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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voting Begins in Dry Bean Assessment

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee (CDBAC) is holding a referendum to increase the assessment rate. Dry bean producers in Colorado will have until Friday, April 4, 2014, to cast their vote on the proposed increase. If passed, the assessment will increase from \$.04/hundredweight (cwt.) to \$.08/cwt for producers and from \$.02/cwt to \$.04/cwt for handlers.

Producers of dry edible beans in Colorado are eligible to vote. To pass, a simple majority of the votes received must approve the assessment change.

Funds collected through assessments are used by the Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee to sponsor research, promotion and education for the dry bean industry locally and nationally.

“The members of the Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee want to use the additional funding to expand research efforts for new varieties, enhancement of production practices and improvements in pest management strategies, as well as education and promotion,” said Harvey Colglazier, president of the CDBAC. “The current assessment rate has not been increased since

1988, and the Committee is excited to utilize these additional funds to promote the dry bean industry in Colorado.”

The Colorado Department of Agriculture provides budgetary and operations oversight to each of Colorado’s nine marketing orders. These orders include milk, wheat, corn, potatoes (2), sweet corn, apples, dry beans and sunflowers.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters beginning March 24, 2014. If a grower does not receive a ballot, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at (303) 239-4100 or markets@state.co.us to request a replacement ballot. All completed ballots must be postmarked by Friday, April 4, 2014.

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