



## Washington Report October 16, 2009

### USDA News...

**USDA Will Not Issue Final Payments for Certain Commodities.** Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced this week that USDA will not issue final 2008 counter-cyclical payments to farmers participating in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program for peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and oats. In explaining the decision, Vilsack noted that the average prices for these commodities have remained above the trigger levels. USDA did, however, begin to issue payments for upland cotton this week. For more information, click [here](#).

**Additional Price Election for Durum Wheat.** The Risk Management Agency is offering an additional price election for 2010 Crop Year durum wheat in Arizona and California. This is the maximum price election for the crop year, and it totals \$6.70 per bushel. For more information, click [here](#).

### Congressional News...

**Agriculture Panel to Examine Multiple Issues.** The House Agriculture Committee is poised to review a range of topics over the coming weeks. Next week, the full Committee will consider legislation to reform derivatives transactions, and the Livestock Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the current state of the pork industry. During the following week, the Horticulture Subcommittee will review the implementation of the Horticulture and Organic Agriculture title of the 2008 Farm Bill.

**House Outlook.** House Leadership continues to work behind the scenes to put together **healthcare legislation** for an eventual floor vote this fall. Additionally, the Financial Services Committee has begun to take up proposals to revamp the nation's **financial regulatory system**.

**Senate Outlook.** The Senate recently sent a third **Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations** measure, the Energy and Water bill, to the President's desk. So far, the two chambers have also passed the final Agriculture and Legislative Branch measures, while discussions continue on the nine other bills. Additionally, the Finance Committee this week approved a major **healthcare reform** package, giving Leadership the green light to prepare in earnest for a floor vote in the coming weeks.

### Industry News...

**Ag Economist Writes on ACRE.** FarmPolicy.com reported this week that Ohio State University Agricultural Economist Carl Zulauf recently wrote a piece entitled, “Why I Chose ACRE.” Zulauf noted that he chose ACRE not because he expected to receive more money, but because the program offered him different but complementary risk protection from crop insurance, along with better risk management for corn, soybeans, and wheat than more traditional programs would provide. For more information, click [here](#).