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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research project is to find the reasons for the location of the areas of highest intensity of edible dry bean production in the United States. The counties with the highest intensity are located in the Thumb-Saginaw Valley of Michigan, the North Platte Valley of western Nebraska, and the Snake River Valley near Twin Falls, Idaho.

**THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF DRY EDIBLE BEAN PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES 1879-1959**

Methodology includes: (1) mapping and analysis of the changing patterns of intensity of production and total production, on a county basis, from 1879 to 1959; (2) examination of growing requirements and physical conditions present in the three areas; (3) examination of cultural and economic factors affecting dry bean production; and (4) interviews and correspondence with producers, processors, bean associations, and selected government officials.

by  
**Steven L. Scott**

It was found that: (1) there have been changes in the location of production over the years; (2) each area of intense production is favorable to the cultivation of dry beans in terms of growing requirements; (3) some parts of the United States are excluded from production because of adverse environmental conditions; (4) each area has a distinct history in relation to its market and adequate transportation facilities available; and (5) each of the areas has the advantage of a head start in the industry, partly the result of historical accident.

An Abstract

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in the Department of Geography and Geology in the School of Graduate Studies of Western Illinois University**

August, 1968

Thesis supervisor: A. R. Longwell

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