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Dry Bean Producers Vote to Approve Assessment Increase

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Colorado dry bean producers voted to approve an increase in the dry bean assessment through the Colorado Dry Bean Marketing Order. With 61 “yes” votes and 47 “no” votes, the referendum passed. The assessment will increase from \$0.04/cwt. to \$0.08/cwt. for producers and from \$0.02/cwt. to \$0.04/cwt. for handlers.

“Exciting progress is being made at Colorado State University (CSU) with pinto bean breeding and research to genetically improve the upright structure of the plant, which aides in improved harvest, better seed quality, and more disease resistance,” said Harvey Colglazier, President of the Dry Bean Administrative Committee. “The increase in assessment will allow research to progress at CSU, thus enhancing the quality of edible dry beans grown in Colorado.”

The goal of a marketing order is to establish and expand the market as well as create and maintain that product as a viable crop in Colorado. The current assessment rate has been in effect since 1988. The increase will allow the Committee to invest in research of new varieties, enhancement of production practices, and improvements in pest management strategies.

Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters in March and voting ended on April 4, 2014. The assessment increase will become effective August 1, 2014.

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