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This update covers Monday, August 31, 2009 to Friday, September 4, 2009

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Briefing Room highlights ERS research on SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program). The new name reflects the program's recent modernization and greater focus on nutrition. SNAP is the Nation's largest domestic food and nutrition assistance program for low-income Americans.

Released Friday, September 4, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/SNAP/>

RIDGE CONFERENCE: 2009 FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN ECONOMICS (RIDGE) PROGRAM CONFERENCE

The Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program encourages new and innovative research on food assistance and nutrition issues and broadens the participation of social science scholars in this important research area. The annual conference is a forum for grant recipients and attendees to discuss results of recently funded grants on food assistance programs, food security, and nutrition. This year's RIDGE Conference will be held on October 15 and 16, 2009, at the Economic Research Service, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. A preliminary agenda is available. Attendance is free but registration is required due to limited space.

Released Friday, September 4, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPOctober09/>

RURAL AMERICA AT A GLANCE, 2009 EDITION

Update of an annual series, the 2009 edition of Rural America At A Glance deals with effects of the major recession on rural America. Initially, effects of the recession were mitigated in nonmetro areas by high commodity prices throughout much of 2008, but as the recession deepened, prices fell. Both nonmetro and metro areas experienced rising unemployment as manufacturing and other major employment sectors contracted, and they were similarly affected by the mortgage foreclosure crisis. However, even before the current recession, nonmetro poverty rates had risen in the growth years after the 2001 recession, against the usual trend during a time of economic expansion; the nonmetro poverty rate has exceeded the national poverty rate since 2001. The nonmetro population continued to grow in 2007 and 2008, but at less than half the rate of the metro population. Nonmetro growth is largely due to a rise in births, offsetting a decline in net migration from metro to nonmetro areas.

Released Friday, September 4, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB59/>

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 Wednesday, September 2, 2009

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

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 Tuesday, September 1, 2009

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

NORMALIZED PRICES

The Economic Research Service (ERS) annually calculates normalized prices for evaluating alternative development and management plans for water and related land resources. Normalized prices smooth out the effects of short-term fluctuations so that plans can be evaluated on a more realistic basis rather than using current prices, which may be lower or higher than normal because of short-lived phenomena.

Released Tuesday, September 1, 2009

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

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 Monday, August 31, 2009

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

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

This briefing room highlights the ERS climate change research program, which builds on extensive expertise on the economics of land use, land management, technology adoption, conservation program design, and biofuels production and distribution. ERS research is underway to estimate the likely responses of farmers to possible climate policies and to assess the likely impacts of policies on agricultural markets, farm incomes, land and water use, and the carbon balance. Landowner responses to carbon policies are a key factor in establishing the costs of greenhouse gas offsets from agriculture.

Released Monday, August 31, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/GlobalClimate/>

LOW-INCOME WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES WITH FOOD PROGRAMS, FOOD SPENDING, AND FOOD-RELATED HARDSHIPS: EVIDENCE FROM QUALITATIVE DATA

This study examines the economic coping strategies of low-income families, using data collected through qualitative interviews conducted in 2006-08 with 35 low-income women residing in the Detroit metropolitan area. Three rounds of interviews found that the majority of the sample were employed at least some of the time, and most had children living with them. Despite careful shopping practices, rising food prices forced cutbacks in purchase of certain foods, including milk, cereal, fruits, and meat. Just under half reported running out of food at some point during the year. As for government assistance, the then named Food Stamp Program, and now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), was their mainstay. Even when eligible for benefits, many of the families did not receive cash assistance, unemployment benefits, or workers' compensation due to perceived access barriers.

Disclaimer: This study was conducted by University of Michigan under cooperative agreement number 59-5000-6-0103. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS or USDA.

Released Monday, August 31, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR57/>

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