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This update covers Monday, September 28, 2009 to Friday, October 2, 2009

COMMODITY COSTS AND RETURNS DATA

USDA has estimated annual production costs and returns and published accounts for major field crop and livestock enterprises since 1975. Cost and return estimates are reported for the U.S. and major production regions for corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, grain sorghum, rice, peanuts, oats, barley, sugarbeets, tobacco, milk, hogs, and cow-calf. These cost and return accounts are historical accounts based on the actual costs incurred by producers during each year.

Released Thursday, October 1, 2009

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

RIDGE PROJECT SUMMARIES, 2008: FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN ECONOMICS PROGRAM

This report summarizes research findings from the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics Program (RIDGE), formerly known as the Small Grants Program. The Economic Research Service created the program in 1998 to stimulate new and innovative research on food and nutrition assistance issues and to broaden the network of social scientists investigating the food and nutrition challenges that exist across communities, regions, and States. The report includes summaries of the research findings of projects that were awarded 1-year grants in summer and fall 2007. The results of these research projects were presented at the RIDGE conference in October 2008. The projects include analyses of WIC vendor access and fruit and vegetable availability, effects of food insecurity on the development of infants and toddlers, administrative data to evaluate CACFP in family child care homes, the economics of the Thrifty Food Plan, and food stamp use among the elderly. Several projects focus on specific populations such as immigrants, Native Americans, or people living in the rural South.

Disclaimer: The studies summarized herein were conducted under research grants originating with the Economic Research Service. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS or USDA.

For more information, see the [RIDGE](#) Program Briefing Room.

Released Wednesday, September 30, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AP/AP040/>

MARKETING U.S. ORGANIC FOODS: RECENT TRENDS FROM FARMS TO CONSUMERS

Organic foods now occupy prominent shelf space in the produce and dairy aisles of most mainstream U.S. food retailers. The marketing boom has pushed retail sales of organic foods up to \$21.1 billion in 2008 from \$3.6 billion in 1997. U.S. organic-industry growth is evident in an expanding number of retailers selling a wider variety of foods, the development of private-label product lines by many supermarkets, and the widespread introduction of new products. A broader range of consumers has been buying more varieties of organic food. Organic handlers, who purchase products from farmers and often supply them to retailers, sell more organic products to conventional retailers and club stores than ever before. Only one segment has not kept pace—organic farms have struggled at times to produce sufficient supply to keep up with the rapid growth in demand, leading to periodic shortages of organic products.

Released Wednesday, September 30, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB58/>

FRUIT AND TREE NUTS OUTLOOK

Provides current intelligence and forecasts the effects of changing conditions in the U.S. fruit and tree nuts sector. Topics include production, consumption, shipments, prices received, and more.

Released by 4 p.m. ET. Subscribe to the free electronic version to receive timely notification of newsletter (and yearbook) availability. Users who subscribe to this newsletter will also receive articles on timely topics via e-mail notification. Printed copies can be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling 1-800-999-6779 (specify SUB-FTS-4036).

Released Tuesday, September 29, 2009

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

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 Monday, September 28, 2009

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

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