

Survey Information Sheet

Dry Bean Inquiry – December 2022

Instructions for All Enumerators to Review before Contacting

PURPOSE OF SURVEY:

To obtain data on planted acreage, final yields, and production by class, of dry edible beans. Estimates of Dry Bean acreage and production by class will be published in the January *Crop Production* report.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING SURVEY:

Question 1 – Screening: If someone indicates that they are not growing dry beans this year, especially if they are a dry bean grower with significant historical acreage, it will be important to know what that operation's future intentions for growing dry beans are, and what other agricultural activities take place on the operation so we can update our records.

Question 2 – Acreage and Production by Class:

- It is important the dry beans acres, both planted and harvested, are broken down by class. If the operator cannot give you acreage by class, provide the total acres and write a comment with an approximate percentage of each class planted.
- Production must be reported in Clean Pounds. If some other unit is provided, please leave a note explaining what the unit is so that a conversion may be made by a Stat at a later point.
- The goal is to publish "clean" production. To that end, if the operator provides production in unclean lbs., try to get the "Pick Rate" for each class of dry beans. The Pick Rate refers to the percentage, by weight, of defective beans including splits, checked seed coats, discolored beans, misshapen, contrasting types, and foreign material that remains after dockage
- If a respondent grows beans that are in an "other" dry bean class, please indicate which class of dry beans they grew in the box provided.

Crop Comments: Please prompt the respondent to provide comments on the condition of the 2022 dry bean crop; specifically, any comments on weather conditions, disease, insect problems, or anything else that might affect production, crop quality, or marketing of the crop are appreciated. Comments like these will help us understand what's happening with the dry bean crop. If the respondent isn't growing dry beans this year, please enter an appropriate comment explaining what is happening on the operation.

Things to look out for:

- Harvested Acres cannot be greater than planted acres.
- If the respondent answers the first screening question with "YES", then they cannot have zero acres of dry beans planted.
- For most operations, planted acres should be less than 1,000 for any individual class and less than 1,500 acres total.
- Harvested acres should be at least half of the planted acres.
- If harvested acres are positive, then production should be positive.
- Yields should calculate to be between 400 and 4000 lbs. per acre.
- Prices are normally between \$0.20-\$0.60 per pound, but could be a little higher this year.

Notes on California dry beans:

California: In mid-May a cold front pushed temperatures down to the mid to upper 30's in the northern half of the state, negatively impacting development of some beans planted in mid to late April.

Some summer monsoonal rain drenched the state along the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley, where a good amount of dry beans tend to be planted. The rain was early enough for

some plantings to be beneficial, but not so much for beans anticipated to be harvested in early August.

The yields in California this year are anticipated to be at or below those of last year. Yields generally run between 14 and 28 cwt/acre depending on location, irrigation practices, and bean variety. This year the garbanzo (chickpea) yields are trending down from 27 and 28 to be in the range of 25+/- according to the local dry bean association. There are always exceptions to these trends.

If there is an op reporting a really good yield, please follow-up as one would with really low yields.

Your comments in CATI are very helpful with data review and analysis.

Some water allocations in California's Sacramento Valley were sold to municipalities and to farmers in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley and the seller reduced their ag acreage. This was primarily done by rice farmers as seen in the dramatic drop in rice acreage this year. The take-away from this is that farmers are responding to the changing conditions in the state in creative ways.

The ongoing drought and concomitant reductions in irrigation water will likely contribute to reduced acreage and yields for some operations.

The uptick in bean consumption during the early phase (2020) of the Covid pandemic has tapered off.

There is a growing expectation that demand will surge again as the economy tanks further, but this response may not be evident until late 2022 to early 2023. The prices received for dry beans should reflect the state of the economy and reduced production and be above those of last year.

A few growers this year planted more beans than in prior years, as beans tend to require less irrigation than some other field/vegetable crops. The June survey showed some optimistic spring planting intentions (March survey) were reduced in response to some late season (April) reductions in irrigation water allocations. Your data collection this Fall will further flesh out the story of dry bean growers this year.