

# Ontario Beans Newsletter

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## Website enhancements

Changes to the [Ontario Beans](#) website have been slow in coming but here are some enhancements. On the main page there is now a ["What's New"](#) link that will show you the latest postings and take you there. As well there is a regularly updated ["Upcoming Events Calendar"](#)



Dear Susan,

## Welcome to the Ontario Beans e-Newsletter

This is our 4th issue and it features articles that have appeared in hard copy newsletter or on our Website - [www.ontariobeans.on.ca](http://www.ontariobeans.on.ca) as well as some 'new' news!

From the main Website click on the Bean Producers tab and it will bring you to ["the Bean Blog"](#) - our producer information page. We invite you to visit it for updates - better yet bookmark it.

## Send your comments and or suggestions to our general email address

[whitebeans@ontariobeans.on.ca](mailto:whitebeans@ontariobeans.on.ca)

Should you wish not to receive this newsletter in the future you may simply use the [SafeUnsubscribe](#) link at the bottom of this email.

## 2009/10 Ontario White Bean Crop Review

Planted area to White Pea Beans (WPB) in 2009 dropped nearly 45% from the previous year to about 50,000 acres. Based on a marketed crop of 882,200 bags (~40,000 Mt.)

White Pea Bean Field in mid July 2010 showing good growth but uneven seeding and emergence.



## iBEaN

The OBPMB partnered with the [OAFE](#) under their Healthy Eating program and was successful on the request for proposal on the iBean (**I**nternet [**f**ocus] **B**eneficial **E**ducational and **N**utritious) project. The Board then contracted with [UWO](#) & [GFTC](#) to execute.

This program targets first year university students (ages 17-19 yrs.). It promotes the nutritional, economical and health benefits of Ontario farm-grown beans. It delivers positive nutrition messages of healthy eating via the university Internet/intranet. The program message includes: nutrition information; identification of the relationship between healthy eating and agriculture; tasty, easy to follow recipes demonstrated by chefs all on digital videos. All recipes were featured in

average yield within the province calculates out at 17.6 bags per acre. Total output was the lowest since 2000 & 2001 when production cratered out at just under 600,000 bags. The audited results for the 2009 crop will be available by end of September.

Marketing of the 2009 crop followed patterns set in previous years. About 3% of the crop was marketed through "the Pool". Those growers delivering to the pool received an initial payment of \$22.07/bag; and interim payment of \$10.00/bag and should receive a final payment of \$2.15/bag (projected). Once the auditor's have completed their review, we expect to have the final payment in the mail by the end of September or the first week of October.

The average price for the entire crop is projected at \$33.06/bag or \$728.80/Mt.

Meanwhile this drastic drop in production created some difficulties for the OBPMB. Even with reigning in expenses by just over 9% over last year the staff is projecting a drawdown on reserves of approximately \$258,300. Revenues on the crop were a meager \$265,200 which is the lowest since the first two years of the new millennium. The Board continues to strive and keep up the services and output in the strategic "Key Results Areas" the Board developed in 2005.

## 2010 Bean Crop

This year's white bean crop is just starting to turn with some early fields being harvested as this is being written.

Acres planted were a surprising 81,000 however the early planting and growing season offered some challenges to the crop and basically capped potential yields. Excessive moisture in some cases and too much heat for other fields as they were coming into flower and pod set will likely moderate overall yields.

For an analysis of the North American Production, Supply and Disposition numbers visit '[the Bean Blog](#)' or go directly to [Preharvest 2010 update](#).

The 2010 pick and moisture charts can be found here:

[2010 Pick chart](#)

[Drying Charges & Shrink](#)

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## The OBPMB's 'Key Results Areas'

menu rotations at the UWO campus. Six unique new bean recipes were created and two recipes were chosen to be featured in a one and then in a 3 minute video.

The full length videos can be accessed from the [UWO iBean website](#) and once the Ontario Beans web-page is fully operational we will 'host' them there as well.



## "Beans as a Super Food"

Beans are the most widely consumed legume/pulse in the world. More and more reports and research findings continue to support the idea that beans are truly a functional food, though not many people understand this term. Reports on Canadian clinical trials (human) show pulses, which include beans, are instrumental in helping mitigate chronic diseases such as Diabetes, vascular disorders like CVD and PVD (Cardio and Peripheral, Vascular Disease), as well as some forms of cancers.

In a strategic planning session in 2005 and then revisited in 2007 the Board set out prioritized "Key Results Areas" which in order are: Research, Communications, Promotions, Marketing, Merger and Lobbying. Each is addressed below.

## Research

Grower dollar expenditures in Research continue to be the Board's second largest single line expense. The collaborative (grower/government) joint (federal/provincial) bean breeding/genetics program is ramping up. The idea for a single unified public bean breeding program was conceived in 2003/04 and came into being in 2008 when Dr. Ali Navabi was hired as the plant breeder. The program has been successful in attracting significant funding under the federal DIAP (Developing Innovative Agricultural Products) program. This compliments other funding the program has previously garnered. The program is exploring possibilities to attract additional incremental resources to broaden and deepen the genetic/genomic research thrust in dry beans. In the more practical down to earth areas - a major study into the effects of pre-harvest aids and potential new chemistries was initiated with significant first time contributions from industry beyond the farm gate.

As well, the OBPMB deployed its FIP (Farm Innovation Program) funding into two separate multiyear Agronomic studies. The first study is looking at a pest which is quickly spreading into Ontario - The Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) feeds both on corn and dry beans and has the capacity to overwinter in Ontario soils. Critical moth numbers have been recorded as the pest invades Ontario. Another study has been initiated into a purported 'crop booster' product "Humika". This study will evaluate its reported benefits for plant health - "Can it's claimed benefits be substantiated for Ontario soils and conditions?"

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## Marketing

In the marketing area a new 3 year marketing agreement was hammered out with the Dealers. This agreement will see a 'Drying Formula' applied to the variable cost component of drying charges applied to moisture beans. For the 2010 crop year drying charges for 20% or higher beans will be 1.4% **lower** than 2009. The formula will be used to update the drying charges annually. To see the 2010 dry/shrink as well as pick & moisture drying charges click on the respective links.

[2010 Pick chart](#)

[Drying Charges & Shrink](#)

We will be changing and enhancing the main page [Nutrition & Health](#) to reflect a general introduction but click through the various subtitles eg. [cancer](#) to see what we have posted so far. We will soon be adding historic and current findings along with reports from the Web.

## Recipes

The OBPMB continues to partner with other organizations like [Middlesex London health unit](#) to promote healthier lifestyles by providing healthier meal choices that include beans. Visit their website [www.HealthyLivingInfo.ca](http://www.HealthyLivingInfo.ca) to find ideas, tips & resources you can easily integrate into your day to help YOU feel great! They have featured such delicious and easy to prepare OBPMB recipes as "Dill Tomato & Feta Baked Beans" and "Spanish Bean Frittata".

There will be an additional 10 featured recipes in the not too distant future

Mature 2010 White Pea Bean field on Labour Day weekend - ready for harvest, but showing weed escapes.

The OBPMB will be initiating a pricing page 'the Bean Prices Report' so that growers can at least benchmark crop values when there are no 'board prices'. The white bean market continues to rationalize and consolidate. Stresses of the recent "financial crisis" has put more and more pressure on the supply chain beyond the farm gate where today the grower is being asked to assume most if not all of the ownership risks. We hope that a better way can be found since under the present conditions many growers will soon opt for easier and less risky cropping options. Less risky from a standpoint of growing and cash flow(ing).

## Communications and Promotions

In this area the OBPMB has been working with Middlesex Lambton Health Unit - two separate divisions - as well as the hospitality services of [UWO](#) (University of Western Ontario), the [GFTC](#) (Guelph Food Technology Centre) and the [OAFE](#) (Ontario Agri-Food Education organization) to develop new recipes that use beans - watch for them on the OBPMB website [www.ontariobenas.on.ca](http://www.ontariobenas.on.ca) . The Board's website will undergo some 'renovations' to accommodate both grower and consumer news and information. Watch for some of these developments on the [Nutrition & Health page](#). Once these changes have been implemented staff will begin populating the various pages with archival, current as well as new and breaking news and information on beans.

## Merger & Lobbying

In these last two categories the OBPMB has taken a 'status quo' approach in regards to moving towards amalgamation and/or merger with other commodity groups or organizations but at the same time working with them in 'messaging' with a single voice in common interest areas such as safety nets, business risk management etc.

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## Recipes and more Recipes

The OBPMB will be upping its compliment of recipes on the Web by nearly 30%. We have accumulated 20 plus 'new' recipes for beans. They will be added as soon as suitable art work (pictures) are developed and the Website has been modified to accommodate.

We have 6 new recipes from the [iBean](#) project, up to 10 provided by the [London Community Resource Centre](#) from



their program "[Cook-it-up](#)", designed to help youth at risk learn an essential life skill of cooking healthy food from local production. As well [Pulse Canada](#) has kindly allowed the use of 17 individual recipes from the '[Cooking with Pulses](#)' pamphlet. All these recipes will be coming to the Ontario Beans recipe pages- soon.

**I hope you've enjoyed this newsletter.  
Keep current at '[the Bean Blog](#)'.**

***Tino Breuer***

Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board

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