

# GE TRANSITION: MARKET TRIALS OVERVIEW

## OVERVIEW

The goals of market development are to introduce new crops that help shift the production of crops for animal consumption to food for human consumption, to enhance economic viability and to improve soil health. After assessing a wide range of alternative crops for the Front Range region, priority was made for crops that can be sold at higher prices than commodity crops and have the potential to scale at the regional levels. Adding diversity to the crop rotation has the potential to improve economic and soil health. Diversification is also key to integrated management of pests and weeds. It is a technique that should be considered when removing GMO seeds and neonicotinoid seed coatings from a system.

	Farms	Crops	Trial Plots	Total Acres
2020 Crop Year	4	5	11	37.75

## OUTCOMES

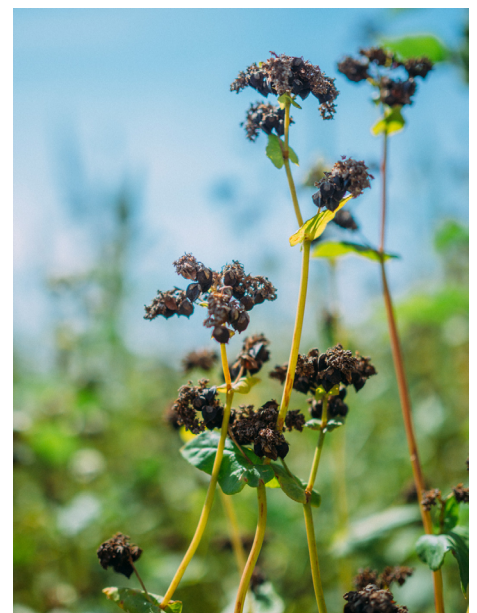
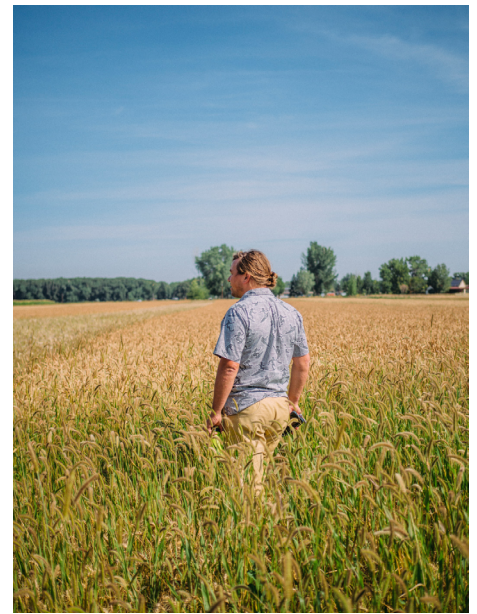
- The broadacre crops that were tested were legumes (e.g. dry beans, garbanzo beans), warm-season specialties (e.g. milo, buckwheat) and heritage/ancient wheat.
- 2 crops (pinto beans and heritage wheat) were successfully sold in 2020.
- 1 crop (garbanzo beans) was not sold in 2020 but will be trialled again in 2021.
- 2 crops (milo sorghum and buckwheat) were trialled but not harvested in 2020 due to high weed pressure and will not be tried again.

## TAKEAWAYS FOR THE FUTURE

- There is relatively strong regional demand for legumes and grains from local mills, institutions and food hubs.
- Existing cleaning and processing infrastructure in the region best serves small (<1-3 acre field size) or large (10+ acre field size) production systems.
- Infrastructure for mid-scale production (3-10 acres field size) is needed or this production scale to be avoided.
- Early successes with market alternatives were encouraging, however farmers would rather develop such opportunities outside the purview of the GMO and neonic ban.

Market potential for the following cereal grains and legume crops include:

Cereal Grains	Legumes
Barley	Black Eyed Peas
Buckwheat	Dry Beans
Heritage Corn	Garbanzo Beans
Milo (grain sorghum)	Lentils
Rye	Yellow Peas (animal feed)
Spelt	
Wheat	



Parks &  
Open Space