

DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is the main source of 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.

Data on the Web

Agricultural Exchange Rate Data Set



This data set contains annual and monthly data for exchange rates important to U.S. agriculture. It includes both nominal and real exchange rates for 80 countries (plus the European Union) as well as real trade-weighted exchange rate indexes for many commodities and aggregations.

www.ers.usda.gov/data/exchangerates/

Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook



Asian Soybean Rust Could Cause Annual Losses Up to \$2.0 billion

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/OCS/Apr04/OCS04D02/

American soybean producers and the research, regulatory, and extension institutions supporting them are preparing for the potential wind-borne entry of Asian soybean rust into the United States. *Economic and Policy Implications of Wind-Borne Entry of Asian Soybean Rust into the United States* examines how the economic impacts of soybean rust establishment will depend on the timing, location, spread, and severity of rust infestation and on how soybean and other crop producers, livestock producers, and consumers of agricultural commodities respond to this new pathogen.

EU's Enlargement Likely to Have Small Impact

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS04/Apr04/WRS040501/

EU Enlargement: Implications for New Member Countries, the United States, and World Trade is part of a series of reports on the integration of the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS) into global commodity markets. With a focus on Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic—the largest agricultural producers among the entering countries—the report presents a medium-term forecast of the changes that EU enlargement will bring to commodity production and trade in the CEEs, the enlarged EU, and U.S. and world trade.

New on the Web:

Farm Policy, Farm Households, and the Rural Economy Briefing Room

This new briefing room looks at the intersection of farm businesses, households, and rural economic well-being. It offers a historical perspective on the evolution of U.S. commodity policy, rural households, and rural America. It seeks to provide an umbrella for current and future ERS research focusing on farm policy and potential policy reforms with respect to the well-being of farm households and rural communities.

www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/adjustments/





Restoring U.S.-Cuban Relationships Could Mean New Opportunities for Cuban Fresh Citrus and Byproducts

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fts/APR04/fts30901/

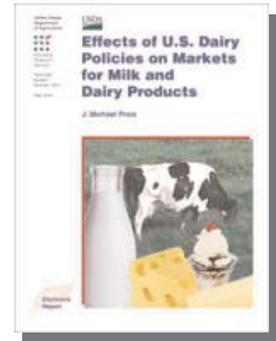
Cuba's Citrus Industry: Growth and Change examines how, if commercial relationships with the United States were restored, new U.S.-cuban partnerships could develop to partially integrate citrus production, processing, and marketing for U.S. markets.

Cuban citrus is a major commercial crop and foreign exchange earner. The 1990s saw an industry collapse and a shift from fresh oranges to processed citrus products and grapefruit production. If commercial relationships with the United States were restored, Cuba's citrus industry would likely look to U.S. markets for new opportunities for Cuban fresh citrus, processed citrus products, and citrus byproducts.

Cuban Tropical Fruit Has High Production Potential

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fts/APR04/fts30902/

Cuba's Tropical Fruit Industry looks at Cuba's tropical fruit sector. Cuba's tropical fruit industry, primarily plantains and bananas, caters mostly to domestic markets with fresh fruits that are Cuban diet staples. Tropical fruit production fell with Cuba's collapsing economy in the early 1990s. With ideal climate and land resources, production potential remains high. Production and demand will both recover and grow as Cuba's economy recovers. If commercial relationships with the United States were restored, Cuba could initially look to U.S. sources for quality tropical fruits for Cuba's growing tourist market.



US. Dairy Programs Examined

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tb1910/

Effects of U.S. Dairy Policies on Markets for Milk and Dairy Products examines the economic effects of the principal programs authorized under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 that influence the U.S. dairy sector. The analytical results presented in this study were used as input to a broader study mandated by Congress, which required an evaluation of the economic impacts of Federal milk marketing orders, direct payments to producers, price supports, and export programs.



A New Look for the ERS Newsroom

You may have noticed some changes recently in the look of the ERS newsroom at www.ers.usda.gov/news. We hope these changes make the newsroom more useful to you.

How to get more information ...

More information about the items featured in Dateline ERS can be found at our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by typing in the listed address. This newsletter is also available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news