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This update covers Saturday, December 26, 2009 to Wednesday, December 30, 2009

DATELINERS NEWSLETTER

The DatelinERS newsletter offers concise summaries of ERS reports and events with links to areas within our website. You can find it in our newsroom at www.ers.usda.gov/News/.

Released Wednesday, December 30, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/DatelinERSNewsletter.htm>

FACTORS INFLUENCING ACRE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

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 (price multiplied by yield per planted acre) 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, this report shows that 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.

Released Tuesday, December 29, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR84/>

MONTHLY MILK COST OF PRODUCTION

Monthly milk cost of production estimates are available by State from January 2003 to the previous month.

Released Monday, December 28, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/CostsAndReturns/TestPick.htm#milkproduction>

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