



Dateline ERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

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.

New Bioenergy Information

Biofuel derived from plant materials is among the most rapidly growing renewable energy technologies. This new web feature presents ERS Bioenergy research and includes:

Audio slideshow:
Ethanol: Fueling Farm Sector Adjustments

Outlook report:
Ethanol Expansion in the United States

Sign up for ERS e-mail alerts on new bioenergy information.

www.ers.usda.gov/features/bioenergy

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

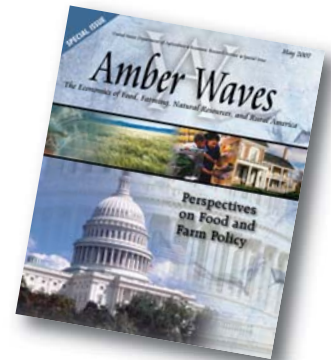
Amber Waves: Perspectives on Food and Farm Policy Special Issue May 2007

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves

Agricultural policy affects not only the economic well-being of farm households, but also our food supply, the environment, and the future of rural communities. The current farm law (the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) remains in force through 2007, and the debate that will lead to passage of the next farm law is underway.

Organized in four themes—Commodity Programs and Policy, Conservation, Food and Nutrition, and Rural Development and Energy—this special edition is designed to highlight topics that are likely to be discussed in the coming months. Included are:

- Managing Risk with Revenue Insurance
- Relaxing Fruit and Vegetable Planting Restrictions
- Environmental Credit Trading: Can Farming Benefit?
- Emphasis Shifts in U.S. Agri-Environmental Policy
- Policy Options for a Changing Rural America
- Food Assistance—How Strong Is the Safety Net?
- Ethanol Reshapes the Corn Market



Household Time Resources Affect Food Preparation

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR40

Household time resources significantly affect how much time is allocated to preparing food according to the recent ERS report *Who Has Time to Cook? How Family Resources Influence Food Preparation*. In fact, working full-time and being a single parent appears to have a larger impact on time allocated to food preparation than an individual's earnings or household income do. The results are relevant for the design of food assistance programs as well as for improving our understanding of how different family time resources affect eating behavior.



Policy Reform: Potential Impacts for India's Wheat and Rice Sectors

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR41

Indian Wheat and Rice Sector Policies and the Implications of Reform examines India's wheat and rice commodities. During 1998-2002, India experienced record public surpluses of wheat and rice, sharply higher Government subsidy outlays, and declining per capita consumption. By 2006, despite continued high subsidies and sluggish domestic consumption, India developed a large wheat deficit. The pronounced market cycles and declines in per capita consumption for India's major food staples are creating pressure for Indian policymakers to adjust long-standing policies.



Farm Bill: ERS Research and Analysis

www.ers.usda.gov/Features/FarmBill2007

This ERS web feature on the upcoming farm bill is now expanded, covering a broad selection of ERS research and analysis. Analysts examine the economic effects of current farm legislation on producers, consumers, taxpayers, and rural communities, and evaluate potential effects of alternative policies and programs. Revisit this site as the farm bill takes shape and as new research and resources are added.



U.S. Tobacco Import Update

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tbs/may07/tbs26201/tbs26201.pdf

U.S. tobacco product manufacturers use foreign-produced leaf in items such as cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and pipe tobacco. Imports peaked in the mid-1990s but remain at historically high levels. The popularity of generic cigarettes, which use cheaper imported leaf, along with increases in domestic leaf prices, were the chief reasons for heightened dependence on tobacco imports. As tobacco exports and domestic sales of generic cigarettes advanced, imported leaf use rose. The proportion of imported leaf remained high even after exports declined. During the 2005/06 crop year, use of imported tobacco slipped 6 percent. Imported flue-cured and burley use slipped, and Oriental leaf use advanced. Imports of flue-cured and burley tobacco continue to be regulated by a tariff-rate quota.

How to get more information . . .

More information about the items featured in *DatelineERS* can be found on our website: www.ers.usda.gov by going to the web address listed in each article. This newsletter is available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news
