

## Summary of Group 5 discussion

Group 5 – Opportunities and challenges of achieving sustainable conversion of CRP to small grain and pasture / cellulosic based production, including the idea that CRP might be considered as components of long-term cropping systems.

- 1) begin the development of crop budgets for at least the following;
  - CRP conversion to pasture with limited irrigation
  - CRP conversion to cellulosic based production
  - CRP conversion to cropland with later conversion to cellulosic based production
  - Additional CRP conversions not listed by group 5. The budgets should include all conceived items even if no data is currently available to support the cost.
- 2) The group change directs at this point to list knows and unknowns. We did not complete the list in the allotted time.
  - Knows - because of cropland values and rent values conversion to pasture is very unlikely, we know how to convert grass to ethanol, we know how to convert CRP to small grain production, we know that the 66% of the CRP field that is HEL can be developed to wildlife/hunting leases.
  - Don't know - The costs of the different methods to convert CRP to small grain, the costs to develop limited irrigation pasture, the locations of cellulosic ethanol plants to determine transportation costs, the opportunities for organic beef production.
  - We ran out of time at this point, it was very apparent to group 5 there were many more items that we did not know to numerous to list.

Submitted by Lyle Frees