

Dateline ERS

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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.



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Commodity Markets and Trade

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

In December:

- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Cotton and Wool
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Vegetables and Melons
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry

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

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Major Uses of Land in the United States, 2007

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB89

Major Uses of Land in the United States, 2007 presents findings from the most recent (2007) inventory of U.S. major land uses, drawing on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, public land management and conservation agencies, and other sources. The data are synthesized by State to estimate the use of several broad classes and subclasses of agricultural and nonagricultural land over time. National and regional trends in land use are compared with earlier major land-use estimates.



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The Changing Organization of U.S. Farming

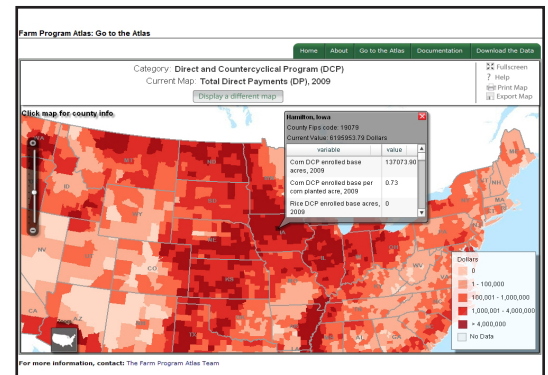
www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB88

Innovations in farm organization, business arrangements, and production practices have allowed farmers to produce more with less. Fewer labor hours and less land are used today than 30 years ago, and practices such as the use of genetically engineered seeds and no-till have dampened increases in machinery, fuel, and pesticide use. Likely aided by the increased use of risk management tools such as contracts and crop insurance, U.S. agricultural productivity has increased by nearly 50 percent since 1982. Future innovations will be necessary to maintain, or boost, current productivity gains in order to meet the growing global demands that will be placed upon U.S. agriculture.

Farm Program Atlas

www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmProgramAtlas

U.S. farm programs form a safety net of coverage and support to U.S. farmers through direct and countercyclical payments, crop insurance, emergency and other loans, and disaster assistance. The *Farm Program Atlas* is a web-based interactive mapping tool that displays payment and participation data on major farm programs and covered commodities at the county level to visualize how these Federal farm programs vary across the United States. Users can create and download maps and download the data in spreadsheet format.



National Brand and Private Label Food Products

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err129

Over the past two decades, private label (store brand) food products have grown steadily in sales and often directly compete for market share with national brands. This competition lowers prices and increases product choices for consumers. *The Relationship Between National Brand and Private Label Food Products: Prices, Promotions, Recessions, and Recoveries* analyzes the relationship between private label and national brand product prices and in-store promotions for two major U.S. grocery store chains during the 2007-2009 recession and the year following the recession (2010).



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Research Investments and Market Structure

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib90

Meeting growing global demand for food, fiber, and biofuel requires robust investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) from both public and private sectors. *Research Investments and Market Structure in the Food Processing, Agricultural Input, and Biofuel Industries Worldwide: An Executive Summary* highlights the major findings of a study examining global R&D spending by private industry in seven agricultural input sectors, food manufacturing, and biofuel and describes the changing structure of these industries. In 2007 (the latest year for which comprehensive estimates are available), the private sector accounted for about half of total public and private spending on food and agricultural R&D in high-income countries. A relatively small number of large, multinational firms with global R&D and marketing networks account for most R&D in each input industry. Rising market concentration has not generally been associated with increased R&D investment as a percentage of industry sales. A detailed examination of each sector is also available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err130.



Long-Term Growth Prospects for Wheat Production in Afghanistan

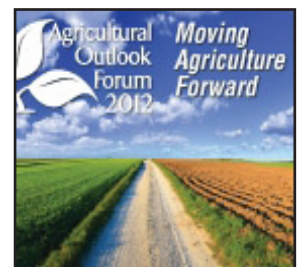
www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WHS/2011/WHS11L01

In Afghanistan, wheat is a staple food, accounting for over half of the population's caloric intake on average. Imports from neighboring countries have played a key role in stabilizing wheat and flour prices in Afghanistan. Although Afghanistan imports wheat from a number of neighboring countries, Pakistan has historically supplied more than half of these imports. Given expected increases in demand, imports are likely to grow in coming years even if Afghanistan's rapid post-1990 production growth is sustained, suggesting growing dependence on supplies from Pakistan and other countries.

Agricultural Outlook Forum

www.usda.gov/oce/forum

Registration is open for the 2012 Agricultural Outlook Forum, February 23-24. This year's theme – "Moving Agriculture Forward" – looks to the future and celebrates USDA's 150th anniversary. Topics include renewable energy, climate and weather, commodity markets, local foods, and more.



How to get more information...

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