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This update covers Monday, June 1, 2009 to Friday, June 5, 2009

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FUNDING IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS**

Data for public and private funding of agricultural research and development cover the years 1970-2007 (public) and 1970-98 (private). Data are available as nominal figures and adjusted for inflation.

Released Friday, June 5, 2009

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

### **SPECIALIZED U.S. FRUIT AND TREE NUT FARM PRODUCTION EXPENSES**

Specialized fruit and tree nut farms represent a substantial segment of the U.S. fruit and tree nut industry. By nature of the commodities produced and the markets targeted, these specialized farms require substantial investments in production inputs. Using data from USDA's Agricultural Resource and Management Survey (ARMS), this report investigates the major expense components of specialized fruit and tree nut farms in the United States from 1998 to 2006. Based on 3-year averages, the analysis compares farm expenses by farm size and across regions. Total cash expenses were highest in the West where the highest concentration of specialized fruit and tree nut farms are located, including a majority of the largest and most highly specialized farm operations. Labor was the largest cash expense for fruit and tree nut farms, followed by fertilizer and other agricultural chemical inputs.

Released Wednesday, June 3, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FTS/2009/06Jun/FTS33701/>

### **EMERGING ISSUES IN THE U.S. ORGANIC INDUSTRY**

Consumer demand for organic products has widened over the last decade. While new producers have emerged to help meet demand, market participants report that a supply squeeze is constraining growth for both individual firms and the organic sector overall. Partly in response to shortages in organic supply, Congress in 2008 included provisions in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (2008 Farm Act) that, for the first time, provide direct financial support to farmers to convert to organic production. This report examines recent economic research on the adoption of organic farming systems, organic production costs and returns, and market conditions to gain a better understanding of the organic supply squeeze and other emerging issues in this rapidly changing industry.

Released Wednesday, June 3, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB55/>

## **SUGAR AND SWEETENERS OUTLOOK**

Examines world and U.S. production, consumption, trade, stocks, and prices for beet and cane sugar, and high fructose corn syrup.

Released Tuesday, June 2, 2009

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1386>

## **AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE RATE DATA SET**

Contains annual and monthly data for exchange rates important to U.S. agriculture. 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.

Released Tuesday, June 2, 2009

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

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