without being able to harvest. In 2020 we have had problems with the variety used in the study, and we have still not harvested the plots. The variety sent with the fungicide seed treatments was apparently not properly adapted for use in this region and it still green. We are waiting for further drying of plots before harvesting.

Efficiency of New Copper Alternative Chemicals

Over the past decade, we have achieved success for reducing losses in dry bean from a complex of bacterial diseases, with the testing of products such as SaniDate, OxiDate, and ecoAgra A300. Due to the positive results obtained from this work, we continued to evaluate these same products for their efficacy in managing fungal diseases as well. This was funded by the Dry Bean Commission. We have also been comparing them to similar new products that are becoming available. We were particularly interested in whether they will provide any protection for Ascochyta blight of chickpeas, or white mold in dry beans.

Unfortunately, the weather was not conducive for adequate disease pressure to properly test the products for disease management. It was so hot and dry during flowering that A. blight did not develop well in plots. Similarly, the cowpeas were not subjected to high levels of white mold, thus results of the copper alternatives were not definitive.

Pathogenicity Studies of Root Rot Pathogens from New Pulse Crops

We additionally continued work also funded by the Dry Bean Commission aimed at monitoring and identifying various pathogens found in association with the new pulse crops (cowpeas and chickpeas), and then determining their potential for damaging dry beans. If these new crops will continue to expand in interest and become part of grower rotation systems with dry beans, it would be helpful to at least be aware of diseases that could affect both crops.

From cowpea infections, we have collected several unknown species of *Rhizoctonia* and *Fusarium*, and well as several bacteria resembling the wilt and common blight pathogens. Two isolates each of *Rhizoctonia* and...
*Fusarium* are being screened in the greenhouse (85 F) and environmentally controlled growth chambers as pathogens on dry beans (65 F). To date, greater severe disease severity is being seen at the lower temperature than at 85-90F temperatures in the greenhouse. Curiously we are also seeing more severity on the cowpeas than the dry beans. This project is ongoing and will be repeated over the winter.

**Additional Diseases Discovered**

As a result of this project to study potential disease problems for dry beans, derived from new emerging pulse crops, we have found a number of bacterial isolates that appear to also be pathogenic on dry beans. We have also recently discovered white mold and Phomopsis stem canker infecting cowpeas, which we believe have never been reported in this crop. Both diseases can not only affect dry beans, but can also infect other crops grown in western Nebraska such as sunflowers. These are important factors to consider when planning a farming system with any of these pulse crops in a rotation with dry beans or sunflowers. Lastly an unknown virus has been consistently observed in the cowpea plots and two production fields (two of the last three years). Fortunately, its incidence is low and should not pose an economical problem for production, but it is also currently being characterized and evaluated as a potential pathogen for dry beans.
Western Steak and Beans

(Multi-cooker recipe)

Tammie Ostdiek

Marinade:
2 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon onion powder
2 cloves garlic, minced
¼ cup apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons oil
1 ½ -2 # top round steak; cubed

Ingredients:
2 cups dry great northern beans
3 slices bacon, cut in 1” pieces
2 celery ribs, diced
1 cup onion, diced
1 green bell pepper, diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
1 cup chopped carrots
32 oz. low sodium beef broth
28 ounces diced tomatoes
3 ounces tomato paste (optional)

Prepare beans:
1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Sort through beans, discarding any discolored or shriveled beans or any foreign matter. Rinse the beans well.
3. Soak bean in 10 cups of cold water. Cover and refrigerate 6-8 hours.
4. Drain and rinse beans with fresh, cool water.

Prepare marinade:
1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Whisk marinade ingredients together.
3. Cut beef into bite-size cubes. Wash hands after handling meats.
4. Add the marinade to the cubed beef, refrigerate 1-2 hours.

Cooking:
1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Set multi-cooker to sauté function
3. Add bacon and cook 2-3 minutes. Wash hands after handling raw meats.
4. Add celery, onion, peppers, and carrots. Cook, stirring frequently until vegetables are mostly tender.
5. Deglaze multi-cooker with a small amount of broth.
6. Press cancel.
7. Add drained beans, beef with marinade and beef broth.
8. Cook on high pressure for 30 minutes
9. Allow to naturally release pressure for 15 minutes followed by a quick release.
10. Once pin drops, remove lid.
11. Remove about 1 cup liquid to blend with the tomato paste. Return to the multi-cooker along with diced tomatoes. Set to sauté and heat through.
12. Serve with cornbread and a salad.
More than 50 people participated in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Panhandle Research, Extension and Education Center’s annual field day, the Panhandle Agricultural Research and Technology Tour (PARTT), on Aug. 20.

Event Chair Bijesh Maharjan wishes to express appreciation to the Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association on behalf of the Panhandle Center faculty and staff for the growers’ ongoing support of the annual field day, and of research at the Panhandle Center.

This year’s PARTT was modified to accommodate health measures due to pandemic. Instead of a trailer tour through research plots, the event consisted of a morning of presentations by extension specialists. After lunch, attendees were invited to visit the research plots. Again, due to pandemic constraints, no trailers were deployed to move the crowd. Visitors either drove their vehicles or walked to nearby plots. A survey of those who attended the field day showed that 87 percent believed PARTT increased their knowledge, and 65 percent said the event provided them with new resources. The farmers, ranchers and ag professionals who filled out surveys represented more than 225,000 acres of farmland.

Growers who want to hear more about the research discussed at the August field day, learn preliminary results, and ask questions, will have an opportunity to do so in early December, at a special online event called PARTT PLUS. This virtual field day will be live over the World Wide Web, and available to anybody with an internet connection. The exact dates, topics, and other details will be announced in November, several weeks before PARTT PLUS. Stay tuned.
Acetolactate synthase (ALS)-inhibitor resistant Palmer amaranth is difficult to control in dry beans. Currently labeled pre-emergence (PRE) and preplant incorporated (PPI) herbicides are effective for controlling ALS-inhibitor resistant Palmer amaranth. However, a post-emergence (POST) herbicide is generally needed to provide season-long control. ALS-inhibitor-resistant Palmer amaranth is resistant to Pursuit® and Raptor®, while Basagran® is generally ineffective for controlling pigweed species. Varisto®, a pre-packaged mixture of Raptor® and Basagran® is also ineffective. Reflex® is an effective herbicide for Palmer amaranth control but due to label restrictions, many dry bean farmers are unable to apply Reflex® within their rotation.

If dry bean growers are managing Palmer amaranth and are unable to apply Reflex®, a POST applied group 15 herbicide (such as Outlook) may be the best alternative. Group 15 herbicides will not control already emerged weeds but will control Palmer amaranth as it germinates. Group 15 herbicides applied sequentially can provide overlapping residual activity and supplement weed control achieved by POST herbicides. Currently, Outlook® is the only labeled group 15 herbicide for POST application in dry bean.

Timing of Outlook applied POST in dry bean

Field experiments conducted at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff in 2019 and 2020 demonstrated that sequential applications of Outlook® can provide similar control of Palmer amaranth as Reflex® applied POST. In these studies, all herbicide programs contained a PRE application of Prowl® H2O (32 fl oz/A) + Outlook® (13 fl oz/A). While POST herbicides differed among herbicide programs and application timing (Table 1).

Outlook applied at the first trifoliate (V1) provided season long control of Palmer amaranth in both 2019 and 2020. When Outlook was applied at the third trifoliate (V3), season-long weed control was achieved in 2020, but not in 2019.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST herbicide (rate/Acre)</th>
<th>Palmer amaranth control (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Reflex® (16 fl oz) at V1</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Reflex® (16 fl oz) + Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V1</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V1</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Reflex® (16 fl oz) at V3</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Reflex® (16 fl oz) + Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V3</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V3</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Reflex® (16 fl oz) at V1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V1</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V1</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Reflex® (16 fl oz) at V3</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raptor® (4 fl oz) + Basagran® (1.2 pt) + Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V3</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>Outlook® (8 fl oz) at V3</td>
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*Table 1.* Control of Palmer amaranth at 4 weeks after V3 application (WA V3) for 2019 and 2020.
Figure 1. Palmer amaranth control in dry bean with selected herbicide programs at 4 weeks after V3 in 2019 (left column) and 2020 (right column).
Palmer amaranth emergence occurs throughout the season, generally from early May to late August. Consequently, weed control programs targeting Palmer amaranth need to provide season-long weed control, or weed control from planting through canopy closure. Weather conditions in 2019 likely led to a faster breakdown of residual activity from applied PRE herbicides compared to 2020, resulting in Palmer amaranth emerging after the V1 growth stage. Consequently, Palmer amaranth plants were not controlled when Outlook was applied alone at V3 in 2019. While in 2020, the sequential application of Outlook at V1 or V3 prevented Palmer amaranth emergence through the R1 stage, when the crop canopy was large enough to close rows and suppress weed emergence.

**Take Home Message**

- PRE herbicide longevity can be variable from year to year, along with the timing of Palmer amaranth emergence, depending on weather and other factors.
- Outlook applied at V1 in 2019 and 2020 provided excellent Palmer amaranth control, while Outlook applied at V3 was unable to suppress Palmer amaranth in 2019.
- Application timing is critical for sequential applications of Outlook, however, the longevity of soil applied herbicides and the timing of Palmer amaranth emergence is highly variable and difficult to predict.

![Low pods? No problem!](image-url)
ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

BEAN WORD SEARCH

L A R G E   L I M A   E L T R U T
W I Z D A M I   Y B A B A D I
N Y G A R B A N Z O C F A K P
R M N T P A Z R U X Z
E A B C T R Y W N I K Z O E I
H L U B K R C N V R D N G H Y
T B A C K E Y E A R F A V A
R I N O Y L Y D E R L A M S
O J B S L V K C K N T N H L I
N Q A I T I C E N I F A B I Z
T G N S D N A L I M D L A J A
A I F N C G L K P P I N T O S
E W E K E D B M U Z Q G E K A
R Y R O P C R A N B E R Y N
G O Z D U A E P K C I H C H A

WORD LIST

ANASAZI    FAVA     BLACKEYE
CRANBERRY   PINK     NAVY
GARBANZO    LARGE LIMA  PINTO
TURTLE      BABY LIMA  CANNELLINI
DARK RED KIDNEY  LIGHT RED KIDNEY GREAT NORTHERN
SMALL RED    CHICKPEA  BLACK
ADZUKI

"HUMOR"

Q: Why couldn’t the bean answer the door?
A: It was in the can.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
Youth in Agriculture

Amid a pandemic, Gering High School started an agricultural education program and FFA chapter. As school nears the end of the first quarter, there are 65 students enrolled in the agricultural education classes. Alyssa Asselin, a student in Introduction to Agriculture and Animal Science, stated her reason for enrolling in agricultural education classes was, “To learn about all of the different careers in the agriculture industry.” This year Gering High School has offered Introduction to Agriculture, Animal Science, and Large Animal Management as the courses that students could enroll in. We hope that in future years we are able to expand our offerings to Plant Science, Agribusiness, and many other valuable courses with some possible dual-credit courses being available as well. We are starting to make plans to hopefully add a school greenhouse and possibly an animal housing facility for students to be able to gain more hands-on experience working with plants and animals.

The Gering FFA chapter is off to a great start with 19 members and two meetings completed. When asked why he joined FFA, Logan Schleicher said, “I joined FFA to become a better leader.” Speaking of leaders we selected chapter officers through an application and interview process on October 8th. The officers are as follows: Madison Walker-President, Chance Rahmig-Vice President, Austin Rahmig-Secretary, Katelyn Shimic-Treasurer, Carter Shimic-Reporter, Hannah Walker-Parliamentarian, and Austin Wiedeman-Sentinel. Katelyn Shimic commented that she is most excited for, “learning new things and going to competitions.” Gering FFA is also preparing to participate in the first round of district competitions on November 30th in Chadron, NE. If you are interested in keeping up with the Gering FFA chapter follow us on Facebook at Gering FFA.

The FFA chapter has been very fortunate to receive two grants; one from Farm Credit Services of America and the second from Scotts Bluff County Farm Bureau. Both grants were used to purchase new chapter items for the Gering FFA Chapter such as; a jacket set, FFA ties, and FFA scarves to loan out to students, FFA officer binders, four nameplate plaques for students earning their State and American degrees and/or a state and/or national officer position to display in the classroom, and various other helpful items to get the chapter started.

The Gering agricultural education program and Gering FFA would like to thank the community for all of your support to make this program possible for Gering students and we look forward to your continued support! We also encourage you to support your future agricultural leaders through the I Believe in the Future of Ag campaign by going to www.neffafoundation.org and making a donation to your local chapter.
Nebraska Dry Bean Commission welcomes Gregg Doud, Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the Office of the U. S. Trade Representative to Western Nebraska

During a March 2020 meeting with Ambassador Gregg Doud, the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission representatives invited Ambassador Doud to visit Western Nebraska and witness dry bean harvest. On September 3-4, 2020 he was in the Scottsbluff, NE area. Ambassador Doud serves as the Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Coming from an agricultural background being raised on a dry-land wheat, grain sorghum, soybean, swine and cow-calf operation near Mankato, Kansas, Ambassador Doud was eager to learn about Nebraska’s dry bean production and harvest.

During Ambassador Doud’s visit he visited the Maser Family farms to see dry bean harvest up close, met with Western Nebraska agriculture leaders during a round-table listening session, toured New Alliance Bean’s Alliance facility in Alliance, NE and visited Troy Schnell’s farm during dry bean harvest.

During the round-table listening session, Ambassador Doud said “The U.S. and the U. K. still have a lot of negotiating ahead of them, but the British will likely agree to a free trade agreement that allows for increased trade in beef, pork and poultry.” Ambassador Doud indicated USTR would be engaging in a fourth round of negotiations with the U.K. the end of September.

The Nebraska Dry Bean Commission would like to thank Governor Ricketts, Congressman Adrian Smith, Steve Wellman, Director Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and Amelia Breining, Assistant Director Nebraska Department of Agriculture, for their participation during Ambassador Doud’s visit. NDBC would also like to thank John Maser Sr., James and John Jr. Maser and Troy Schnell for taking time out during their dry bean harvest to visit with NDBC’s guests and sharing their family’s stories.

NDBC took this opportunity to share with Ambassador Doud the economic impact dry edible beans have for the 20 county region in Nebraska, Nebraska’s ranking as the #1 producer of great northern beans and #2 producer of pinto and light red kidney beans. Nebraska dry bean industry representatives shared the importance foreign markets have for dry bean producers in Nebraska and expressed appreciation for USTR’s continued trade negotiations.

According to the USDA Global Agricultural Trade System, the top five export markets in 2019 were: Dominican Republic ($5.6 Million) Turkey ($3.24 Million) European Union ($3.02 Million) Canada ($2.12 Million) Mexico ($1.69 Million. 2019 Nebraska’s total export value was $23.5 Million down slightly from 2018’s $23.8 Million.
Chairman’s Comments

By Brian Kaman

On behalf of the members of the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission, I would like to welcome Courtney Schuler as a Processor Representative and congratulate Courtney Schuler, Dave Weber, on their recent appointment by Governor Ricketts to serve as Processor Representatives on the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission. I would also like to congratulate David Howell on his re-appointment to the Commission to serve as District 1 Grower Representative.

I would like to commend the Panhandle Research and Extension Center’s Research faculty and staff for their ability to transition this year’s field tour to a different platform to accommodate COVID restrictions. I feel the presentations were timely and informative, although many I spoke with liked the traditional platform, everyone appreciated the fact that PREC faculty adapted and chose not to cancel the event.

In September, NDBC was honored to host Ambassador Gregg Doud, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative, to Western Nebraska to show-case the dry bean industry and dry bean harvest. Rarely do Western Nebraska producers have the opportunity to meet with a high-level representative on their home turf to hear about on-going trade negotiations. I want to thank Governor Ricketts, Congressman Adrian Smith, Director Steve Wellman and Assistant Director Amelia Breining for joining the tour in Western Nebraska and to Lynn Reuter, NDBC Executive Director, for coordinating Ambassador Doud’s tour.

NDBC will hold its annual Research Reporting and Planning Session on December 3rd at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, I would like to encourage dry bean producers to attend this meeting to give their input into research they feel is important for the upcoming year.
October is National Farm to School Month, an annual 31-day movement to recognize, appreciate and celebrate the connections between kids, families and their community food systems. National Farm to School Month was designated by Congress in 2010, making this year’s campaign the 10th Anniversary of National Farm to School Month celebration.

Governor Pete Ricketts issued a proclamation recognizing October as Farm to School Month “Nebraska farm to school is a triple win, benefiting: children with early exposure to agriculture and healthy nutrition experiences; farmers with market diversification and opportunity to increase profits; and community, building positive relationships between farmers, children, parents, school staff, and others, helping to engrain the important role of agriculture in how our food gets to our tables.”

The Nebraska Thursday’s program celebrates Nebraska-sourced meals in school cafeterias at more than 60 districts in Nebraska. Nebraska schools serves 243,570 students and 38,389 children and adults in early childhood and adult day centers daily.

Gering Public Schools participate in the Farm to School program, the Harvest of the Month Program and feature Cuisines Around the World in which each month a country, fruit, vegetable and spice/herb are featured. “We find the students love the culinary experience by trying different flavors of foreign countries” said Mary Carman, Food Service Director, Taher, Inc. “We try to feature as many locally grown products as possible in our food service program.”

Gering Public Schools has participated in the Farm to School and Harvest of the Month programs since 2017.

The Nebraska Dry Bean Commission has been a supporter of the Nebraska Farm to School and the Nebraska Thursday’s programs since 2017. Nebraska grown dry edible beans are recognized as “locally available year round” which allows schools to feature dry beans any month of the school year.
US Dry Bean Council Filming of 2020 Dry Bean Harvest

Filming cutting of dry beans on the Justin Relka farm

Many events over the past six-months during the pandemic have taken a different look. The US Dry Bean Council (USDBC) will take a different approach to communicating with foreign bean buyers in reference to the 2020 dry bean crop. USDBC has partnered with FLM Harvest and Torchworks to travel around the Midwest shooting footage of all aspects of dry bean harvest and processing across Nebraska, North Dakota and Michigan.

Interviews with dry bean producers, processing company representatives and harvest video will be used to tell the story of the U. S. being a consistent and reliable supplier of high-quality dry beans. The content captured will be used for webinars with international buyers as well as a 2020 dry bean harvest video.

While the team was in Nebraska they toured New Alliance Bean processing facility, interviewed Leander Hopkins and Justin Relka, NDBC members.

We look forward to seeing the final video.

US Dry Bean Exports to the Americas Reach New Heights

It has been a good year for US dry bean exports to the Americas due to a combination of strong demand and trade agreements that provide preferential market access.

In the first eleven months of market year 2019/2020, 41,787 MT of US dry beans were exported to the Dominican Republic; more than in each of the past ten marketing years, slightly above the 2015/16 record.

From September 2019 throught July 2020, US exported 12,146 MT of dry beans to Costa Rica and 6,236 MT to El Salvador.

USDBC’s BeanCon 21 is the first of its kind global conference on everything dry beans with a strong focus on innovation. BeanCon 21 will be a virtual conference held March 2-3, 2021.

Nebraska Dry Bean Commission recognizes Dr. Jack Whittier as Ex-Officio Member

During the August 13, meeting the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission members recognized Dr. Jack Whittier, UNL Panhandle Research and Extension Center Director for his service as Ex-Officio member on the Commission for the past 6 years. NDBC would like to wish Jack the very best in his future endeavors.

The Nebraska Dry Bean Commission will hold its annual Research Reporting and Planning Session on December 3, 2020 at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center Blue Stem room beginning at 9:00 AM. NDBC would like to encourage dry bean producers to attend and give their input into researchable topics for the 2020-21 year.
PLEASE HELP!
We need to keep our mailing list for “The Bean Bag” up to date so if your mailing address has or will be changed, please give us a call at:

(308) 633-1387 or email to:
nebeangrower@allophone.com

or mail the changes to us at:
4502 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

If you raise beans, are a land owner or a bean processor and want to receive the Bean Bag, please contact us and we will get you added to the list.

If you no longer want to receive the Bean Bag please contact us at any of the above options to remove your name.

Thank you!
The Bean Bag is supported by vendor ads and bean checkoff dollars.

Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association
4502 Avenue I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

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