

June 28, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC ALTERS SCHEDULE E GRAIN STORAGE RATE

LINCOLN – Storage rates for the state's major grains remain unchanged for the next year in a recent action taken by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

The Schedule E rate for dry edible beans and popcorn, however, was altered to make the rate a maximum that could be charged by grain warehouse companies rather than a mandatory rate as in the past.

The rates go into effect July 1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. The Commission conducted a public hearing on the two rate schedules – Schedule A for most grains including corn, wheat, soybeans, and sorghum and Schedule E for dry edible beans and popcorn – on May 4. No testimony was made in person on either rate, but the Commission received written comments on the Schedule E rate from the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation and State Senator Philip Erdman.

In the past, warehouses were not permitted to charge less than the stated Schedule E rate. Now the Schedule E rate of .0039 per hundredweight per day, about one third of a cent, will be a maximum rate only. Warehouses will continue to be authorized to assess one-time receiving and delivering charges of 15 cents per hundredweight on dry edible beans.

For popcorn, the storage rate maximum will be .0025 cents per hundredweight per day with a one-time combined receiving and delivering charge of 30 cents per hundredweight.

Schedule A rates remain unchanged for the new fiscal year.

Commissioner Jerry Vap said, "The minor change in the Schedule E rate does not increase storage costs, but rather makes the rate more flexible to meet the needs of both the producer and the warehouse."

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