USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting
April 29, 2025
Question and Answer Summary

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Question & Answer Summary

The following is a summary of questions and answers from the Data Users' Meeting. Material is organized based on the order they were answered in the Open Forum. Any unanswered questions were reviewed, and the appropriate agency has provided a written response. Slides are appended at the end.

Note: Questions and answers were lightly edited for readability.

Open Forum: Question and Answer Summary

Question: Bevan Everett

Are future county yield data releases going to occur on May 6th like this year?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

I am assuming the question refers to the corn, sorghum, and soybean county estimates coming out on May 6th. We have many other County estimate products coming up as well. There are a number of publication dates as far as the county estimates program. Looking ahead for 2026, we have not established publication dates for the calendar year 2026. NASS produces an annual calendar every year, towards the end of the year. We are having initial discussions about 2026 publication dates, but right now but we have not established those dates. Specifically for county estimates, there are many variables are coming into play looking at the calendar. I cannot yet guarantee anything for 2026.

Question: Karen Braun

Does USDA still believe in its trend yield methodology for U.S. corn yield and are there any potential adjustments for this year? Does USDA consider last year's record yield of 179.3 bushels per acre as a below-trend result?

Answer: Mike Jewison

This is a subject we talk about quite a bit. Right off the bat, there is no set in stone methodology in terms of how we approach things. In any given month, every number is on the table. We are agnostic as to individual supply and demand items in the balance sheet and price. This is how we are as objective as possible. For the latter part, it would depend how do you define trend? How does one define trend? Generally speaking, last year's yield was modestly below trend.

Question: Hannah Hawkins

Could we get a world total endpoint added to the FAS GATS API?

Written Answer: Jason Carver

The GATS IT team is assessing the feasibility of the request to include a World Total endpoint in the API. We expect determination soon.

Question: Gary Wietgrefe

Some in U.S. millet production estimate there may be in excess of 10 million acres of proso, foxtail, pearl, brown top, Japanese, and teff millets in the U.S. Why does USDA only report proso grain in 3 states?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

Yes, we publish proso millet in three states because they make up approximately 90% of the national production. It's about half a million acres, maybe less in recent years. These other

varieties, as my understanding, is they are used for hay or forage or grazing type practices used in the US. We capture those, we have a forage program. I believe that there are 15 or 17 states in the forage program. Any crops cut for hay would be included in the Other Hay estimates as part of the annual program. Following each census, we do a thorough review of our programs and products to make sure we cover the latest trends and most relevant commodities. We have the opportunity (to make program changes) if we see the trends after the Census of Agriculture every five years. We would add certain programs, as necessary. That is generally our process for adding programs. The other varieties are typically for hay and forge and would be included in those programs.

Answer: Lance Honig

Also, I believe FSA does capture those different types of millet in their 578 data for planted acreage.

Question: Karen Braun

What is the easiest way to find S&D numbers for individual EU countries, beyond area/yield/production? Specifically looking for trade, consumption and stocks. Are there any plans to make this data available in the PSD online query? The countries appear available, but data does not populate.

Answer: Ryan Scott

USDA does not publish individual EU member state trade consumption or stock figures because of the customs union for the EU. Trade figures only show extra EU trade, with the exception of Cotton PS&D, which has been and will continue to be maintained on an individual level basis.

Written Answer: Rachel Trego

Please see the FAQs available under "About PSD" on the PSD database https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/about#G12.

For country-specific area, yield, and production estimates within the European Union (EU), please go to PSD Online at https://apps.fas.usda.gov/PSDOnline/app/index.html#/app/home, and select “Downloadable Data Sets.” Select the zipped file for “EU Countries Area & Production.”

Question: Jaoe Smith

Based on high interest rates, any indication using any USDA data on farms debt level and how many farms have debt? The more recent data the better.

Answer: Carrie Litkowski

ERS does produce data in the farm income and wealth statistics on the US balance sheet. That includes information on assets and debt held by the farm sector. So we do have 2024 and 2025 forecasts of farm sector debt. These were done back in early February, so based on the conditions and assumptions at that time. We are forecasting a 1% increase in farm debt in 2025 when inflation adjusted. For the number of farms that have debt, we have data from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) and in our web tool specifically, we have a farm business

debt and repayment capacity report, which shows that in 2023, the latest data that we have, it showed about 24% of farms had debt. There is more data in that report in the ARMS web tool.

Written Answer: Jen Bond

https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=110934

Written Answer: Carrie Litkowski

ERS data on Farm Debt: Farm Income and Wealth Statistics - https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-sector-income-finances/assets-debt-and-wealth

ERS ARMS web tool: https://my.data.ers.usda.gov/arms/tailored-reports

Question: Karl Skold

For AMS, the dashboards are useful, but make it more difficult to pull historical data and update. Why not integrate in your other data products. Also, the weekly retail prices series changed this fall. It would be helpful to provide more data overall and a transition period (along with notice of the change).

Answer: Jason Karwal

We do have some built-in functionality in the dashboards to download the data that is available in each calculation. If you're not familiar with that we can definitely have someone show you how that works. We've tried to tie that back as much as possible to the data. We would definitely be open to any feedback you have on areas that aren't working well. It's a work in progress at the moment. Please let us know and we can dig into that further as we implement those dashboards. Not familiar with retail data, but we can take a closer look with more information.

Question: Mark Feight

For FAS: If we are currently using the API for weekly exports, will there be any changes required with the new data rollout this year?

Written Answer: Amy Harding

The Export Sales API will remain the same and will continue to function the same way as in the current application. Should this information change, FAS hopes to identify any changes and advise data users of what they are before the system goes live. As a reminder, it is key for all data users to test the API when user acceptance testing becomes available.

Question: Bevan Everett

Has the ERS or other agency been tapped for input on the development of the 45Z tax credit or the RVOs crafted by the EPA? It appears the strong reliance on veg oil imports and production restraints would require the agencies input.

Answer: Jen Bond

The short answer is no, we have not been asked to provide input into the development of those tax credits. However, we do routine reporting on market conditions and also have a special article from February.

Written Answer: Jen Bond

https://ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=110934

Full list of our special articles on feedstocks for biomass-based diesel production and other soybean topics are available here: https://ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/soybeans-and-oil-crops

Answer: Mark Jekanowski

While the World Board doesn't get involved in policy since it's against our mission, the Office of the Chief Economist does, specifically the Office of Energy and Environmental Policy led by Bill Hohenstein. They work closely with EPA and other agencies to ensure there is ag representation and expertise behind these policies. So, USDA in general and OCE in particular is involved.

Question: Mark Nelson

For AMS. What's the timeline for soliciting candidates to serve on various checkoffs and specifically, the USCP?

Post meeting follow-up: Jason Karwal

Any questions related to checkoff programs will need to be directed to USDA Public Affairs. The contact information for USDA Public Affairs is listed below.

E-mail: PA@usda.gov

Phone: (202)-720-8998

Question: Jamie Boley

I'd love to see the crop progress report added to a USDA visualization.

Answer: Patrick Boyle

While we don't have it integrated into our data visualization tool, under the "Data and Statistics" tab (on our website), there is an area of charts and maps and there are a litany of data visualizations out there for crop progress, both current and historic. So if you haven't been to that portion of our website, lots of good stuff out there for crop progress and other programs.

Answer: Lance Honig

Specifically, we have something out there called Crop CASMA, which is a bit of a visualization utilizing that data, along with Gridded Layers. So you may want to go out to our website and explore some of those products. Some are visualizations and some are data provided in the format that are easily adapted to visualizations with the data we provide.

Crop CASMA: https://nassgeo.csiss.gmu.edu/CropCASMA/

Gridded Layers:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Research_and_Science/Crop_Progress_Gridded_Layers/index.php

Crop Progress and Condition Visualizations:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index.php

Question: Greg Horstmeier

We have been noticing some delays in data hitting the website on WASDE events. In the past, we've sometimes worked around this by monitoring the Cornell site simultaneously. But my understanding is the Cornell site is going away. 1. Is the Cornell change true? 2. If so, what efforts are being made to limit data delays to the USDA site?

Answer: Troy Joshua

Cornell is going away and we are working with an organization within USDA to develop a solution to the process. We're working with National Ag Library to come up with another solution to resolve this concern so we can continue to provide data.

Answer: Mark Jekanowski

I'm not aware of any delays in releasing the WASDE report going back several years. If you're experiencing a delay, or if for some reason you're not able to access the report, please let us know. Our release process is pretty robust and we track those things very closely. So again, not aware of any delays over the past several years. I'll second what Troy said about the Mann Library going away, we're also working with Troy and other agencies to develop this new system that would serve as an archive for the historic WASDE reports.

Written Answer: Rachel Trego

On WASDE release days, the data is also released in the PSD database at this site:
https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/home

Question:

When will NASS move away from PDF data releases?

Answer: Troy Joshua

It is a program that we're currently trying to resolve right now. It's something that we are modernizing our processes. We are targeting by the end of the year so that we can try to modernize how we are presenting the information to the public. Over the summer, we are planning to have a webinar informing everyone of the transition and changes so that we don't have any surprises.

Answer: Lance Honig

We don't exactly have a timeline. It's something we know we want to work toward in the future, a more data-driven release and less hard copy pdf where we determine the format of what you see. We know the thought of that can be a little alarming, so we want to assure everyone that once we get to a point where we think that there may be something coming. We will absolutely

make sure that folks know the timeline and as Troy mentioned, we will do a webinar to talk specifically about what it looks like. Lastly, there will be an overlap period. Where whatever the new mechanism may look like, we will make sure it is up and running for some period of time before any pdfs go away. So folks would have an opportunity to become comfortable and familiar with what that new product will look like. This is a part of our efforts to make sure we always move forward, being as efficient and modern as we can in the way that we deliver products. We are absolutely committed to continuing to deliver this information timely and accurately, and ensuring that everyone has equal access at exactly the same time.

Question: Hannah Hawkins

Are there any plans to add additional years of historical data to the AMS Market News API?

Answer: Jason Karwal

It does depend on the commodity you are looking for. We did close the gap in the past few months and we got the full history for all the specialty crops commodities loaded, a lot of the retail data, and we're moving through that list as we move ahead. There are a few livestock and grain ones that we will be able to do. If you have a specific commodity you're looking for, let us know. We may be able to provide some of that data outside the system while you're waiting for us to get that finished up.

Question: Rebecca Schewe

I have noticed that the CRP statistics do not have a monthly summary report published since October 2024. Is there a plan for when the new reports should be available?

Post meeting follow-up: Tim Gravlin

You can find the latest CRP monthly statistics posted here:
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/reports/conservation-statistics/crp

Question: Ly Nguyen

Could you please advise where I can access data or information (numbers, location, scales, etc.) related to independent stores or grocers selling local fresh produce in each State?

Answer: Jen Bond

I will put some links into the chat. We have a local foods landing page. Mainly, our work is more research and less data, but you can go there to get some information of the variety they're looking for.

Written Answer: Jen Bond

https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/local-foods#:~:text=ERS%20conducts%20research%20on%20local,systems%27%20economic%20and%20health%20impacts

https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/documentation#local

Question: Lijuan Xing

Which USDA agency compiles data on total goat production in U.S. and the statistic/number in each state? May I get a link to those data?

Answer: Travis Averill

At USDA NASS we publish a goat inventory on an annual basis, typically the last business day of January. We'll have goat data for angoras for 3 states, milk goat data for 30 states, and meat goats for 30 states.

Written Answer: Travis Averill

The most recent NASS Sheep and Goats report: https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/000000018/zk51xc07n/9593wq66x/shep0125.pdf

Question: Lucas Palamim

Broiler-type layer flock data for April came in below expectations. Will USDA revise the Poultry production outlook for 2025 based on that?

Answer: Mike McConnell

A quick answer is that the information is a part of the monthly NASS release in the *Chicken and Eggs* report. Information like that will certainly be taken into consideration to update the outlook going forward. So, the simple answer is yes. We will look at that information and update the outlook as necessary.

Question: Greg Tyng

Are there any plans to make daily beef and pork morning reports available via API. This is only in pdf format now?

Answer: Chris Sommers

The main reason the morning reports do not have an API is that it is just a subset of the afternoon report, and inclusive of that afternoon report. At the present time, there is no thought process of adding that to the API.

Question: Warren Prosser

Is it possible to get the WASDE csv/historical data (Consolidated Historical WASDE Report Data) 2010-2025 (WASDE Report data in .CSV format updated each month, the day after the WASDE release) released the same day instead of the following day?

Answer: Mark Jekanowski

I appreciate the interest in that data. I'm not sure, I'll check with our IT people. Right now it is released the following day. I'll see if we can move that up and if so, we will. If not, unfortunately, there might be some technical reason we can't, but we'll do what we can.

Post meeting follow-up: Mark Jekanowski

Beginning in May, we'll start releasing this dataset the same day as WASDE, within approximately two hours after the WASDE release.

Question: Bevan Everett

Can a search option be re-added to the Quick Stats database? Sometimes it is not clear what category data would fall under.

Answer: Troy Joshua

Yes, it is something we plan on adding. We do realize it is missing, and it is very valuable. We are talking with the team to make sure that we include that in the next data dissemination tool.

Question: Kathy Myers

Can you please talk about the changes from cornell.edu? Will this affect report releases? how will you enhance the NASS release site after the changes from cornell.edu? We often rely on the Cornell site to get reports on release day when the data is delayed on the NASS site.

Answer: Troy Joshua

We realize how valuable it is. We want to make sure that those services remain and continue.

Question: Marcel Dietsch

Are there plans to offer all USDA data (WAOB, NASS, FAS etc) via a single, streamlined API with a unified data schema instead of the current data provision using different APIs, XML files, PDFs and so on?

Answer: Lance Honig

I'm not aware of any current efforts to do that, it is a very complex topic. I do certainly understand as a user why that would be very awesome. Because all the programs are so distinct and different, it would be quite an effort to streamline. We are aware of the issue, but currently we do not have any significant efforts underway to make that happen soon.

Question: Bevan Everett

Is there a queryable database that contains the WASDE's Biofuel use category over time. The EPA has RIN data, and the EIA has a limited set of its own but the WASDE committees number is anywhere other than the WASDE report itself.

Answer: Mark Jekanowski

For the World Board, we do not have any queryable database for WASDE data.

Answer: Jen Bond

I know we pull a lot of information out of the WASDE database. Take a look at what we have online. You can find the bits and pieces including forward productions of historical data and

recent files for a variety of different products. I'm pretty sure we have what they're looking for on the website in a bunch of different individual data products.

Written Answer: Jen Bond

For related information, you may be interested in these products:
https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/us-bioenergy-statistics
https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications?series=OCS
https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/oil-crops-yearbook

Answer: Joanna Hitchner

The historical series of biomass data for feedstocks can be found on ERS's *Oil Crops Yearbook* and I will put the link in the chat. A good resource for feedstock use can be found in ERS's February oil crops outlook, starting on page 7. I will put the links into the chat box.

Written Answer: Joanna Hitchner

Oil Crops Yearbook: https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/oil-crops-yearbook

ERS February Oil Crops Outlook (PAGE 7):
https://ers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/_laserfiche/outlooks/110935/OCS-25b.pdf?v=80566

Question: Julie Ingwersen

How is USDA/NASS using AI in its crop estimates?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

This is an easy one, we do not use AI. We are using our regular human analysts and regular tools, we have not incorporated AI into the crop estimates.

Question: Jerry Gidel

When is Cornell going away -- next fall?

Answer: Troy Joshua

We are still working with Cornell to develop a timeline on exactly when it will be going away. When we have more of that information, we will share it with you. We are working towards a solution trying to modernize our processes within USDA.

Question: Julie Ingwersen

When and why is the Mann Library service going away?

Answer: Troy Joshua

We are still working with Cornell to develop a timeline on exactly when it will be going away. When we have more of that information, we will share it with you. We are working towards a solution trying to modernize our processes within USDA.

Question: Greg Tyng

Do we have plans to release old historical WASDE data in csv formats (pre 2010)?

Answer: Mark Jekanowski

We have had plans for a while to release the full history of WASDE in a big database. We have it going forward from 2010. The project has turned out to be much more complicated than we thought. Maybe it's not too surprising. There is a ton of data and if we were going to release the data set publicly, there's an expectation from the public that each piece of data within that data set is accurate. In this case, going back through the WASDE, recognizing that commodities have changed over time, balance sheets have changed, variables have come in and out, it's extremely complicated to pull this into one database and make sure everything still lines up. It is a project that we've tried and are working on, and we have a prototype, but we are not comfortable yet with putting it out publicly with the expectation that as a government data set it would be correct. We will continue to work in the background. Right now, there is no immediate plans.

Question: Austin Pearce

It's my understanding that NASS surveys/census no longer collect information on irrigated vs non-irrigated yield estimates. Is this in fact the case? Are there other sources we might look to for state or county level data related to irrigation and yield?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

I do not believe that is the case. (As part of the Census of Agriculture) We are still producing irrigated and not irrigated estimates. I do not believe the specific commodity was listed in the question, but if there is a specific concern, please reach out. We can look into it if he believes there is a data point missing.

Answer: Lance Honig

This would be true for the census, but it is true that we are not doing that on an annual basis.

Question: Evan Basse

Would the USDA be willing to release historical Brazilian soybean production numbers by state? Same question for corn?

Answer: Mike Jewison

The comment that I would make about the question is that we've talked about Brazil quite a bit. This also covers soybeans a bit as well. As we look at CONAB as a primary source we use, it is not the only source. It could be a combination of state agencies and other data sources that are available within the country. It is not exactly a clean exercise in terms of what we look at. There could be subjectivity in terms of the state and the time of year and the data available. We do not even publish detailed S&Ds for EU member states that was asked about earlier. To maintain that level data would be beyond the scope of what we currently do for Brazil.

Question: Brian Carroll

Can we bring back the ability to search the NASS Quickstats database or migrate the query system to a updated platform better suited for handling larger datasets? The platform is very useful but it showing its age.

Answer: Troy Joshua

That is the plan. We plan on modernizing our processes and how we disseminate data. We look forward to what will take place in the future. So yes, we do realize it has some age to it and we are very excited about the future and how we plan to disseminate this information. So, yes.

Question: Michael Barwinski

Is ERS considering building a soybean database, similar to the ERS Grains Database, that allows for someone to query historical data easily instead of the current format that is an Excel file that gets released in the Oil Crops Outlook?

Answer: Jen Bond

The answer is not at this time. We're more focused on meeting open data standards. We release the yearbook tables in Excel and CSV format which are hopefully a little easier for folks to query. But not in the near term are we looking to replicate what we do with feedgrains data.

Question: Gary Wietgrefe

North American Millets Alliance (NAMA) released in February national proso millet grain marketing standards and grades. How can NAMA get Agricultural Marketing Service and Federal Grain Inspection Service to adopt the new uniform standards for trading proso millet grain?

Post meeting follow-up: Jason Karwal

Federal Grain Inspection staff were not immediately available to answer this question, but their direct contact information is below.

Telephone: (202) 720-9170

Email: fgis.oda@usda.gov

Question: Hong Han

For FSA, do you plan to have a dashboard for the $21 billion for natural disaster recovery, covering losses from droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, and floods in 2023-2024? When the dashboard will be available?

Written Answer: Tim Gravlin

Please find the public dashboard for the ECAP Program authorized under the American Relief Act legislation you are referring to. We will look into additional public dashboards if and when additional assistance programs are announced.

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-commodity-assistance-program/dashboard

Question: Jaoe Smith

I'm looking at ARMS data for govt. payments and they are different from what FSA posted, what is the difference?

Answer: Dipak Subedi

We have farm income and wealth statistics data. That is the administrative data that we use from FSA, along with NRCS, FAS. For ARMS, it is survey data and that is the main difference between ARMS and the FSA data. There is a limitation in ARMS reporting total payments, as not all of the payments by the respondents are reported in the survey. We have published a report where you can find the reasons why ARMS total government payments is underreported. There are a couple of points. First, ARMS survey frame excludes non-operator landlords. Not all the payments are reported into ARMS because when the respondent reports payments for a single farm operation, there are many farm operators, so not all the reported payments that the farm received are reflected in the data set. Those would be the reasons why the total payments is underreported. Another point is that all the information, the total payments are based on the calendar year, not the fiscal year nor program year.

Written Answer: Dipak Subedi

https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=102669

Written Answer: Jen Bond

Here is a link to and ERS research report that talks about differences in administrative data and ARMS survey data https://ers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/_laserfiche/publications/102670/EIB-228.pdf?v=93595

Answer: Tim Gravlin

I think that covered it. Sounds like actual outlays are higher.

Question: Amanda Kowalczyk

I'm looking to reconcile values reported in the "Poultry - Production and Value" report and the "Chickens and Eggs" report for laying hens. Are "sales of chickens (excluding broilers)" from the poultry production report all laying-type sales, or are those a subset of sales (perhaps only laying-type hens for slaughter)? Also, if someone could point me to the correct API to download these data, that would be much appreciated!

Answer: Travis Averill

On the poultry value production report, you're probably trying to get ahead of the report that comes out today at 3:00 PM today. That value of sales is for laying hens, table eggs, and boiler type hatching layers. That is the clearer definition of what is included in for sold, for slaughter, number of pounds, and value of sales associated there.

Question: Bree Baatz

Is the 2022 Census the most recent results to view various conservation practices on farms? For example, count of farms doing no-till, fertilizer management, cover crops? or is there more up to date information that captures these practices?

Answer: Bryan Combs

The Census will be the most recent source to get down to a county level on data for those practices. I'll also mention that we have a couple other products. CPAMS highlights document that is a collaboration with NRCS that NASS has more recently done. Those are ongoing and we've had some come out, but they are not as large a data collection as Census so you're going to have a more specialized type of farm, for instance, or have a state or possibly national numbers on that. I'll also mention that we do collect some of that data on the ARMS survey.

Written Answer: Bryan Combs

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/CPAM/index.php

Answer: Dipak Subedi

We recently published US farm businesses they had by date. We use ARMS survey data to look at different types of farms. We had farm type and we looked into small-, mid-, large- size farms and even non-family farms for the analysis.

Answer: Jen Bond

We'll add some more links to conservation programs and that includes research reports where you can find some additional context.

Written Answer: Jen Bond

Additional information on the ERS website: https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/natural-resources-environment/conservation-programs

Written Answer: Molly Burress

You may wish to consult recent research on conservation practices in Wallander et al on cover crop trends (EIB-222). https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=100550 and Bowman et al on cover crops on livestock operations (AP-120) https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=109082.

Here is another possible publication of interest: https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=108847.

Question: David Lane

Are there any planned updates on the Pest Management Survey within the NASS Chemical Use Survey? Relatedly, are there plans to communicate the analyzed results of the Pest Management Survey other than in the Chemical Use Highlights?

Answer: Bryan Combs

No planned updates are known at the time, we have not discussed anything. In addition to the highlights that were mentioned, all the chemical use data is published in the quick stats database. There are predefined queries to access the information. If you have any trouble finding it, please reach out and we will help direct you.

Question: Jerry Gidel

After last year's dramatic drop in the USDA's US corn yield, has there been any ideas how to correct this sizable error in your monthly corn yield forecast. What this very adjustment in the producer portion of your US corn yield projection?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

Let's talk about the difference between those two numbers and the surveys and the data that go into each of those, and also the timing. Our last forecast of the year for corn is November 1st, and then we do a big survey in December and publish the final in January. The harvest last year for corn was ahead of average, but there was still some corn harvested after November 1, November 1st is the reference point for the November survey. Also, the questions that were asked and the sample sizes, were dramatically different. It's two different surveys and two different procedures. You'd expect slightly different results. We had a little over 5,000 samples in the November survey and we had over 70,000 samples in the December survey. Different surveys at different times of year, you would expect slightly different results. I think the person who asked the question referred to is as an error, I do not know if I would classify it as an error, just different procedures, different timing, and therefore slightly different results. It was about a 2% change, I believe. It is on the higher end, but certainly not out of the ballpark completely. We do go back and review the procedures. We have not made significant changes to the procedures year-over-year for the two surveys in question, but we do go back to review. We would like the numbers to be dialed in and as close as possible. Last year (conditions during harvest) was very dry. Moisture content in some of the bushels taken off late was very low. I think some of those agronomic factors also played into the reports that we received from farmers for November through December.

Question: Jaoe Smith

How many get direct loans from USDA and if the total loan amount and limit would increase.

Answer: Tim Gravlin

USDA does make direct and guaranteed loans. As far as a unique producer count or total dollars, I do not know that off the top of my head. It does not mention the year. If we're talking about fiscal year 2025 or 2024. I can definitely look into the question and get you some answers.

Post meeting follow-up: Tim Gravlin

A wealth of data about direct loans issued in terms of dollars and loan counts and changes from FY23 to FY24 can be found on the FSA Farm Loan Program Data page here:

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/reports/farm-loan-programs

Question: Karl Skold

For ERS, the USDA provides monthly protein and livestock flows in spreadsheets and a large excel spreadsheet. Would it be possible to put the spreadsheet data for each commodity (beef, cattle, pork, hogs, chicken) in separate or more useful way to download? Current way is cumbersome.

Answer: Jen Bond

Thank you for the question and feedback. I apologize that it is cumbersome presently. We are taking strides to produce fewer files, which requires less behind-the-scenes work to post. We are really still focused on building initiatives and making our products machine-readable. So, as we convert more of those files to machine-readable format, hopefully that will make it easier to pull the information you want without us having to separate those and make individual postings for each commodity.

Question: David Lane

Could NASS please survey Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments in the Chemical Use Survey?

Post meeting follow-up: Bryan Combs

The seed treatment data is collected from the Field Characteristics section of the ARMS 2 survey. ERS provides NASS with the survey questions for the Field Characteristics section. In the past, ERS has published some special reports about neonicotinoid seed treatments for insect control in United States soybean production (see below).

Over the last 10 years or so the pesticide industry has moved in the direction of developing seed treatments for crops instead of spraying pesticides directly on the plant. The NASS questionnaires state, "Seed treatments are excluded from the fertilizer and pesticide sections of the ARMS 2 survey. We can consider collecting data on seed treatments if there's no consistent source of data on seed treatments.

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-10/documents/benefits_of_neonicotinoid_seed_treatments_to_soybean_production_2.pdf

Question: Terry Griffin

Up until about 2022, I was occasionally meeting with a group (SteamPunk?) who were updating QuickStats dashboard and API. I was part of the usability testing as an end user. Has this effort to update QuickStats ceased?

Answer: Troy Joshua

The entire program has not ceased. Thank you for sharing your experience and doing the usability testing for quick stats as well as API. We do realize that there are many uses for quick stats. The information you shared has provided the basis for how we're planning to disseminate the data in the near future. We do appreciate it, it has not ceased, but we are building on it and making it better.

Question: Austin Pearce

Technical question related to NASS Quick Stats API: How many requests are too many? Last I checked, I didn't find any documentation from NASS API on how many requests are too many and would give a 429 error.

Written Answer: Troy Joshua

Quick stats rate limiting is used to control the frequency of requests or actions a user or system can perform within a given timeframe. 100 calls within five minutes. It helps to prevent excessive use of NASS web servers and database resources to protect against malicious activities. It ensures fair access for all users.

Question: Austin Schroeder

Is there any effort to track the dairy cattle/ dairy cross cattle in feedlots?

Answer: Travis Averill

As cattle producers and folks in the cattle feedlot industry, there's been questions pertaining to this question itself, and NASS does not actually publish how much dairy influence are going in on a monthly basis in the cattle and feed report. Unfortunately, with the current structure, we are asking how many cattle regardless of the genetic makeup, dairy or beef influence, on the cattle. At this time, we do not gather the information as a part of the process.

Question: Narhanial Trull

Leasing ag land for solar power generation is growing in the Western US. Is there any plan to gather data related to solar-lease payments and solar-related income for farmers in future surveys/censuses?

Answer: Bryan Combs

I can comment on what we do now, and in the future it might change based on how the data is driving the increase of that. Currently, on the Census of Agriculture, we ask for renewable energy. We saw quite an increase, around 15% increase, from the previous census. The large majority of that were solar panels. We would also pick up that income in the census under farm related income. I will also mention on the ARMS survey we collect similar information to the Census. I believe ERS publishes some information on that as well. I do not know if we specifically have dollars for solar.

Answer: Dipak Subedi

We do not have data on solar in the ARMS survey.

Question: Henry Yang

NASS Quick Stats entries for sorghum used in fuel alcohol production have consistently shown values of zero or been marked as (D) since April 2021. I'm aware that the EIA publishes a monthly feedstocks report that includes sorghum usage for biofuel production. Does the USDA collect this

data through another channel, or are there any plans to resume or expand reporting on sorghum used in ethanol production?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

Our current team of researchers have helped me to identify in September 2023, we stopped producing estimates for sorghum consumed for fuel alcohol. Prior to that, I looked at some of the releases and we did collect data, but we are not able to publish. There's a difference between the 0 and D in quick stats. D stands for disclosure where we did collect data but unable to publish to avoid disclosing information provided to us by individual firms. I'm not aware of any other USDA agency that collects this data and I don't think NASS plans to bring this back any time soon.

Question: Jaoe Smith

Does any dataset or study have information on AGI of farms for the purposes of new farm bill and new programs that are being rolled out? Will there be exceptions as before for new programs?

Answer: Lance Honig

I am not aware of anything in that space.

Answer: Jen Bond

No not terms of the program, but we do have reports on household adjusted gross income in the ARMS website tool. If there is interest in that, you can go to the ARMS tool to do a query and get the information there.

Question: Jaoe Smith

Will quickstat limits increase?

Answer: Lance Honig

We do hope to modernize and upgrade quick stats. I believe the limit is a limitation that the current structure has.

Answer: Troy Joshua

Quick stats rate limiting is used to control the frequency of requests or actions a user or system can perform within a given timeframe. 100 calls within five minutes. It helps to prevent excessive use of NASS web servers and database resources to protect against malicious activities. It ensures fair access for all users.

Question: Jon Kerrigan

Is there state specific data for exports to specific countries in NASS?

Answer: James Kaufman

There are a few states specific data products for exports at ERS. We have state trade by county of origin that shows the top exports by state for the top commodities. FAS GATS also has state

exports by country. Those should align to some degree with the countries that are reported in NASS.

Written Answer: Rachel Trego

GATS has State Export data located under the Data Source drop down menu. However, it should be noted that GATS data is Census origin of movement trade data. Thus, the last point of sale is the state from which the exports are reported (e.g., soybeans produced in the Midwest and barged down the Mississippi River are reported as Louisiana exports due to the last point of sale being from ports there). https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/ExpressQuery1.aspx

As an alternative, USDA's Economic Research Service estimates agricultural exports by state using each state's production data. https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-agricultural-trade-data

Written Answer: Jen Bond

State Agricultural Trade Data: https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-agricultural-trade-data

Question: Jaoe Smith

Do non family farms get govt payments from new programs? How much govt payment is allocated for govt payments for poultry producers?

Answer: Tim Gravlin

There are many different areas of USDA that issue payments. If we assume they are talking about programs under the American Relief Act or new legislation, I will take the first part of the question, nonfamily farms. Generally speaking, as well as the programs in the American Relief Act, farms that are structured as legal entities are eligible to apply for the programs. For example, your family farm might be structured as an LLC or corporation or a general partnership. They are eligible to apply for those programs. They submit documentation to FSA and USDA. Generally speaking, this is through CCC 902 or 903, where they are telling us who are the shareholders, who has an interest in that operation, are they actively engaged in farming. Things like that. There are provisions there for us to know who the payments go to, safeguards. The second part of the question, we do have programs that cover poultry. We have livestock programs that are disaster programs and permanent legislation. We talked earlier about ECAP which is a commodity based program in the market assistance specialty crop program, obviously for fruit, nut, specialty crops programs. Neither one are specific to poultry nor is there a dollar amount that is allocated specific to poultry. We have more permanent programs that cover livestock and if and when there is a livestock-based program under the American Relief Act, FSA will absolutely do a press release and do outreach to make sure livestock producers are aware of when the signup period for that is and we would love to have them apply if and when any such program like that were to be announced.

Written Answer: Tim Gravlin

ECAP Producer Tool (Calculator) https://www.fsa.usda.gov/ecap/payment-calculator

ECAP Public Dashboard https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-commodity-assistance-program/dashboard

Question: Vikas Mishra

Is there any data on Farm/farmers level marketing decision for mitigating price risk.

Answer: Jen Bond

I would point to our research - I will put a link into the chat for the risk-management landing page on the ERS website.

Written Answer: Jen Bond

https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-practices-management/risk-management

Sharing here a link from RMA as well: https://www.rma.usda.gov/tools-reports/summary-of-business

Question: Meredith Halweg

Is there any data that will be released for livestock depredation from wolves? -- a lot of students are researching this topic right now

Answer: Travis Averill

The agency that oversees the release of livestock losses based on different predators are USDA APHIS NAHMS folks. They conduct studies and release additional detail data pertaining to various livestock. They have a reoccurring process depending on what commodity: cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, etc. They do this on a rotating basis. NAHMS is the source of the data information from a USDA standpoint.

Written Answer: Travis Averill

USDA APHIS NAHMS: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/nahms

Written Question & Answer Summary

Question: Mark Welch

When I try to access the WMO Station Explorer (https://gis.ipad.fas.usda.gov/WmoStationExplorer/) I get a message that this has been decommissioned. Is this information available anywhere else?

Written Answer: Lisa Colson

WMO Station reporting has changed over the years and new precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture data have become available via Crop Explorer and GADAS (the Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System). We recommend switching to NOAA CPC data for multiple variables, CHIRPS for precipitation, or SMAP for soil moisture data.

These data are accessible via Crop Explorer (https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/) and GADAS (using Map Analytics at https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html#). For example, https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/imageview.aspx?regionid=us&startdate=4/15/2025&imenddate=4/22/2025&ftypeid=71&fattributeid=432&stypeid=71&sattributeid=433

Question: Mira Mihajlovich

Where could I find the most accurate data on food loss and waste?

Answer: Jen Bond

ERS has information on food loss. I would recommend reaching out to the authors listed on this page (Andrej and Linda) on this page for more information: https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-per-capita-data-system/food-loss.

The ERS FADS and LAFA have some commodities that cannot be updated. We have up what is available. We do have data gaps for this data product. But, we have posted the best we have available with updates planned as new data becomes available. Andrej and Linda's contact information is linked at the top of the loss-adjusted food availability landing page.

Question: Jaoe Smith

Can you recommend some ERS reports related to farm debt and about farms that are financially not doing well? It would be informative for lenders as they follow those when making loans. knowing by farm size and commodity specialization would be great.

Answer: Molly Burress

These links may be helpful:
https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics
https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=109411
https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-sector-income-finances
https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/chart-detail?chartId=82246
https://ers.usda.gov/data-products/fruit-and-vegetable-prices

Question: Lijuan Xing

How many types of vegetable crops national-wide available in large amount volume similar to popular ones such as lettuce, tomato, pepper and celery (in large grocery stores) in each state?

Answer: Molly Burress

For ERS data on vegetables, please consult https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/vegetables-and-pulses-data/vegetables-and-pulses-yearbook-tables or https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/vegetables-and-pulses/commodity-highlights.

Question: Christopher Pudenz

Is there anything that industry, policy groups, etc., can do to help with USDA survey response rates?

Answer: Patrick Boyle

I would suggest that, if data users have the opportunity to talk with farmers and ranchers, and/or have farmers and ranchers as customers, that they relay how they utilize USDA data, the importance of having accurate data, and how it benefits the industry. Outside validation of USDA statistical programs is a very valuable tool and helps combat misinformation and misunderstandings on how the data is generated and how it is used.

Question: Michael Partyka

Could you add a feature to download CSV files from the FSA ECAP Tableau dashboard? Past dashboards had this option.

Written Answer: Tim Gravlin

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We are working to remedy this.

Presentation Slides

Following this page are the slides presented during the Data Users' Meeting.

- Agency Updates

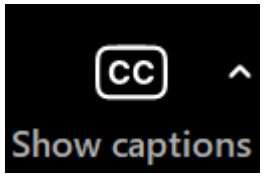
2025 USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

April 29, 2025

Lance Honig
Chair, Agricultural Statistics Board

Housekeeping

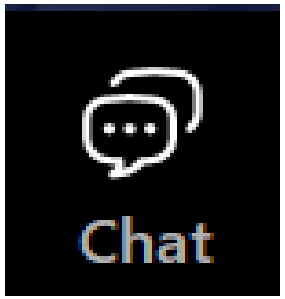
- Closed captioning available through the Closed Caption button in Zoom.



- The meeting will be recorded and available on our website: https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users

- Slides and transcript of Q&A with any additional questions we don't have time to answer will be available on our website after the meeting.

Questions/Issues



Q&A – Questions will be answered live during Open Forum

Chat – Technical Issues

Email – Vincent.Davis@usda.gov

Agenda

All Times Eastern

12:00pm	Welcome and Overview
12:10pm	Agency Updates
12:50pm	Open Forum
1:20pm	Break
1:30pm	Open Forum Continues
2:30pm	End

Panelists

- Ryan Scott, Foreign Agricultural Service
- Mark Jekanowski, World Agricultural Outlook Board
- Troy Joshua, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Kelly Maguire, Economic Research Service
- Tim Gravlin, Farm Service Agency
- Jason Karwal, Agricultural Marketing Service
- Joseph DeCampo, U.S. Census Bureau

Foreign Agricultural Service

Ryan Scott
Acting Deputy Administrator
Global Market Analysis

World Agricultural Outlook Board

Mark Jekanowski

Chairman

2025 Spring Data Users' Meeting

April 29, 2025

Troy Joshua, Director
NASS - Statistics Division

What's New – Crops and Livestock

Reinstating Programs

County Estimates – corn, sorghum, soybeans: May 6

County Estimates – cotton: May 12

County Estimates – cattle: May 13

County Estimates – rice, peanuts: May 23

July Cattle: July 25

What's New – Environmental, Economics and Demographics

On May 9, 2025, Field Crop Chemical Usage data will be released.

- Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use, fertilizer use and pest management practices.

On July 16, 2025, Vegetables Chemical Usage data will be released.

- This report is released every other year.
- Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use, fertilizer use, and pest management practices.

On August 1, 2025, Technology Use data will be released.

- This report is released every other year.
- Originating in 1997, the NASS Technology Use data series presents data on farm computer usage, including access, ownership or leasing, farm business use, and internet access.

What's New – Environmental, Economics and Demographics

The Census of Agriculture (COA) was released on February 13, 2024. The briefing streamed on NASS's YouTube channel at 12:00 p.m. ET on February 14, 2024.

Many additional data products were released in 2024 such as:

- State and County Profiles (March 27, 2024)
- Congressional District Profiles and Rankings (May 15, 2024)
- Watersheds (July 24, 2024)
- American Indian Reservations (August 29, 2024)
- Ag Census Web Maps (September 10, 2024)
- Specialty Crops (October 17, 2024)
- Zip Code Tabulations (November 7, 2024).

What's New – 2025 Census of Agriculture

On February 27, 2025, the Census of Agriculture for the Northern Mariana Islands was released.

On March 27, 2025, the Census of Agriculture for the U.S. Virgin Islands was released.

On April 24, 2025, the Census of Agriculture for Guam and American Samoa was released.

What's New – 2025 Census Special Studies

The **2024 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL)** is scheduled for release on October 31, 2025.

- TOTAL is conducted every ten years under the Census of Agriculture and provides data on all land rented out for agricultural purposes, include both land rented out by those who are themselves farmers and ranchers and land rented out by those who do not operate a farm themselves.

The **2024 Census of Horticultural Specialties** is scheduled for release on December 16, 2025.

- The Census of Horticultural Specialties is released every five years and provides data at the national and state levels on number and kinds of horticultural specialty operations, value of sales, and types of products.

All reports available at:	• www.nass.usda.gov
Questions via phone	• (800) 727 - 9540
Questions via internet	• nass@usda.gov

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Dr. Jennifer K. Bond
Deputy Director for Outlook and Staff Analysis
Acting Feed Grains Coordinator

USDA Economic Research Service

NASS Data Users' Meeting
4/29/2025

ERS anticipates trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and conducts high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making.

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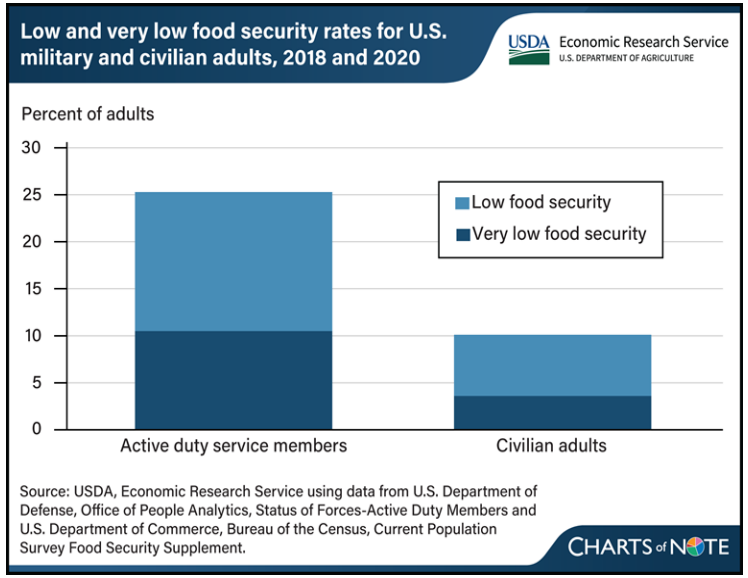
As one of 13 principal federal statistical agencies, ERS is responsible for ensuring the **quality, objectivity, and transparency** of the statistical information we provide.

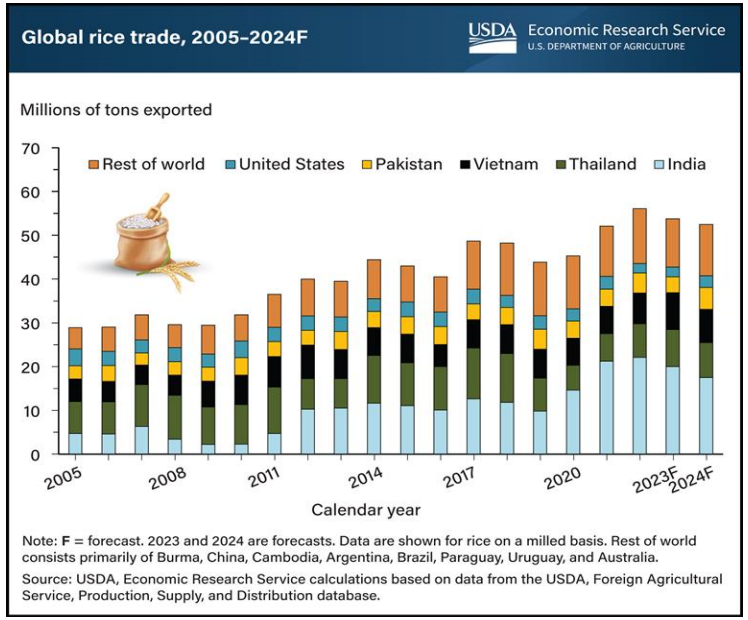
Our Products

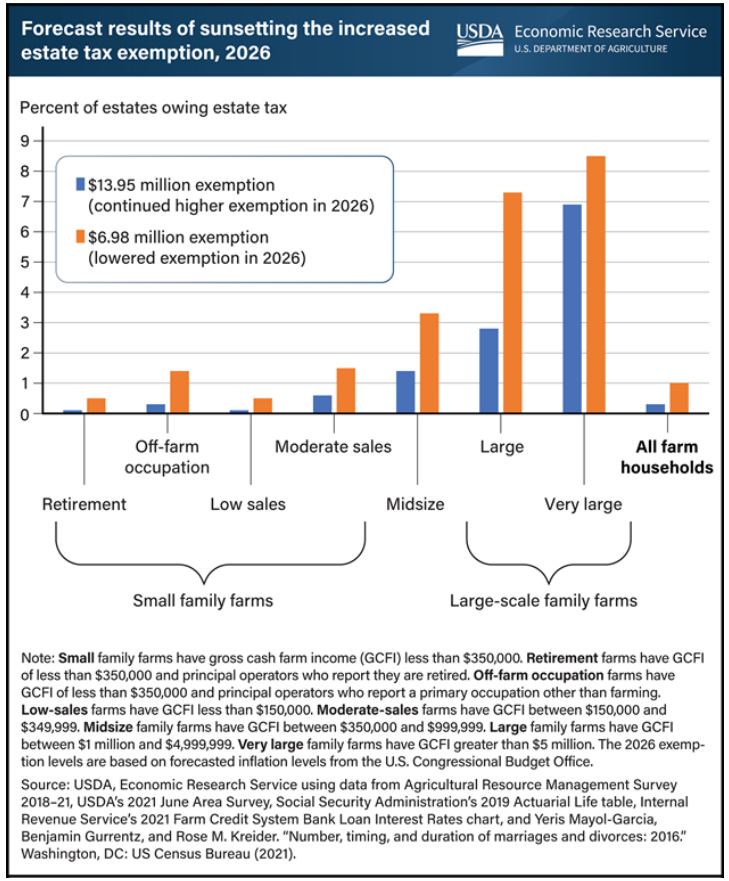
- In Fiscal Year 2024 ERS released:
  - **400 publications** including research reports, Outlook reports, Amber Waves articles, Charts of Note and more
  - Many **data products** and **visualizations**, many monthly or quarterly updated
  - **104 journal articles** in peer reviewed publications
  - **8 webinars** on recent ERS research

Issues at the Forefront

- Animal Disease
- Trade Policy
- Food Prices and Inflation
- Rural Prosperity
- Transportation Challenges
- Farm Labor
- U.S. Farm Bill
- Crop Disease
- Farm Input Prices
- And Much More…



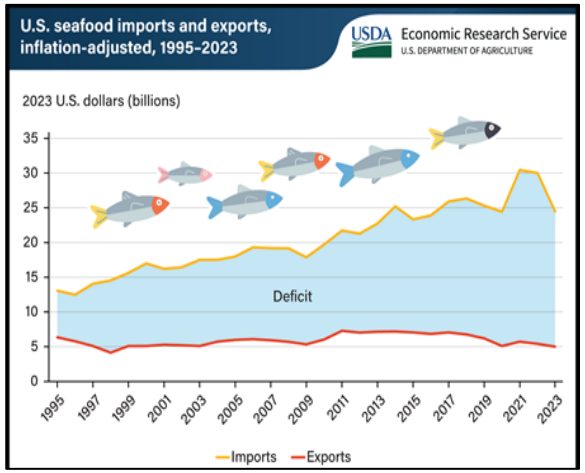


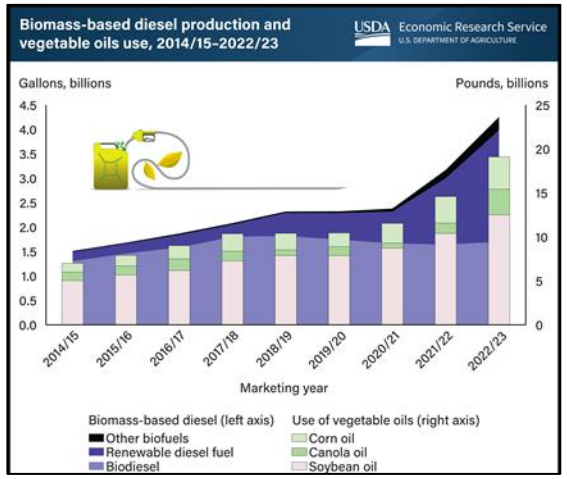


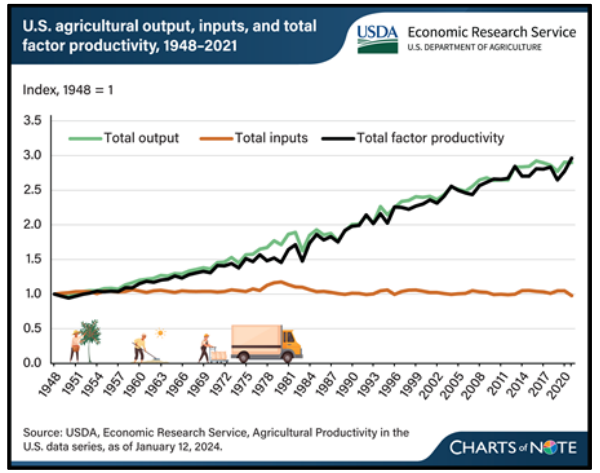
Major Data Suites and Products

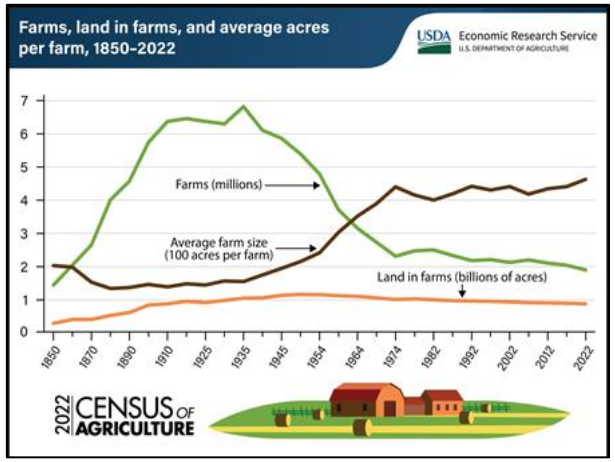
- Animal Products
- Crops
- Farm Bill
- Farm Economy
- Farm Practices & Management
- Food Choices & Health
- Food Markets & Prices
- Food Safety
- International Markets
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Rural Economy & Population
- U.S. Agricultural Trade

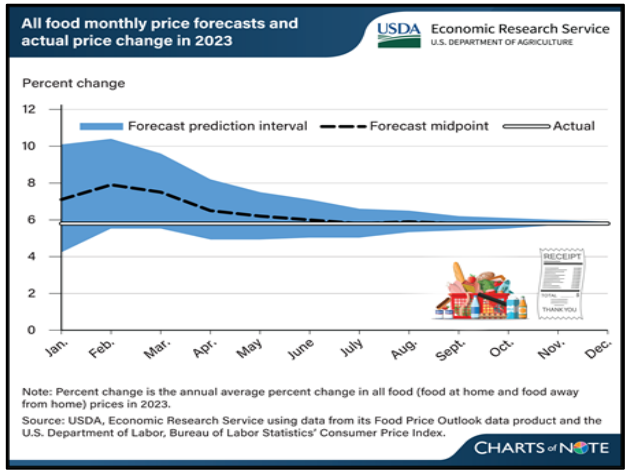
Charts of Note

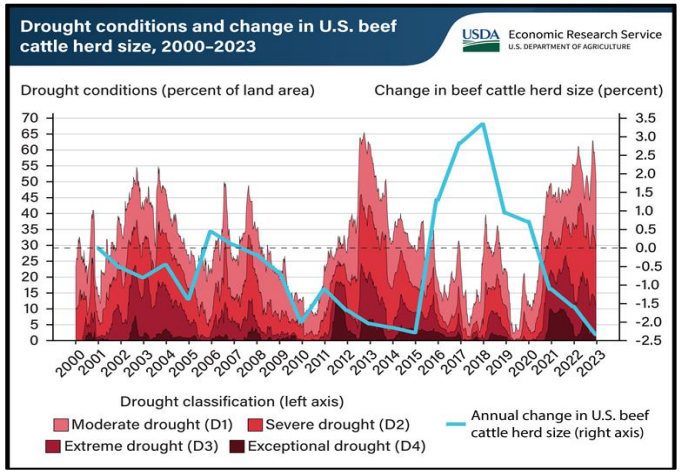




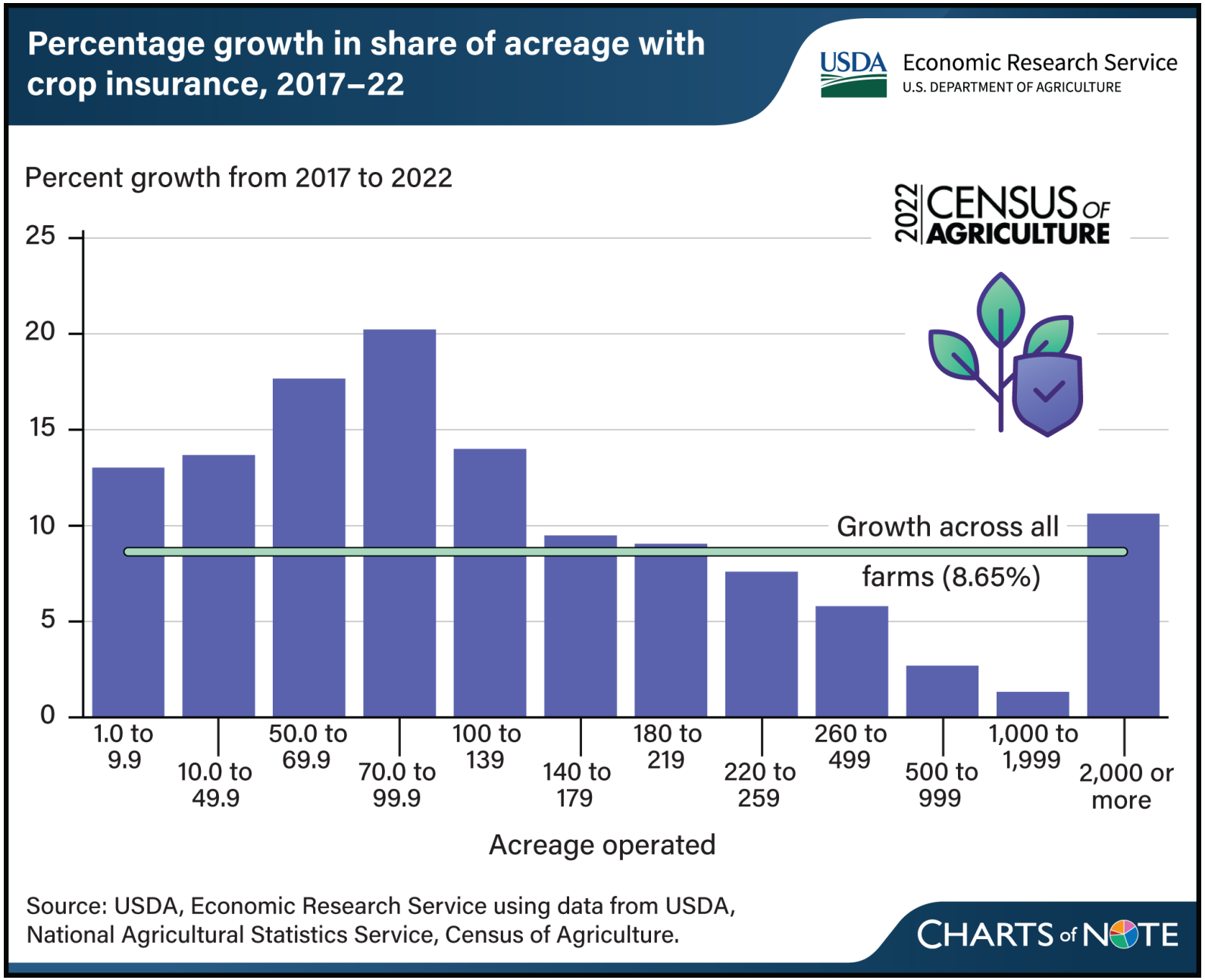






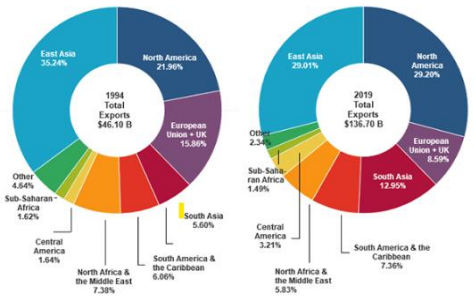


2022 Census of Agriculture Charts of Note

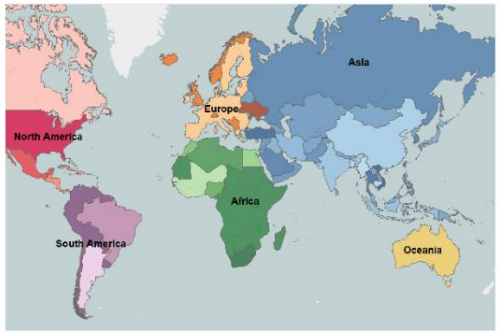


ERS Data Visualizations

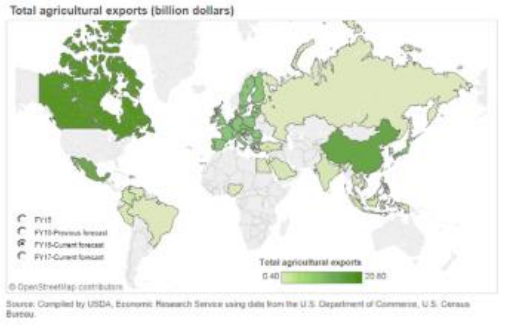
A collection of 60+ interactive data charts!



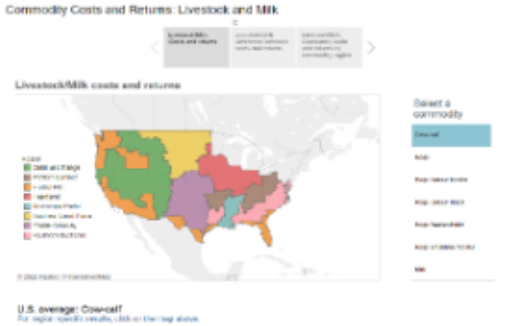
Shares of different regions in U.S. agricultural exports



International Baseline Projections



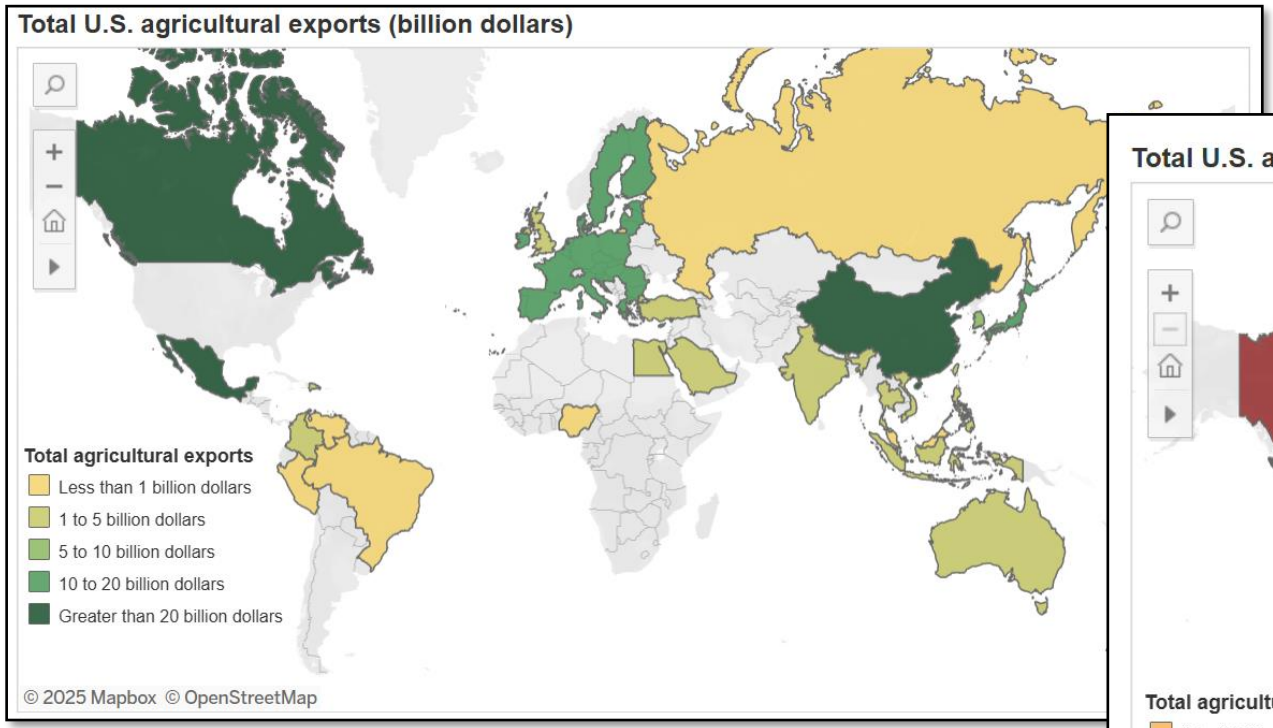
Total U.S. agricultural exports and imports

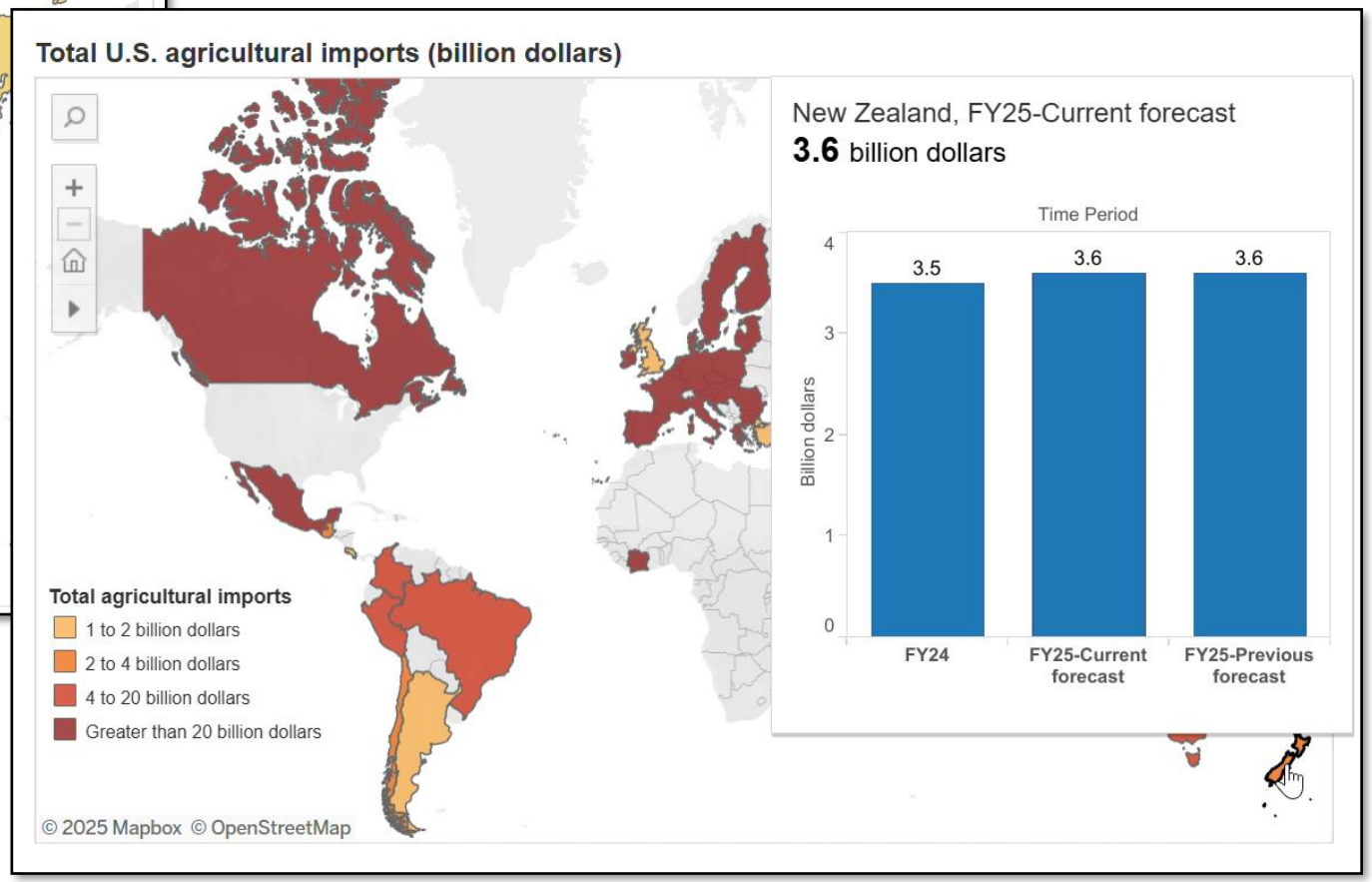


Commodity Costs and Returns: Livestock and Milk

www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/data-visualizations/

Total U.S. Agricultural Exports & Imports





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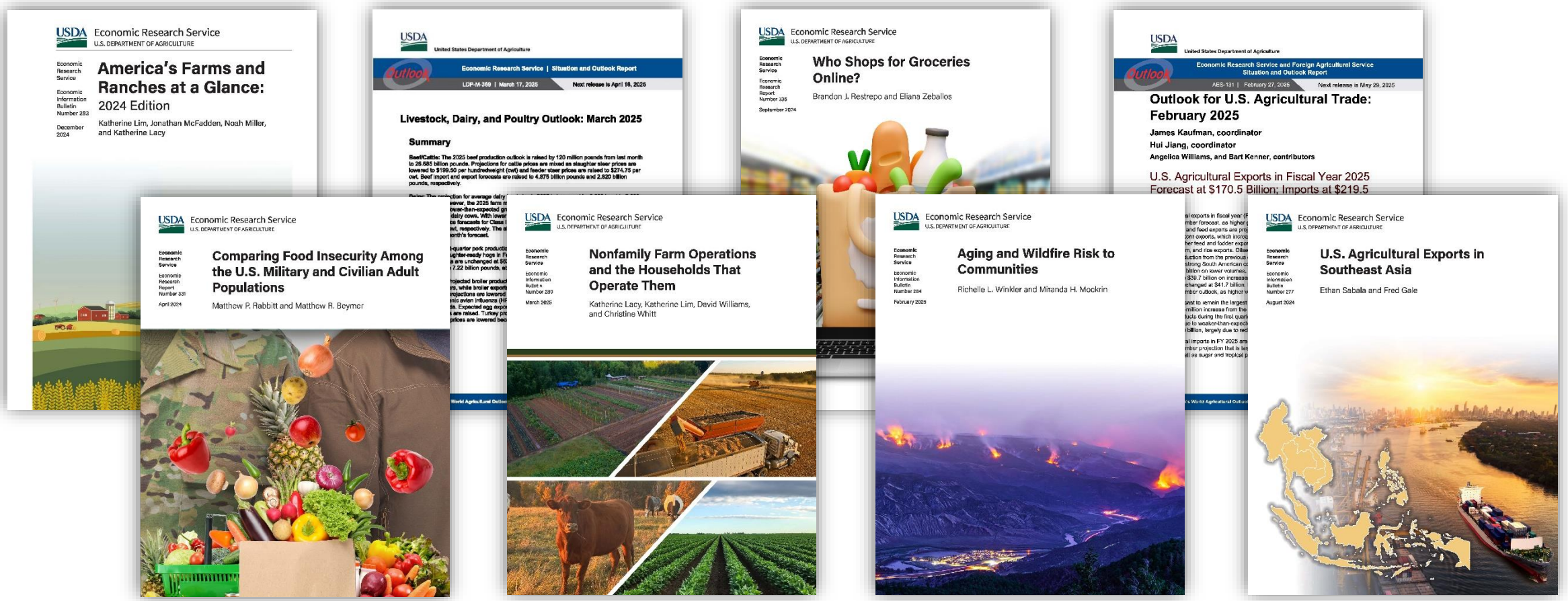
ERS Research Reports



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Farm Service Agency

Tim Gravlin
Data & Analytics Officer

Agricultural Marketing Service

Jason Karwal
Director
Specialty Crops Market News

United States Census Bureau

Joseph DeCampo
Section Chief
International Trade Indicator Micro Analysis Branch

Open Forum

Foreign Agricultural Service, World Agricultural Outlook Board,
National Agricultural Statistics Service, Economic Research Service,
Farm Service Agency, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Census Bureau,
Risk Management Agency, and Energy Information Administration

2025
USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

April 29, 2025

10-minute Break