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Lentil harvest on the Palouse is underway, framed by blooming sunflowers. Photos by Theresa Pfaff.

2025 ARC/PLC PAYMENTS ARE COMING! WHAT PULSE GROWERS NEED TO KNOW

Harvest is underway in many pulse-growing regions, although chickpea and dry bean harvest are still a few weeks out. As the 2026 crop comes off, growers are getting a better idea of what they have in the field and what they're facing in the market. At the same time, growers are beginning to get a clearer picture of potential 2025 ARC and PLC payments.

Over the next two editions of the Pulse Pipeline, we'll take a closer look at what these farm program changes mean for pulse growers. This week, we'll look at the stronger 2025 safety net, why PLC payments are expected for several pulse crops, and how PLC and ARC-CO compare in several major pulse-growing counties. Next week, we'll get more practical, using a new USA Pulses calculator to show growers how to estimate potential PLC payments for their own farms.

A Stronger Safety Net for 2025

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) enacted in 2025 extended the ARC & PLC Farm Programs and made some important improvements, including higher reference prices for pulse crops.

A note for dry bean growers:

Dry edible beans are not covered commodities under the ARC/PLC program and are therefore not included in the payment estimates discussed below. ARC/PLC coverage for pulses applies to dry peas, lentils, and large and small chickpeas.

USA Pulses CEO Tim McGreevy has taken a close look at the 2025 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs and what the updated farm safety net could mean for pulse growers. His analysis looks at the new PLC reference prices and compares estimated PLC and ARC-County (ARC-CO) payments

using USDA data from key pulse-producing counties.



A note on chickpea estimates: USDA has finalized the chickpea reference prices used to set the PLC safety net, but the final 2025/26 MYA chickpea market prices are not scheduled to be published by USDA until September 2026. We have included a projection of the 2025/26 MYA prices for large and small chickpeas. When the final prices are published by USDA we will update the calculator.

The basic difference between the two programs hasn't changed. PLC provides support when a commodity's effective price falls below its effective reference price, while ARC-CO provides support when county crop revenue falls below the program's county revenue guarantee. Both PLC and ARC-CO payments are calculated on 85 percent of a farm's enrolled base acres for the covered commodity.

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BASE ACRE UPDATE: DEADLINE LOOMING!

OBBBA COULD EXPAND PULSE BASE ACRES, DEADLINE IS AUG. 31



I commodity, which would make them eligible for ARC/PLC safety-net payments.

WHO MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL BASE ACRES?

Under the new provision, additional base acres are allocated to eligible farms based on planting history from 2019 through 2023. A farm may qualify if its average planted and prevented-plant acres during that five-year period exceed the farm's existing total base acres.

The calculation can also include acres planted or prevented planted to eligible non-covered commodities, up to 15% of the farm's total acres. However, not all non-covered commodities or land uses qualify. According to the information presented by USA Pulses CEO Tim McGreevy, excluded acres include those associated with tobacco, cannabis, trees, bushes or vines, grass, idle or fallow land, cover crops, Conservation Reserve Program acres and certain other conservation program acres.

FSA is providing eligible landowners with a Base Allocation Summary showing their potential increase in base acres.

WHY THIS COULD MATTER FOR PULSE GROWERS

USA Pulses expects the new provision to result in a significant increase in base acres for dry peas, lentils and chickpeas.

Current pulse base acreage provides some perspective on the potential importance of the change. USDA FSA data presented by McGreevy show that 2025 base acres total 430,162 acres for dry peas, 275,332 for lentils, 71,376 for large chickpeas and just 20,827 for small chickpeas. Combined, those crops account for 797,697 existing base acres. The opportunity to establish additional base acres could therefore expand the number of pulse acres covered by the federal farm safety net beginning with the 2026 crop year.

AUG. 31 DEADLINE

The deadline to review potential new base acres is Aug. 31, 2026. FSA is providing eligible landowners with a Base Allocation Summary outlining potential base-acre increases. Landowners should review that summary and complete any necessary actions by the deadline. The summary can be accessed online through FSA using a Login.gov account, or landowners can contact their local FSA county office for assistance.

Improving the federal farm safety net, including the way base acres work for pulse crops, has been a longstanding policy priority for USA Pulses and its industry partners. Growers and pulse industry representatives have carried those concerns directly to Congress and USDA, including during this year's USA Pulses Coalition D.C. Mission.

Several pulse industry priorities remain for consideration in the next Farm Bill, but the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) made a number of significant changes affecting pulse growers. The law raises Marketing Assistance Loan rates, strengthens ARC and PLC provisions, and makes several crop insurance changes. It also provides a one-time opportunity to add up to 30 million new base acres nationwide for the 2026 crop year.

For growers, the most urgent of those changes right now is the opportunity to add base acres for the 2026 crop year. The deadline is Aug. 31.

Dry beans are not currently a Title I covered commodity and therefore do not directly receive new base acres under this provision. USA Pulses continues to support Northarvest Bean Growers Association's priority of adding dry beans as a Title



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PULSE MARKET NEWS

Today's Exchange Rate:
1 Canadian dollar = 0.73 U.S. \$ (Bank of Canada)

PULSE PRICE CHART (Grower Prices in U.S. \$/cwt. on #1 Grade)				
Pacific Northwest	August 21, 2026	August 14, 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	\$ 10.42-12.50	\$ 11.45	\$ 14.38
Yellow Peas	\$ 7.92-10.42	\$ 8.00-10.83	\$ 8.54	\$ 9.72
Lentils (Richlea)	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.00-14.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 21.00
Chickpeas (Large Kabuli)	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 21.88
Canada U.S. \$/cwt. Revised August 19, 2026				
Green Peas	\$ 10.13	\$ 8.88		
Yellow Peas	\$ 9.20	\$ 9.09		
Feed Peas	\$ 9.76	\$ 9.86		
Lentils (Laird)	\$ 16.28	\$ 16.28		
Lentils (Red)	\$ 16.13	\$ 15.40		
Lentils (Richlea)	\$ 14.18	\$ 14.18		
Chickpeas (Desi)	\$ 9.67	\$ 9.67		
Chickpeas (Kabuli 9mm)	\$ 18.54	\$ 18.54		



Compared to last week, trade remained light. The FSA Planted Acres Report, released August 12, 2026, lists 1,534,661 acres of dry beans, 624,901 acres of lentils, and 1,161,324 acres of dry peas. According to the August 9, 2026, NASS Crop Progress Report, lentil harvest is 24% complete in Montana and 13% complete in North Dakota. Dry pea harvest is 32% complete in Montana and 25% complete in North Dakota, while Montana's dry bean harvest is 12% complete (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. 19, 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	\$ 32.00-35.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 28.00-32.00	\$ 28.00
Michigan	\$ NA	\$ NA	\$ 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	\$ 30.00	\$ 29.50	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00
Michigan	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 30.00
PINTO				
Min-Dak Region	\$ 35.00	\$ 32.33	\$ 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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PART ONE: SAFETY NET CONT.



Theresa Pfaff » Photography Of The Palouse

All-star contributor · August 19 at 10:33 AM ·

Watching grandpa cut lentils.



Growers Get Higher Payments in 2025

There is one important change for 2025: **producers will automatically receive the higher calculated PLC or ARC-CO payment**, regardless of which program farmers elected last year. In other words, for 2025 growers effectively get the better of the two safety nets.

That makes understanding both calculations particularly important this year, and McGreevy's analysis shows that the answer can vary considerably by pulse crop.

Higher Reference Prices for the 2025 Crop

One of the most significant changes for pulse growers is the increase in PLC reference prices. Under the OBBBA the statutory reference prices for pulses were increased by 19% and the new levels are \$13.10 per hundredweight (cwt = 100 lbs.) for dry peas, \$23.75 for lentils, \$25.65 for large

chickpeas and \$22.65 for small chickpeas. See the table below.

But the statutory price is only the starting point. USDA also calculates an effective reference price using 88% of a five-year average of historical market prices, excluding the highest and lowest years. If that calculation produces a higher price, the PLC safety net can move higher, up to 115% of the statutory price.

That's what happened for lentils and both chickpea classes for the 2025 crop. Dry peas remain at the \$13.10 statutory price, while effective reference prices rise to \$25.87 for lentils, \$27.98 for large chickpeas and \$25.29 for small chickpeas. See the table on page 5.

Lower Market Prices Trigger PLC Payments

The higher reference prices establish the safety net, but PLC only pays when the applicable market price falls below the effective reference price.

USDA compares the effective reference price with the higher of the national Marketing Year Average (MYA) price or the national loan rate. If the effective reference price is higher, the difference becomes the PLC payment rate.

In other words, the farther the market price falls below the effective reference price for a commodity, the larger the potential PLC payment rate. The amount a grower actually receives then depends on the farm's PLC payment yield and eligible base acres.

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Farm Bill: PLC Statutory Reference Price Comparison

2018 Farm Bill vs. 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), by covered commodity

Commodity	Unit	2018 Farm Bill	2025 OBBBA	% Increase
Wheat	\$/bu	\$5.5000	\$6.3500	15.45%
Corn	\$/bu	\$3.7000	\$4.1000	10.81%
Grain Sorghum	\$/bu	\$3.9500	\$4.4000	11.39%
Barley	\$/bu	\$4.9500	\$5.4500	10.10%
Med. Grain Rice	\$/cwt	\$14.0000	\$16.9000	20.71%
Soybeans	\$/bu	\$8.4000	\$10.0000	19.05%
Canola	\$/cwt	\$20.1500	\$23.7500	17.87%
Peanuts	\$/ton	\$535.0000	\$630.0000	17.76%
Dry Peas	\$/cwt	\$11.0000	\$13.1000	19.09%
Lentils	\$/cwt	\$19.9700	\$23.7500	18.93%
Small Chickpeas	\$/cwt	\$19.0400	\$22.6500	18.96%
Large Chickpeas	\$/cwt	\$21.5400	\$25.6500	19.08%

Sources: 7 U.S.C. § 9011 (2018 Farm Bill); H.R. 1, One Big Beautiful Bill Act § 10102 (enrolled text); USDA FSA Notice ARCPLC-125 and Effective Reference Price tables.



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PART ONE: SAFETY NET CONT.

2025 Statutory vs. Effective Reference Prices

	STATUTORY REFERENCE PRICE (per hundredweight)	EFFECTIVE REFERENCE PRICE (per hundredweight)	CHANGE
DRY PEAS	\$13.10/cwt	\$13.10/cwt	 NO CHANGE
LENTILS	\$23.75/cwt	\$25.87/cwt	 +\$2.12/cwt
LARGE CHICKPEAS	\$25.65/cwt	\$27.98/cwt	 +\$2.33/cwt
SMALL CHICKPEAS	\$22.65/cwt	\$25.29/cwt	 +\$2.64/cwt

Note: cwt = hundredweight. 1 hundredweight = 100 pounds.

For 2025, prices are low enough to trigger expected PLC payments for dry peas and lentils. Chickpeas may trigger payments as well, but final 2025/26 chickpea MYA prices are still pending, so McGreevy's large and small chickpea estimates could change.

What Do the Payments Look Like Per Acre?

To see how PLC and ARC-CO compare on the ground, McGreevy looked at four major pulse-producing counties: Latah County, Idaho; Whitman County, Washington; Roosevelt County, Montana; and Ward County, North Dakota. The results vary considerably by crop. Next week, we'll take a closer look at these county-level breakdowns and show growers how to estimate

potential PLC payments for their own farms.

However, here's the gist of what he discovered. For dry peas, PLC produces the higher estimated payment in all four examples. The difference is relatively modest, ranging from \$32.00 per acre under PLC versus \$28.36 under ARC-CO in Latah County to \$47.14 under PLC versus \$41.78 under ARC-CO in Ward County.

Lentils are even closer. PLC edges ARC-CO in every county analyzed, but only slightly. Estimated PLC payments range from \$39.61 to \$48.08 per acre across the four examples, compared with ARC-CO payments ranging from \$39.25 to \$47.65.

The picture changes substantially for large chickpeas. Using USDA's current projected 2025/26 chickpea price, ARC-CO produces the larger estimated payment in all four counties. In Latah County, for example, McGreevy estimates \$57.39 per acre under ARC-CO compared with \$34.12 under PLC. In Ward County, the comparison is \$65.09 under ARC-CO versus \$38.70 under PLC.

Small chickpeas swing strongly in the opposite direction. McGreevy's current estimates show PLC payments of \$118.86 to \$173.69 per acre across the four examples, more than twice the corresponding ARC-CO estimates in each county. Small chickpeas suffered the largest price decline of the four pulse crops in McGreevy's analysis, driving the much larger PLC payments.

These examples show how the programs compare, but they won't necessarily reflect what an individual grower will receive. ARC-CO results vary by county, while PLC payments depend on each farm's established PLC payment yield. Again, the large and small chickpea estimates could also change because USDA has not yet published final 2025/26 chickpea MYA prices.

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Estimated 2025 PLC vs. ARC-CO Payments by County

State	PLC Dry Peas \$/Ac	ARC-CO Dry Peas \$/Ac	PLC Lentils \$/Ac	ARC-CO Lentils \$/Ac	PLC Large Chickpeas \$/Ac	ARC-CO Large Chickpeas \$/Ac	PLC Small Chickpeas \$/Ac	ARC-CO Small Chickpeas \$/Ac
Idaho	32.00	28.36	40.31	39.94	34.12	57.39	133.85	54.37
Washington	35.59	31.54	39.61	39.25	35.72	60.07	142.56	57.91
Montana	39.19	34.73	39.88	39.52	30.11	50.65	118.86	48.28
North Dakota	47.14	41.78	48.08	47.65	38.70	65.09	173.69	70.55



PART ONE: SAFETY NET CONT.

Taken together, McGreevy's examples show there isn't one clear winner across pulse crops. PLC produces the higher estimated payment for dry peas, lentils and small chickpeas in all four county examples, while ARC-CO produces the higher estimate for large chickpeas. Which program comes out ahead can change considerably by crop and county. That's particularly important in 2025, when growers will automatically receive the higher calculated PLC or ARC-CO payment regardless of which program they elected.

When Will Growers Receive Payments?

USDA is expected to issue any triggered 2025 ARC/

PLC payments sometime after October 1, 2026. With pulse prices still low and input costs high, McGreevy notes that those payments could provide some welcome support heading into the next crop year.

What Will Your PLC Payment Look Like?

USA Pulses has developed a PLC payment calculator that lets growers enter their own payment yields and base acres to estimate potential PLC payments for dry peas, lentils, and large and small chickpeas.

We'll take growers through that calculator and explain how to use it in the next edition of the Pulse Pipeline. 

Mark Your Calendars! 

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS WORKING GROUP MEETING



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25TH
9:00 AM PST



Please note, this meeting will be held virtually via Zoom and you can find the link and meeting details below.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to review the results of initial surveys, discuss the transportation and logistics issues currently facing the **pulse industry**, and establish a clear scope of work and priorities for our next steps.



MEETING DETAILS



Date: Tuesday, August 25th



Time: 9:00 a.m. PST



Zoom Meeting ID: 211 411 7123



Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/2114117123>



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NEW EU HEAVY METAL LIMITS RAISE CONCERNS

EU NICKEL REQUIREMENTS CREATE NEW U.S. EXPORT CHALLENGES

The European Union (EU) has established maximum levels for nickel in foods, including pulses, creating a regulatory challenge for U.S. pulse exports to Europe. The requirements, which became applicable July 1, 2025, set specific limits for the amount of nickel permitted in dry peas, lentils, chickpeas and dry beans placed on the European market. Because nickel occurs naturally in soils and is taken up by plants as they grow, the requirements have implications for U.S. growers, processors and exporters serving European customers.

USA Pulses is reviewing the requirements and their impact on the U.S. pulse industry and international trade. The organization is working to provide growers, processors and exporters with science-based information as it works to address the issue.

Nickel in the Food System: What Has, and Has Not, Changed

Nickel itself is not new to food or food production. It is a naturally occurring element found throughout the environment, including in soils and water. Research published in *Science* and *Plant Physiology* has established nickel as an essential micronutrient for higher plants, where it supports important metabolic functions, including the activity of the enzyme urease and the use of nitrogen by plants. As plants grow, they naturally take up nickel from the soil along with other mineral nutrients, resulting in varying concentrations in many plant-based foods, including grains, vegetables, nuts and pulses.

What has changed is not the presence of nickel in the food system. What has changed is the

European Union's establishment of specific maximum nickel levels for a number of food categories, including pulses.

Why Europe Established the New Limits

The European Commission adopted new maximum levels for nickel in certain foods in July 2024 following an updated scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). According to EFSA, its assessment evaluated both chronic dietary exposure and potential acute effects among nickel-sensitive individuals. EFSA identified food as the primary source of nickel exposure for the general population, with legumes among the food groups contributing to dietary exposure. The new requirements became applicable to most affected foods on July 1, 2025.

Under the new European Commission requirements, the maximum nickel level for lentils, chickpeas and dry peas is 4.0 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), while the maximum for dry beans is 12.0 mg/kg.

USA Pulses is seeking to better understand the reason for the significant difference between the limits established for dry beans and those for peas, lentils and chickpeas. The organization is exploring asking the EU to raise

the maximum level for all pulses to 12.0 mg/kg.

These new limits are regulatory standards intended to manage dietary exposure across the European food supply. They do not mean that nickel has suddenly appeared in agricultural products or that its presence is necessarily the result of contamination. Nickel concentrations can vary by crop, production environment, soil conditions, plant genetics and other factors.

For U.S. pulses exported to Europe, meeting these new limits becomes another consideration in maintaining access to that market.

USA Pulses is gathering additional information to better understand the potential impact of the new requirements on U.S. pulses. Representatives in Europe are actively monitoring implementation and communicating with importers and other market participants, while USA Pulses continues to consult with its scientific and market access teams.

As this work moves forward, USA Pulses will continue working to understand the new requirements and their implications for maintaining reliable access to the European market. 🌱



EPIC USDA PULSE SOLICITATION!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Purchase Solicitation
2000011488



Invitation Total: 30,835 MT

Commodity	Size	Metric Tons
Lentils	12/2	5,871
Green Split Peas	12/2	11,796
Chickpeas	12/2	4,481
Black Turtle	12/2	4,462
Pinto	12/2	4,225

Solicitation due date is: 09/03/2026

[Download the Purchase Solicitation Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Purchase Solicitation
2000011500

Invitation Total: 2,340 MT

Commodity	Size	Metric Tons
Yellow Split Peas	50kg bags	820
Lentils	50kg bags	560
Green Split Peas	50kg bags	100
Black Beans	50kg bags	210
Pinto	50kg bags	150
Dark Red Kidney	50kg bags	500

Solicitation due date is: 09/01/2026

[Download the Purchase Solicitation Here](#)



Friday Funny!

With a couple of matches, I bet it'll fire right up.



Tried to drive it, but
it wooden start.

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

USA Pulses

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USA PULSES IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER.



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 14, 2026	NPP	\$11.14	\$13.89	\$10.81	\$13.94	\$20.74	\$37.44	\$20.74	\$37.44	\$17.16	\$36.11	\$12.38
	LDP											
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											

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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