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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(Neb.)-Dry Bean Direct Harvest Meeting Coming Up In Alliance



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/25/2013 09:47 AM

(ALLIANCE)-Bean growers and those interested in beans are invited to a meeting in Alliance on February 15th sponsored by experts with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.

The Dry Bean Direct Harvest Meeting begins with sign-in and coffee at 9:30 a.m. at Knight Museum & Sandhills Center, located at 908 Yellowstone. The meeting will last into the afternoon, and lunch will be served.

Experts will present up-to-date information about the direct harvest of dry edible beans to growers who already practice direct harvest as well as those considering it. Direct harvest is a one-pass method utilizing a combine with the correct header.

Extension educator John Thomas with the UNL extension in Box Butte County said direct harvest of dry edible beans has become popular in other major dry-bean production areas. He says in Western Nebraska, some growers have begun practicing direct harvest, and their number is increasing year by year.

One of the benefits is that the crop is not as exposed to bad weather during harvest. Customary practices leave bean plants lying in the field, vulnerable to the wind, after they have been cut off at the ground. Thomas says there's also a potential cost savings from making fewer passes over the field, which is balanced by the potential for greater harvest loss of beans. Farmers who adopt direct harvest need to find ways to minimize harvest loss. Topics at the Feb. 15th meeting will include field preparation, using a planter vs. drilling, weed control, the use of desiccants, direct harvesting, measuring and evaluating harvest loss and insurance considerations. Speakers will include John Smith, emeritus professor at UNL, who retired several years ago as Machinery Systems Engineer; UNL Extension Weed Specialist Robert Wilson; and Thomas.

Equipment representatives will be giving an update on what is available or coming soon for direct harvest (Case IH, John Deere, MacDon). A grower panel will have the opportunity to answer questions and discuss their experiences with direct harvest.

Attendees are asked to pre-register by Friday, Feb. 8th. There is no cost for the meeting, but lunch will be available for those who pre-register. For more information or to register, call extension educator John Thomas at 308-762-5616.