



DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

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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.



Commodity Markets and Trade

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

This Month

- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Cotton and Wool
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry
- Fruit and Tree Nuts

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

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Household Food Security in the United States in 2010

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR125

An estimated 85.5 percent of American households were food secure throughout the entire year in 2010, meaning that they had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households (14.5 percent) were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.4 percent with very low food security—meaning that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.



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Recent Adoption of Precision Agriculture

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB80

Efficient input use in agriculture is increasingly a priority of producers, the public, and policymakers. One way to increase efficiency in agriculture is through the adoption of precision technologies, which use information gathered during field operations, from planting to harvest, to calibrate the application of inputs and economize on fuel use. Still, the adoption of precision agricultural technologies and practices has been less rapid than envisioned a decade ago. *On the Doorstep of the Information Age: Recent Adoption of Precision Agriculture* examines trends in the adoption of four key information technologies—yield monitors, variable-rate application technologies, guidance systems, and GPS maps—in the production of major field crops.

Alternatives to a State-Based ACRE Program

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR126

The Average Crop Revenue Election, or ACRE, program is a commodity support program that bases coverage on aggregate State-level and individual farm-level revenue variability. *Alternatives to a State-Based ACRE Program: Expected Payments Under a National, Crop District, or County Base* examines expected effects if the trigger was changed to a national, Crop Reporting District, or county level.



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Trends in Hog Manure Management

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB81

In the past decade, hog production has increasingly become consolidated, with larger operations producing a greater volume of hog manure on smaller areas. With less cropland for spreading manure, hog farmers may be compensating through more effective manure management. From 1998 through 2009 structural changes in the hog sector altered how manure is stored and handled. Changes to the Clean Water Act, State regulations, and local conflicts over air quality also affected manure management decisions. *Trends and Developments in Hog Manure Management: 1998-2009* further suggests that environmental policy has influenced the adoption of conservation-compatible manure management practices.

Nitrogen Use and Conservation Policy

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR127/DBGen.htm

Nitrogen is an important agricultural input that is critical for crop production. However, the introduction of large amounts of nitrogen into the environment has a number of undesirable impacts on water, terrestrial, and atmospheric resources. *Nitrogen in Agricultural Systems: Implications for Conservation Policy* reveals that about two-thirds of U.S. cropland is not meeting three criteria for good nitrogen management related to the rate, timing, and method of application. Several policy approaches, including financial incentives, nitrogen management as a condition of farm program eligibility, and regulation, could induce farmers to improve their nitrogen management and reduce nitrogen losses to the environment.

2011 Farm Sector Income Forecast

www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FarmIncome/nationalestimates.htm

ERS forecasts net farm income at \$103.6 billion for 2011, up \$24.5 billion for a rise of 31 percent from 2010. Net farm income reflects income from production in the current year, whether or not sold within the calendar year, and is a measure of the increase in wealth from production. The 2011 forecast of net farm income is the highest inflation-adjusted value recorded since 1974.



Mexico's Expanding Beef Industry and Trade Impacts

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/LDP/2011/08Aug/LDPM20601

Trade, The Expanding Mexican Beef Industry, and Feedlot and Stocker Cattle Production in Mexico characterizes Mexican feeder-calf and fed cattle production systems in the context of the imports of Mexican feeder cattle into the United States. The increase in cattle feeding in Mexico will increasingly affect U.S. feeder cattle imports and U.S. beef exports to Mexico.

How to get more information...

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