



DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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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



Traceability in the U.S. Food Supply

- ♦ Overview of private traceability systems and their purposes
- ♦ Related features and articles on food safety, food labeling, and food marketing
- ♦ Links to related briefing rooms and information such as organic farming

www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/traceability

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

Beef and Cattle Industry Statistics

www.ers.usda.gov/News/BSECoverage.htm

Our newsroom now has background data including the value of the U.S. beef industry, cattle and calf production, beef production and exports, commercial slaughter data, as well as cattle inventories.



Market Context for BSE

A new feature at www.ers.usda.gov/features/BSE/index.htm focuses on ERS market information and analysis related to the recent announcement that a dairy cow in Washington State tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or “mad cow disease”).

This page contains links to the:

- ♦ Beef and cattle industry statistics page (mentioned above)
- ♦ Cattle/beef Briefing Room—covering conditions and events that influence supply, demand, trade, and prices in domestic and global cattle and beef markets
- ♦ Animal Production and Marketing Issues Briefing Room—providing information on animal health as it relates to food safety and meat production
- ♦ Briefing rooms on hogs, poultry and eggs, and dairy—providing information on animal proteins competing with beef

Other topical links include:

- ♦ Consumer food safety behavior
- ♦ Industry food safety actions
- ♦ Information policy
- ♦ Government food safety policy
- ♦ Economics of foodborne disease
- ♦ Traceability in the U.S. Food System

This page also links to recent ERS reports and to other important websites, including:

- ♦ USDA’s portal site, www.usda.gov
- ♦ Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- ♦ Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

and more!



Consumer Demand for Food Away from Home is Changing

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AER829

The Demand for Food Away from Home: Full Service or Fast Food examines how population trends and rising incomes will affect spending on food away from home. It also estimates the expected growth rates in spending for food at full-service and fast food restaurants.

Upcoming Conferences:

Jan. 29-30 Population Change and Rural Society (Washington, DC)

www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/Population/Popchange/Conferences/conferenceintroduction.htm

This conference will showcase rural demographic studies by leading social scientists that analyze critical demographic trends and their implications for economic and social life in rural America. Topics include changes in population composition, impacts of globalization and urbanization, and rural development. Conference papers will be posted on our website.

Feb. 19-20 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum (Arlington, VA)

www.usda.gov/oce/waob/agforum.htm



This annual conference brings together policymakers, producers, industry analysts, and business leaders and focuses on domestic and global trends shaping the outlook for food and agriculture. The theme this year is *Ensuring a Healthy Food Supply*.

Mar. 3-4 2004 Food Assistance Research Conference— Recent Findings and Emerging Issues (Washington, DC)

www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/ConferenceMaterials/conference2004.htm

Session topics include child nutrition, WIC, and the Food Stamp Program.

How to get more information ...

More information about the items featured in Dateline *ERS* can be found at our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by typing in the listed address. This newsletter is also available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news

Our New Look



You may have noticed some changes recently in the look of our homepage, www.ers.usda.gov

After spending quite a bit of time over the past few months listening to our users to find out how to improve, we decided to make some changes.

We hope that our changes, the latest in a series of incremental enhancements, will make it easier to see what ERS offers and easier to get to our many products and services.