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This update covers Monday, May 25, 2009 to Friday, May 29, 2009

## **FRUIT AND TREE NUTS OUTLOOK**

### **Forecast Is For Below-Average 2008 U.S. Apple and Pear Crops, Grape and Cranberry Production Is Up**

Light carryover supplies, lower shipments this summer, and strong export demand are driving up 2008/09 apple and grape grower prices. Despite the forecast increased production, fresh-market grower prices for grapes are also holding strong due to reduced shipments so far for the season. The 2008 U.S. cranberry crop is forecast to be the second-largest on record.

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

Released Friday, May 29, 2009

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

## **LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS: EMERGING RESEARCH AND POLICY ISSUES**

In conjunction with the Farm Foundation, ERS is hosting a workshop on Friday, June 26, 2009, to examine emerging research and policy issues surrounding local food systems. While locally grown food—food that is grown and purchased locally or regionally—still accounts for a small share of total domestic food sales, it is one of the fastest growing segments of U.S. agriculture. Academic and industry speakers will address local food system issues including scope, market performance and impacts on rural economic development, environmental consequences and sustainability, food safety and quality, and social welfare issues.

Released Friday, May 29, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/LocalFoods/>

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

Released Thursday, May 28, 2009

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

## **MONTHLY MILK COST OF PRODUCTION**

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

Released Tuesday, May 26, 2009

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

## **ORGANIC PRICES**

This data set provides farmgate and wholesale prices for select organic and conventional fruits and vegetables, wholesale prices for organic and conventional poultry (broilers) and eggs, as well as f.o.b. and spot prices for organic grain and feedstuffs. Prices are based on those reported by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Market News, Organic Food Business News, and USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Released Thursday, May 28, 2009

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

## **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/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/).

Released Thursday, May 28, 2009

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

## **VARIABLE EFFECTS OF EARNINGS VOLATILITY ON FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION**

This study examines how earnings variability affects Food Stamp Program participation and how the effects differ depending on a household's income position relative to the eligibility threshold. The study uses survey data from the Three-City Study, which is a longitudinal survey of low-income families with children living in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio. The data in the Three-City Study have been linked to administrative case records on program participation. The study estimates longitudinal fixed-effect regression models of the times that households spend on food stamps and distinguishes between households that appear to be eligible or ineligible for food stamps based on longer run income data. Temporary earnings increases and higher annual earnings variability reduce participation for households with low levels of permanent income. Higher annual earnings variability also reduces program participation for higher income households, but the effect is smaller in magnitude.

*Disclaimer: This study was conducted by Johns Hopkins University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro under Cooperative Agreement number 43-3AEM-4-80116 with the Economic Research Service. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS or USDA.*

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See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR52/>

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