



Dry Beans
on
Morningstar Farm

Background

- Beginnings
- Move to Glover, VT
- Decision to pursue Ag
- College
- 1 job or 2 ?
- Family
- Butterworks
- Trucking
- Transition to full time

Morningstar Farm

- Located in Glover, VT
- Hay
- Grains
- Beef
- Dry Beans



Why Dry Beans?

- Growing interest in our region
- The challenge of heirloom
- Marketing for human consumption

Planting

- First week of June
- Too early, susceptible to damping off
- Too late, problems with pulling/drying/harvest



- 30" rows
- Seed spacing critical in Organic production
- 4 – 6 per foot
- Losses from damping off
- Cultivator worms?



Cultivation

- First pass at 2 leaf stage most critical
- Don't be afraid to be aggressive
- Once a week for about 4 weeks
- Speeds









Crop Shields



Pulling and drying

- Depending on planting date
- Late September to early October
- Wet fall weather in VT makes field drying challenging
- Hand pulling is labor intensive, but 100% of crop is harvested







Threshing

- 2 – 3 weeks after finish of pulling
- Old stationary machine
- Being indoors helps in October/November







Cleaning and sorting



Rotation

- Rotation is critical in Organic dry bean production to control disease
- Small grains
- Dry beans
- Wheat
- Hay for 2 – 3 years









Challenges

- VT fall weather
- Older equipment woes
- Late season weeds in Organic production
- Damping off in the spring



And don't plant beans into
freshly plowed sod!



Summary

- Challenging but still worth it
- Choose your varieties carefully based on harvest methods
- Help to sustain a great Northeast tradition

