



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

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

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

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

ACRE Program Enrollment Likely Benefits Some Farmers in 2009-2012

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR84

Authorized by the 2008 Farm Act, the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program is the first revenue-based, income-support program that calculates payments using recent market prices and a producer's actual plantings. The payments are triggered when a farm's revenue and State revenue fall below a calculated guarantee for a crop. By contrast, other income-support programs are based on legislated rates and support levels, computed using a farm's base acres and payment yields. Had the ACRE program been available during crop years 1996-2008, according to *Factors Influencing ACRE Program Enrollment*, farmers would have benefited more from participating in 2002 Farm Act programs than in the hypothetical ACRE program. The report further suggests that, for 2009-12, producers of corn, soybeans, wheat, and rice are likely to benefit more from the ACRE program than from the price-based, income-support programs. Initial enrollment data suggest that factors aside from expected market prices and yields entered into the enrollment decision, such as producer risk preferences and initial learning and negotiation costs. Data indicate that about 8 percent of farms with almost 13 percent of eligible base acres elected to participate in ACRE, which is less than might be expected given price and yield-based analysis alone.



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Effects of Agricultural Marketing Efficiency Gains in India

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR89

Agriculture is the largest source of employment in India, and food accounts for about half of consumer expenditures. Moving agricultural products from the farm to consumers more efficiently could result in large gains to producers, consumers, and India's overall economy. *Growth and Equity Effects of Agricultural Marketing Efficiency Gains in India* demonstrates that more efficient agricultural marketing generates economy-wide gains in output and wages, raises agricultural producer prices, reduces consumer food prices, and increases private consumption, particularly by low-income households. These gains could help to offset some of the medium-term adjustment costs for some commodity markets and households associated with reducing agricultural subsidies and tariffs.



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Recent ERS multimedia products and podcasts:

Household Food Security in the United States, 2008

www.ers.usda.gov/Multimedia

In this audio slideshow, Mark Nord discusses some of the findings in the report, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*. The speaker is Mark Nord, a co-author of the report. (November 16, 2009, requires Adobe Flash Player, 4 minutes 04 seconds)



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Broiler Producers Search for Alternatives to Antibiotics

www.ers.usda.gov/Podcast

This podcast discusses recent data summarizing the use of subtherapeutic antibiotics in broiler chicken production. (November 16, 2009, 5 minutes 02 seconds) ERS provides a number of options for you to receive ERS feeds, including iTunes, XML, and My Yahoo.



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USDA's 86th Agricultural Outlook Forum Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Health & Prosperity

February 18-19, 2009
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
Arlington, Virginia

Join us for USDA's annual Forum as the Secretary of Agriculture and government, farm, and industry leaders discuss the future of U.S. agriculture. The 2-day conference rate is \$375.

Register now at: www.usda.gov/oce/forum

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