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Economic Research Service

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ERS is the main source of research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



Disease Outbreak Slows Beef Exports

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/LDP/JUL04/LDPM12001/ *U.S. 2003 and 2004 Livestock and Poultry Trade Influenced by Animal Disease and Trade Restrictions* discusses how animal diseases and disease-related trade restrictions have influenced trade in animal products in the past few years, with an emphasis on 2003 and forecasts for 2004. The most important animal diseases that have affected trade in animal products in recent years have been bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), Avian Influenza (AI), and Exotic Newcastle Disease (END).

Decline in Soil Erosion Attributed to Conservation Compliance

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer832/

Since 1985, U.S. agricultural producers have been required to practice soil conservation on highly erodible cropland and conserve wetlands as a condition of farm program eligibility.

Environmental Compliance in U.S. Agricultural Policy: Past Performance and Future Potential discusses the general characteristics of compliance incentives, evaluates their effectiveness in reducing erosion in the program's current form, and explores the potential for expanding the compliance approach to address nutrient runoff from crop production.



Data on the Web

Agricultural Outlook: Statistical Indicators ^{updated}

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/Agoutlook/AOTables/

The *Statistical Indicators* formerly provided in *Agricultural Outlook* magazine continue to be available on the ERS website. These tables include data on individual commodities, the general economy, agricultural trade, farm income and expenses, farm prices, food prices and expenditures, and other statistical indicators of the food and agriculture system.

State Export Data ^{updated}

www.ers.usda.gov/data/stateexports/

The *State Export Data* provides annual estimates of U.S. exports by State and commodity group based on each States' share of U.S. agricultural production. These ERS estimates are based on two key sources of data. Export data are national-level Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS) data from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, which are not separable by State. ERS also uses State-level historical production data from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service to determine State export shares for U.S. crops and livestock.

Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook



Peanuts Sector Adapts to Policy Change

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/OCS/jul04/OCS04G01/

By eliminating the longstanding peanut marketing quota system, the 2002 Farm Act substantially altered the policy environment for the U.S. peanut sector. Under the marketing quota system, supply controls assured peanut quota holders of receiving high support prices, while requiring that nonquota peanuts be exported or sold into the lower value crush market. Pressured, in part, by increased imports, these supply controls were replaced with the same set of supports available to producers of other program crops. *Peanut Policy Change and Adjustment Under the 2002 Farm Act* reports that for producers, the transition has been marked by lower peanut prices and reduced, but stabilizing, acreage, and adaptation to an environment with limited price information and marketing strategies.

Iowa and Texas Rank Second and Third in U.S. Agricultural Exports

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fau/jul04/fau9001/

Iowa and Texas now rank second and third, respectively, among U.S. agricultural exporting States after California, as fiscal 2003 U.S. agricultural exports expanded. Exports of soybeans, cotton, wheat, live animals and meat, and tree nuts grew. *Iowa and Texas Rose Among U.S. Agricultural Exporting States in Fiscal 2003* reports that higher prices, strong growth, and a weaker U.S. dollar relative to competitor currencies contributed to export gains. Iowa ranked first in soybean exports; both Iowa and Texas had strong livestock exports.

The EU's Mosaic of Fruit and Vegetable Trade Arrangements

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/VGS/jul04/vgs30301/

European Trading Arrangements in Fruits and Vegetables looks at the European Union's (EU) participation in regional and preferential trading arrangements. Over 70 percent of EU fruit and vegetable imports are from countries benefiting from preferential treatment for some portion of that trade. The most valuable preferences are accorded the 42 least developed countries, while 77 former colonies of EU countries also receive important preferences.



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