

HARVEST ALERT

FACT SHEET # 13

Fall, 1997

Grower Questions on Bean Harvest in 1997

James Kelly, Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University

Greg V. Varner, Dry Bean Production Advisory Board

- Q.** How does a farmer determine if a frost damaged field of white or colored beans should be harvested or not?
- A.** Take a representative sample of harvested beans to the elevator(s) and they will make the determination.
- Q.** Will the green pods dry down after a frost, and since there are dry and green pods, what should be done?
- A.** Allow the field to dry down completely. Generally the green frosted pods will go out the back of the combine with the trash.
- Q.** What alternatives does the grower have if the field is not harvested?
- A.** None. The grower would be plowing down a high N green manure crop.
- Q.** How wet can the grower harvest beans, navy and colored?
- A.** Harvest at 22% or below. Above 22% the beans will be number 2's.
- Q.** What adjustments need to be made to the combine when harvesting frosted beans?
- A.** Since frosted beans have a tougher pod, cylinder speeds and concaves will need to be set higher and tighter, and more trash will be produced. Growers may want to consider not salvaging re-runs if it appears that the re-run beans are lowering the quality of the final harvested product. The elevator should be able to advise on an acceptable level of quality.
- Q.** What would be an expected level of dockage for frosted beans?
- A.** The level will be variable and could range from 5-30%.
- Q.** Should growers consider direct harvesting frosted beans?
- A.** There would be no advantage to direct harvest. In fact, the lower pods would be more likely to be mature and possess less frost damage. Direct harvesting may result in higher losses of these pods and seed, and a greater recovery of frost damaged beans.
- Q.** Additional considerations?
- A.** Growers may wish to consider using Frost Guard. Frost Guard is a copper product similar to Kocide and it can give the bean some protection in a narrow window of risk between 28 to 30°F. Above 30°F frost is not considered a problem but may be advantageous in drying down foliage. An application would not be justified. Below 28°F the frost may be so severe that the Frost Guard affords little protection. No definitive research has been conducted with this product in Michigan to determine its value on dry beans, but it has had some success with late planted snap beans. Frost Guard is effective for up to a week and needs to be applied 12 hours ahead of an anticipated frost. See label for details and rates.

