

# DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

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ERS is the main source of research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



## REGISTRATION

... for the March 1-2, 2007 **Agricultural Outlook Forum** is now open. Register by February 5 and save \$50 off the registration fee. For more information, see the postcard on the back or visit the website

Go to:

[www.usda.gov/ocel/forum](http://www.usda.gov/ocel/forum) to register now!

## Commodity Markets and Trade

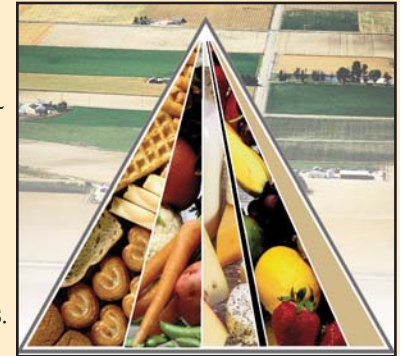
ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook)

## Dietary Guidelines: Implications for Agriculture

[www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR31](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR31)

To help Americans meet nutritional requirements while staying within caloric recommendations, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans encourage consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, and fat-free or low-fat milk or milk products. The report *Possible Implications for U.S. Agriculture From Adoption of Select Dietary Guidelines* provides one view of the potential implications for U.S. agriculture if Americans changed their current consumption patterns to meet some of those guidelines.

For Americans to meet the fruit, vegetable, and whole-grain recommendations, domestic crop acreage would need to increase by an estimated 7.4 million harvested acres, or 1.7 percent of total U.S. cropland in 2002. To meet the dairy guidelines, U.S. dairy farmers would need to raise annual production of milk and milk products by 65 percent. An increase of that magnitude would likely require an increase in the number of dairy cows as well as increased feed grains and, possibly, increased acreage devoted to dairy production.



## Data Sets now available

### Organic Production

[www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Organic](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Organic)

In 2005, for the first time, all 50 States had some certified organic farmland. This data set surveys organic operations and acreage for crops and livestock (over 40 commodities), with some tables dating back to 1992. Data for 2000-2005 include the number of certified operations by State.

### Livestock and Meat Trade Data

[www.ers.usda.gov/Data/MeatTrade](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/MeatTrade)

The Livestock and Meat Trade Data Set contains monthly and annual data for the past 1-2 years for imports and exports of live cattle and hogs, beef and veal, lamb and mutton, pork, broiler meat, turkey meat, and shell eggs. The tables report physical quantities, not dollar values or unit prices. Breakdowns by major trading countries are included.

### Season-Average Price Forecasts

[www.ers.usda.gov/Data/PriceForecast](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/PriceForecast)

A futures-price forecasting model is used to provide season-average price forecasts for corn, soybeans, and wheat. In addition to the monthly forecasts for prices received, the model computes a forecast for the counter-cyclical payment rate for each commodity. The 2002 Farm Act provides for counter-cyclical payments when prices are below specified levels.

## Look and Listen: Multimedia Features

The ERS website offers information on selected topics via podcasts, audio slideshows, and flash presentations. You can reach all the multimedia resources from a single web page.

Go to: [www.ers.usda.gov/multimedia](http://www.ers.usda.gov/multimedia)

### About ERS

#### Multimedia

Audio Slideshow:

##### 2006 Farm Sector Income Forecast



ERS analyst Mitch Morehart discusses 2006 U.S. farm earnings projections. (November 30, 2006)

(Requires Adobe Flash Player - 6 minutes 05 seconds)

Audio Slideshow:

##### Household Food Security in the United States, 2005



This audio slideshow talks about some of the findings in the report, Household Food Security in the United States, 2005. The speaker is Mark Nord, a co-author of the report. (November 14, 2006)

(Requires Adobe Flash Player - 3 minutes 45 seconds)



## Rice Backgrounder

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/rcs/dec06/rcs200601](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/rcs/dec06/rcs200601)

U.S. rice farming is a high-cost, large-scale production operation that depends on the global market for about half its annual sales. Government payments per acre are high compared with other program crops, as is the share of the sector's income accounted for by payments. While domestic demand for rice continues to grow, the outlook for rice farm incomes is tempered by higher production costs, modest increases in farm prices, and continued strong competition in many international markets from lower cost Asian exporters.

## Vegetables and Melons Outlook

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/2006/12dec/vgs318.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/2006/12dec/vgs318.pdf)

Provides current intelligence and forecasts the effects of changing conditions in the U.S. vegetables and melons sector (including potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms). Topics include production, consumption, shipments, prices received, trade, and more.



## Agriculture at the Crossroads

*Energy, Farm & Rural Policy*

### Topics will include:

- Energy
- Rural Development
- Policy & Trade
- Science & Technology
- Food Trends
- Commodities

March 1-2, 2007

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel  
Arlington, Virginia

For registration and other details:

[www.usda.gov/ocelforum](http://www.usda.gov/ocelforum)

### How to get more information ...

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