

FALL 2024  
**USDA**  
**DATA USERS'**  
VIRTUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 15 - 16  
12 p.m. ET on Zoom



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



USDA Fall Data Users' Meeting  
October 15-16, 2024  
Live Webinar – *All times are Eastern*

## AGENDA

### Day 1 – October 15

12:00pm	<b>Welcome and Overview</b> Lance Honig, National Agricultural Statistics Service
12:10pm	<b>Agency Updates</b> <b>Foreign Agricultural Service - Patrick Packnett</b> ..... 1 <b>World Agricultural Outlook Board - Mark Jekanowski</b> .....8 <b>National Agricultural Statistics Service - Troy Joshua</b> ..... 11 <b>Economic Research Service - Kelly Maguire</b> ..... 13 <b>Farm Service Agency - Tim Gravlin</b> ..... 21 <b>Agricultural Marketing Service - Jason Karwal</b> ..... 32 <b>U.S. Census Bureau - Joseph DeCampo</b> ..... 40
12:50pm	<b>Break</b>
1:00pm	<b>Breakout Session 1</b>
1:55pm	<b>Break</b>
2:05pm	<b>Breakout Session 2</b>
3:00pm	<b>End</b>

## Day 2 – October 16

12:00pm	<b>Open Forum</b> - Questions and comments from participants
1:20pm	<b>Break</b>
1:30pm	<b>Breakout Session 3</b>
2:25pm	<b>End</b>

*We are pleased to have representatives from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Energy Information Administration (EIA) available for questions during the Open Forum.*

### Session Links

All Sessions can be accessed using the link provided after registration.

Register: [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_EDgYQfVySXKW5LiL4xooDw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_EDgYQfVySXKW5LiL4xooDw)

# Breakout Session Descriptions

## October 15, 2024

### **Breakout Session 1 – 1:00 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. ET**

#### ***2022 Census of Agriculture Results – National Agricultural Statistics Service***

This session will highlight the data products that have been made available since the release of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, where you can access those products and provide a demonstration of how to access the data through QuickStats.

### **Breakout Session 2 – 2:05 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET**

#### ***LMR Live Cattle Data Dashboard – Agricultural Marketing Service***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has released the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Live Cattle Data Dashboard tool. This new tool provides users the ability to view and access LMR live cattle market information in a manner that is easy to use and understand.

## October 16, 2024

### **Breakout Session 3 – 1:30 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. ET**

#### ***ERS' Cotton, Wool, and Textile Data: An Overview – Economic Research Service***

The Economic Research Service's Cotton, Wool, and Textile data products provide comprehensive fiber-related data to support commodity market analysis and research. These data include fiber supply, demand, and price statistics as well as ERS calculations of the raw-fiber equivalent volume of U.S. textile and apparel product trade. Data are available on a monthly and/or annual basis depending upon the dataset.

**Update on Information and Data Products Available from  
USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service  
October 2024**

**Export Sales Reporting**

Authorized under Section 602 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, the Export Sales Reporting (ESR) Program requires exporters of reportable U.S. commodities to report each week all their export sales, regardless of the quantity, to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). There are 40 commodities currently covered under the program to include wheat, wheat products, barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rye, soybeans, soybean cake and meal, soybean oil, flaxseed, linseed oil, cotton, sunflower seed oil, cottonseed, cottonseed cake and meal, cottonseed oil, rice, cattle hides and skins, wet blues, beef, and pork. Users can access the ESR System at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>. In addition to being available online through the ESR webpage and the ESR Query System, weekly and daily reports are available through e-mail via GovDelivery to all users who sign up. To receive ESR daily reports via e-mail, register at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>

FAS continues its work on the upgrade to the Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS) which is expected to be launched late in 2025.

For additional information, contact the Export Sales Reporting team at [esr@usda.gov](mailto:esr@usda.gov).

**Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN)**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides timely reports on foreign markets through the Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN). The reports contain intelligence and analysis on agriculture markets, production, foreign government policies, and trade. As of September 26, 1,132 GAIN reports have been published in 2024. In 2023, 93 FAS offices published 2,091 GAIN reports, covering 124 markets. Reports published in 2022 were downloaded approximately 1.25 million times in 2023.

The topics covered by GAIN reports and their format evolve over time. Reporting requirements are reviewed annually to ensure that reporting aligns with developments in global agricultural production and trade. The most significant recent changes were to the format and reporting dates for the Exporter Guide, Food Processing Ingredient, Retail Food, and Hotel Restaurant Institutional (HRI) reports.

The GAIN database contains reports dating back to 1996 from 98 offices covering 177 markets. Users can access these from the GAIN homepage: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>

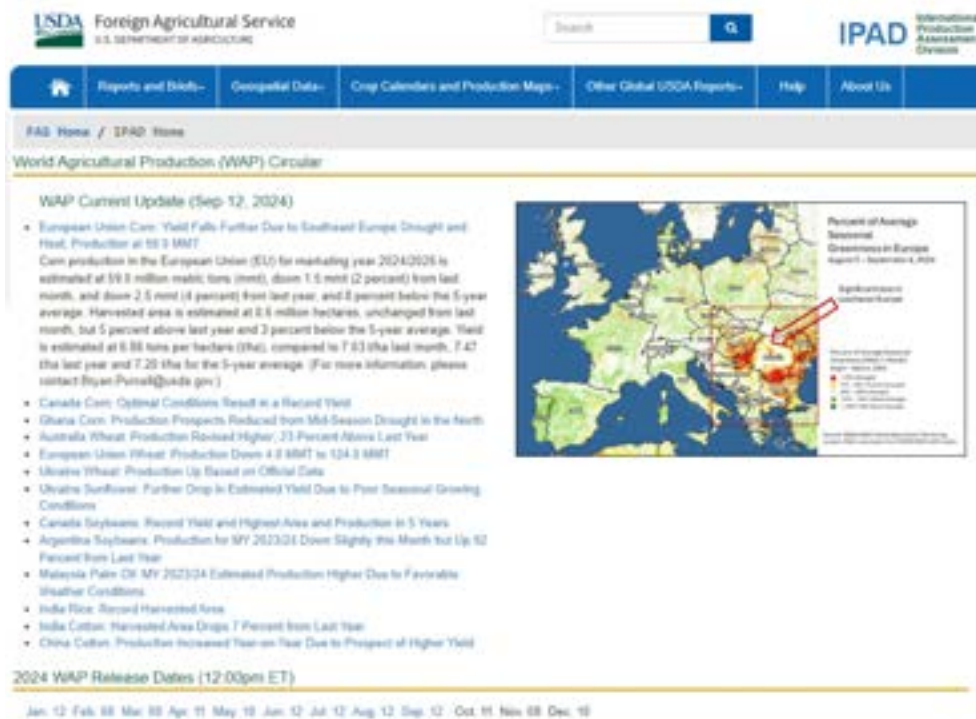
For questions about the GAIN search engine, please contact [1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov](mailto:1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov).

To receive GAIN reports via email, register at:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>.

## Production Estimates

FAS maintains a website that is a dynamic global crop production portal with key information including World Agricultural Production (WAP) briefs, Commodity Intelligence Reports (CIR), and Drought and Flood Monitoring highlights (Figure 1, <https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

**Figure 1. FAS home page for global crop production (September 2024)**



The FAS website for global crop production also hosts an application called Crop Explorer that displays global precipitation, average temperature, maximum/minimum temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, snow cover, and NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) vegetation conditions during the growing season. Crop Explorer also monitors SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) Drought Severity in five-day time steps to quickly identify dry spells and the severity of droughts that may reduce crop yields during the growing season.

The Crop Explorer website was upgraded to monitor the latest crop conditions and seasonal rainfall received for specific crops grown within primary production states. The upgraded Crop Explorer monitors twelve specific crops with related web apps called Corn Explorer, Soybean Explorer, Wheat Explorer, Cotton Explorer, etc. In addition, Crop Explorer displays Country Summary Pages for more than 400 country/commodity pairs which includes crop production maps, seasonal crop calendars, forecast trend yield charts, and Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) summary statistics for the past 10 years (Figure 2, U.S. Corn Summary Page, <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/countrysummary/Default.aspx?id=US&crop=Corn>).

**Figure 2. U.S. Corn Country Summary Page with Record Corn Yield Forecast (September, 2024)**



For more information, please contact Curt Reynolds at [curt.reynolds@usda.gov](mailto:curt.reynolds@usda.gov).

## Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS)

GADAS is a powerful web-based, geospatial application that empowers users to assess crop conditions in near real-time. Users can review detailed data – such as precipitation, temperature, vegetation index anomalies, soil moisture, and more – with spatially disaggregated agricultural data to assess crop conditions and perform agricultural area impact analysis. GADAS has more than 1,000 data layers that can be interactively visualized or downloaded as charts or maps. GADAS can be accessed directly at (<https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html>) or through (<https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

GADAS is also designed to provide hourly updates of natural disasters (cyclone tracking, drought evolution, flooding impacts) as well as tools for rapid pre- and post-disaster agricultural assessments. The data sets can be viewed together with user uploaded data and geo-processing tools to enhance analysis, label the maps, and collaborate with colleagues. These datasets in GADAS make analysis easier because the work associated with obtaining the data, managing the geospatial products, and sharing them are all contained in a single environment. GADAS is a ready-to-use application for international analysis that improves collaboration between teams in FAS working around the world.

For questions, please contact Lisa Colson at [lisa.colson@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.colson@usda.gov).

**Figure 3. GADAS home page**



### **Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) Online**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) PSD Online provides reports and the option for custom queries for data on production, supply, and distribution of those agricultural commodities and commodity aggregates published in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate (WASDE) Report, and for the United States and key producing and consuming countries and aggregated regions, going back to 1960.

The international portion of the data is updated with input from agricultural attachés stationed at U.S. embassies around the world, FAS commodity analysts, and country and commodity analysts with the Economic Research Service (ERS). The U.S. domestic component is updated with input from analysts in FAS, ERS, the National Agricultural Statistical Service, and the Farm Service Agency. Interagency work on the database is carried out under the aegis of the World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB).

The official USDA supply and distribution data is published monthly in: WAOB, WASDE; in the foreign agricultural commodity circular series issued by FAS; and in the regional situation and outlook reports and monthly commodity newsletters of ERS.

Users can access PSD online at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/home>.

For questions, please contact us at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/contact>.

### **Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS)**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) includes U.S. agricultural, fishery, and forestry trade statistics dating back to 1967, through the inception of the harmonized coding system in 1989 to present. U.S. trade data are updated monthly according to the U.S. Census Bureau's reporting system. Users can access the GATS homepage at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>.



For questions, please contact Jason Carver (Jason.Carver@usda.gov) or Alex Beckman (Alexander.Beckman@usda.gov).

### **FAS Data Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) data API portal provides users the ability to obtain programmatic access to publicly available agricultural commodity data from the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), Production, Supply & Distribution (PSD), and Export Sales Report (ESR) databases.

The FAS Open Data Services can be found at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/opendataweb/home>.

For technical questions, please contact the FAS Web Admin Team at [FASWebAdminTeam@usda.gov](mailto:FASWebAdminTeam@usda.gov).

### **FAS – U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook**

The 2023 Agricultural Export Yearbook was published on the FAS website in May 2024. The yearbook provides a statistical summary of U.S. agricultural commodity exports to the world and the United States' primary trading partners. The 2023 Yearbook can be found at <https://fas.usda.gov/data/2023-us-agricultural-export-yearbook>.

All U.S. export data found within the Yearbook are collected and published by the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Foreign country export data are sourced from the reporting countries' national statistical agencies as reported through Trade Data Monitor (TDM). The 2023 U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook consists of two sections: 1) commodity exports, and 2) country of destination exports. The Yearbook utilizes FAS product groups as defined in the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) at the ten-digit level and aggregated into classifications that include the primary commodity and its derivatives. FAS has titled these product groups as "BICO (HS-10)". BICO is an FAS designation that stands for Bulk, Intermediate & Consumer Oriented goods.

The 13 Yearbook product groups or commodity aggregations are based on the United States' largest export categories. The country Yearbook pages include the United States' top sixteen export destinations. Each commodity and country page includes a list of drivers that influenced exports, market conditions affecting supply and demand, and policy and market access issues that impact the United States' ability to export.

### **Agricultural Tariff Tracker**

To help exporters obtain information about tariff reductions resulting from free trade agreements (FTAs), FAS launched the Agricultural Tariff Tracker in 2013. The Ag Tariff Tracker has tariff, tariff rate quota (TRQ), and safeguard information for the United States' existing free trade agreements with 11 FTA partners. The last update was in 2019, when the terms of the U.S.– Japan Trade agreement were added to the Ag Tariff Tracker.

This tool is available at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/agtariifftracker/Home/Search> on the Trade Policy/Trade Agreements topic page of the FAS website: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-agreements>.

For questions, please contact Jason Carver ([Jason.Carver@usda.gov](mailto:Jason.Carver@usda.gov)).

### International Agricultural Trade Reports (IATR) and Trade Spotlights

FAS produces periodic reports on international agricultural trade and interactive visuals. International Agricultural Trade Reports (IATR) provide in-depth analyses on agricultural markets, trade trends, and policy developments. They help U.S. industry stakeholders and policymakers develop strategies and make inform decisions. Topics range from identifying market opportunities for U.S. agricultural products to spotlighting commodities, such as chickpeas, renewable diesel, and table grapes.

**Figure 4. IATR on Growth Potential for U.S. Agricultural Products in Senegal**



Trade Spotlights are easy-to-digest, interactive visuals created using Tableau. They highlight economic analyses and research on U.S. agricultural exports and global trade. Released monthly, the visuals focus on specific commodities and markets. Past trade spotlights have featured a wide range of topics, including Indian corn, U.S. tree nuts, U.S. wheat prices, U.S. state agricultural production and exports, and U.S. chocolate and confectionary exports.

**Figure 5. July Trade Spotlight on U.S. Tree Nuts to the World**



For questions, please contact Saquib Ahsan ([Saquib.Ahsan@usda.gov](mailto:Saquib.Ahsan@usda.gov))



Office of the Chief Economist

U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

## World Agricultural Outlook Board

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Questions about World Agricultural Outlook Board programs may be directed to Mark Jekanowski Chairman, WAOB, Mail Stop 3812, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3812; [Mark.Jekanowski@usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Jekanowski@usda.gov)

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The World Agricultural Outlook Board's (WAOB) primary mission is to provide reliable and objective economic forecasts for farmers and other participants in the food and fiber system. Functions include coordinating USDA forecasts of domestic and international agriculture; providing economic analysis related to global commodity markets; monitoring markets and agricultural weather; and disseminating relevant commodity market information.

**Mark Jekanowski, WAOB Chairman,** oversees the creation of the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report and chairs the Program Committee for USDA's annual Agricultural Outlook Forum. Former positions include Deputy Director for the commodity outlook program at USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), Chief of the Crops Branch at ERS, and Senior Vice President at Informa Economics.

WAOB senior economists chair the Department's Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs) and clear all USDA commodity outlook reports to ensure consistency with official USDA estimates. The ICECs develop supply and demand estimates for the United States over 100 individual countries. Four USDA agencies are represented on the committees: Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Farm Service Agency, and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

**Report Usage:** Each year, WAOB issues 12 monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* reports; and publishes 52 weekly *Weather and Crop Bulletin* reports. On average, the WASDE is accessed by over 100,000 users worldwide each month. It is one of USDA's Principal Federal Economic Indicators and directly impacts commodity markets. The WASDE report is available at: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde>

**USDA Baseline:** WAOB oversees the annual publication of the inter-agency *USDA Agricultural Long-term Projections*. The *Long-term Projections* report provides a conditional long run scenario about what would be expected to happen to the global agricultural economy under a continuation of current farm legislation and other specific assumptions. These reports are an important source of strategic planning information used in formulating the President's budget and for decision-making by agricultural producers, agribusiness leaders, and policy officials. The latest edition of the report and data tables (Projections to 2033) can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity-markets/baseline>.

**Agricultural Weather Monitoring and Assessments:** WAOB meteorologists publish the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin (WWCB)*, which provides the public with weekly assessments of global agricultural weather. Data and products are supplied to the *WWCB* by NASS and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, through a formal agreement establishing the Joint

Agricultural Weather Facility. The *WWCB* averaged over 10,000 downloads per week in FY24 from the USDA site, and additional downloads from the Cornell site. On a rotating basis, WAOB meteorologists prepare the weekly *U.S. Drought Monitor* and the monthly *North American Drought Monitor*. WAOB continues to engage our international counterparts and lends support to activities led by the World Meteorological Organization and Global Water Partnership. WAOB weather products can be found at: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/weather-drought-monitor>

WAOB's staff of meteorologists also routinely meet with foreign delegations and domestic groups regarding the process of using weather and climate products to produce agricultural weather assessments and yield forecasts. As recognized experts within the Department, they are often asked to brief Capitol Hill staff, review legislation, contribute expertise to various USDA publications, and frequently provide updates of crop weather to USDA Radio and various local and national radio and television broadcasts.

**Mark Brusberg, Chief Meteorologist**, chairs USDA's Combined Drought and Water Management Team, a venue for agencies within the Department to share information and coordinate responses on projects and programs involving drought and water resources. He is USDA's main point of contact for, drought-related activities involving the Department and other Federal Partners, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Brusberg serves on the Executive Council of the NOAA-led National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and leads several projects related to the work done by NIDIS and other drought-oriented groups on behalf of the Department.

**Agricultural Outlook Forum:** USDA's 101st annual Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF), will be held February 27-28, 2025, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. The event will be held in person, with all sessions also live-streamed free-of-charge for those who prefer to attend virtually.

The AOF is USDA's largest and premier annual gathering. The breadth and timeliness of the AOF sessions have consistently drawn a large and diverse group of participants to learn about and discuss current and emerging issues, including producers, processors, policymakers, government officials, and non-governmental organizations. It routinely attracts over 1,500 attendees in person, along with 4,000-5,000 virtual attendees from the U.S. and around the world.

During the Forum, USDA's Chief Economist unveils the Department's initial forecasts for the U.S. agricultural economy, commodity markets, and foreign trade for the new marketing year. The 2025 Forum is set to feature remarks from senior officials from the Department, along with 30 breakout sessions featuring more than 120 prominent experts that will cover a wide range of food and agriculture-related topics.

Registration for the Forum will open at the end of October. For more information about the Forum and to view past programs visit the Forum web page: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum>

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INTERAGENCY COMMODITY ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

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Note: The World Agricultural Outlook Board reviews and approves the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. The Board's analysts chair the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs) that prepare the monthly report.

**Wheat:** Mark Simone, ICEC Chair, WAOB, mark.simone@usda.gov  
Andrew Sowell, ERS; Rachel Trego, FAS; Carlann Unger, FPAC

**Rice:** Mark Simone, ICEC Chair, WAOB, mark.simone@usda.gov  
Nathan Childs, ERS; Rachel Trego, FAS; Omni Bein, FPAC.

**Feed Grains:** Michael Jewison, ICEC Chair, WAOB, michael.jewison2@usda.gov  
Aaron Ates, ERS; Kevin Min, FAS; Jacob Vuillemin, FPAC.

**Oilseeds:** Joanna Hitchner, ICEC Chair, WAOB, joanna.hitchner@usda.gov Maria  
Bukowski, ERS; Agata Kingsbury, FAS; Gustavo Ferreira, FPAC.

**Cotton:** Kent Lanclos, ICEC Chair, WAOB, kent.lanclos@usda.gov  
Leslie Meyer, ERS; Graham Soley, FAS; Omni Bein, FPAC.

**Sugar:** Stephen Haley, ICEC Chair, WAOB, stephen.haley2@usda.gov  
Vida Abadam, ERS; Souleymane Diaby, FAS.

**Meat Animals:** Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov  
Mildred Haley, ERS; Mason Grahame, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

**Poultry:** Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov  
Grace Grossen, ERS; Claire Mezoughem, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

**Dairy:** Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov  
Jessica Richard, AMS; Adriana Valcu-Lisman, ERS; Jeffery Dwyer, FAS; Georgi  
Gabrielyan, FPAC.

**Upcoming 2024 WASDE release dates: Nov. 8, and Dec. 10.**

**The 2025 WASDE release dates are: Jan. 10, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 10, May 12,  
Jun. 12, Jul. 11, Aug. 12, Sep. 12, Oct. 9, Nov. 10, Dec. 9.**

# National Agricultural Statistics Service Statistics Division

## What's New and What's Changing?

### NASS Mission Statement:

*To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture*

#### **Environmental, Economics and Demographics**

On May 10, 2024, Field Crop Chemical Usage data was 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 17, 2024, Fruit Chemical Usage data was released. This report is released every other year.

The Cash Rents county level data was released on August 23, 2024. NASS was directed through the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008" and amended by the "Agricultural Act of 2014" to collect cash rents data for use by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in program administration.

#### **Census of Agriculture Program**

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 have and will be released in 2024.

On July 18, 2024, the Puerto Rico Census of Agricultural was released. In Puerto Rico, the 2022 Census of Agriculture was taken in accordance with a Cooperative Agreement signed by NASS, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, and the University of Puerto Rico Extension Service. It is the Island's 19th census of agriculture, with the first being taken in 1910.

The Irrigation and Water Management Survey (IWMS) will be released on October 31, 2024. The IWMS is an integral part of the Census of Agriculture and is conducted every five years under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-113) where participation is mandatory. The primary purpose of the IWMS is to provide a wide range of irrigation-related data covering water usage, irrigation practices, irrigation by type, irrigation by crop, expenses, sources of information, purchase of energy for pumping water by power source, and use of recycled or reclaimed water. Data collection began in February 2024. The IWMS data series goes back to 1979. It was last released in November 2018.

The Census of Aquaculture is also conducted under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 and participation is mandatory. The primary purpose of the Census of Aquaculture is to provide inventory, production, value of sales and sales outlets, and distribution of fish not sold. The Census of Aquaculture will provide comprehensive data at the State and National level for aquaculture products such as shellfish, egg production, food or sport fish, baitfish, ornamentals, crustaceans, mollusks, catfish, crawfish, koi, minnows, oysters, perch, soft-shell crabs, trout, and turtles. Data collection began in December 2023 and the release is scheduled for December 16, 2024.

## **Crops**

For many years, NASS has been reviewing and updating planted acreage during the forecast season for various crops based on all available data, including survey data, satellite-based data, and the latest information from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA). Adjustments to the timing of these updates have been made in recent years to provide more timely results, as changes in the data have allowed. In 2024, NASS enhanced the schedule, primarily due to the earlier reporting and processing by FSA. Following is the schedule used in 2024 and expected to be used in 2025 and subsequent years.

- In August, NASS reviewed planted and harvested acreage estimates for barley, corn, cotton, dry edible beans, oats, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugarbeets, and wheat (winter, other spring, and Durum) using all available data, including the latest certified acreage from the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- In September, NASS reviewed planted and harvested acreage estimates for chickpeas, corn, cotton, dry edible peas, lentils, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, and Sugarbeets.
- In October, NASS reviewed planted and harvested acreage estimates for canola, dry edible beans, and sunflowers.

On September 16, 2024, NASS published the first ever set of special Census tabulations for Hemp. These tables include state-level Census statistics of producer and farm characteristics for farms with hemp production.

Beginning in the summer of 2024, Profile interviews are being conducted periodically with operations sampled in NASS's Off Farm Grain Stocks Survey (OFGS). These discussions serve as a supplement to existing OFGS questionnaires and procedures and are designed to:

- Serve as a teaching instrument to ensure respondents have a clear understanding of the survey scope and definitions, as well as a general understating of the importance of the quarterly Grain Stocks Survey.
- Ensure the Grain Storage facilities understand how to report data according to NASS specifications, in a consistent and timely manner.
- Document operating arrangements and preferred methods of reporting.



# Economic Research Service

The mission of USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making.



***Providing Research, Data & Expert Analysis to Support  
Evidence-Based Policymaking***



## Economic Research Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

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To ensure the quality of its research reports and satisfy governmentwide standards, ERS requires that all research reports with substantively new material be reviewed by qualified technical research peers. This technical peer review process, coordinated by ERS' Peer Review Coordinating Council, allows experts who possess the technical background, perspective, and expertise to provide an objective and meaningful assessment of the output's substantive content and clarity of communication during the publication's review.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# High-Quality, Objective Economic Research

ERS research programs provide timely, independent, and objective information about the U.S. agricultural economy, its resources, and its links to the general economy and food markets. Our research integrates market information and economic theory to inform decision makers in the Government, the U.S. Congress, agribusinesses, farm and industry groups, the media, and the general public.

Our research covers a range of economic and policy topics, including:

<b>Commodity Markets &amp; Outlook</b>	Timely, in-depth analyses and information important to understanding and anticipating developments in agricultural commodity markets. The Outlook program covers the major field crops (feedgrains, oilseeds, wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar), livestock and products, specialty crops (fruits, nuts, vegetables, and pulses), and agricultural trade.
<b>Farm &amp; Rural Economy</b>	Farm sector performance and farm households' well-being; farm size and concentration; investments in rural communities and drivers of rural economic performance; and demographic change and its impact on rural communities.
<b>Global Markets &amp; Trade</b>	Major markets and competitors; economic impacts of existing and potential exports and imports, trade barriers, and existing/potential trade agreements.
<b>Resources &amp; Environment</b>	Economic impacts of conservation programs, efficacy of policies designed to protect the environment, and the use of technology to enhance agricultural
<b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>	Economic research and analysis on policy-relevant issues related to the food sector (food safety, food prices, and markets); consumer behavior related to food choices (food consumption, diet quality, and nutrition); and food and nutrition assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, National School Lunch Program).

# Timely Data on the Agricultural Economy and Commodity Markets

ERS creates more than **65 data products** covering the agricultural economy, commodities, and food markets. Collectively, ERS data products were accessed **4 million times** in fiscal year 2024.

Our work on data products includes transforming raw survey data to make the information accessible to users, as well as developing new datasets based on economic models or through the compilation of data from diverse sources.

ERS releases four types of data products:

- **Survey Data** such as the Agricultural Resource Management Survey, which is a primary source of information on the financial conditions, production practices, and resource use of U.S. farm businesses.
- **Model-Based Results**, including estimates from our economic models, such as the Food Dollar series, which measures annual expenditures by U.S. consumers on domestically produced food; and the Agricultural Trade Multipliers, which estimate the amount of economic activity and jobs generated by agricultural exports.
- **Economic Indicators and Summary Statistics** compiled from an array of official sources. Examples include Farm Income estimates, Cost of Production estimates, and detailed data on commodity supply/use and U.S. agricultural trade.
- **Charts and Visualizations**, including Charts of Note released daily, Tableau visualizations, and an extensive inventory of chart galleries that display key trends and relationships across market variables.

# Modernization of Data Delivery

To expand the reach of our data products, ERS is continuously innovating to develop data dissemination tools and channels that meet the changing needs and expectations of our users. Ongoing efforts include:

1

**Developing Structured and Automated Databases** to facilitate open and centralized access to a broad range of data.

2

**Expanding Use of Application Programming Interfaces** to allow users and developers to design new ways to access and present data.

3

**Developing a New Data Dissemination Web Platform** that will serve as a one-stop shop for our most used data, including commodity market data.

4

**Leveraging Tableau and Other Visualization Software** to present data in a modern, user-friendly format.

## Food Price Environment: Interactive Visualization



# Recent Publications by the Economic Research Service

ERS releases periodic outlook reports covering developments in commodity markets, including seven monthly releases on field crops and livestock/dairy/poultry, two biannual reports covering specialty crops, and quarterly U.S. Agricultural Trade Outlook reports.

Other ERS outlooks, economic research reports and economic informational bulletins include:



## Farmland Rental and Conservation Practice Adoption

The renting of farmland potentially affects access to agricultural production opportunities, land transfer across generations, and the maintenance of soil and water quality. Tenant farmers may operate farms differently than owner-operators, as a land lease may be modified, terminated, or not renewed before the benefits or consequences of a tenant's management choices are realized. This report explores patterns across cropland owner-operators and cropland renters in the adoption of conservation tillage, cover cropping, and six permanent structural practices.



## Comparing Food Insecurity Among the U.S. Military and Civilian Adult Populations

Previous studies among civilians demonstrate that food security is associated with cognitive function and body mass index. Therefore, food security is vital to maintaining military readiness. This report compares food insecurity among the U.S. active duty military and civilian adult populations using data from the 2018 and 2020 Status of Forces Survey of Active Duty Members and the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.



## Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Development in Rural Areas: Land Cover Change (2009–20)

Federal policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, including the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, are projected to lead to growth in renewable energy capacity. Although the amount of land directly affected by a solar or wind farm is small (relative to the amount of farmland), large-scale, commercial solar and wind development leads to changes in the rural landscape. This report examines land cover and land cover change associated with utility-scale solar and wind development in rural areas over the period 2009–20.



### Who Shops for Groceries Online?

A notable shift toward online grocery shopping is occurring. To examine the prevalence and frequency of online grocery shopping, the methods of receiving groceries purchased online, and the primary motivators prompting U.S. consumers to buy groceries online, this report uses nationally representative data from the USDA, Economic Research Service's 2022 Eating and Health Module of the American Time Use Survey



### Household Food Insecurity Across Race and Ethnicity in the United States, 2016–21

Some U.S. households experience food insecurity at times during the year, meaning the households' ability to acquire adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources. USDA monitors the extent and severity of food insecurity in U.S. households. This report is an extension of information provided annually by ERS on food insecurity across four racial and ethnic groups: White, non-Hispanic; Black, non-Hispanic; Hispanic; and other, non-Hispanic.



### Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade: August 2024

This report presents and discusses USDA's August 2024 quarterly USDA forecasts for agricultural trade in the United States for fiscal year 2024.



### Major Uses of Land in the United States, 2017

The U.S. has a total land area of 2.26 billion acres. In 2017, the major uses of land were grassland pasture and rangeland at 659 million acres (29% of U.S. total), forest-use land at 622 million acres (28%), cropland at 390 million acres (17%), special uses (primarily parks and wildlife areas) at 318 million acres (14%), miscellaneous other uses (such as wetlands, tundra, and unproductive woodlands) at 197 million acres (9%), and urban land at 74 million acres (3%). This study presents an update of the Major Land Uses series by estimating land-use under different categories spanning from 1945 to 2017 for individual states and the U.S.

# Examples of Data Products by the Economic Research Service

## Primary–Survey Data

- ARMS Farm Financial and Crop Production Practices, which are developed jointly with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

## Model Results Estimates

- Food Dollar
- Agricultural Trade Multipliers
- International Baseline Data
- Season-Average Price Forecasts

## Summary Statistics

- Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.
- U.S. Bioenergy Statistics
- Feed Grains Database
- Livestock & Meat Domestic Data

## Charts and Visualizations

- Charts of Note
- Cross-Commodity Visualization





# What's New at FSA

May 2024 – October 2024

## USDA and FarmRaise Launch Additional Online Disaster Assistance Decision Tool for Livestock, Honey Bee and Farm-Raised Fish Producers

*Partnership further expands online library of disaster assistance and farm loan program reference resources and decision aids*

WASHINGTON, May 28, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in partnership with FarmRaise, today launched a new, online Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) Decision Tool. The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) tool is designed to assist agricultural producers who have been impacted by natural disasters access available program support. This ELAP Decision Tool, a component of a broader disaster assistance program educational module, further expands the library of online FSA disaster and farm loan program reference resources and decision aids currently available to agricultural producers on the FarmRaise FSA educational hub. The Decision Tool is a resource only and is not an application for benefits or a determination of eligibility.

“The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program is our most flexible tool for dealing with natural disasters and other qualifying losses. As we continue to enhance this critical program, having the right tool to streamline application processes can expedite assistance,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “FarmRaise uses feedback from cooperators and producers to develop the tools they request to more easily navigate our programs, allowing them to maximize assistance available through FSA’s extensive program portfolio. This tool is the next iteration of this important work.”

ELAP is designed to address losses not covered by other FSA disaster assistance programs. The program provides recovery assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bee, and farm-raised fish losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including drought, blizzards, disease, water shortages and wildfires. ELAP covers grazing and feed losses, transportation of water and feed to livestock and hauling livestock to grazing acres due to an eligible loss condition. ELAP also covers certain mortality losses, due to an eligible condition,

for livestock including honey bees and farm-raised fish as well as honey bee hive losses.

# USDA Expands Funding Opportunities for Specialty Crop Growers to Help Offset On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for 2024 and 2025

**WASHINGTON, June 26, 2024**— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program to now include medium-sized businesses in addition to small businesses. Eligible specialty crop growers can apply for assistance for expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification. The program has also been expanded to include assistance for 2024 and 2025 expenses. Producers can apply for assistance on their calendar year 2024 expenses beginning July 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025. For program year 2025, the application period will be Jan. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2026.

“The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops program helps producers cover costs of on-farm food safety certification in order to meet regulatory requirements and access additional markets,” said Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “We recognize the value in supporting specialty crop producers incurring these expenses, so we’re not only continuing the program but also improving access by expanding program reach to include medium-sized operations.”

## Program Details

FSCSC assists specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety. FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation’s cost of obtaining or renewing its certification, as well as a portion of related expenses.

Eligible FSCSC applicants must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small or medium-size business and have paid eligible expenses related to certification.

- A small business has an average annual monetary value of specialty crops sold by the applicant during the three-year period preceding the program year of no more than \$500,000.
- A medium size business has an average annual monetary value of specialty crops the applicant sold during the three-year period preceding the program year of at least \$500,001 but no more than \$1,000,000.

Specialty crop operations can receive the following cost assistance:

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each eligible cost category. Details about payment rates and limitations are available at [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://farmers.gov/food-safety).

## Applying for Assistance

Interested applicants have until Jan. 31, 2025, to apply for assistance for 2024 eligible expenses. FSA will issue payments as applications are processed and approved. For program year 2025, the application period will be January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. FSA will issue 50% of the calculated payment for program year 2025 following application approval, with the remaining amount to be paid after the application deadline. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.

Specialty crop producers can apply by completing the FSA-888-1, *Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) for Program Years 2024 and 2025* application. The application, along with the [AD-2047](#), *Customer Data Worksheet* and [SF-3881](#), *ACH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form*, if not already on file with FSA, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Alternatively, producers with an eAuthentication account can apply for FSCSC [online](#). Producers interested in creating an eAuthentication account should visit [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in).

Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a FSA employee ready to assist. Visit [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://farmers.gov/food-safety) for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

# USDA to Begin Accepting Applications for Expanded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program to Help Dairy Producers Offset Milk Loss Due to H5N1

## *Confirmed H5N1 Positive Test Results Required for Recovery Assistance*

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin accepting applications starting on Monday, July 1 through its updated Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) to provide financial assistance to eligible dairy producers who incur milk losses due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, also known as H5N1 infection in their dairy herds. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) expanded ELAP through the rule-making process to assist with a portion of financial losses resulting from reduced milk production when cattle are removed from commercial milking in dairy herds having a confirmed positive H5N1 test. Positive test results must be confirmed through the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

“USDA remains committed to working with producers, state veterinarians, animal health professionals, and our federal partners as we continue to detect the presence of H5N1 in dairy herds and take additional measures to contain the spread of the disease,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “When something unexpected, like H5N1, threatens the economic viability of the producers we serve, we are committed to finding ways, where we have the authority to do so, to revisit existing program policies and provide the financial support needed to help producers recover and sustain production.”

ELAP provides emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to assist with losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as wildfires, that are not covered by other FSA disaster assistance programs.

H5N1 infections have been detected in 12 states including Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. Dairy producers in all states are reminded to stay vigilant and follow established APHIS biosecurity, detection and testing guidelines. In addition to testing, enhanced biosecurity is critical to containing this virus. USDA works closely with state animal health official, producers, and industry organizations to provide guidance and resources for cleaning and disinfection not only on affected farms but for all livestock producers as a part of practicing good biosecurity. APHIS has made available a number of biosecurity documents on its landing page.

## ELAP Eligibility

Eligible adult dairy cattle must be:

- Part of a herd that has a confirmed positive H5N1 test from NVSL;
- Initially removed from commercial milk production at some point during the 14-day time period before the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test date through 120 days after the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test;
- Milk-producing, currently lactating; and
- Maintained for commercial milk production, in which the producer has a financial risk, on the beginning date of the eligible loss condition.

## Applying for ELAP Assistance

To apply, producers need to submit the following to FSA:

- Proof of herd infection through a confirmed positive H5N1 test (based on USDA's APHIS H5N1 case definition) on individual animal or bulk tank samples confirmed by NVSL;
- A notice of loss indicating the date when the loss is apparent, which is the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test; and
- An application for payment certifying the number of eligible adult dairy cows, the month the cows were removed from production, and the producer's share in the milk production.

The final date to file a notice of loss and application for payment for eligible losses is 30 days after the end of the prior calendar year, which is January 30.

## Calculating ELAP Payments

The per cow milk loss payment due to H5N1 will be determined based on an expected 21-day period of no milk production when a cow is removed from the milking herd, followed by seven days when the cow has returned to milking but produces 50% of the normal amount of production.

ELAP payments are determined using a per head payment rate calculated based on the monthly all-milk price and national milk production published by the National Agricultural Statistics Service and a standard number of days with reduced or no production — (per head payment rate x number of eligible adult dairy cows x producer's share in milk production x 90%)

To apply, producers should contact the FSA at their local USDA Service Center.

### More Information

Details on the ELAP Final Rule to provide financial assistance for milk loss due H5N1 will publish in the Federal Register on Monday, July 1.

USDA continues to work with the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and State veterinary and public health officials to investigate H5N1 among cattle. APHIS continues to provide confirmatory testing for samples from livestock as well as guidance for producers, veterinarians, and state animal health officials. Learn more at APHIS' Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detections in Livestock webpage.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

# USDA Launches Assistance Network to Support Financially Distressed Farmers and Ranchers

**Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Sept. 21, 2024** — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing the launch of the Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network, an initiative designed to provide personalized support to financially distressed farmers and ranchers across the nation. Through a series of Cooperative Agreements, this national network will connect distressed borrowers with individualized assistance to help them stabilize and regain financial footing. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) made this announcement today at the Farm Aid Festival in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

“I started my off-ranch career as a Farm Advocate, working hand-in-hand with other tireless farmer advocates. Having someone with experiences in ag finance help producers work through financial difficulties can be the difference between them losing the farm or prospering,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “The Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network underscores our dedication to farmers and ranchers receiving the tailored support they need. These partnerships also illustrate that USDA acknowledges the importance of these advocates and sees them as part of the solution to ensure program access for all farmers, ranchers, and producers.”

Network partners include Farm Aid, Rural Advancement Foundation International, the University of Arkansas, the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at Alcorn State University, and the University of Minnesota. Through this initiative, we are collaborating with community-based organizations to better serve financially distressed producers. Network partners will provide farm loan policy training to the community-based organizations so the organizations can work alongside FSA to help producers understand financing available through FSA, ensuring that when they visit an FSA office, the partner organization representative and FSA staff can better assist.

FSA, in collaboration with farm support organizations and land-grant institutions, will facilitate this network, which will provide the technical resources and guidance of USDA partners to experts from distressed and underserved communities. The network's approach includes integrating knowledgeable service providers to deliver one-on-one support to borrowers so they can best make plans and understand options to overcome their financial challenges.

The Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network will address the immediate needs of distressed borrowers and provide comprehensive, wraparound services aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by financially distressed producers. Once stabilized financially, these borrowers will be better positioned to access new opportunities and continue contributing to the agricultural economy. These investments will also build a system of service providers that can better support agricultural communities for years to come. Investing in a network of agricultural financing service providers to help bridge access to FSA loans is a benefit for rural and agricultural communities.

### **Additional Farm Loan Programs Improvements**

FSA recently announced significant changes to Farm Loan Programs through the [Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule](#). These policy changes, to take effect Sept. 25, 2024, are designed to expand opportunities for borrowers to increase profitability and be better prepared to make strategic investments in enhancing or expanding their agricultural operations.

FSA also has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program customer-facing business process. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a direct loan application annually, FSA has made several meaningful improvements including:

- The [Loan Assistance Tool](#) that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may fit their business needs and to understanding the application process.
- The [Online Loan Application](#), an interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan.
- An [online direct loan repayment feature](#) that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local USDA Service Center to pay a loan installment.
- A [simplified direct loan paper application](#), reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.



- A new [educational hub](#) with farm loan resources and videos.

USDA encourages producers to reach out to their local FSA farm loan staff to ensure they fully understand the wide range of loan making and servicing options available to assist with starting, expanding, or maintaining their agricultural operation. To conduct business with FSA, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).

# USDA Offers \$58 Million in Available Assistance to Help Organic Dairy Producers

## *Program Improvements Include Increased Payment Rate and Production Cap*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [today announced](#) \$58 million available for marketing assistance to eligible organic dairy producers through the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP) 2024 to help expand the market for organic dairy and increase the consumption of organic dairy.

“The Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program continues USDA’s commitment to keep the market for organic dairies sustainable as they weather challenges outside of their control,” said USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “In preparation for the launch of ODMAP 2024, we met often with organic milk industry leaders and their constituents to ensure that the assistance we provide addresses their expressed needs. Through this proactive engagement, we identified the need for and are pleased to offer increased payment rates and an increased production level eligible for marketing cost-share assistance.”

ODMAP 2024 helps mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. Specifically, through ODMAP 2024, FSA is assisting organic dairy operations with projected marketing costs in 2024 calculated using their marketing costs in 2023. FSA will begin accepting ODMAP 2024 applications on Sept. 30. Eligible producers include certified organic dairy operations that produce milk from cows, goats, and sheep.

### **ODMAP 2024 Program Improvements**

Dairy producers who participate in ODMAP 2024 will benefit from improvements to provisions outlined in the program. Specifically, ODMAP 2024 provides for an increase in the payment rate to \$1.68 per hundredweight compared to the previous \$1.10 per cwt. Additionally, the production level eligible for marketing cost-share assistance has increased to nine million pounds compared to the previous five million pounds.

## How ODMAP 2024 Works

ODMAP 2024 provides a one-time cost-share payment based on marketing costs on pounds of organic milk marketed in the 2023 calendar year or estimated 2024 marketing costs for organic dairy operations that have increased milk production or entered the organic dairy market. The assistance provided by ODMAP 2024 and the original ODMAP 2023 is provided through previously unused Commodity Credit Corporation funds remaining from earlier pandemic assistance programs.

ODMAP 2024 provides financial assistance that immediately supports certified organic dairy marketing during 2024 keeping the organic dairy market sustainable until markets return to more normal conditions.

## How to Apply

FSA is accepting applications from Sept. 30 to Nov. 29. To apply, producers should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#). To complete the ODMAP 2024 application, producers must certify to pounds of 2023 milk production, show documentation of their organic certification, and submit a completed application form.

Organic dairy operations are required to provide their USDA certification of organic status confirming operation as an organic dairy in 2024 and 2023 along with the certification of 2023 milk production or estimated 2024 milk production in hundredweight.

ODMAP 2024 complements other assistance available to dairy producers, including Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), with more than \$36 million in benefits paid for the 2024 program year to date. Learn more on the [FSA Dairy Programs webpage](#).

*The mission of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is to facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products.*

## **USDA DATA USERS' FALL MEETING 2024**

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops and provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country.

Nearly 4,000 AMS professionals work every day to support the country's diverse agricultural operations, which range from individual farmers to international businesses and employ 1 in 12 people. AMS services and its millions of dollars in annual grant investments also create opportunities by supporting economic development in small towns and rural communities that stand as the backbone of American values.

Much of the Agency's support for agriculture is provided through commodity-specific efforts, including the Dairy Program; the Specialty Crops Program; the Livestock and Poultry Program; the Cotton and Tobacco Program; and the Federal Grain and Inspection Service. AMS also oversees the National Organic Program; the Science and Technology Program; and the Transportation and Marketing Program. AMS provides regulatory oversight for over 20 research and promotion programs and enforces other Federal regulations such as the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), and the Seed Act.

## **CURRENT ISSUES OF INTEREST**

### **Data Offerings**

AMS Market News continues to provide free, unbiased price and sales information to assist in the marketing and distribution of farm commodities. AMS Market News is a valuable resource for everyone involved in the agricultural industry. It provides unbiased, comprehensive, and timely information that can help users to make informed decisions. Key wholesale, retail and shipping data gives farmers, producers, and other agricultural businesses needed information to evaluate market conditions, make purchasing and selling decisions, and evaluate transportation costs.

AMS Market News continues to update and improve electronic data offerings through the AMS My Market News and Datamart websites (<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/>, <https://mpr.datamart.ams.usda.gov/>). Users can access commodity specific data on over 1,500 reports that are updated daily, weekly, monthly, and annually through these websites.

Additionally, AMS Market News provides two separate Application Programming Interfaces (API), where customers can access data from over 1,100 unique commodity data sets. The APIs allows users to automatically download data in custom formats. After a one-time setup, the API will continue to deliver the user's requested information in an established format without further action. Other updates that have been implemented on the site over the past year include

functionality that allows users to identify corrected data sets by both report and through the [My Market News API](#) and [Livestock Mandatory Reporting \(LMR\) API](#).

For users who lack the time and resources to work with large data sets, AMS is developing an alternative through the Tableau visual analytics platform. This alternative will provide users with enhanced insights through dynamic and intuitive interaction with data. These tools are proving to be popular as they provide users with the ability to access and analyze current market data in detail – placing them on a more equal footing with large volume data users with whom they compete in the marketplace. AMS has released a few data visualization tools and plans to release more in the coming months. These tools will provide alternative views for many of the current commodities that AMS releases.

AMS continues to provide Market News data through the USDA Market News Mobile Application with free iOS and Android versions available to download through the Apple and Google Play stores. The app gives users instant access to nearly 1,500 reports covering conventional and organic livestock, poultry, grain, dairy, cotton, and specialty crop market reports. The app lets users search for current and historical reports by location, State, or commodity.

### **Federal-State Cooperation**

AMS Market News has Federal-State Cooperative Agreements with 30 states for commodity market reporting activities. In FY 2024, Minnesota became the latest state to partner with AMS and discussions are underway with Ohio. Beginning in FY 2023, these agreements were converted into the USDA ezFedGrants (eFG) Grants and Agreements System. The eFG system is used to process Federal financial assistance transactions and provides significant efficiencies to all users managing grant and agreement portfolios. AMS worked closely with State partners to ensure a successful transition to the new system. These cooperative working relationships enable resources at the Federal and State levels to be leveraged to expand the breadth, depth, and dissemination of market reporting to the benefit of the industry and information users. State reporters cover livestock auction and grain elevator markets, and other local reporting activities, such as farmers markets, that would otherwise be costly and more difficult to cover using Federal resources alone.

### **Organic Market Reporting**

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Act) re-authorized \$5 million to USDA to conduct organic production and market data initiatives including the collection and reporting of data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products. The Act requires USDA to collect and distribute pricing information for organic agricultural products; develop and implement surveys on organic production, handling, and distribution; and conduct analysis on the data for publication in reports.

Under the Organic Data Initiative (ODI), AMS conducts several activities to enhance the collection and distribution of organic production and marketing data. For specialty crops, AMS publishes market data for over 240 organic commodities for three primary market sectors –

shipping point or point of entry (for imports), wholesale, and retail. Reporting of organic commodities at shipping point includes tracking the volume of movement, which consists of domestic shipments or crossings from Mexico/imports from other countries. For livestock, poultry, and grain commodities, AMS publishes information for organic grains and feedstuffs; poultry and eggs; and includes organic poultry litter, one of the best organic fertilizers available to support organic crop production, in its production costs report series. For dairy, AMS publishes information for a range of key organic dairy products offered online both direct to consumers, via farmers markets and at retail outlets across the country. In FY 2024, the first monthly organic milk reports were published, representing farmgate organic fluid milk prices in Vermont and Pennsylvania. Finally, for cotton, AMS publishes an annual report on organic cotton and cottonseed. All these reports can be accessed from the AMS Market News website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/organic>.

In FY 2024, AMS continued to expand its outreach and educational efforts to the organic sector to promote the availability and usage of the existing market information and resources, identify new data needs, and build stronger relationships with stakeholders. Collection of organic data from additional markets and market types was expanded as part of the ODI effort. AMS participated in outreach at dozens of industry conferences and events, partnered with multiple state institutions to both increase organic data, and conducted a gap analysis of organic data needs.

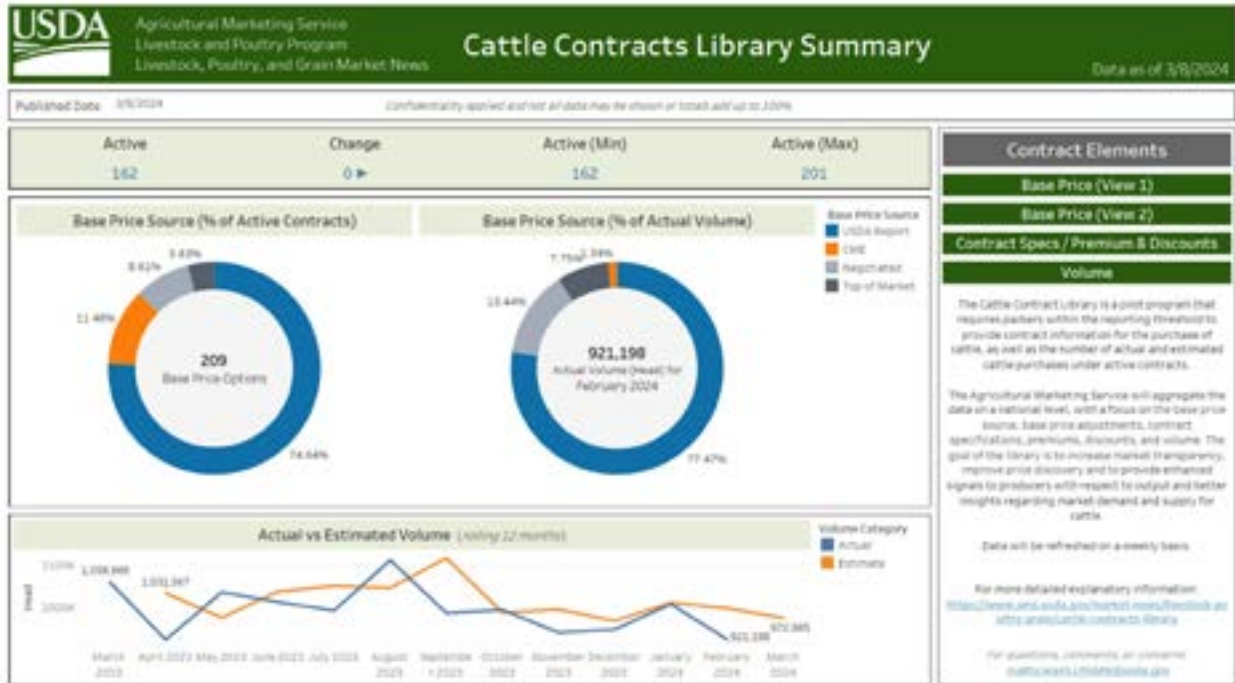
### **Market Information Organization of the Americas/International Collaboration**

AMS Market News serves as the chair of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), a cooperation network of institutions from 33 countries that operate like Market News. These institutions track and report major markets within their nations to ensure the availability of reliable information for their agro-industrial complex, relevant ministries, and government agencies. MIOA works to harmonize efforts, identify and share best practices, and support trade and economic development through the availability of critical market data.

### **Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Reporting**

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News (LPGMN), a division of the Livestock and Poultry Program (LP), continues to focus much of its efforts on improving our customers' experience by providing greater access to LPGMN data through more modern tools. The statutory authority for the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Program (LMR) was extended through September 20, 2024, in the Consolidate Appropriations Act, 2025.

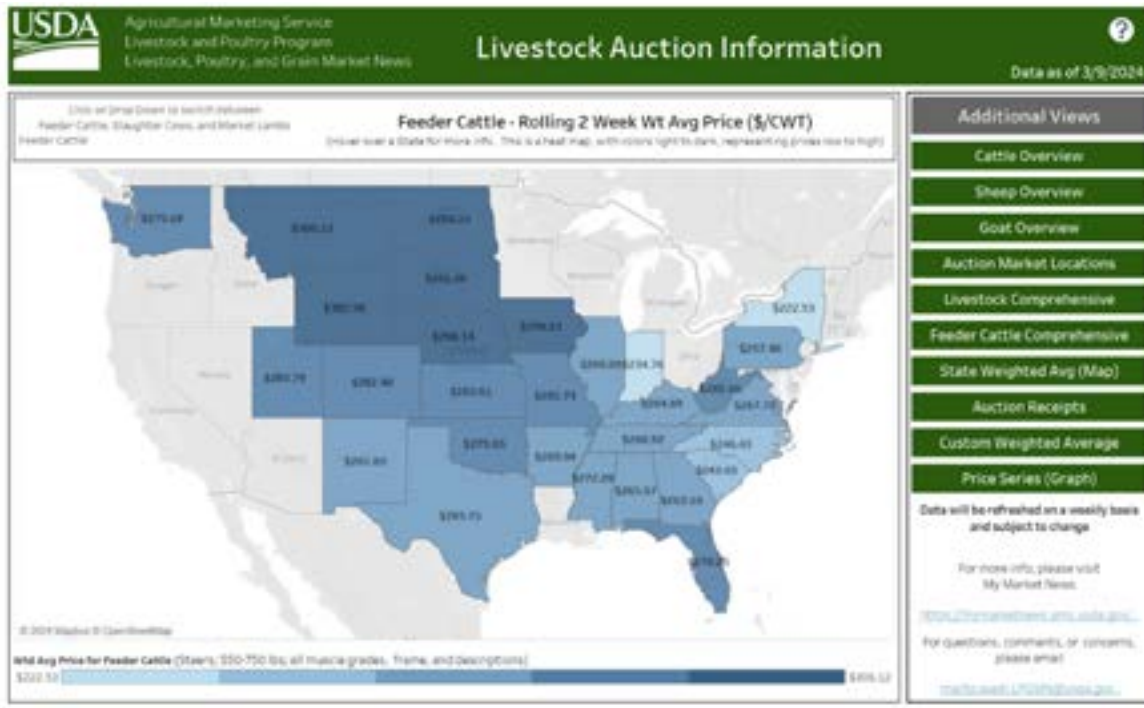
In 2024, LPGMN is continuing to transition its market reports to the MARS/ My Market News system with shell eggs and egg products; retail beef, pork, lamb, goat, chicken, turkey, and eggs; hay; organic feed grains; and sod scheduled to be added to the system.



The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-103, March 15, 2022) directed AMS to establish a Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program (CCL) to increase market transparency for cattle producers. The CCL provides transparency into both commonalities and key differences in contracts, as well as the context for those terms through the provision of relevant volume numbers. It became publicly accessible on January 31, 2023, and, on October 4, 2023, AMS announced that the CCL would continue in its present form. The CCL is updated on a weekly basis and provides information on contracts between packers and cattle producers for the purchase of fed cattle. The CCL provides increased market transparency to aid cattle producers in making informed marketing and business decisions.

Unlike traditional Market News reports that are provided in a static, text or pdf format, the CCL is based on the Tableau visual analytics platform, used widely across USDA to provide users with enhanced insight through dynamic and intuitive interaction with data. The CCL is the first AMS Market News report provided in this dynamic format and represents the future of AMS Market News data delivery. ([https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/Cattle\\_Contract\\_Library](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/Cattle_Contract_Library))

The shift to public dynamic user data interaction in LP began in July 2021 with the launch of the Meat Grading Dashboard ([https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/lp\\_meat\\_grading\\_dashboard](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/lp_meat_grading_dashboard)) that provides users access to up to 10 years of quality grade and volume information for beef, lamb and veal collected through the USDA Meat Grading Service. In July 2023 LPGA released the Livestock Auction Dashboard that provides users with dynamic access to livestock auction market information for cattle, sheep, and goats in an intuitive and user-friendly format that allows for more in-depth analysis of past and present market conditions. ([https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/livestock\\_auction\\_dashboard](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/livestock_auction_dashboard))



In August 2024, AMS released the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Live Cattle Dashboard that provides users the ability to view and access LMR live cattle market information in a manner that is easy to use and understand allowing for more in-depth analysis of past and present market conditions.

LPGMN continues to develop and enhance its growing suite of interactive data visualization tools for future public release. These tools are proving to be popular as they provide producers with the ability to access and analyze, in detail, current market data – placing them on a more equal footing with large volume data users with whom they compete in the marketplace. The insight provided to producers through these dynamic data visualizations fosters a fairer and more competitive marketplace for all participants – the very purpose for which Market News was created.

### Cotton and Tobacco Market News Reporting

Cotton and Tobacco Market News (CTMN) is working to add the Cotton Prices report series and associated data to the Market Analysis and Reporting Services and the My Market News Platform. As part of this process, the qualities of cotton quoted will be updated to reflect changes in the qualities of cotton produced and actively traded and the formal report layouts will be unified. For more information on this change contact CTMN at [CottonMN@usda.gov](mailto:CottonMN@usda.gov).

CTMN has added historical cotton price data files to the internet. Upland data can be found at <https://apps.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/HistoricalUplandPrices/> and American Pima data can be found at <https://apps.ams.usda.gov/Cotton/HistoricaPimaPrices/>. The current market year data will be updated in early August.



During the 2022-2023 cotton crop year, CTMN made changes to the Spot Cotton Quotations and the associated reports (Daily Spot Cotton Quotations and the Cotton Price Statistics). This change required a change in the regulations associated with the Cotton Futures Act. The rule was cleared for Redefining Bona Fide Cotton Spot Markets and was publicly displayed on July 31, 2023, and published on August 1, 2023. Cotton from Kansas and Oklahoma is now included with cotton from West Texas for analysis and reporting. Two markets have been impacted and renamed: East Texas and South Texas, and West Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

### **Dairy Market News Reporting**

Dairy Market News (DMN) continues to enhance My Market News, improving access to information and data for the dairy industry. In the first quarter of FY24, Dairy Market News transitioned market reports from txt to pdf format. These changes improved readability and provided consistent formatting for all Dairy Market News reports.

In January 2024, market commentary for the East and Central Dry Buttermilk market reports were consolidated into a single paragraph. Also in January 2024, market commentary for the East and Central Nonfat Dry Milk markets were consolidated into a single paragraph. These changes were implemented based on the East and Central regional market conditions becoming more consolidated over the last several years.

Enhancements to APIs at the My Market News landing pages are available, with updates made regularly to meet customer needs. API documentation is displayed on the homepage of each Dairy Market News report in the My Market News system. The Dairy Market News Report Master List, available in the General Resources section of My Market News, was updated in September 2024.

In conjunction with the Organic Data Initiative, additional farmers market reports were added to the Dairy Market News Local and Regional Food Marketing website. AMS Dairy Market News also released state-based farmgate organic milk price reports for Vermont and Pennsylvania.

Reports of mandatory dairy product survey prices and Federal order statistics are published by the Dairy Market Information Branch (MIB) on the My Market News website, the AMS website, and Cornell's USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (ESMIS). The underlying data for these reports are available in Datamart and the associated API, both part of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting system. Sample API workbooks are also available on the My Market News website.

### **Specialty Crops Market News Reporting**

In 2024, Specialty Crops Market News (SCMN) continues the transition to MARS/ My Market News with the successful launch of the Terminal market type in January of 2024 and the Shipping Point market type in May of 2024. The Movement market type is planned for release in December of 2024. For each market type, the full dataset including historical data will be available via API once transition to the new system is complete. SCMN continues to add new packages, origins, and varieties to its market reports as they emerged in the marketplace, or in

response to industry requests to report new products or enhance existing products. Overall, SCMN tracks over 785 unique specialty crop commodities at three market levels (retail, wholesale, and shipping point) plus the movement, which consists of domestic shipments, crossings from Mexico, and import volumes.

### **Agricultural Transportation Open Data Visualization Platform – AgTransport**

The AgTransport platform [[Open Ag Transport Data \(usda.gov\)](https://openagtransport.usda.gov/)] offers farmers, commodity analysts, elevator operators, shippers, and other stakeholders' access to USDA data that can help make timely market decisions about moving agricultural products across the country and around the world. This free, open data platform contains numerous datasets and dashboards about the four modes: rail, truck, barge, and ocean vessel (both bulk and container) used to transport agricultural products.

AgTransport facilitates easy analytics. Users can gain personalized insight through interactive charts, and they can generate and save their own unique visualizations and data views that will be updated automatically over time. If they wish, users also can share their visualizations with others in the tool's open data community. AgTransport makes data available in many different, open formats and automatically generates and maintains an Application Programming Interface (API) for each dataset.

Two new features have been added since last year to help build resilience in the agrifood supply chain by providing needed visibility into transportation markets through publicly available data. The Fertilizer Transportation Dashboard brings together a variety of important, regularly updated fertilizer supply chain and transportation indicators. These indicators include fertilizer production, inventory, and disappearance data for each primary nutrient (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium); U.S. fertilizer imports (both by primary nutrient and by individual fertilizer commodity); and fertilizer price data by region for key fertilizer commodities (i.e., ammonia, urea, UAN, DAP, MAP, and potash). Fertilizer transportation indicators include rail volume and shipment characteristics from the Surface Transportation Board's public-use carload waybill sample; weekly rail carloads of fertilizer; a collection of rail tariff rates (i.e., fertilizer freight costs) for key routes by fertilizer commodity; and monthly barge volumes for key locks on the Mississippi River System. The Fertilizer Transportation Dashboard builds on AMS' response to its (March 11, 2022) request for information regarding fertilizer and other agricultural inputs, stemming from the July 9, 2021, Executive Order on "Promoting Competition in the American Economy."

The Pacific Northwest Barge Rate Data Series is the first of its kind to cover grain barge rates for the Columbia-Snake River System, which moves, on average, roughly 31 million tons of grain per year, with wheat and soybeans making up about 67 percent of all grain shipped. This data series was developed in response to stakeholder requests to provide publicly available grain barge data for the Columbia-Snake River System. Along with the weekly spot rate data published for downbound grain barges along the Mississippi River System, the expanded coverage of the new barge rate data series will provide broader visibility into the grain transportation market, and help monitor market anomalies, such as transportation disruptions.

Other features on the platform include:

- Grain Transportation Cost Indicators and Global Competitiveness Dashboard with data on Brazil, Mexico, and Japan
- “Transportation at a Glance” dashboard with key volume, rate, and service metrics across all modes.
- Transportation Updates and Regulatory News presents highlights of recent announcements and regulatory news that affect multimodal agricultural transportation.
- Interactive Rail Dashboard with expanded Data, Maps, and Analysis, featuring 18 years of Surface Transportation Board Public Waybill data in an easy-to-use, accessible format.
- Agricultural Rail Service Metrics Dashboard
- Barge Dashboard with additional rivers and locks added to the waterway Lock Performance Management Data
- Ocean Port Profiles Dashboard
- Bulk and Container Ocean Fleet Data
- Grain Trucking Indicators
- Refrigerated Truck Dashboard with Rates, Volumes, and Availability
- Dashboard for selected Grain Price and Basis Data
- Digitized Modal Share Analysis for Transportation of U.S. Grains
- Biofuels Dashboard, including Ethanol, Biodiesel, and DDGs
- Performance Management Data
- Ocean Port Profiles Dashboard
- Bulk and Container Ocean Fleet Data
- Grain Trucking Indicators
- Refrigerated Truck Dashboard with Rates, Volumes, and Availability
- Dashboard for selected Grain Price and Basis Data
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233-0001

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information that tells the story of our changing economy. The Economic Indicators, Economic Census and our quarterly and annual economic surveys give Federal, state, and local governments, policy makers, and business and community leaders the information needed to make informed decisions that shape our economy.

## Issues of Interest to Data Users

### 1. Accessing Data from the U.S. Census Bureau

- **USA Trade Online**

USA Trade Online is a dynamic data tool that gives users access to current and cumulative U.S. export and import data. With multiple data sets and capabilities, USA Trade Online can assist different types of customers from a wide range of industries and fields. This tool offers data by Harmonized System, North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the Department of Agriculture code. This powerful software allows users to create customized reports and colorful charts detailing international trade data at different levels.

<https://usatrade.census.gov/index.php>

- **Monthly Trade Data in the Census Data API**

The U.S. Census Bureau has detailed monthly international trade data in its [Application Programming Interface](#) (API). The Census Data API has international trade data from 2010 to present. The international trade statistics provide monthly and cumulative year-to-date export and import totals with multiple layers of detail. The statistics also include two datasets with U.S. exports and imports by Department of Agriculture code.

The Application Programming Interface provides researchers and developers free access to its demographic and economic data.

<https://census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/international-trade.html>

- **Global Market Finder (GMF)**

The Global Market Finder is an interactive data visualization tool that paints a picture of the export market for a particular commodity. The user just needs to select the Schedule B code they are interested in and the tool will display all the countries that the U.S. exports to, shows value by method

of transportation, and unit price. Users can drill down to specific countries and download the data that they have pulled.

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/export-markets.html>

- ***Census Business Builder***

The Census Business Builder (CBB) is a suite of services that provide selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau tailored to specific types of users in a simple to access and use format. The CBB includes:

- o Demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data from the American Community Survey
- o Business data from the County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, and Annual Business Survey
- o Trade data on total imports and exports, broken out by mode of transportation (Air & Vessel), for selected three- and four-digit agriculture, mining, and manufacturing NAICS codes at the national and state level.
- o Building Permits data at the metro, county and place level

In addition, it provides Agriculture data from the Census of Agriculture (USDA).

<https://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>

## ***2. Principal Economic Indicators***

The U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Indicators keep the world informed by providing the first official measures of the U.S. economy. Our Economic Indicator surveys provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These surveys produce a variety of statistics covering construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services, and manufacturing. The survey data provide measures of economic activity that allow analysis of economic performance and inform business investment and policy decisions. The data can be accessed via the Economic Indicator Briefing Room and the Economic Indicator Database.

- Economic Indicator Briefing Room

The Economic Indicator Briefing Room web site provides access to the latest data, full release reports, historical data, and time series and trend charts. <https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>

- Economic Indicator Database

Select an economic indicator and customize your data selection. Ability to download the data to a spreadsheet and create your own time series charts. [Business and Industry: Time Series / Trend Charts \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators/business-and-industry-time-series-trend-charts)

- For questions regarding Economic Indicators, please contact:  
Ms. Catherine Buffington, Chief, Economic Indicators Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233-6010  
Phone: (301)-763-1838  
Email: [Catherine.D.Buffington@census.gov](mailto:Catherine.D.Buffington@census.gov)

### **3. International Trade**

Each month, the U.S. Census Bureau releases the *U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services* (FT900) report, which is one of the principal economic indicators for the United States. This report can be found along with other information on our website <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/index.html>

Webinars are archived at: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/outreach/index.html>

- 15 CFR PART 30 — Foreign Trade Regulations  
The Census Bureau is mandated by Title 13, Ch. 9, Sec. 301 to collect information from all persons who are exporting goods from or importing goods into the U.S. The legal authority that the Census Bureau uses to collect export information is guided by 15 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30, the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR) [FTR\\_with\\_August\\_2023\\_FR\\_Incorporated\\_PUBLIC.pdf](#) (census.gov). The FTR contains the legal definitions and requirements for reporting Electronic Export Information (EEI) in the Automated Export System. After the EEI is collected, it is used as the primary source to create export statistics. For information on the FTR and filing requirements, please email [emd.askregs@census.gov](mailto:emd.askregs@census.gov) or use the International Trade Helpline number, 1-800-549-0595 and select option 3.
- Questionable data should be brought to our attention as soon as possible. Potential data errors caught early are easier to verify and improve the quality of data going forward. To request data verification, please contact Mr. Gregory Kondilas ([gregory.kondilas@census.gov](mailto:gregory.kondilas@census.gov)), Chief of our International Trade Indicator Micro Analysis Branch.

### **4. Other Economic Data from the U.S. Census Bureau**

The Census Bureau produces economic data across the entire economy on a monthly, quarterly, yearly, and five-year basis, including industries related to agriculture. These industries can include:

- o NAICS 113 Forestry and Logging
- o NAICS 114 Fishing, Hunting and Trapping
- o NAICS 115 Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry
- o NAICS 311 Food Manufacturing
- o NAICS 4244 Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers
- o NAICS 4245 Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers
- o NAICS 445 Food and Beverage Stores