

New or updated information is available from [USDA ERS](#).
This update covers Monday, May 11, 2009 to Friday, May 15, 2009

MEAT PRICE SPREADS

This data set provides monthly average price values, and the differences among those values, at the farm, wholesale, and retail stages of the production and marketing chain for selected cuts of beef, pork, and broilers. In addition, retail prices are provided for beef and pork cuts, turkey, whole chickens, eggs, and dairy products.

Released by 10 a.m. ET.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/MeatPriceSpreads/>

FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES AFFECTING FEWER FARMERS BUT THE FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN

The Federal estate tax affects relatively few estates and accounts for only a small share of total Federal tax receipts. Though special provisions have been enacted to limit the impact of the tax on farmers and small business owners, these groups are still more likely than the general public to owe Federal estate taxes. A larger share of farm estates could be subject to estate taxes if legislation enacted in 2001 is allowed to expire at the end of 2010.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June09/Features/FederalEstateTax.htm>

FOOD POLICY: CHECK THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS

Policies designed to improve the diet quality and health of Americans are likely to have only marginal effects on consumers' food choices. However, policies targeted directly at consumers such as nutrition information and education programs, along with labeling regulations, can spur the reformulation of products with healthier ingredients by stimulating competition among food manufacturers to offer products that appeal to health-conscious consumers. Manufacturers' responsiveness to food policy provides policymakers with a lever to affect diet quality for large numbers of consumers. Effective use of this lever can help stimulate a chain reaction leading to healthy food reformulations and a more nutritious food supply.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June09/Features/FoodPolicy.htm>

HOW TIGHTLY HAS CHINA EMBRACED MARKET REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE?

Market-based reforms helped lift Chinese agriculture out of decades of poverty and stagnation, but vestiges of the planned economy remain. China's policymakers are experimenting with incremental reforms and market intervention as they encounter agricultural problems. Pressure from global markets could push China to go further with reforms or to retreat from global markets.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June09/Features/ChinaMarket.htm>

A WEAKENING GLOBAL ECONOMY INTERRUPTS AGRICULTURAL TRADE

The financial sector turbulence originating in the United States has had a ripple effect worldwide, curbing economic growth in nearly every country. Slower growth and weaker currencies in emerging markets have reduced U.S. competitiveness and agricultural exports in the short term. At the same time, reduced consumer spending domestically is dampening U.S. import growth. Despite the current downturn, world food demand remains stable, and demand for U.S. exports is expected to recover as developing-country growth resumes in the longer term.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June09/Features/WeakEconomy.htm>

AMBER WAVES, JUNE 2009

Amber Waves presents the broad scope of ERS's research and analysis. The magazine covers the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition, the food industry, trade, rural America, and farm-related environmental topics. Available on the internet and in print, Amber Waves is issued in print five times a year (February, April, June, September and November). The internet edition, or "eZine," includes links to web-only resources, such as podcasts and additional articles.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June09/>

FEDERAL TAX POLICIES AND FARM HOUSEHOLDS

Significant changes in Federal individual income and estate tax policies have occurred over the last 10 years. Analysis suggests that changes in Federal tax provisions affecting both individual and business income taxes have reduced average tax rates for all farm households, resulting in the lowest tax burden on farm income and investment in a decade. Similarly, an analysis of the changes to Federal estate tax policies suggests that increases in the value of property that can be transferred to the next generation free of the estate tax, combined with special provisions for farmers and other small businesses, have greatly reduced the number of farm estates subject to the tax and the amount owed. While nearly 10 percent of commercial farm estates could owe tax in 2009, only 1 to 2 percent of all farm estates are estimated to be subject to the Federal estate tax this year.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB54/>

BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

USDA defines beginning farmers and ranchers as those who have operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less either as a sole operator or with others who have operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less. Beginning farmers tend to be younger than established farmers and to operate smaller farms or ranches, some of which may provide no annual production. Beginning farmers often face obstacles getting started, including high startup costs and limited availability of land. USDA—through the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service—provides loans and conservation assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers. This report draws on data from annual surveys and the Census of Agriculture to provide policymakers with a better understanding of beginning farmers and ranchers, including how they contribute to U.S. agricultural production.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB53/>

RUSSIA'S GROWING AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS: CAUSES AND OUTLOOK

During the 2000s, Russian agricultural imports have grown considerably, from \$7 billion in 2000 to \$33 billion in 2008. This import growth has made Russia the second largest agricultural importer among emerging markets, after China. The main reasons for the import rise are macroeconomic—high growth in Russian gross domestic product, which increases consumer income and purchasing power, and real appreciation of the ruble, which makes imports less expensive vis-à-vis domestically produced goods. The economic crisis that hit Russia (and the world) in autumn 2008 makes the outlook for Russia's agricultural imports uncertain in the short term. However, the Russian economy is expected to stabilize within a year or two, at which time agricultural imports should continue to grow, although at a lower rate than in past years.

Released Friday, May 15, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS0904/>

VEGETABLE AND MELONS YEARBOOK DATA TABLES

Production, acreage, value, prices, imports, exports, and per capita utilization for major fresh market and processed vegetables. Also includes data for potatoes, sweet potatoes, dry beans and peas, and fresh and processed mushrooms.

Released by 4 p.m. ET.

Released Thursday, May 14, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1212>

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK STATISTICAL INDICATORS

Statistical Indicators previously published in Agricultural Outlook addressing a broad spectrum of agriculture-related issues. Includes commodity and food prices, general economic indicators, government program expenditures, farm income estimates, and trade and export statistics.

Released Thursday, May 14, 2009

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

WHEAT OUTLOOK

Examines supply, use, prices, and trade for wheat, including supply and demand prospects in major importing and exporting countries. Contains data and information on U.S. wheat by class.

Released by 9 a.m. ET. [Subscribe](#) to receive notification of report release.

Released Thursday, May 14, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1293>

FEED OUTLOOK

Examines supply, use, prices, and trade for feed grains, including supply and demand prospects in major importing and exporting countries. Focuses on corn; also contains information on sorghum, barley, oats, and hay.

Released by 9 a.m. ET. [Subscribe](#) to receive notification of report release.

Released Thursday, May 14, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1273>

OIL CROPS OUTLOOK

Examines supply, use, prices, and trade for oil crops (primarily soybeans and products), including supply and demand prospects in major importing and exporting countries. Includes information on cottonseed, peanuts, sunflowerseed, tropical oils, corn oil, and animal fats.

Released by 4 p.m. ET. [Subscribe](#) to receive notification of report release.

Released Wednesday, May 13, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1288>

RICE OUTLOOK

Examines supply, use, prices, and trade for rice, including supply and demand prospects in major importing and exporting countries. Contains information on U.S. rough, milled, and long-, medium-, and short-grain rice.

Released by 4 p.m. ET. [Subscribe](#) to receive notification of report release.

Released Wednesday, May 13, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1285>

COTTON AND WOOL OUTLOOK

Examines supply, use, prices, and trade for cotton and wool, including supply and demand prospects in major importing and exporting countries. Includes data on raw fibers and textiles.

Released by 4 p.m. ET. [Subscribe](#) to receive notification of report release.

Released Wednesday, May 13, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1281>

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA UPDATE

Provides a monthly update of year-to-date quantities and values of U.S. agricultural exports and imports. Also provides data on leading destination countries for exports and import source countries.

Released by 4 p.m. ET.

Released Wednesday, May 13, 2009

See <http://wwwers.usda.gov/Data/FATUS/#monthly>

AQUACULTURE DATA

Aquaculture is the production of aquatic animals and plants under controlled conditions for all or part of their lifecycle. This data product provides statistics on domestically grown catfish and trout and U.S. imports and exports of fish and shellfish that may be products of aquaculture, such as salmon, shrimp, and oysters.

Released Wednesday, May 13, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Aquaculture/>

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT TRADE DATA

The Livestock and Meat Trade Data Set contains monthly and annual data for imports and exports of live cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats, as well as beef and veal, pork, lamb and mutton, chicken meat, turkey meat, and eggs. The tables report physical quantities, not dollar values or unit prices. Data on beef and veal, pork, and lamb and mutton are on a carcass-weight-equivalent basis. Breakdowns by country are included.

Released Wednesday, May 13, 2009

See <http://www.ersusda.gov/Data/MeatTrade/>

SEASON-AVERAGE PRICE FORECASTS

A futures-price forecasting model is used to provide season-average price forecasts for corn, soybeans, and wheat. In addition to the monthly forecasts for prices received, the model computes a forecast for the counter-cyclical payment rate for each commodity. The 2002 Farm Act provides for counter-cyclical payments when prices are below specified levels.

Released by 4 p.m. ET.

Released Tuesday, May 12, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/PriceForecast/>

LATEST U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA

This data product announces USDA's monthly release of calendar year, fiscal year, year-to-date, and monthly value of U.S. agricultural exports, imports, and trade balance.

Released by 4 p.m. ET.

Released Tuesday, May 12, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FATUS/MonthlySummary.htm>

WORLD AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND ESTIMATES

Issued monthly, WASDE provides the most current USDA forecasts of U.S. and world supply-use balances for major grains, soybeans and products, and cotton, and U.S. supply and use data for sugar and livestock products.

Released at 8:30 a.m. ET.

Released Tuesday, May 12, 2009

See <http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/>

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