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This chickpea harvest photo was taken last year, but late-summer heat has reportedly pushed this year's Palouse crop ahead of schedule. Combines could be rolling sooner than usual.

AN EARLY PEEK AT PULSE HARVEST PROGRESS WEATHER, WEEDS, YIELDS, AND THE SAFETY NETS GROWERS COUNT ON

The month of August started hot and heavy for many pulse growers. The key word being “hot.”

Pulse harvest is just beginning across much of the U.S. growing region, but early reports are already providing clues about what growers may find as combines move through the fields. According to USDA's Aug. 2 Crop Progress report, just 3% of Montana's lentils and 6% of North Dakota's lentils had been harvested. Dry edible pea harvest stood at 9% in Montana and 7% in North Dakota. Comparable USDA harvest figures were not reported for Washington or Idaho, although reports from the Pacific Northwest indicate some pulses are already entering the hopper, with harvest in some areas delayed by high winds and fire danger.

What those combines find will be particularly important to the overall supply picture this year. With considerably fewer

pulse acres to harvest, yields will help determine how much U.S. production is available to processors, exporters and customers at home and abroad. USDA's Aug. 12 Crop Production report estimates U.S. growers planted 747,000 acres of lentils, down 30% from 2025; 1.047 million acres of dry edible peas, down 11%; and 482,000 acres of chickpeas, down 10%. The August report does not yet provide yield or production forecasts for those crops.

As reported in this newsletter this spring, the growing season began with reasons for both concern and optimism. Now, growers are starting to see how those early conditions, and the weather that followed, translated into the crop. In Craigmont, Idaho, grower Cole Riggers said some peas are already being harvested in his area, and his own crops are still approaching the finish line. “I'm currently desiccating garbs to burn them down for harvest,”

Riggers said. “Some peas and spring wheat and canola are being harvested now. Lentils will be ready soon.” Harvest is at a similar stage near Froid, Montana. “We haven't desiccated lentils yet. Probably start on Monday,” grower Kim Murray said. “There have been quite a few peas harvested.”

With harvest getting underway, this editor sent out a short survey hoping to get an early look at crop conditions across the pulse-growing region. There was just one problem with asking growers about harvest in August: they're harvesting.

Only three growers found time to respond. That's hardly enough to draw conclusions about the 2026 crop, but combined with follow-up conversations with growers in Idaho and Montana, their reports offer an early snapshot of a harvest that, much like the growing season itself, appears to vary considerably from one region and even one field to another.

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PULSES REACH BILLIONS AS MARKETING EFFORTS BOOM

FROM MENOPAUSE TO LONGEVITY, PULSES MAKE HEADLINES



It is difficult to put a number like 43.2 billion into perspective.

But that is the reported number of media impressions, essentially the potential number of times the coverage could have been seen, generated by pulse-related stories tracked during the 2026 fiscal year, according to an end-of-year marketing report prepared for USA Pulses by Maxwell PR, a contractor helping drive consumer awareness of pulse crops.

For Madison Washington, USA Pulses Director of Marketing, the 43.2 billion figure is almost difficult to comprehend.

"Since 2024, we have seen an exponential increase in our consumer and media campaign impressions," Washington said. "It is encouraging and exciting to see our campaign numbers continue to grow through 2026."

Washington credits much of that growth to newly published health and nutrition research funded by the Coalition for the Advancement of Pulses (CAP), along with USA Pulses' participation in high-profile nutrition media events including FoodFluence and Nutrition News

Update. Those efforts, combined with building relationships with dietitians, nutrition influencers and members of the media, have helped carry the pulse message to much larger consumer audiences.

According to Washington, the total number of annual media stories has increased by more than 200% since 2024.

Perhaps more important than the inconceivable size of the number is where pulses are showing up and what people are saying about them.

Throughout the year, dry beans, dry peas, lentils and chickpeas appeared in health and nutrition stories, recipes, social media posts and influencer content reaching consumers across the country. Health media frequently featured pulses as sources of protein and fiber, while recipes and practical ideas for adding pulses to everyday meals proved particularly popular with consumers.

The numbers suggest those messages are finding an engaged audience.

During FY26 (July-June), USA Pulses' influencer ambassador

efforts generated more than 5.6 million organic views, meaning views that weren't generated through paid advertising, and reached more than 1.3 million people. Social media generated 371,000 post engagements, including likes, comments, shares and other interactions, while digital advertising helped drive 52,000 visits to the USA Pulses website and 3,300 newsletter sign-ups.

The USA Pulses consumer newsletter also averaged a 40.5% open rate and an 8.3% click rate, both well above goals established for the program.

One particularly successful part of the effort was simply showing people what pulses can do in the kitchen.

Everyday pulse recipes were among the top-performing content across USA Pulses' social media and newsletter channels. Influencer ambassadors also put pulses in front of millions of viewers with content demonstrating everything from meal prep with chickpeas to traditional family bean recipes.

USA Pulses also brought media and influencers closer to the industry through an immersion event connecting pulses with farming, food and innovation. Sixteen participants attended the event, ultimately generating 154 social posts and millions of potential impressions. Read the [Summer/Fall Take Your Pulse Magazine](#) for an in-depth look at this event.

The media coverage itself was broad. During FY26, marketing partners tracked 1,617 original stories mentioning pulses,

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PULSE MARKET NEWS

Today's Exchange Rate:
1 Canadian dollar = 0.72 U.S. \$ (Bank of Canada)

PULSE PRICE CHART (Grower Prices in U.S. \$/cwt. on #1 Grade)				
Pacific Northwest	August 14, 2026	August 7, 2026	AVG	LAST YR
Green Peas (whole)	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 14.50
Yellow Peas (whole)	\$ NA	\$ NA	\$ NA	\$ NA
Lentils (Brewer)	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 27.00
Lentils (Pardina)	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 27.00
Chickpeas (Large Kabuli)	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 30.00
Northern Plains				
Green Peas	\$ 10.42-12.50	\$ 11.25-12.50	\$ 11.45	\$ 14.38
Yellow Peas	\$ 8.00-10.83	\$ 8.00-10.83	\$ 8.96	\$ 9.72
Lentils (Richlea)	\$ 8.00-14.00	\$ 10.00-15.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 20.84
Chickpeas (Large Kabuli)	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 21.88
Canada U.S. \$/cwt. Revised August 12, 2026				
Green Peas	\$ 10.26	\$ 8.76		
Yellow Peas	\$ 9.12	\$ 8.96		
Feed Peas	\$ 9.77	\$ 9.72		
Lentils (Laird)	\$ 16.06	\$ 16.06		
Lentils (Red)	\$ 15.38	\$ 15.19		
Lentils (Richlea)	\$ 14.88	\$ 13.98		
Chickpeas (Desi)	\$ 9.78	\$ 9.54		
Chickpeas (Kabuli 9mm)	\$ 19.08	\$ 18.29		



Compared to last week, trade remained light. According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Acreage Report released June 30, 2026, planted acreage declined across all four major pulse crops compared with 2025. Dry bean acreage fell from 1.366 million acres in 2025 to 1.161 million acres in 2026. Chickpea acreage declined from 536,000 to 482,000 acres, lentil acreage dropped from 1.072 million to 747,000 acres, and dry pea acreage decreased from 1.173 million to 1.047 million acres (Bean Market News).

▪ Market prices contained in this newsletter may or may not reflect actual market conditions at the time of sale.

▪ U.S. prices are gathered from [USDA Bean Market News](#) which uses averages based on U.S. #1 production from the date surveyed and are for thresher run, clean basis.

▪ Canadian prices are gathered from the [Saskatchewan government](#).

Northern Tier: Prices reported on a cwt basis, Del warehouse, thresher run and U.S. No. 2 or better.

PNW: Prices reported on a cwt basis, Del warehouse, thresher run and U.S. No. 1.

BEAN PRICE TRACKER

Prices published on Aug. 12, 2026

BEAN PRICE CHART (Dealer Prices in U.S. Bag / 100lb #1 grade)				
COMMODITY	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	PRIOR WEEK	YR AGO
BLACK BEANS				
North Dakota / Minnesota	\$ 28.00-35.00	\$ 31.67	\$ 28.00-32.00	\$ 27.00
Michigan	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 29.00
DARK RED KIDNEYS				
Min-Dak Region	\$ NR	\$ NR	\$ NR	\$ NA
LIGHT RED KIDNEYS				
Min-Dak Region	\$ NR	\$ NR	\$ NR	\$ NA
NAVY BEANS				
Min-Dak Region	\$ 29.00-30.00	\$ 29.50	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00
Michigan	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 30.00
PINTO				
Min-Dak Region	\$ 30.00-35.00	\$ 32.33	\$ 30.00-35.00	\$ 27.00

Prices reported FOB warehouse in truck and rail car lots, basis U.S. No. 1's and cleaned in cwt bags.



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EARLY PEEK CONT.

That variability shouldn't come as a surprise to readers of this newsletter. Back in May, as growers were still planting, reports from across the pulse-growing region pointed to sharply different conditions from one area to another. Some growers reported excellent emergence and timely moisture, while others were contending with dry conditions, frost, disease pressure and damaging winds.

Nearly three months later, the first reports from harvest suggest that variability has carried through the growing season.

Early Results: All Over the Map

Early harvest reports are showing just how difficult it may be to describe the 2026 pulse crop with a single number.

In Columbus, North Dakota, grower Greg Busch reported Orchestra yellow peas yielding around 20 bushels per acre, which he described as below average. "Too much rain has reduced yields," Busch said. Even within the same field, results varied dramatically: "Hill tops yielding well, low ground is zero." Busch is 46% harvested, storing because of

poor prices and lack of time to haul, and expects insurance claims, including a Pulse Crop Revenue Insurance (PCRIP) claim, because of low yields.

Elsewhere in North Dakota, however, the early numbers look considerably better. NDSU Extension reported Aug. 13 that dry peas were yielding 35 to 40 bushels per acre in most cases across northwest, north-central and southwest North Dakota, with 40% to 75% of fields already harvested south of Watford City.

An anonymous north-central South Dakota grower had the opposite weather problem: excessive heat during flowering, resulting in fewer pods and fewer peas per pod. The stand itself was good with minimal lodging, but yellow pea yield was still below average. Harvest is complete, the crop is being stored without a contract, and the grower also anticipates insurance claims, including a PCRIP claim.

Near Froid, Montana, Kim Murray said growers were beginning to see pea yields ranging from 30 to 45 bushels per acre after a difficult stretch of summer weather. "We had several days of 90 to 100 degree days during flowering,"

Murray said. Rain finally arrived in mid-August, but "It is a little late to do any good." With his own lentil harvest still ahead, Murray wasn't particularly optimistic. "I am not expecting great things from the lentils."

In the Pacific Northwest, fires have made national news. There was a period when harvest operations were shut down as the fire danger was simply too great. Yet some regions of the Palouse experienced the heat differently. Conditions appear more encouraging near Craigmont, Idaho, where Cole Riggers is growing Morena lentils and garbanzo beans. Riggers said a timely rain at the end of June may have made a significant difference as temperatures climbed in July. "A near inch of rain at the end of June really saved everything around here and helped through the July heat," Riggers said. "Similar to last year, the heat spells weren't really long. Three to four days, then a couple days that were 10 degrees cooler."

Riggers isn't ready to predict yields, but likes what he sees so far. Both his lentils and garbanzos, he said, have "great stands with a lot of pods." His garbanzos are

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NEW TAKE YOUR PULSE MAGAZINE ONLINE!

The Summer/Fall 2026 issue of Take Your Pulse is here, with stories spanning international markets, cutting-edge research, food innovation and the people creating new opportunities for U.S.-grown pulses.

Inside, readers will find coverage of the USA Pulses Summit in Orlando, new research linking pulse consumption with better cardiometabolic health, the latest science surrounding pulses in pet food, and efforts to address transportation and logistics challenges.

And because pulses belong in the kitchen, too, the new issue includes a collection of summer pulse recipes from USA Pulses Marketing Project Manager and Chef Jacob Slabaugh.

Read the Summer/Fall 2026 issue of Take Your Pulse:

<https://pubhtml5.com/gtwd/ywqx/>



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MARKETING REPORT CONT.

individual pulse crops or featuring pulses prominently. Those stories generated an estimated 43.2 billion media impressions, not including another 196.2 billion potential impressions attributed to syndicated versions of stories.

Those numbers should be kept in some perspective. The media tracking includes both coverage resulting directly from USA Pulses marketing efforts and organic coverage with no clear connection to those efforts. Still, the volume provides an indication of just how frequently pulses are becoming part of the national conversation about food and health.

And that conversation has continued into the new fiscal year.

July coverage included [Good Housekeeping](#), which reaches an estimated 18.1 million unique visitors each month, naming beans and lentils among nutrient-dense foods recommended by dietitians. [TODAY online](#), with an estimated 13.5 million monthly unique visitors, highlighted white beans as a plant-based protein choice for women going through menopause. [EatingWell recommended lentils](#) as one of five high-protein foods to eat instead of protein powder, while [Health cited research](#) linking pulse consumption with blood sugar stability in a story declaring beans “one of the healthiest foods you can eat.”

Other outlets moved beyond why consumers should eat pulses and focused on how. [Better Homes & Gardens](#) walked readers through how to cook different varieties of lentils, while [Chowhound](#), which reaches nearly 4 million unique visitors each month, turned to professional chefs for ideas on lettuce-free salads, with one chef praising chickpeas, lentils and beans for their versatility and ease of use.

Ambassadors Inspire Millions to Add Pulses to Their Plates



Pulses also showed up as part of a larger food innovation story. [Martha Stewart Living](#) identified better-for-you packaged convenience foods as one of the trends emerging from the Summer Fancy Food Show and singled out USA Pulses member [Lentiful](#) as a standout for combining convenience and health. By the way, Lentiful founder Ben Bacon will be at the USA Pulses booth during the 2026 National Lentil Festival next week handing out samples of Lentiful to the public.

USA Pulses CEO Tim McGreevy even found his way into the longevity conversation.

[Women's World](#) drew on an earlier interview with McGreevy for a story examining the role beans play in the diets of people living in the world's Blue Zones. Blue Zones has grown into a major health and longevity movement, working in more than 70 communities and reaching millions of Americans, with beans serving as a cornerstone of its nutrition message. In the earlier interview, McGreevy emphasized the growing convenience of pulses, pointing to canned beans, flash-frozen chickpeas and lentils that require no soaking and can be prepared in about the time it takes to cook pasta.

The renewed attention also demonstrates the staying power of earned media. Comments made years earlier can find new audiences as stories are revisited and syndicated. In this case, the *Women's World* story was subsequently picked up by AOL, extending its potential reach to a site with more than 24 million unique visitors each month.

For Washington, the results ultimately come back to the larger goal of creating demand for U.S. pulses.

“These results support our strategy to reach consumers through this campaign and increase demand for pulses and pulse ingredients by establishing influence and building trust among our target audiences, and also with our influencer and media partners,” Washington said.

Consumers aren't just being told to eat more pulses. Increasingly, they're being shown why, and how.



EARLY PEEK CONT. currently being desiccated in preparation for harvest, with lentils expected to follow soon.

Pulse grower Tim Smith in Adams County, Washington, reported that although his winter green peas looked good, the spring peas, “not so much.” He also saw a dramatic difference in yield based on topography, with roughly 2,700 pounds per acre on the flats compared with 1,500 pounds on the slopes, which he suspects resulted from frost.

Tim’s comments after his report are where this reflection stops being merely a crop-condition story and becomes an agricultural economics story. He’s selling because he needs the cash, says three years of wheat prices comparable to 1972 levels are “almost killing us,” and then gives this remarkably candid observation:

“Farming is no fun when you are bleeding money.”

A Safety Net, But Not a Paycheck

Smith’s frustration points to another part of the harvest equation. Yield matters, but so does price. When either one falls far enough, crop insurance and other risk-management tools can become nearly as important as what comes out of the combine.

Two growers responding to this editor’s survey said they expect insurance claims this year, including claims under the Pulse Crop Revenue Insurance Program. PCRIP is particularly important to the pulse industry because USA Pulses spent more than a decade advocating for and helping develop revenue-based coverage for dry peas, lentils and chickpeas, which previously lacked the type of revenue protection available to crops such as wheat. The program was finally approved for the 2013

crop year. Dry bean growers have similar revenue coverage through the Dry Bean Policy, owned by the Northharvest Bean Growers Association and managed by USDA’s Risk Management Agency.

PCRIP can protect against more than lost yield. Depending on the coverage selected, growers can protect against losses in production, price or both, making it one of the most important risk-management tools available to pulse growers.

But PCRIP is still only one tool. Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage, better known as ARC and PLC, provide another layer of the federal farm safety net. A recent analysis of dry peas by agricultural CPA Paul Neiffer shows just how that safety net can work, and where its limits are.

In a July [Farm CPA Report](#) analysis, Neiffer used Valley County, Montana, to illustrate how ARC-CO can work for dry pea growers. Based on his calculations, the county had an estimated revenue shortfall of about \$187 per acre, but the resulting ARC-CO payment was only about \$26 per acre because payments are capped as a percentage of benchmark revenue.

That’s not to suggest the program failed to work as intended. Rather, Neiffer’s example illustrates the difference between providing a safety net and replacing lost crop revenue. ARC and PLC can provide another layer of protection when prices or revenues fall, but they aren’t designed to make a producer whole.

Crop insurance programs continue to change, and USA Pulses works hard to keep members abreast of those changes and important deadlines. Watch the Pulse Pipeline for updates on crop insurance, ARC and PLC, and other risk-

management programs that affect pulse growers.

Still Early

Of course, this is hardly the final word on the 2026 pulse crop. Much of it is still standing in the field, and some crops and growing regions, notably chickpeas and dry beans, remain weeks away from harvest.

USA Pulses CEO and pulse grower Tim McGreevy is among those still waiting to find out what the combine will tell him. “I am hoping to harvest my lentils by the last week of August. They look pretty good in the field,” McGreevy said. “Of course, every year I think I’m going to have this great yield until I start harvest and wish I had a vacuum cleaner behind my combine to pick up all the lentils on the ground. That’s the life of a lentil grower. Have a safe harvest.”

What these early reports do show is something growers already know - there is rarely a single story to tell about a crop year. One grower gets too much rain while another waits desperately for it. Heat arrives during flowering in one region, while timely moisture helps carry another crop through the same hot stretch. Even within a single field, elevation, soil and weather can produce dramatically different results.

Growers have tools to manage some of that risk, including crop insurance, marketing and programs such as PCRIP, ARC and PLC. But ultimately, much of what determines the success of a crop remains outside their control.

It’s still far too early to know what kind of crop 2026 will ultimately produce. But these first reports are another reminder that getting a crop planted is one challenge, getting it harvested is another, and making it pay can be the toughest challenge of all. 🌱





from the creative mind of
Jacob Slabaugh
 Chef and Project Manager
 for USA Pulses

ROASTED RED BELL PEPPER & HUMMUS SANDWICH

YIELD: 1 SANDWICH

As Desired	Pre-made (*Or home-made) Hummus
2 Slices	Sourdough Bread (Toasted)
As needed	Extra Virgin Olive Oil
1-2 Bell Peppers	Pre-made (*Or home-made) Roasted Red Bell Peppers
2 oz	Feta Cheese, Sliced
4 Sprigs	Fresh Dill
To Taste	Salt

YOU WILL NEED: knife, cutting board and sheet pan.
 If roasting peppers, you will need: metal bowl,
 tongs, and covering for bowl.



DIRECTIONS

1. Pre-heat your oven to 375 degrees.
2. Place bread on sheet pan and drizzle with Extra Virgin Olive Oil and salt.
3. Toast bread in oven for 10 – 15 minutes, flipping halfway in between.
Bread should be golden brown on each side when done.
4. Set aside to cool.
5. Assemble sandwich with hummus on both pieces of bread,
roasted red bell peppers, sliced feta cheese, and dill sprigs.

*OPTIONAL – ROASTING BELL PEPPERS:



1. Roast peppers over either an open stove flame or an open grill flame. Peppers will start to char on the outside. A wrinkled skin with black marks is good, but a thick black char means it went too long.
2. Rotate peppers and flip as needed.
3. When peppers have achieved desired color and char levels place them into a metal bowl and cover for 15 minutes.
4. Remove covering and let them cool to room temperature.
5. Remove skins, seeds, and stems from peppers. Lightly rinse with water as needed to help remove seeds.



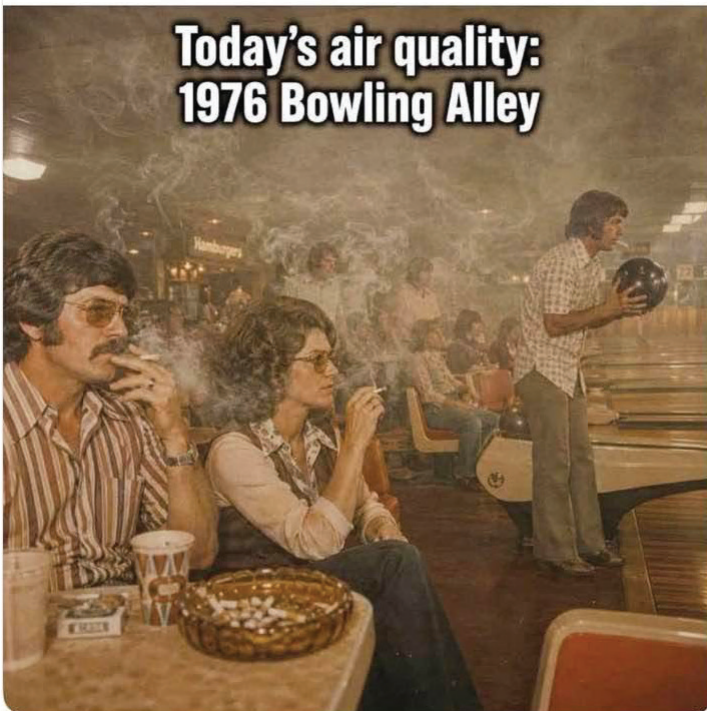
THE NATIONAL
LENTIL FESTIVAL
IS NEXT
SATURDAY!

• DON'T MISS IT! •



Friday Funny!

An improvement. Yesterday was 1950's living room without the Old Fashioned.



Thanks to Cole Riggers for sending us this meme.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 22.....National Lentil Festival
- Aug. 25-27 Qingdao Pulses Congress
- Aug. 31..... NCI Pulses Ingredients Course
- Sept. 7 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- Sept. 9 Research Comm. Mtg.
- Sept. 14-18 America's Food & Bev Show, Miami
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Food Tech Summit Mex. City

PulsePipeline

Your Pulse Connection
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Table Update: USDA's 2026 crop year loan rates took effect May 1. The summary table now displays 2026 and 2025 loan rates and National Posted Prices side by side for comparison. Current National Posted Prices remain above loan rates for all pulse categories, resulting in no Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) being available.

PULSE CROP LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP) RATES

USDA 2025-26 National Posted Price and Loan Rate Summary												
New Loan Rates Eff: May 1		Dry Peas				Lentils				Large Chickpeas		Small Chickpeas
		West		Midwest		West		Midwest		All		All
		2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
Pulse Loan Rate: #2 Grade		\$7.18	\$6.10	\$6.85	\$6.15	\$14.30	\$13.00	\$14.30	\$13.00	\$15.40	\$14.00	\$11.00
August 7, 2026	NPP	\$10.94	\$13.89	\$10.61	\$13.94	\$20.70	\$37.44	\$20.70	\$37.44	\$17.08	\$36.11	\$12.21
	LDP											
July 31, 2026	NPP	\$11.33	\$13.89	\$11.00	\$13.94	\$20.65	\$37.44	\$20.65	\$37.44	\$17.02	\$36.11	\$12.06
	LDP											

Midwest region: all counties in Montana and North Dakota, plus all counties in all other states not in the West Region.
Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



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