

# Lonesome Whistle Farm 2010

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All beans planted on May 16-17 (all bush beans)

Barley planted on May 26<sup>th</sup>

Corn planted on May 15<sup>th</sup>

Variety	Pounds Planted	Pounds Yields	Acres Planted	Yield Per Acre	Harvest Date	Method
Arikara Bean-	25	200 (8x)	.25	800	8/21	hand pulled
Calypso Bean-	75	750 (10x)	.92	815	8/30	hand pulled
Dutch Bullet-	100	1000 (10x)	1.0	1000	9/11	direct combined
Green Flageolet-	25	150 (6x)	.19	789	9/18	hand pulled
Ireland Creek Annie-	38	280 (7.36x)	.25	1120	9/2	hand pulled
Jacob's Cattle-	25	200 (8x)	.22	909	8/25	hand pulled
Rio Zape(vine habit)-	30	460 (15.3x)	.25	1840	9/1	hand pulled
Vermont Cranberry- (semi vine habit)	25	270 (10.8x)	.24	1125	9/13	hand pulled
Purple Hulless Barley	25	200	.25	800	9/5	direct combined
Dakota Black Popcorn	8	1200 (66.6x)	.85	1411	9/27	hand harvest

## Summary:

Yield numbers above are not exact, we tried our best to estimate as accurate as possible.

We got our beans and corn planted around May 15. Our soil is well draining which allowed us to work up the soil and plant on our desired planting date. We planted our beans and corn with our Farmall Cub with two, belly mounted, Earthway seeders 18 inches apart. All beans had slow germination and lost growth vigor due to cold and wet May/June temperatures. This affected plant vigor and size, but probably allowed for earlier harvest due to less lush foliage. Slower plant growth probably affected numbers of flowers. This lack of quicker early plant growth probably resulted in more weeds because plant canopy took longer to establish. All varieties eventually germinated well, except first planting of 30 pounds Vermont Cranberry where not one bean germinated due to wet and cold weather with slight grey fuzz mold on seed when planted.

We used our Farmall Cub to cultivate one row at a time using two half sweeps. We cultivated all beans and corn 3 times. Wet spring prolonged first cultivation which allowed for in-row weeds to get established. Final cultivation we followed sweeps with two rolling discs to slightly mound soil over small weeds. We also hand weeded in-row weeds on one entire acre. A lot less weeds grew on recent hay ground fields, where weeds were cut and removed from field in hay bales.

We overhead irrigated all beans and corn about once a week, for ~6 hours, for 6 weeks.

We harvested beans, except Dutch Bullet, by hand pulling entire plants onto tarps, allowed to dry in sun for 3-4 days. Some of the varieties were undercut first with single row bean knife then pitch forked onto tarps. The vining habit varieties did not allow for single row undercutting due to tangling. We are needing a two-row bean knife for more efficient and effective knifing.

Our bean growing and harvesting methods were too labor intensive. We need to lessen our labor needs with more efficient and effective equipment, and maybe greater acreage planted to offset mechanical harvest losses. We also need effective seed cleaning equipment to lessen post-harvest labor. We feel very fortunate/lucky to have made it through this tough growing season and ended up with our beans, but has been very difficult. We started a 50 member CSA, which has quickly filled up with members, and the rest are being marketed in one pound bags at the farmers market, and to stores. We hope to improve our bean

growing in every step of the growing process, from planting to harvest to cleaning to marketing. Incredible support and encouragement from the community.

**Arikara-** Strong germination once ground heated. Early finisher in mid-August, lost some to the ground from shattering due to dryness, lots of splitting when combined, very upright plant, lots of pods per plant, but not many beans per pod..

**Calypso-** Strong germination once ground heated. Lots of pods per plant, upright growth. We used a bean-knife to surface cut this variety on ¼ of the patch, but we experiencing too much loss to the ground so decided to hand pull. Hand pulling took 2.5 days (two people).

**Dutch Bullet-** Strong full plants once up and growing. We decided to direct combine this variety in the interest of time and coming rains. Harvested after first solid rain. We lost about 33% to the ground, but overall the direct combining worked ok. Beans came out dirty from going through the combine kind of moist. We are washing them now with cold water and drying on trays to be presentable for selling. Combine worked well when we drove over 3 beds (6 rows) at a time, instead of four beds. Ground was uneven which caused dirt to be sucked in to one side of the combine. Combine with a narrower header would work better because of uneven ground.

**Green Flageolet-** Green Flageolet got attacked by slugs, but re-sprouted once the weather warmed up. Higher weed pressure on this variety, probably due to the re-sprouting lag time. Pods on this variety are foamy inside and hold on to beans tightly. Pods tended to break in to sections with beans still in place.

**Ireland Creek Annie-** Small plants this year compared to last year. A lot of splitting from combine setting.

**Jacob's Cattle-** Early finisher. Some pods shattered upon hand harvest due to dry conditions. We attempted to bean-knife (undercut) this variety and this worked pretty well to speed up harvest. We ended up with piles of bean pods and pitch forked those onto tarps.

**Vermont Cranberry-** Grew well after second planting (end of May). Planted on North side of corn patch, too shady which was probably why they finished out late. Lots of weed pressure.

**Rio Zape-** Vine habit, formed a mat of vines on the whole field. Lots of pods per plant, lots of beans per pod. Next year we will probably bean-knife this variety and wind row it to prevent beans from molding that are laying on the ground.

**Purple Barley-** Broadcast seeded, harrowed in. Lot a large amount to the ground during harvest due to relatively short plants. This was our first time combining a grain, so combine needed to be lower in hindsight. Could be more profitable than beans for effort expended. No weed pressure at all.

**Dakota Black Popcorn-** Over seeded which then required thinning. Large amount of worm damage on cobs. Generally low yielding plants. Much potential for value added crop, perhaps popping the corn at farmer's market? Drying the cobs down is an issue, mold is an issue in wet Fall.

## **Needs:**

Seed cleaning equipment with bean screens, ASAP.

Land to buy: 20+ acres with well drained soil, water, building site possibilities. Junction City, Harrisburg, River Road area, Coburg, Corvallis, Etc.

Combine with ~5 to 10 foot header for beans and grains.