

Our Vision

Building a consumer focused, farmer-owned agri-business with innovative people committed to excellence in a global marketplace.

Our Mission

To be a progressive, diversified agri-co-operative providing the benefits of ownership.

Our Motto

Proud to be farmer-owned.

04/08

DRY BEAN PRODUCTION

by Walt Vermunt, CCA-ON

Field selection

The maximum potential for dry beans is realized by planting into good conditions – planting date and weather are not the only issues to consider. Selecting fields with proper soil structure and good drainage is essential to ensure that plants flourish. Producers with livestock operations have potential for topnotch yields with proper rotations, and manure to build nutrient levels. Field history plays an essential part in the selection process. Has the field recently been harvested under wet conditions and if so, has it had a chance to recover? If you have a tough field, plant it to a tough crop that will be able to tolerate poorer conditions. Consider which herbicides have been used on the previous crop – some restrictions may occur following a corn crop. Weed history is critical – always start with clean fields. Your HDC Field Marketer can provide good advice on herbicides.

Soil testing

With higher potential returns this year, it makes good sense to maximize crop yields by ensuring that nutrient levels are in balance. This is not the year to cut back on nitrogen. An application of 50 to 60 lbs/ac of actual N is a standard program for most growers. To save a field pass, the N can be applied as 28% and incorporated with a herbicide. Phosphorous and potash, as determined by soil testing, can be broadcast as well but the premium program is to band these products beside and below the seed at planting. With medium soil test levels, most growers will get a good response from 35 to 40 lb/ac of P and 45 to 50 lb/ac of K. My recommendation is to review the soil test results (and those of previous crops) and address any deficiencies by adding micronutrients to your starter fertilizer. A soil test is a good guide for indicating the need for zinc (Zn). If soil tests below 1 part per million (ppm), there is a good probability of dry bean response to zinc fertilizer. Even a mild Zn deficiency or an imbalance with other nutrients can reduce yields and cause significant maturity delays. Soil conditions such as high pH, low organic matter, coarse texture, high P, compaction, restricted root zones and eroded soils favour the development of Zn deficiencies. Foliar applications of zinc can be used to correct

unexpected symptoms in season, however a planned application of banded product will provide the best results. The application of a foliar fertilizer containing Zn and Mn is an economical choice and can be applied along with herbicides or insecticides to save an additional field pass. HDC carries a good selection of products from Omex as well as Stoller and Oligosol.

Will high fertility cause white mould?

In years when environmental conditions favour higher yields, conditions also stimulate greater mineralization of N from organic matter and crop residues, resulting in higher N. Therefore, concerns about applying too much N and causing excessive growth, thereby promoting white mould, are likely unfounded. The vigorous plant growth is as much a result of available moisture as it is fertility. Certainly, being prepared to apply fungicides at the proper time is important in a higher yield environment. When crop canopy and environmental conditions support sporulation, the timely application of Lance fungicide at early blossom will prevent the development of white mould. If anthracnose symptoms appear in the form of black lesions on the underside of leaves and on petioles and stems, the application of Headline or Quadris is warranted.

Insect and disease concerns

Some major advances have been made in the seed treatments available in recent years. Seedling disease control has been good with CruiserMaxx, and the pest control provided by Cruiser is giving excellent control of potato leafhopper (PLH) for 4 to 6 weeks after planting. This will normally provide control through the most susceptible stage of plant growth. Plants will tolerate a higher population of PLH as they develop. With the higher incidence of bean leaf beetle (BLB) in soybean fields, growers should also look for them in dry bean fields. BLB feeding on pods will cause costly damage. Tarnished plant bugs can also cause seed damage and should be monitored at flowering time. Proper scouting and a good source of information are essential. Your HDC Field Marketer is an excellent resource to provide timely information for good production.

WE NEED MORE EDIBLE BEAN ACRES

by Earl Wagner

HDC appreciates the excellent support received from our member-owners in helping to achieve our acreage goals. Our Field Marketers and growers have worked together over the past five months and today we are very close to meeting our supply requirements – but we need approximately 10% more acres of various kinds of beans.

Since 1993, HDC has invested over \$35 million in facilities and provided the personnel and markets to build the necessary infrastructure. Member-owners have responded by producing high quality beans and together we have earned a profitable niche market. Our estimate is \$10 million annual premium to Ontario growers over commercial soys/corn.

One example is Premier Foods, our largest customer from England. Premier Foods supply approximately one-half of the UK customers with a food staple. Japan has also been an excellent buyer of Otebo and Azuki beans. These, as well as our many domestic and export customers, have provided good profit opportunities for growers for many years.

With the high volatility of the CBOT commodity markets, our edible bean buyers have continued to support HDC. Food-grade beans represent a good niche market for profit potential this year and in the future. After years of fighting for market access, we do not want to risk losing it because of a lack of reliable supply.

We are asking for your support. Please consider planting some additional acres of Otebo (\$48 cwt), White Kidneys (\$54 cwt), Dark Red Kidneys (\$54 cwt) and White Beans (\$43 cwt).

Contact your Field Marketer or call HDC at 519-262-3002 or toll free at 1-800-265-5190. Best wishes to all in 2008!

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is proud to be the supplier of choice for Japan & Southeast Asia's leading soymilk processors.



HDC's growers have a well established reputation for supplying quality edible soybeans for tofu, miso and soymilk.

Limited contracts still available for:

Variety	Food Grade Premium
HDC X790	\$3.75
S14-P6	\$2.25
OAC Kent	\$2.00

Many varieties are now sold out! Additional premiums for On-Farm Storage.



For information regarding HDC's Current Crop & New Crop Opportunities Contact your Local Field Marketer or

1-800-265-5190

1-519-262-3002

"Proud to be Farmer Owned"

Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Our current return rate is 70%.
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ENSURE 100% RETURN.
IT'S A WIN, WIN, WIN FOR EVERYONE.

The empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program is a highly successful approach to managing crop protection waste. It includes, on an annual basis, the collection of **5.5 million** empty plastic pesticide containers spread across thousands of Canadian farms. Canada is a world leader. Since its inception in 1989, over **60 million** containers have been collected.

CropLife Canada, through its **stewardshipfirst™** initiative, picks up containers at the return sites, shreds them and transports the shredded material to various recyclers, where it is manufactured into fence posts for back on the farm, highway guardrails and other agricultural uses. This is a **VOLUNTARY** program, at 0 cost to the farmer.



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