



## Ontario Agri Business Association

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# Best Management Practices for Pre-Harvest Dry Bean Treatments

## Backgrounder

In December 2008, during a routine random chemical residue test of otebo beans shipped from Canada to Japan, the Japanese government found glyphosate that exceeded the 2 PPM limit---in this case 2.1 PPM.

The Japanese government followed the laws associated with the Japan Positive List Act of 2006 and made a formal government to government request to Canada to explain how this infraction occurred and what corrective action would be taken to remedy the problem.

Since that time, additional tests have been conducted and other otebo shipments were found to have glyphosate over the limit. While the tonnage is small and no cargoes over the limit entered the Japan processing industry it did signal the potential for a broader problem than was first anticipated.

Detailed internal testing conducted by individual dealers of all market classes produced in 2008 did reveal residue limits that were in fact higher than the composite harvest testing done in October and November 2008. While the results did not signal any issues beyond the otebo beans we did feel that attention to future crop years needed to be addressed, especially if we have future years that would have similar weather to 2008.

The 2008 crop otebo issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Japanese government and, at this time, industry stakeholders have been working with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Foreign Trade and International Affairs to satisfy the corrective action for 2009 crop requested by the Japan government for the otebo importation by Japan food processors.

Members of OABA's Pulse Committee feel it is important to expand the focus on all MRL issues to include all global markets we ship to. The initiatives currently undertaken with growers and agronomists are targeted to create an awareness of the issue, and to provide a format to educate all stakeholders about the risk of chemical use, and in particular, pre-harvest dry bean treatments.

Guelph, Ontario  
August 20, 2009

Continued....

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## Best Management Practices for Pre-Harvest Dry Bean Treatments *(Revised – August 20, 2009)*

Due to the potential for Maximum Residue Level (MRL) risks associated with pre-harvest dry bean treatments, the Pulse Committee of the Ontario Agri Business Association recommends the following for the 2009 dry bean crop:

- **Avoid the Use of Pre-Harvest Treatments on Dry Beans**

The Pulse Committee recommends that, wherever possible, growers be encouraged **NOT** to use pre-harvest treatments on dry beans. In making this recommendation, the Pulse Committee recognizes that the individual grower situation will need to be fully reviewed when considering this option.

- **Otebo Beans**

**Under no circumstances should glyphosate products be used on Otebo Beans.**

*Note:* As an option, growers may use Ignite (glufosinate) as per label instructions. It is recommended by the OABA Pulse Committee that all contract fields be “signed off” by a designated representative (CCA or other appointed designate) of the contracting company prior to growers applying their pre-harvest treatment of Ignite (glufosinate) at suggested label rates. ***It is important to note that “sign-off” is limited to an assessment of the maturity of the Otebo bean crop, and the application of Ignite (glufosinate) at suggested label rates.***

- **Azuki Beans/Navy Beans/Other Coloured Beans**

**Growers may use glyphosate and AIM (carfentrazone) at label rates at approximately seven (7) days prior to harvest.**

*Note:* It is recommended by the OABA Pulse Committee that all contract fields be “signed off” by a designated representative (CCA or other appointed designate) of the contracting company prior to growers applying their pre-harvest treatment of glyphosate and AIM (carfentrazone) at suggested label rates. ***It is important to note that “sign-off” is limited to an assessment of the maturity of the dry bean crop, and the application of glyphosate and AIM (carfentrazone) at suggested label rates.***

- **Education & Information Sessions**

Individual members of the OABA Pulse Committee are working with their growers to ensure that complete information on pre-harvest treatments is readily available and to ensure that all industry stakeholders have a clear understanding of their responsibilities.

The following members of the OABA Pulse Committee have indicated support for the above Best Management Practices for Pre-Harvest Dry Bean Treatments and should be contacted directly for more information on their specific policies and procedures:

Ferguson Bros. of St. Thomas Ltd.  
Fieldcrest International Commodities Limited  
Grand River Bean Inc.  
Hendrick Seeds  
Hensall District Co-operative Inc.  
Patterson Grain Limited  
Thompsons Limited

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