

# DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

Economic Research Service

February 2004

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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.

## New Web Briefing Room Floriculture Crops



Over the past decade, floriculture and nursery crops have been one of the fastest growing U.S. agricultural sectors. See our new briefing room for:

- ◆ Background information
- ◆ Trade data
- ◆ Market outlook
- ◆ Policy information

[www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/floriculture](http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/floriculture)

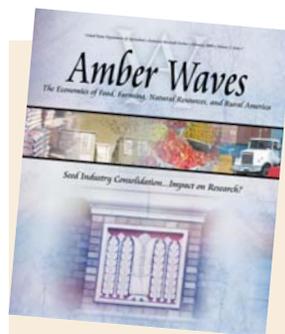
## Commodity Markets and Trade

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](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook)

## Broiler Industry Statistics

[www.ers.usda.gov/News/BroilerCoverage.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/News/BroilerCoverage.htm)

Our newsroom now has background data on the broiler industry, including the retail value of the industry; farm cash receipts, broiler production; import and export figures; and more.



## Amber Waves February 2004

Amber Waves magazine covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, including articles on food, farming, natural resources and rural America.

[www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves)

### Have Seed Industry Changes Affected Research Effort?

Crop variety research and development have contributed to the unprecedented crop yields experienced by U.S. farmers since the 1930s. As the seed sector becomes increasingly dominated by large private firms, will the intensity of research effort decrease?

### Anatomy of Nonmetro High-Poverty Areas: Common in Plight, Distinctive in Nature

Poverty declined in the 1990s, particularly in rural and smalltown nonmetro areas. Still, over 400 nonmetro areas had poverty rates of at least 20 percent in 2000. What socioeconomic factors characterize these high-poverty areas, and what kinds of policies will help them?

### The Elephant is Jogging: New Pressures for Agricultural Reform in India

Endowed with rich land, water, and labor resources, India's agricultural sector boomed in the last half of the 20th century. Now, however, the ag sector is facing new pressures to meet the demands of a growing middle class. Are producers and policymakers poised to respond to these pressures?

### The U.S. Ag Trade Balance. . . More Than Just A Number

The United States has been a net exporter of agricultural products since 1959, an uninterrupted span of 44 years. This surplus may turn into a deficit in the next decade. What does this turnabout say about the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture?

## [New Features on the WWW:](#)

### **COOL — Country-of-Origin Labeling**

[www.ers.usda.gov/features/cool](http://www.ers.usda.gov/features/cool)

Demands for mandatory country-of-origin labeling have sparked considerable controversy. Mandatory labels are unlikely to increase food demand and likely will generate more costs than benefits. COOL would raise labeling, recordkeeping, and operating costs for many suppliers of food commodities and livestock.



### **Agricultural Baseline Projections 2004-13**

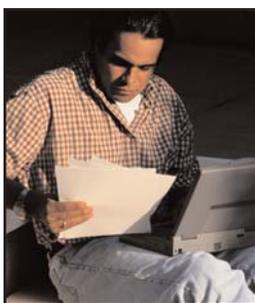
[www.ers.usda.gov/features/baseline/baseline2004](http://www.ers.usda.gov/features/baseline/baseline2004)

These 10-year economic projections of the food and agriculture sector are used to forecast farm program costs and prepare the President's budget. One key use of the projections is as a "baseline" from which to analyze the impacts of potential policy changes affecting U.S. agriculture.

### **Income for the Farm Sector and Farm Households**

[www.ers.usda.gov/features/farmincome/2004](http://www.ers.usda.gov/features/farmincome/2004)

After establishing historic high levels in 2003, net value added and net farm income are forecast to be lower in 2004.



### **Adult Education Still Below National Average in Many Rural Counties**

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/RDRR98](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/RDRR98)

*Rural Education at a Glance* provides the latest information from the 2000 Census and other Federal sources on the education characteristics of rural workers and counties. Counties with more educated populations appear to have performed better economically in the 1990s and have lower poverty rates.

### **Analysis of the U.S. Seed Industry**

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB786](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB786)

*The Seed Industry in U.S. Agriculture: An Exploration of Data and Information on Crop Seed Markets, Regulation, Industry Structure, and Research and Development* examines the composition of U.S. and international seed markets, regulations affecting agricultural seeds, the structure and evolution of the seed industry, and trends in private and public R&D in plant breeding.

### **India Seeing Rapid Growth in Poultry Sector**

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0403](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0403)

*India's Poultry Sector: Development and Prospects* indicates that the keys to future poultry industry growth in India include integrated production, market transition from live birds to chilled and frozen products, and policies that ensure supplies of competitively priced domestic or imported corn and soybeans.

### **Prospects for U.S. Sheep Production**

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB787](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB787)

*Trends in the U.S. Sheep Industry* chronicles significant historical and economic developments in the industry from both market and policy perspectives and cites prospects for the industry's survival. Issues related to both sheep meat and wool production are covered.

#### **How to get more information ...**

More information about the items featured in DatelinERS can be found at our Website: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov) by typing in the listed address. This newsletter is also available online at [www.ers.usda.gov/news](http://www.ers.usda.gov/news)