Etheridge 001—Extension substitute

The amendment would extend the following grains, upland cotton, and oilseeds related provisions of the 2002 farm bill:

- Fixed, decoupled payments;
- New counter-cyclical deficiency payments that make up the difference between a crop's average market price plus the fixed decoupled payment, and its "target price";
- Marketing assistance loans (and LDPs) at higher rates than 1996 Act for most but not all crops;
- Fixed, decoupled payments and counter-cyclical payments are calculated at 85% of each farm's base acres and crop yields as set in 1996 Act;
- Continued flexibility to plant most crops (except fruits, vegetables, and wild rice) on base acres;
- no authority for USDA annual acreage controls;
- Separate annual per person limits of $40,000 for fixed payments; $65,000 for counter-cyclical payments; $75,000 for marketing loan gains (however, no limit on gains when commodity certificates are used to pay off marketing loans). The so called "three-entity" rule and husband wife rule are both retained, effectively doubling these dollar limits. Crop program subsidies are restricted to those with less than $2.5 million per year in gross income (3-year average); those earning more than 75% of their income from agriculture are exempt from this means test. (Peanuts have a separate set of payment limits.)

In addition the amend would extend provisions of the 2002 Farm bill providing for:

- Marketing loans and LDPs are provided for ***dry peas***, ***lentils***, and ***small chickpeas***.
- Nonrecourse loans, but not LDPs, are provided for ***ELS cotton***.