



**USADPLC
2026 Policy Position
Faba Bean/ Lupin Exception**

The USADPLC supports including Faba Beans and Lupin as eligible crops to be planted on program base acres. The USADPLC requests that *Section 1114. Payment Acres, paragraph (e) Effect of Planting Fruits and Vegetables* be amended to include Faba (also called Fava) Beans and Lupins as exceptions to base acre reductions required by the planting of Fruits and Vegetables.

Background:

1. Faba beans (*Vicia faba*) and Lupins are emerging pulse crops in the Northern Plains and possibly in the PNW. New varieties are being developed that have good agronomic characteristics and improved market potential. Acreage for the crop has increased from a few hundred acres five years ago to between 2,000 to 15,000 acres currently.
2. USA Pulses represent producers, processors, exporters, warehouses, and food manufacturers of pulse crops and pulse-based products in the US. Faba beans and Lupins are pulse crops included in our coalition. The North Dakota Dry Pea & Lentil Council, Montana Pulse Crop Committee, Washington Pulse Crops Commission, and Nebraska Dry Pea & Lentil Commission are all state check-off organizations, all collect assessments on faba beans, and all are members of USA Pulses.
3. Faba beans are a cool-season food legume that flourishes in cooler weather, has an upright growth habit, and has strong stalks that can grow over six feet tall. As a pulse crop, faba beans have a high seed protein content and are noted for being the most effective nitrogen-fixing commercial legume. Faba beans produce a high volume of vegetative matter that helps to protect soils from erosion post-harvest. In addition, faba beans are tolerant of many of the root diseases of peas and lentils, making them a useful addition to crop rotations.
4. Lupin are a productive pulse crop that seems to be drought tolerant. Varieties have been planted in the Northern Plains at test plots in limited commercial fields. The crop provides another legume fixing nitrogen and providing some tolerance to diseases and pests of other pulse crops. It is grown in Australia and used primarily as a feed and forage but some work has been done to provide human nutrition.
5. USDA currently classifies faba beans and lupin as a Fruit and Vegetable. Producers who plant faba beans or lupin must give up a portion of their farm program payments due to loss of base acres because it is considered an ineligible crop. This creates an artificial barrier to the expansion of acres for this crop. US producers are asking that faba beans be added to the exception in *Section 1114. Payment Acres* of the Farm Bill to allow them to plant faba beans without losing eligible acres for payments.

Conclusion

USADPLC requests the following change (highlighted in yellow) to language in the next Farm Bill:

Section 1114. Payment Acres, paragraph (e) Effect of Planting Fruits and Vegetables subparagraph (1) **Reduction Required.** “. . . payment acres on a farm shall be reduced in any crop year in which fruits, vegetables (other than mung beans, **faba beans, lupin** and pulse crops) or wild rice . . .”