

Dateline ERS

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Economic Research Service

February 2008

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

- Rice
- Feed
- Oil Crops
- Wheat
- Vegetables and Melons

All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Amber Waves

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves

Corn Prices Near Record High, But What About Food Costs?

Higher corn prices increase animal feed and ingredient costs for farmers and food manufacturers, but will consumers undergo the same sticker shock at the grocery store?

Rising Food Prices Intensify Food Insecurity in Developing Countries

The combination of rising energy prices, use of feed crops for biofuel, greater world food demand, and stagnant food aid may undermine the food security of low-income countries.

Converging Patterns in Global Food Consumption and Food Delivery Systems

Globalization and worldwide income growth are increasing similarities across countries in what consumers eat and where they shop and dine.

Education's Role in the Metro-Nonmetro Earnings Divide

Nonmetro workers, especially the most highly educated, continue to earn less than similar workers in metro areas, but lower earnings may be offset by lower costs of living and the value of rural amenities.



2008 Net Farm Income Is Forecast To Be \$92.3 Billion

www.ers.usda.gov/features/FarmIncome/2008/February

This year net farm income is forecast to be \$92.3 billion, up 4.1 percent above the \$88.7 billion farmers are projected to have earned in 2007, and 51 percent above its 10-year average of \$61.1 billion.

The story in 2008 is the value of crop production (\$175.5 billion), which is forecast to exceed the 2007 record by \$25.9 billion (a 17-percent increase). Prices of major crops (corn, soybeans, wheat) were trending upward in late 2007 and are expected to maintain or add to those gains.



USDA Agricultural Projections to 2017 Reflect Strong Biofuel Demand

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/OCE081

This report provides projections for the agricultural sector through 2017. Longrun developments for global agriculture reflect continued high crude oil prices as well as strong demand for biofuels, particularly in the United States and the European Union (EU). U.S. agricultural projections reflect large increases in corn-based ethanol production, which affects production, use, and prices of farm commodities throughout the sector. Expansion of biodiesel use in the EU raises demand for vegetable oils in global markets.

Additionally, steady domestic and international economic growth in the projections supports gains in consumption, trade, and prices. Although export competition is projected to continue, global economic growth, particularly in developing countries, provides a foundation for gains in world trade and U.S. agricultural exports. Combined with increases in domestic demand, particularly related to growth in ethanol production, the results are generally higher market prices. As a result, overall net farm income remains strong and reaches record levels in the latter part of the projections. Higher energy-related costs and agricultural commodity prices push U.S. retail food prices up more than general inflation in the near term, but then food prices increase less than the general inflation rate over the remainder of the projections period.



New Data Feature - Blueberries

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1765>

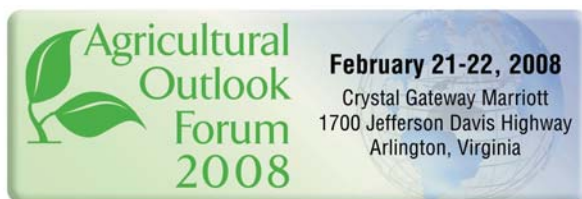
A new data feature on blueberries shows annual data on U.S. and State harvested acreage, yield, production, prices, crop value, trade, and per capita use. The feature also includes monthly data on shipments, imports, and exports, and world data on production and trade.

2008 Agricultural Outlook Forum Speeches

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum speeches will be made available on-site in hard copy in the Mount Vernon Room/Press Room, and will be posted to the Forum website at www.usda.gov/oce/forum.

- The Secretary's speech will be posted as soon as it is available on Thursday, Feb. 21
- Commodity speeches will be posted after 7 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 22
- Other speeches will be posted when available

If you would like to be added to the Agricultural Outlook Forum E-mail List, send an e-mail to: agforum@oce.usda.gov



Topics:

- Rural America
- Energy & Technology
- Policy & Trade
- Food Risk & Security
- Conservation
- Weather & Climate
- Commodities

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