

**USA Pulses
Policy Positions 2026
Farm Programs White Paper**

Summary: Title I—Commodity Programs: *USA Pulses requests that pulse crops be included and treated equally with other farm program commodities in farm and conservation program support.*

Title II—Conservation: *USA Pulses represents pulse crops—dry peas, dry beans, lentils, and chickpeas—which are legumes. Legumes fix nitrogen in the soil and play a critical role in protecting natural resources by reducing fertilizer applications.*

Title III—Trade: *The U.S. dry pea, lentil, and chickpea industry consists primarily of small, family-owned businesses that provide value-added jobs in rural and export communities. Over 60% of these pulses are exported overseas. To keep our rural economies strong, we need the Federal Government to join with our industry in aggressively promoting our product. Congress and the Administration need to increase funding for market promotion of US farm commodities. Last year, the pea, lentil, chickpea and dry bean industry contributed over \$1,500,000 in matching funds to MAP and FMD market promotion activities.*

Title IV—Nutrition: *Pulse crops, including peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans are nutrient-dense crops that will play a role in solving many of the nutrition issues and chronic diseases of the US. Pulses are an excellent source of fiber, a good source of protein and iron, and rich in many more nutrients.*

Title VII—Research *is the backbone of successful farm commodity production. USA Pulses supports the efforts of Congress and the Administration to help farmers and America’s economy by increasing investment in agricultural research. The public is asking for help understanding the health benefits of their food and discovering the sustainability of their food system. USA Pulses is working to increase pulse crop research dollars for health information, functionality, and sustainability.*

Title XII—Crop Insurance: *USA Pulses supports equitable Federal Crop Insurance programs for all dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas at an affordable price. USA Pulses requests risk management/ revenue insurance programs for processors of all pulses be developed.*

Title I-Commodity Programs

1. Farm Commodity Programs. USA Pulses is in favor of commodity programs that are fair and treat all crops equally. This means that pulse crops are included in programs, and calculators developed for producers include pulse crops just like other program crops.

- 1) **Farm Bill 2027 Safety Net:** USA Pulses supports programs that include pulse crops, ensuring equality with other program crops in the next Farm Bill.
- 2) **ARC/PLC.** Continue current de-coupled Title I programs to allow planting flexibility. Pulse crops received an increase for dry peas, lentils and chickpeas at a rate of 19-20%. USDA-FAS will provide an experimental year of dual enrollment for ARC/PLC. We support dual enrollment for ARC/PLC.
- 3) **Marketing Assistance Loans-** We support enhanced marketing assistance loan provisions to address increased borrowing costs.

- 4) **Add “Fava Beans” Exception to Base Acres.** USA Pulses requests that Sec. 1114. Payment Acres, paragraph (e) Effect of Planting Fruits and Vegetables be amended to include Fava (also called Faba) Beans as an exception to base acre reductions required by the planting of Fruits and Vegetables. This would be incorporated into the next Farm Bill.
- 5) **Base Acre Recalculations.** USA Pulses supports voluntary base acre updates that reflect current planted acres to allow for increases in base acres due to the addition of pulse crops and the conversion from summer fallow-wheat rotations to continuous cropping with pulses and other crops in rotation with wheat and grains.

2. Sustainable/Regenerative Agriculture. The best way to achieve the adoption of agricultural climate targets is through voluntary programming that provides an incentive to maintain or adopt farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This can be achieved through the following:

- 1) **Direct Payments.** Direct Farm Program Payments to incentivize sustainable/regenerative crops and cropping systems.
- 2) **Crop Insurance Subsidies.** Increased crop insurance subsidies for sustainably produced crops and cropping systems.
- 3) **Conservation Program Incentives.** Conservation program incentives for crops and cropping systems that promote soil health. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) should expand its programming to assist farmers and ranchers in lowering GHG emissions through the support of crops that have a low carbon footprint, are nutrient-dense, and require less water to produce.

Title II-Conservation

1. Farm Program & Crop Insurance Incentives for Sustainably Produced Commodities.

The best way to achieve the adoption of agricultural climate targets is through **voluntary** programming that provides an incentive to maintain or adopt farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This can be achieved through the following:

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Title III-Trade

1. Market Access Program (MAP; \$400 million). Strong market promotion programs are critical to increasing the demand for pulses around the world. The MAP has been a highly effective program for the US dry pea, lentil, and chickpea industry, resulting in increased sales to India, Latin America, Asia, and Europe. Effective market promotion programs are critical to the long-term financial health of US farmers, and the USA Pulses fully supports the continuation of

the MAP. ***USA Pulses requests funding of \$400 million for the Market Access Program in FY 2027 appropriations.***

3. Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program (\$69.0 million). USA Pulses has been a USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Cooperator since the late 1960s. This market development program is jointly funded by the pulse industry and the Federal Government to provide technical and trade service assistance to our overseas customers. FMD funds have been used effectively to develop new markets for dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas in Asia Pacific, Europe, the Indian sub-continent, and Latin America. ***USA Pulses requests funding of \$69.0 million in FY 2027 appropriations for the Foreign Market Development program.***

2. Food Aid Funding (\$1.9 billion). PL 480 is a food aid program designed to assist those in need around the world. The American people have a long history of sharing their wealth with those facing natural disasters and economic hardship. The program builds goodwill and strengthens the relationship between the US and developing countries. Dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas provide an inexpensive source of protein, vitamins, and minerals to those PL 480 recipients facing food shortages. USA Pulses strongly supports the PL 480 program for humanitarian purposes and as a tool for developing future markets for US commodities. Current high-volume customers like India, Pakistan, Colombia, and the Philippines were once important PL 480 customers. ***USA Pulses requests funding of \$1.9 billion in FY 2027 appropriations to fund PL 480 Title II and McGovern-Dole food aid programs.***

3. Sustainable/Regenerative Marketing/Plant Protein Innovation Program. We support the creation of a new USDA Marketing Program that would distribute marketing and innovation grants to commodity boards and organizations to promote sustainable crops and cropping systems.

4. Create a Sustainable Agriculture Database. The US pulse industry supports the establishment of a USDA carbon and water footprint database for all foods based on sound science that is regularly updated. We also support voluntary risk management and conservation programs that will help pulse crop farmers and processors achieve their goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and water use.

5. Market Development- The US pulse industry consists primarily of small, family-owned businesses that provide value-added jobs in rural America. Strong market promotion programs are critical to increasing the demand for our commodities around the world. ***We support doubling MAP funding from \$200 million to \$400 million and the FMD Program from \$34.5 million to \$69 million in the new Farm Bill.***

Title IV-Nutrition

4. School Pulse Crop Products Program. USADPLC supports appropriated funding of the School Pulse Crop Products Program (PCPP). With the announcement of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, permanent funding of the PCPP will help ensure increased introduction of pulses (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans, both whole and as ingredients) in school nutrition programs, evaluation of the acceptability of pulses, identification of suitable products for school lunches, evaluation of the adoption of pulses outside of school, and evaluation of the effects of pulse products on child nutrition. ***USADPLC supports an increase in the authorization for the PCPP to \$4.0 million per year for five years in the 2027 Farm Bill.***

Title VII-Research

1. *Pulse Crop Health Initiative (PCHI) in 2027 Farm Bill (\$25.0 million per year, five years).*

The purpose of the PCHI is to find solutions, through research on pulse crops, to the critical health and sustainability challenges facing the US and the world. The PCHI will focus on four major goals:

- 1) Reducing obesity and related chronic diseases
- 2) Increasing food security
- 3) Improving sustainability
- 4) Improving human and animal health

USA Pulses supports permanent funding of the PCHI at \$25.0 million per year for five years. This will require the establishment of policies and procedures to establish goals, provide guidance, and prioritize the research funded through the PCHI. USA Pulses participates in the establishment and administration of this initiative to help prioritize research efforts and meet the needs of our nation. ***USA Pulses requests \$25.0 million per year for five years for the Pulse Crop Health Initiative in the 2027 Farm Bill to find solutions, through pulse crop research, to the health, nutrition, and sustainability issues facing our country.***

2. *Research Plant-Based Foods as Sources of Nutrients of Concern (\$25.0 million per year, five years).* The designation of “nutrients of concern” (dietary fiber, vitamin D, calcium, potassium), established by the USDA, provides an important tool to focus agriculture and food research. USA Pulses requests that the USDA devote a portion of the Agriculture and Food Research Institute (AFRI) competitive grants toward using plant-based foods as sources of nutrients of concern. Research should add investigations into the nutrition provided by plant-based foods and the development of processing, functionality, and bioavailability of nutrients in plant-based foods and food products. Pulses, i.e., dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans are plant-based foods that provide major sources of nutrients of concern. ***USA Pulses requests \$25.0 million per year for five years in FY 2027-2032 for research on plant-based foods as sources of nutrients of concern.***

3. *Pulse Crop Sustainability Initiative.* USA Pulses supports creating a research fund focused on providing solutions to improving human health and mitigating the environmental effects of our food system. We propose a minimum of \$1.0 billion in new research funding through the USDA-ARS and NIFA to advance the productive capacity, nitrogen-fixing ability, nutrient density, and food processing flexibility of pulse crops. The pulse research funding would focus on breeding and genetics, nitrogen fixation, soil health, human health and nutrition, animal health and nutrition, new product development, crop quality and functionality, food processing, and crop management for conventional and organic production including diseases, insects, weeds, crop rotation, cover crops and intercropping. ***USA Pulses supports establishing a Pulse Crop Sustainability Initiative authorized at \$1.0 billion in the 2027 Farm Bill.***

4. *Sustainable/Regenerative Agriculture Research Funding (\$1.0 billion).* USA Pulses proposes \$1.0 billion focused on pulse crops to accomplish the following:

- 1) Increase nitrogen fixation of pulse crops
- 2) Improve productivity of low environmental impact crops like pulses
- 3) Increase functionality and processing technology to include pulses in more products
- 4) Increase nutrient density and nutrient availability for healthy, sustainable diets
- 5) Focus research efforts toward achieving net-zero carbon emissions from agriculture

USA Pulses supports establishing a Sustainable/Regenerative Agriculture Research Program of \$1.0 billion focused on finding sustainable production solutions for agriculture.

Title XII-Crop Insurance

- 1. Federal Crop Insurance Reform.** USA Pulses supports equitable Federal Crop Insurance programs for dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas at an affordable price. USA Pulses supports the following improvements to federal crop insurance for pulse crops:
 - a. Level of Support.** Maintain at least the present level of support for Crop Insurance in the FY 2027 Budget.
 - b. “Dry Pea” Loss Data.** Continue to support the USDA-Risk Management Agency (RMA) in establishing dry pea loss adjustment standards data for autumn- and spring-sown peas, lentils, and chickpeas using studies and actual evaluations of pulses to accurately represent losses.
 - c. Non-Futures Pulse Crop Revenue Insurance Program.** USA Pulses supports the full implementation of the pulse crop revenue insurance utilized in the “pulse crop non-futures revenue program” for dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas.
 - d. RMA Projected Price.** USA Pulses requests RMA push the projected price deadline for collecting data closer to the RMA announcement date of March 1 to better reflect projected prices for all pulse crops.
 - e. Pulse Crop Types.** Expand crop types within the “Dry Pea” policy to include separate coverage for Green and Yellow peas. Pricing for each crop type warrants expansion of coverage.
 - f. Harvest Price Data.** (Internal) USA Pulses supports removing spring contract payments from consideration of harvest price data collection. Spring contracts reflect cash prices from a different period than harvest, therefore the payments made during the harvest price collection period should not be included in harvest price establishment.
 - g. Rename “Dry Pea” Policy.** USA Pulses supports renaming the “Dry Pea” and “Dry Bean” Policy as the **Pulse Crop Policy** to more accurately reflect the crop types covered.
 - h. Rural Processor Disaster/Risk Management Tools.** USA Pulses supports the expansion of disaster aid/crop insurance to rural processors to help them survive unforeseen natural disasters, supply chain disruptions, and pop-up trade barriers. Funding for disaster and risk management tools for US pulse processors would provide short-term assistance to ensure critical processing infrastructure in rural America.
- 2.** The best way to achieve the adoption of agricultural climate targets is through voluntary programming that provides an incentive to maintain or adopt new farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This can be achieved through the following:
 - a. Direct Payments.** Direct Farm Program Payments to incentivize sustainable crops and cropping systems.
 - b. Crop Insurance Subsidies.** Increased crop insurance subsidies for sustainable crops and cropping systems.
 - c. Conservation Program Incentives.** Conservation program incentives for crops and cropping systems that promote soil health. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation

Appendix 1, USADPLC 2027 Farm Bill Policy by Title, Farm Bill Title List
(Highlighted Titles of Interest to USADPLC) February 2, 2026

Service (NRCS) should expand its programming to assist farmers and ranchers in lowering GHG emissions through the support of crops that have a low carbon footprint, are nutrient-dense, and require less water to produce.

Title I Commodity Programs:

- A. Direct Payments & Counter Cyclical Payments:
- B. Marketing Assistance Loans & LDPs
- C. Peanuts
- D. Sugar
- E. Dairy
- F. Administration

Title II Conservation

- A. Definitions
- B. Conservation Reserve Program
- C. Wetlands Reserve
- D. Conservation Stewardship
- E. Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- G. Other Conservation Programs

Title III Trade

- A. Food for Peace
- B. Ag Trade Act of 1978 (ECG, MAP, EEP, FMD, FfP, McGovern/Dole)
- C. Miscellaneous
- D. Softwood Lumber

Title IV Nutrition

- A. Food Stamp Program (SNAP)
- B. Food Distribution Programs
- C. Child Nutrition and Related Programs
- D. Miscellaneous

Title V Credit—N/A

- A. Farm Ownership Loans
- B. Operating Loans
- C. Emergency Loans
- D. Administrative Provisions
- E. Farm Credit
- G. Miscellaneous

Title VI Rural Development—N/A

- A. Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

- B. Rural Electrification Act of 1936
- C. Miscellaneous
- D. Housing Assistance Council

Title VII Research & Related Matters

- A. National Ag Research, Extension and Teaching Act of 1977
- B. Food, Ag, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990
- C. Ag Research Extension and Ed Reform Act 1998
- D. Other Laws
- E. Miscellaneous

Title VIII Forestry—N/A

Title IX Energy—N/A

Title X Horticulture and Organic Agriculture

- A. Horticulture Marketing Information
 - o Specialty crops in Census of Ag
 - o Specialty crops market news allocation
 - o Specialty crop block grants
- B. Pest and Disease Management
- C. Organic Agriculture
- D. Miscellaneous
 - Grant program to improve movement of specialty crops

Title XI Livestock—N/A

Title XII Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance Programs

- A. Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance
- B. Small Business Disaster Loan Program

Title XIII Commodity Futures—N/A

Title XIV Miscellaneous—N/A

Title XV Trade and Tax Provisions—N/A

