

# 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 a primary source of economic 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.



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

## Commodity Markets and Trade

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

### This Month

- Rice
- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Sugars and Sweeteners
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry
- Vegetables and Melons

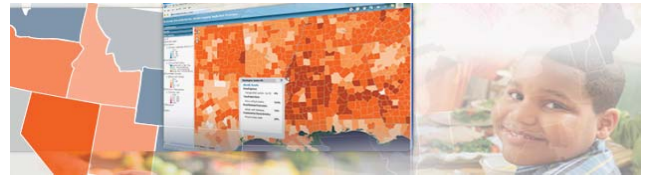
All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

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

## Food Environment Atlas: The Geography of Healthful Food

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

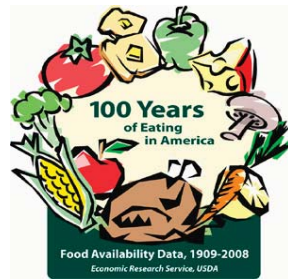
Your Food Environment Atlas is a new online mapping tool that compares the food environment of U.S. counties—the mix of factors that together influence



food choices, diet quality, and general fitness among residents. The Atlas contains 90 food environment indicators—most at the county level—allowing Atlas users to visualize and compare on a map how counties fare on each of the indicators. Unveiled by Michelle Obama during her “Let’s Move” speech on February 9, the Atlas has per-capita consumption information for foods from both the healthy and not-so-healthy side of the diet ledger, including fruits and vegetables, soft drinks, and fats. It shows the concentration of grocery stores, convenience food stores, fast-food establishments, and full-service restaurants. The Atlas also measures some key health outcomes like diabetes and obesity rates. This new online tool is designed to stimulate research and inform policymakers as they address the connection between diet and public health.

## ERS Food Availability Data System

[www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/TrackingACentury.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/TrackingACentury.htm)



USDA’s Economic Research Service maintains the only time-series data on U.S. food availability in the country; a series that now spans 100 years. The data play a key role in monitoring the potential for the food supply to meet the nutritional needs of Americans and in examining historical consumption trends. A look at 100 years of American eating reveals the technological, political, social, and economic forces affecting food availability.

## Well-Being of Farm Households

[www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR91](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR91)

Household economic well-being can be gauged by the financial resources (income/wealth) available to the household or by the standard of living enjoyed by household members (consumption). The *Farm Household Well-Being: Comparing Consumption- and Income-Based Measures* presents for the first time, estimates of consumption-based measures of well-being for farm households based on new questions in ARMS.

The consumption measure provides a different perspective from income or wealth on farm households’ well-being relative to that of all U.S. households.



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## *Amber Waves* March 2010

*Amber Waves* magazine covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, covering food, farming, natural resources, and rural America.

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

### ***Consumers' Response to the 2006 Foodborne Illness Outbreak Linked to Spinach***

This report examines how consumers responded to FDA's warning regarding possible spinach contamination outbreak, and its recommendation to avoid eating spinach. While spinach sales fell dramatically, consumers switched to buying other leafy greens.

### ***Organic Dairy Sector Evolves To Meet Changing Demand***

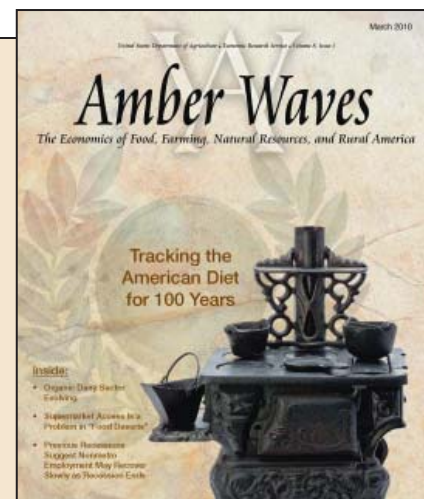
Declining demand for organic products in response to the economic downturn has slowed the rapid growth in organic milk production. Economic forces, primarily lower production costs, may be pushing organic dairies to be more like conventional dairies in terms of size, location, and the types of technologies used. More specific pasture requirements for organic certification proposed under USDA's National Organic Program may affect how the organic milk production sector evolves.

### ***Economic Recovery: Lessons Learned From Previous Recessions***

The rates of employment loss and unemployment in the recent recession are about the same in metro and nonmetro areas, but based on previous recessions, nonmetro employment may recover more slowly. As in past recessions, manufacturing-dependent nonmetro counties felt the effects of the recessions sooner than other nonmetro areas. Unemployment rates continue to be lowest for the college-educated in both nonmetro and metro areas.

### ***Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food Is Limited in "Food Deserts"***

Some neighborhoods in the United States, particularly low-income ones, have been dubbed "food deserts" because residents do not live near supermarkets or other food retailers that carry affordable and nutritious food. Low-income residents of these neighborhoods and those who lack transportation rely more on smaller neighborhood stores that may not carry healthy foods or offer them only at higher prices. A lack of healthy options could lead to poor diets and to diet-related conditions such as obesity or diabetes. If low-income households in food deserts can only purchase food at higher prices, they may be more prone to food insecurity—not having enough food for active, healthy living.



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