

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.

This Month

- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Cotton and Wool
- Sugar 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

Public Research and Ag Productivity: Looking Ahead

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB17

By 2050, global agricultural demand is projected to grow by 70-100 percent due to population growth, energy demands, and higher incomes in developing countries. Meeting this demand from existing agricultural resources will require raising global agricultural productivity by a similar level. In *Public Agriculture Research Spending and Future U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth* ERS examines the impact that public spending on agricultural research and development can be expected to have on future productivity growth and the growth of U.S. agricultural outputs.

The Ethanol Decade

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/EIB79

The recent 9-billion-gallon increase in corn-based ethanol production resulted from a combination of rising gasoline prices and a suite of Federal bioenergy policies. In *The Ethanol Decade: An Expansion of U.S. Corn Production, 2000-09* ERS examines the farm sector reaction; specifically, how farmers altered their land-use decisions in response to the increased demand for corn.



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Energy Prices: Impacts on Ag and Rural Economies

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR123

Agricultural production is sensitive to changes in energy prices, either through energy consumed directly or through energy-related inputs such as fertilizer. In *Impacts of Higher Energy Prices on Agriculture and Rural Economies* ERS looks at direct and indirect impacts of higher energy prices on the agricultural and rural sectors, with scenarios developed for specific energy price changes.

Modern Grocery Retailing and Trade in Developing Countries

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR122

Over the past few decades, modern grocery retailing has been expanding rapidly in developing countries. In *The Expansion of Modern Grocery Retailing and Trade in Developing Countries*, ERS provides evidence that the expansion has been associated with growth in demand for nonprice characteristics, such as convenience in food shopping and preparation. The expansion appears to be uncorrelated with the emergence of more efficient food supply chains.

Coming soon: Household Food Security in the United States in 2010

Release Date: September 7, 2011

Amber Waves

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

Food Spending Adjustments During Recessionary Times

Faced with falling incomes and economic uncertainty, many Americans economized on their food purchases during the 2007-09 recession, particularly on food away from home.

Why Another Food Commodity Price Spike?

Food prices jumped in 2010-11, the second price spike within 3 years. Longer term financial, agricultural, and demographic trends, exacerbated by short-term production shortfalls, set up conditions for the increases.

Rising Food Prices and Declining Food Security: Evidence From Afghanistan

Afghanistan is particularly vulnerable to food and fuel price shocks, which, in 2007-08, led to an increase in household food insecurity.

Reducing Agriculture's Nitrogen Footprint: Are New Policy Approaches Needed?

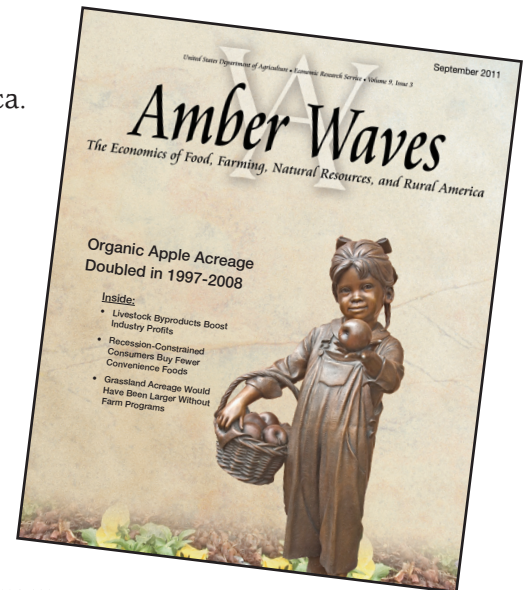
Agriculture is the single largest source of nitrogen compounds that can help or harm ecosystems. A range of policy instruments could be used to address different facets of nitrogen management and specific environmental problems.

Do Farm Programs Encourage Native Grassland Losses?

Federal farm programs, crop prices, and new technology may encourage farmers to extend crop production into native grasslands. A recent ERS study found that farm programs had a minor effect on conversions of grasslands to crop production.

Winner Takes (Almost) All: How WIC Affects the Infant Formula Market

In exchange for exclusive sales arrangements, manufacturers provide large rebates to States for formula purchased through the program. Winning a WIC contract significantly increases a manufacturer's market share.



Characteristics of Conventional and Organic Apple Production in the U.S.

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FTS/2011/07Jul/FTS34701

ERS compares characteristics of organic and conventional apple production. While overall U.S. apple acreage and production has declined in recent years, consumer demand has spurred growth in the organic apple sector.

How to get more information...

More information about the items featured in DatelineERS can be found on our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by going to the web address listed in each article. This newsletter is available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news

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