Colorado Department of Agriculture news August 19,2020

In the first 5 months of 2020, Colorado dry bean exports totaled $1.5 million which is down about 53% from this time in 2019. This dramatic decrease is due to a few factors around the world. For one, 2019 harvest of dry beans around the world saw extreme weather conditions, some places were hit with drought while others had floods and frost. Second, increased domestic demand of dry beans due to the global COVID-19 pandemic meant less product being shipped to overseas markets. It was an unusual year where we had a bad crop in the U.S. and at the same time Mexico also suffered from a poor harvest. This meant that dealers were having big demand and trying to parcel out the dry beans to existing customers carefully and tactically. As a result, we saw prices for Dry Beans reach new highs.

Enclosed below is a report sent recently from Nora Gonzalez our contractor in Mexico.

-Between May and July the Ministry of Agriculture give as lend 8.7 thousand mt of seed to over 20,000 producers to be planted. The producers will “return” these seed after harvesting. This was the “solution” the government gave to small scale producers and to try to secure the production of next cycle. They expect this program will represent 30% of total production.

*- Pinto beans have had skyrocketing prices, therefore wholesalers, packers and retailers are buying less volume. But sill is limited availability in both Mexico and the US*

*- It is expected in some places the harvest to start in 2 more weeks.*

*- Zacatecas has been affected by rains in the last weeks.*

*- Chihuahua some growers did not plant, and are planning to plant oats, due to weather and climate conditions.*

*- Durango, the government just finished a week ago with the delivery of the seed,*

*- Government has reported that some warehouses traditionally used to store beans, will be sold, and that has promoted protests between some growers.*

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) continues to try and help Colorado Dry Bean producers find new markets and increase sales. CDA has linked the Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee (CDBAC) with,

1] Local distributor Barber’s Foods in the Denver area to help get local beans to restaurants and retailers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Greg BloomBarber’s Foods, IncDenver, COT. 303-466-7338C.303-470-8883E: greg@barbersfoods.com |

2] A newly formed company in the San Luis Valley area who specializes in the MX market.

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 CDA has also assisted the CDBAC with securing a specialty crop block grant to support new marketing initiatives for 2020. A big hand to Bob Schork and Harvey Colglazier for aggressively pursuing this funding and seeing it through.

For future projects, CDA is planning on moving forward with trade activities. In the current stage of COVID-19, many activities will become virtual which allows more participates to join with ease from their home or office. Going into next year, we hope to see you in person.

CDA Activities:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Product of Focus** | **Location** |
| Mexico Buyer Meetings | Sept-Dec | All Commodities | Virtual |
| Europe Buyer Meetings | Sept-Dec | All Commodities | Virtual |
| South East USA and Caribbean Buyer Meetings | Sept-Dec | All Commodities | Virtual |
| Netherlands Trade Mission | Nov 30 – Dec 5, 2020 | All Commodities | Amsterdam, Netherlands |
| Food and Hotel Asia  | Mar 2— 5 2021 | All Commodities | Singapore |
| International Food and Drink Expo | March 22 – 24, 2021 | All Commodities | London, England |
| ANTAD Trade Show | March 30 – April 1, 2021 | All Commodities | Guadalajara, Mexico |
| SIAL Canada | April 27-29, 2021 | All Commoditites | Toronto, Canada |
| Tutto Foods | May 17-20, 2021 | All Commodities | Milan, Italy |
| National Restaurant Association  | May 22-25, 2021 | Foodservice | Chicago, IL |
| Food Taipei | June 17-20, 2021 | All Commodities | Taipei, Taiwan |
| Fine Food Australia | Sept 6-9, 2021 | All Commodities | Sydney, Australia |
| America’s Food and Beverage | Sept 21 -23, 2021 | All Commodities | Miami, Florida |
| Colorado Booth at the MUFSO Foodservice Show | Oct 4-6, 2021 | Foodservice | Denver, CO |