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This update covers Monday, November 30, 2009 to Friday, December 4, 2009

### **MEETING TOTAL FAT REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES: INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL POLICIES AND CHARACTERISTICS**

Concerns about child obesity have raised questions about the quality of meals served in the National School Lunch Program. Local, State, and Federal policymakers responded to these concerns beginning in the mid-1990s by instituting a range of policies and standards to improve the quality of U.S. Department of Agriculture-subsidized meals. Schools have been successful in meeting USDA nutrient standards except those for total fat and saturated fat. This report uses school-level data from the School Nutrition Dietary Assessment-III to calculate statistical differences between the fat content of NSLP lunches served by schools with different policies (e.g., menu planning) and characteristics like region and size. Positive associations are found between a meal's fat content and the presence of a la carte foods and vending machines, which are thought to indirectly affect the nutrient content of USDA-subsidized meals.

Released Wednesday, December 2, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR87/>

### **OUTLOOK FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE**

Offers the latest forecast of value and volume of U.S. farm exports, by commodity and region, as well as the agricultural trade balance for the coming year. Keeps readers abreast of how U.S. agricultural trade stacks up in a global market.

Released Monday, November 30, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1196>

### **COTTON AND WOOL YEARBOOK DATA TABLES**

U.S. cotton and wool production, supply, use, trade, and price statistics. Includes domestic and world price series and indexes; State cotton acreage, yield, and production data; and conversions of U.S. textile imports and exports to raw fiber equivalents.

Released Monday, November 30, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1282>

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