

# DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://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.



## Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

### This Month

- Wheat
- Feed
- Cotton and Wool
- Rice
- Oil Crops
- Livestock, Dairy and Poultry
- Vegetables and Melons
- U.S. Ag Trade

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)

## The Decline in Consumer use of Food Nutrition Labels

[www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR63](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR63)

This report examines changes in consumers' use of nutrition labels on food packages between 1995 and 2005. The analysis finds that, although a majority of consumers report using nutrition labels when buying food, use has declined for most label components, including the Nutrition Facts panel and information about calories, fats, cholesterol, and sodium. By contrast, use of fiber information has increased. The decline in label use is particularly marked for the cohort of adults less than 30 years old.



## Hunger, Stress, and Other Roadblocks to Healthy Eating

[www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR62](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR62)


Poor diets and rising obesity rates among Americans persist despite increased public awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. This report presents a consumer demand model to illustrate how both long-term health objectives and long intervals between meals and eating away from home can drive individuals' food choices. Using data from the 1994-96 Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals and the companion Diet Health and Knowledge Survey, the analysis finds that when individuals extend the period between meals or consume more of their food away from home, they are significantly more likely to consume more calories and a lower quality diet.

## 2008 Farm Bill Side-by-Side

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

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, enacted into law in June 2008, will affect the bulk of Federal agriculture and related programs for the next 5 years. ERS's new web resource is a valuable side-by-side comparison of the new farm bill with previous legislation. Summarized but substantive, it offers a time-saving reference to farm bill provisions. In addition to key provisions and details by Title, the side-by-side includes links to related ERS publications and to analyses of previous farm acts. New features include a user's guide, an A-Z list of major provisions, and a search function.





## **Free Workshop: Broadband in The Rural Economy**

### **September 29 - September 30, 2008**

[www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/Broadband](http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/Broadband)

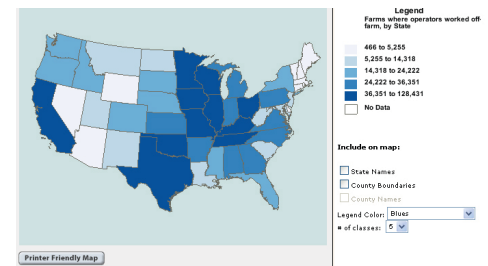
We invite you to learn from experts as they discuss the economic opportunities and challenges that broadband Internet adoption has for rural America. The workshop is free and open to all, but space is limited. **Register now!**

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## **New Data Tool: Regional Agricultural Profiles System**

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

The Regional Agricultural Profiles System allows users to query selected variables from the 2002 Census of Agriculture and view the results in maps, charts, and tables. In addition to State and county data, the system also provides information by USDA Farm Production Regions and ERS Farm Resource Regions. Categories include basic farm characteristics, agricultural land use, crop and livestock production, sales of farm products, and government payments.



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## **Farm Income Update Coming Soon!**

Check the **ERS website** on August 28th for an updated forecast of farm income for the 2008 calendar year along with the annual estimate of income earned in 2007. The updated forecast for 2008 will include both changes in commodity prices and production data and new production expense data.

### **How to get more information...**

More information about the items featured in DatelineERS can be found on our Website: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://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](http://www.ers.usda.gov/news)