

2023
OCTOBER
17 - 18



USDA FALL VIRTUAL DATA USERS' MEETING



USDA Fall Data Users' Meeting
 October 17-18, 2023
 Live Webinar – *All times are Eastern*

AGENDA

Day 1 – October 17

- 12:00pm **Welcome and Overview**
 Joe Parsons, National Agricultural Statistics Service

- 12:10pm **Agency Updates**
 - Foreign Agricultural Service - *Paul Trupo*1
 - World Agricultural Outlook Board - *Mark Jekanowski*.....7
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service - *Tony Dorn*10
 - Economic Research Service - *Kelly Maguire*14
 - Farm Service Agency - *Tim Gravlin*..... 22
 - Agricultural Marketing Service - *Michael Sheats* 29
 - U.S. Census Bureau - *Joseph DeCampo*..... 35

- 12:50pm **Break**

- 1:00pm **Breakout Session #1**

- 1:55pm **Break**

- 2:05pm **Breakout Session #2**

- 3:00pm **End**

Day 1 Breakout Sessions

Day 1 – October 17		
All times Eastern	Session A	Session B
1:00pm	Focus on the 2022 Census of Agriculture <i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	The Use of Weather Information In Producing the WASDE <i>World Agricultural Outlook Board</i>
1:55pm	10 Minute Break	
2:05pm	NASS Historical Revisions and Estimating Program Review <i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	AMS Data Visualizations <i>Agricultural Marketing Service</i>

Day 2 – October 18

- 12:00pm **Open Forum** - Questions and comments from participants
- 1:20pm **Break**
- 1:30pm **Breakout Session #3**
- 2:25pm **End**

Day 2 Breakout Sessions

Day 2 – October 18		
<i>All times Eastern</i>	Session A	Session B
1:30pm	ERS Feed Grains Database: A comprehensive look at this valuable resource <i>Economic Research Service</i>	Understanding Publicly Available Data from USDA-Risk Management Agency <i>Risk Management Agency</i>

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

Breakout Session Descriptions

Day 1 Breakout Sessions – October 17, 2023

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

Session A

Focus on the 2022 Census of Agriculture – National Agricultural Statistics Service

Once every five years NASS conducts a census of agriculture. This is that year! Join us to get a clear picture looking back at data collection, a look into applying our statistical methodology, and a look ahead to the upcoming release of the many data products.

Session B

The Use of Weather Information In Producing the WASDE – World Agricultural Outlook Board

As weather and climate are a key factor in determining agricultural production, the WAOB has on staff a group of meteorologists dedicated to monitoring global conditions. This session will provide an overview of the weather-related data and products produced by the WAOB meteorology team and available to the public, along with a discussion of the analytical techniques employed by the group to provide timely and accurate assessments of crop conditions worldwide during the growing season.

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

Session A

NASS Historical Revisions and Estimating Program Review – National Agricultural Statistics Service

Following each Census of Agriculture, NASS prepares and publishes the final revisions for all estimates since the previous Census and through the reference year of the current Census (in this case 2018-2022). Additionally, a thorough review of all annual estimating programs is completed. In this session, NASS will describe both processes including timing, explain how input is gathered & considered, and answer participant's questions.

Session B

AMS Data Visualizations – Agricultural Marketing Service

AMS Market News plans to highlight their data visualization offerings during the breakout sessions of the NASS Data Users meeting. These dashboard offerings include the Cattle Contract Library Pilot Dashboard and the Livestock Auction Dashboard. During the breakout session, AMS Market News staff will demonstrate the data offerings included in both dashboards and the benefits each of these dashboards provides in terms of dynamic visualization and data analysis.

Day 2 Breakout Sessions – October 18, 2023

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

Session A

ERS Feed Grains Database: A comprehensive look at this valuable resource – Economic Research Service

The Feed Grains Database is a comprehensive component of USDA Economic Research Service's data products. The Feed Grains Database includes data related to the supply, demand, price points and quantities of the 4 major U.S. feed grains (corn, barley, grain sorghum, oats), foreign coarse grains (feed grains plus rye, millet and mixed grains) and hay as well as ERS calculations that include Grain Consuming Animal Units and Feed Ratios for livestock, poultry and milk. Data is available on a monthly, quarterly, and/or annual basis depending upon the data point.

Session B

Understanding Publicly Available Data from USDA-Risk Management Agency – Risk Management Agency

The Risk Management Agency will provide an overview of publicly available data about the Federal crop insurance program and highlight its partnership with Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group for Weather and Climate Data. Data users will learn to access and use Summary of Business pre-generated reports, Summary of Business application for customizable reports, historical cause of loss data, and weather and climate data from PRISM. Time will be allotted to answer data users' questions.

Day 1 Session Links

Agency Updates – 12:00 pm ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_6u5jy8YER32gz1L3H1Uv_g

Breakout 1 - 1:00 pm ET

Session A – Focus on the 2022 Census of Agriculture

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605578719?pwd=UG95Q21jQkJTWppVFhOUzNrcVNnZz09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 557 8719 | Passcode: 733225

Session B – The Use of Weather Information In Producing the WASDE

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616591814>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 161 659 1814 | Passcode: 194457

Breakout 2 - 2:05 pm ET

Session A – NASS Historical Revisions and Estimating Program Review

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605675127?pwd=Q1NISU1PdnBRL2tSSXIYTFlyM3N0Zz09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 567 5127 | Passcode: 605091

Session B – AMS Data Visualizations

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605512643>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 551 2643 | Passcode: 383951

Day 2 Session Links

Open Forum Session – 12:00 pm ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_6u5jy8YER32gz1L3H1Uv_g

Breakout 3 - 1:30 pm ET

Session A – ERS Feed Grains Database: A comprehensive look at this valuable resource

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609068838?pwd=ODJ3c2t2RU95bXBPSVAzKzhESzJBQT09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 906 8838 | Passcode: 146442

Session B – Understanding Publicly Available Data from USDA-Risk Management Agency

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602038788>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 203 8788 | Passcode: 173028

Update on Information and Data Products Available from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service October 2023

Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN)

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides timely reports on foreign markets through the Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN) database. The GAIN database houses reports from 95 offices covering nearly 180 countries that include intelligence and analysis on global agriculture, agricultural markets, and foreign government policies affecting agricultural trade. In 2022, approximately 2,229 GAIN reports were submitted and published. They were downloaded over 1.22 million times.

Users can access GAIN reports dating back to 1996 from the GAIN homepage:
<https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

For questions about the GAIN search engine please contact 1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov.

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

FAS – U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook

The 2022 Agricultural Export Yearbook was published on the FAS website in May 2023. The yearbook provides a statistical summary of U.S. agricultural commodity exports to the world and the United States' primary trading partners. The 2022 Yearbook is available at
<https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/2022-Yearbook.pdf>.

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 2022 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 FAS' 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 seventeen 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.

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).

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 agricultural commodities 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, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (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>.

Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS)

The Export Sales Reporting (ESR) Program requires U.S. exporters of reportable commodities to report each week all their export sales to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). There are 40 commodities currently covered under the program which includes 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.

The electronic reporting system for the collection of export sales, is being upgraded for the first time in more than two decades. As part of the upgrade, FAS issued a Federal Register Notice requesting input on moving to a contract-based reporting approach instead of the current aggregated sales reporting approach. Based on the feedback received, FAS decided to retain the current aggregated reporting approach and not move to contract-based reporting. Exporters were notified of the decision the last week of September. FAS will continue the work to upgrade the online reporting system, but the new portal will be designed to look, act, and publish all the same information that is currently available.

Users can access the legacy ESR System at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/ESRMS/Default.aspx>. In addition to being available online through [the ESR webpage](#) and [the ESR Query System](#), [weekly and daily reports are now available through email via GovDelivery to all users who sign up](#). To receive ESR daily sales reports via email, register at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>

For more information, contact the Export Sales Reporting team at esr@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.

Agricultural Tariff Tracker

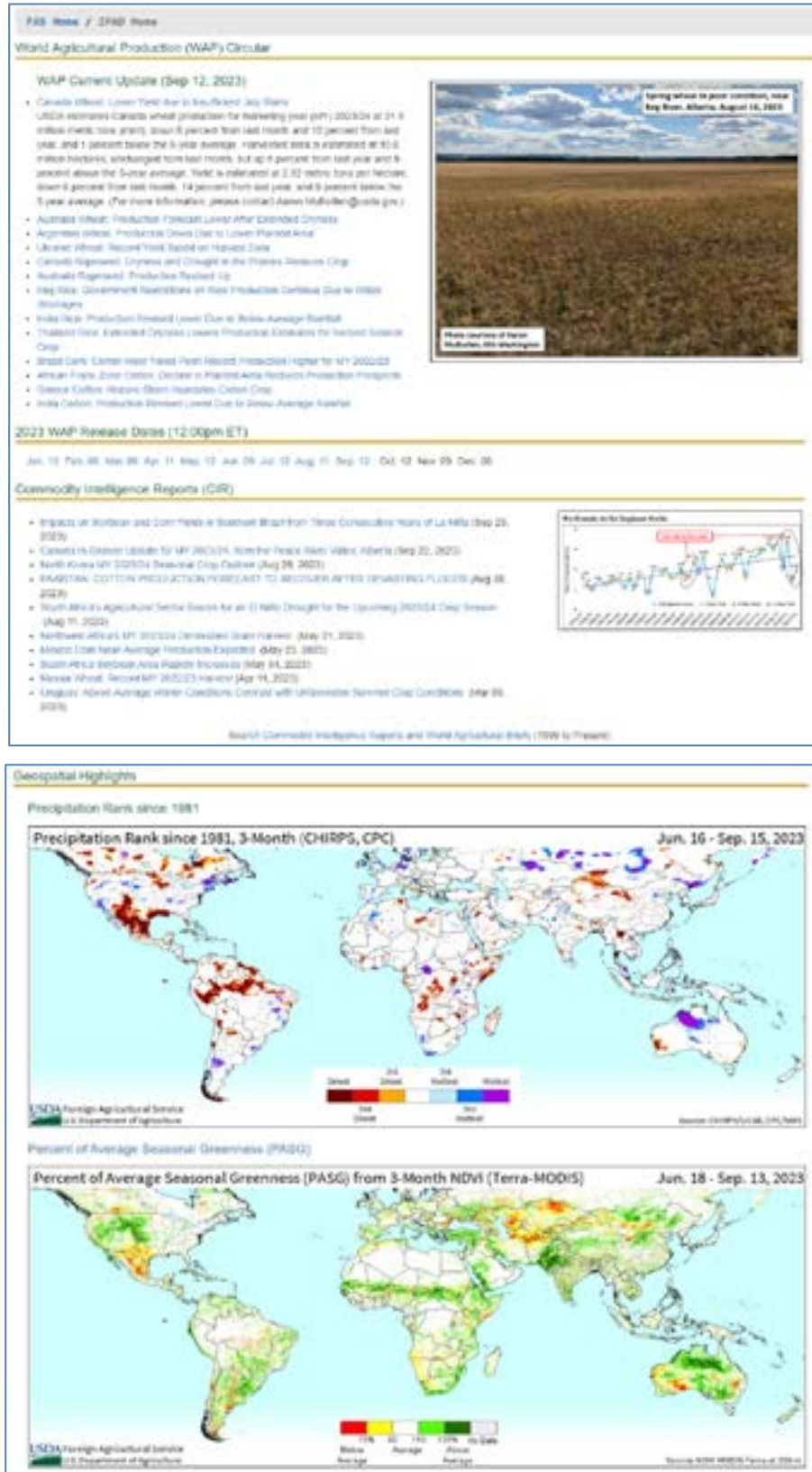
To help exporters obtain information about tariff reductions resulting from free trade agreements (FTAs), FAS launched the Agricultural Tariff Tracker in 2013. The Ag Tariff Tracker has tariff, tariff rate quota (TRQ), and safeguard information for the United States' existing free trade agreements with 11 FTA partners. In 2019, 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/agtariiftracker/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).

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), geospatial applications, crop production maps, and crop calendars at a subnational level for the top-20 producing countries (Figure 1, <https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

Figure 1. FAS home page for global crop production

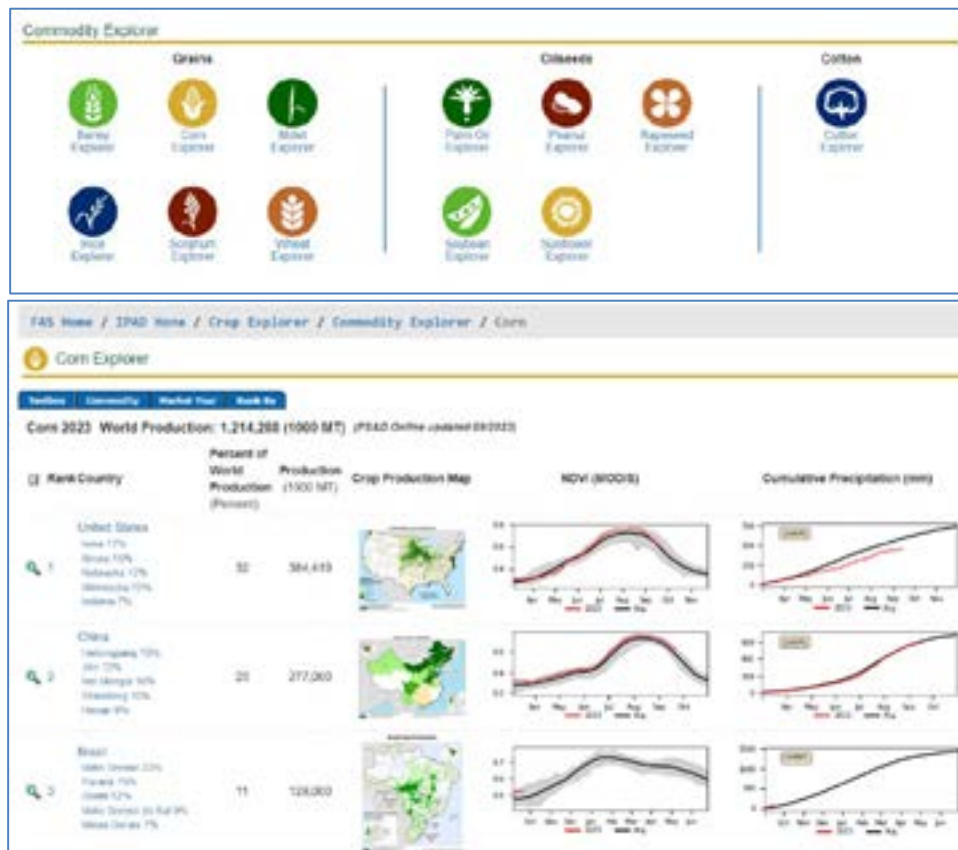


The FAS website for global crop production also hosts an application called Crop Explorer that displays global and routinely updated data on precipitation, average temperature, maximum/minimum temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) Drought Severity with 5-day time steps, NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) vegetation conditions with 8-day time steps, snow cover, production maps, etc. Crop Explorer supports monitoring crop conditions for 12 different crops: cotton, corn, barley, millet, rice, sorghum, wheat, soybeans, sunflower, rapeseed, peanuts, and palm oil. (<https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/>).

The Crop Explorer website was upgraded to monitor the latest crop conditions and seasonal rainfall received for 12 specific crops grown within primary production states. The upgraded Crop Explorer web apps are called Corn Explorer, Soybean Explorer, Wheat Explorer, Cotton Explorer, etc. For example, the dashboard view for Corn Explorer shows corn production maps at sub-national (state and county) levels, cumulative rainfall, and NDVI crop conditions for all major corn producing countries and regions (Figure 2).

For more information, please contact Curt Reynolds at curt.reynolds@usda.gov.

Figure 2. Commodity Explorers and Dashboard View of Corn Explorer



Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS)

GADAS is a state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) that integrates a vast array of highly detailed earth observation data streams with cropland datasets to facilitate agricultural and disaster assessments, into an easy-to-use, web-based environment. GADAS provides analysts with a wide variety of routine geospatial products (maps, charts, tables) they require for comprehensive situational investigations and recurring assessments. GADAS can be accessed directly at (<https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html>) or through (<https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

GADAS helps USDA/FAS remain a global leader in the use of location-based technologies for agricultural monitoring and global food security intelligence. The system combines daily weather, climate, crop conditions, satellite imagery, and other geospatial data with custom-built applications that quickly support the visual comparison of agricultural production-related data. 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. Web-based GIS improves collaboration between teams in FAS working around the world.

In the past year, significant improvements have been made to the disaster data category to enhance the data and possible interpretation of tropical storm impacts in terms of precipitation, winds, and storm surge. New data sets were made available, such as NDVI and NDVI Anomaly derived from VIIRS. For questions, please contact Lisa Colson at lisa.colson@usda.gov.

Figure 3. GADAS home page





Office of the Chief Economist

U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

World Agricultural Outlook Board

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

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 2032) can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity-markets/baseline>.

Agricultural Weather Monitoring and Assessments: WAOB's staff of meteorologists generate timely weather and crop assessments in support of the monthly *Crop Production* and *WASDE* reports issued by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and WAOB, respectively. The meteorologists also provide weekly updates of crop weather to USDA Radio

and often appear on local and national radio and television broadcasts. As recognized experts within the Department, they are often asked to brief Capitol Hill staff, review legislation, and contribute expertise to various USDA publications. They 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.

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 FY23 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>

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 100th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum, "*Cultivating the Future*", will be held February 15-16, 2024, 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 preferring to attend virtually.

The Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF) is USDA's largest and premier annual gathering. The breadth and timeliness of the AOF sessions have consistently attracted a large and diverse group of attendees to learn about and discuss current and emerging issues, including producers, processors, policymakers, government officials, and non-governmental organizations. It routinely attracts upwards of 1,800 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 presents the Department's initial forecasts for the U.S. agricultural economy, commodity markets, and foreign trade for the new marketing year. The 2024 Forum will include remarks from the Secretary of Agriculture and other top Department officials, along with 30 breakout sessions featuring more than 120 leading experts across a wide range of food and agriculture-related topics.

Registration for the Forum will open at the end of October. Check here for more details: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum>

INTERAGENCY COMMODITY ESTIMATES COMMITTEES



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; Amy Gaito, FAS; Bruce McWilliams, FPAC

Rice: Mark Simone, ICEC Chair, WAOB, mark.simone@usda.gov
Nathan Childs, ERS; Rachel Trego, FAS; Kent Lanclos, 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: Stephen MacDonald, ICEC Chair, WAOB, stephen.macdonald3@usda.gov
Leslie Meyer, ERS; Graham Soley, FAS; Kent Lanclos, FPAC.

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

Meat Animals: Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov
Sherry Wise, AMS; Mildred Haley, ERS; John Brower, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

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

Dairy: Shayle Shagam, ICEC Chair, WAOB, shayle.shagam@usda.gov
Carolyn Liebrand, AMS; Angel Teran, ERS; Jeffery Dwyer, FAS; Georgi Gabrielyan, FPAC.

In 2023 the WASDE report will be released on Nov. 9, and Dec. 8.

The 2024 WASDE report release dates are: Jan. 12, Feb. 8, March 8, April 11, May 10, June 12, July 12, Aug. 12, Sept. 12, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 10

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

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. Beginning in 2024, NASS will again enhance the schedule, primarily due to the earlier reporting and processing of the FSA certified acreage information in recent years. Following are the months when planted acreage will be reviewed for each crop.

August: barley, corn, cotton, dry edible beans, oats, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugarbeets, Durum wheat, other spring wheat, and winter wheat

September: chickpeas, corn, cotton, dry edible peas, lentils, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, and sugarbeets

October: canola, dry edible beans, and sunflowers

NASS moved the *Grain Crushings and Co-Products Production Annual Summary* report from March to September beginning in 2023. This report incorporates updated previous year data from NASS surveys as well as data obtained from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). EIA has begun publishing annual revisions to the previous crop year in August, therefore the new NASS release timeframe will allow these critical data to be included in the revision process.

Beginning in September 2023, NASS discontinued the "Vegetable foots, raw and acidulated" item from the *Fats & Oils* report. In order to be published, data must meet NASS confidentiality and quality standards. Data collected for "Vegetable foots, raw and acidulated" do not meet these standards and they are unlikely to in the future.

Estimates for Sorghum consumed for fuel alcohol have been discontinued by NASS and are no longer included in the *Grain Crushings* report. Sorghum consumed for fuel alcohol can be found in the *Monthly Biofuels Capacity and Feedstocks* report issued by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

As is normally done after each Census of Agriculture, NASS will review and finalize all estimates since the last Census (2018-2022 crop seasons). Final estimates for all crop commodities for these years will be released to QuickStats early in 2024. Exact release dates are included on the 2024 Agricultural Statistics Board Calendar.

NASS will complete a thorough review of all crop-related estimating programs beginning this fall. Input will be considered from all interested parties and data from the 2022 Census of Agriculture will be utilized. Final decisions will be communicated to the public by mid-March 2024.

Livestock

On January 11, 2023, NASS *Cost of Pollination* report was released with 2017 and 2022 data.

Census five-year revisions for livestock will be released on QuickStats. Exact dates of the releases are on the 2024 ASB release calendar.

Environmental, Economics and Demographics

On April 28, 2023, the monthly *Agricultural Prices* was released that uses an updated annual benchmark methodology for all monthly prices paid indexes. This is the second year the new methodology is being used. With the new benchmarking method, the annual average of administrative data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA) is now being used as a component of the index formula. Previously, this component was the most recent March estimate of the administrative data. This update better reflects the trends of the annual survey and accounts for the updated data collection time period from March of the current year to the entire previous year.

On May 12, 2023, *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 and pest management practices.

On July 19, 2023, *Vegetable Chemical Usage* data was 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 and pest management practices.

The *Cash Rents* county level data were released on August 25, 2023. 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. This was the third year that Bayesian small area models will be used for county-level rented acre totals and rental rates.

On August 17, 2023, *Technology Use, formerly called Farm Computer Usage and Ownership*, results were released. The title of this biannual release was changed to better reflect the content

of the report, which includes types of internet access on the farm, devices farmers use to connect to the internet, and precision agriculture. This was the second time use of precision ag data were collected.

Census five-year revisions for economics will be released on QuickStats. Exact dates of the releases are on the 2024 ASB release calendar.

Census of Agriculture Program

Data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture wrapped up this summer. Editing, analysis, and data review will continue throughout 2023. Release is tentatively planned for February 2024.

NASS continues to realize increased responses received from its enhanced online reporting system. Nearly 40% of all responses were collected using this online tool. That is compared to just under 25% five years ago. This web-based data collection instrument provides respondents streamlined reporting of census of agriculture data with better options to ‘save and return’ along with the ability for the producer to print a copy for their records. The online tool speeds up reporting for the respondent by customizing the instrument based on the types of crops and livestock they produce.

As part of the Census of Agriculture Program, NASS conducts ag censuses in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Planning is in full swing for these outlying areas with data collection set to begin in early 2024. The census of agriculture is the only source of official agriculture statistics for these U.S. territories.

Two Special Studies (follow-on surveys) are planned for fiscal year 2024. The 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey (IWMS) and the 2023 Census of Aquaculture. The 2023 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 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 is set to begin in January 2023 with a release intended for later in the year. The IMWS (formerly Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey) data series goes back to 1979. It was last released in November 2019.

The other Special Study being planned for FY 2024 is the 2023 Census of Aquaculture. It 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 is set to begin in December 2023 with the release intended before the end of 2024. This will be the fifth Census of Aquaculture conducted by NASS with the last release in 2018.

Modernization

USDA NASS is committed to high standards of customer service and making it easy for farmers, ranchers, and data users to interact with us. NASS is modernizing their online systems to improve the customer experience around reporting data and accessing NASS official federal agricultural data and reports. We are making accurate data available on schedule in ways that customers like yourself have told us they want.

NASS has continued its ongoing efforts to modernize its customer interfaces, making responding to surveys and accessing NASS data and reports *faster, friendlier, and easier*. This modernization effort also allows NASS to work more efficiently. Modernization will be focused in two main areas, Data Collection and Data Dissemination.

Data Collection - NASS recently released the new Respondent Portal and all new data collections now flow through this modern entry point. Immediate benefits of the portal are

- Streamlined authentication process provides a convenient, central point to respond to all NASS surveys.
- Creating and using a user account allows respondents to see past survey responses.

Incremental development and improvements over the next few years will further meet customer expectations, such as

- Improve performance and speed of the portal and offer additional options for reporting data to NASS including an upload feature.
- Providing a customized digital experience designed around the user's needs and behaviors. Farmers and ranchers will be able to build and save custom homepages to compare their data with other (national, state, county) data.
- Integration with USDA's Farmers.gov website, allowing farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses to expand their access to multiple USDA agencies' information to make decisions for their operation that are fact based and data driven.

Data Dissemination - [Milk Production](#), [Economic](#), and [Field Crop](#) data are currently available in the new modern format. Since August, Milk Production, Disposition and Income, Field Crop Acreage, Farms and Land in Farms, and Mink have been released in the new format. As NASS continues to evolve and optimize its data products and services, new content and functionality will be added.

NASS Links

Visit the NASS website (www.nass.usda.gov) and follow us on Twitter [@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass) to stay up to date.



United States Department of Agriculture

ERS' mission 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. ERS also provides a wide range of data products covering different commodity markets and the agricultural economy.





Economic Research Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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.

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:

Commodity Markets & Outlook	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.
Farm & Rural Economy	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.
Global Markets & Trade	Major markets and competitors; economic impacts of existing and potential exports and imports, trade barriers, and existing/potential trade agreements.
Resources & Environment	Economic impacts of conservation programs, efficacy of policies designed to protect the environment, and the use of technology to enhance agricultural
Food & Nutrition	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 2023.

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.

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:



Characterizing Rugged Terrain in the United States

Food Mountains and other topographic features with variable elevation provide benefits to residents and visitors but may also impose barriers to travel and restrict economic development. To understand variation of characteristics by terrain ruggedness, this report analyzes population, population density, and income across road ruggedness categories, rurality, and regions in the United States.



Concentration and Competition in U.S. Agribusiness

Market concentration and its impact on competition have attracted growing public scrutiny. Critics argue that many industries have grown too concentrated, with fewer firms competing with one another and a consequent weakening of competition. This report details issues surrounding market concentration in agribusiness, particularly in three agribusiness sectors where concentration has increased over time: seeds, meatpacking, and food retail.



Cost of School Meals and Households' Difficulty Paying for Expenses: Evidence From the Household Pulse Survey

To mitigate hardship for families and safeguard children's access to food during the Coronavirus pandemic, USDA issued a waiver allowing schools to provide meals at no cost to all children, regardless of their household's income in the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 school years. This waiver expired June 30, 2022, leading some advocates and policymakers to express concern that the reintroduction of prices for school meals could make it difficult for some households to meet their other expenses. This report studies the experiences of households with children aged 5–17 to provide descriptive statistics that can help add context to these discussions.



Rural America at a Glance: 2022 Edition

This report looks at recent population trends, the changing structure of economic sectors, the labor force, and job growth in rural areas. After a decade of overall population loss from 2010 to 2020, nonmetropolitan areas grew at a faster rate than metropolitan areas during 2020–21 due to a sharp turnaround in migration flows occurring in the first year and a half of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



U.S. Agricultural Policy Review, 2021

This report is the inaugural edition in a series examining annual developments in U.S. agricultural policies, focusing on policies related to production agriculture, agrofood value chains, and food and nutrition assistance. U.S. agricultural policies are designed to address multiple objectives—including providing an income safety net for agricultural producers, minimizing negative environmental impacts of agricultural production, ensuring agricultural supply chains are equipped to provide adequate quantities of safe food to consumers, and helping address food and nutrition insecurity among vulnerable populations.



Irrigation Organizations: Water Inflows and Outflows

Irrigation water delivery organizations provide water for about 19 million irrigable acres, or approximately a third of all irrigated harvested cropland in the United States. This report examines these delivery organization inflows and outflows, and the extent of water transfers both within and across delivery organizations. The report is the fourth in a series of economic briefs on key topics related to irrigation organizations using data collected in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2019 Survey of Irrigation Organizations.



The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

The USDA administers 15 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs that together affect the lives of millions of people and account for roughly two-thirds of USDA’s annual budget. In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, USDA launched additional temporary programs and implemented numerous policy changes that expanded the scope and coverage of existing programs. This report uses preliminary data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service to examine program trends and policy changes in USDA’s largest U.S. food and nutrition assistance programs through FY 2022.

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 → Now available via mobile app
 - Cross-Commodity Visualization
-

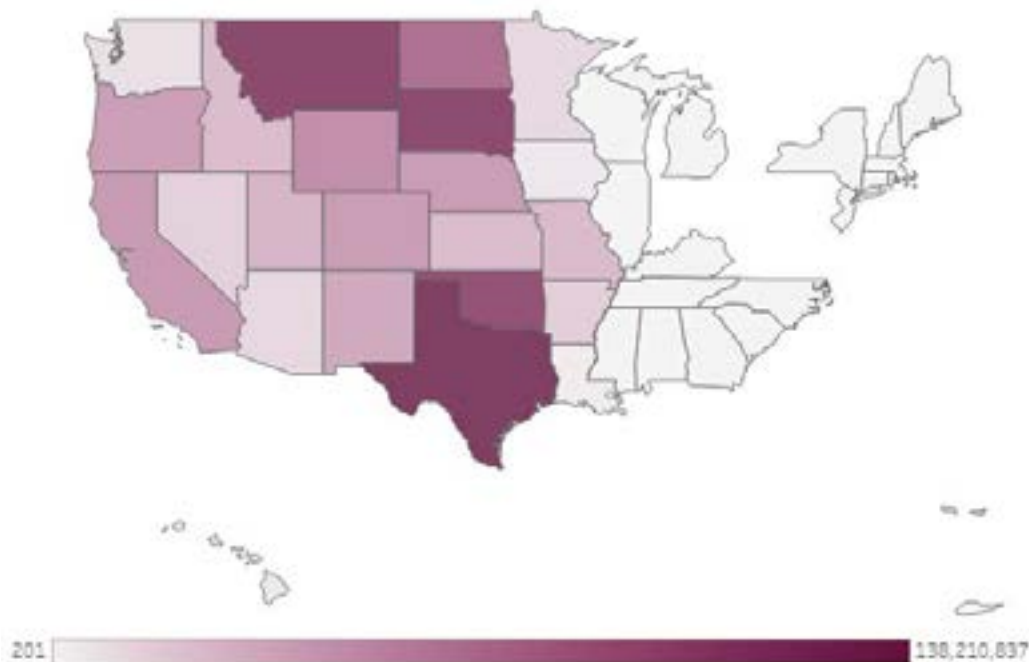
Farm Service Agency

Emergency Livestock Relief Program Payments

FSA is closing out the [Emergency Livestock Relief Program](#) (ELRP) for losses suffered in 2021. ELRP Phase Two payments are estimated at \$115.7 million. Ranchers who lost grazing acres due to drought and wildfire and received assistance through ELRP Phase One will soon receive an additional payment through ELRP Phase Two. This second payment will be equal to 20% of the 2021 gross ELRP Phase One payment. ELRP Phase Two payments to producers will be automatic with no application required. In April 2022, FSA staff processed more than 100,000 payments through ELRP Phase One and paid eligible ranchers more than \$600 million for 2021 grazing losses.

In 2022, ranchers continued to experience significant loss of grazing acres due to drought and wildfire. To help mitigate these losses, eligible ranchers will receive ELRP disaster assistance payments for increases in supplemental feed costs. To expedite payments, determine producer eligibility and calculate the ELRP 2022 payment, FSA is using livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported to FSA by ranchers when they submitted their Livestock Forage Disaster Program applications. ELRP payments for 2022 losses are estimated at \$465.4 million and will be automatic with no application required.

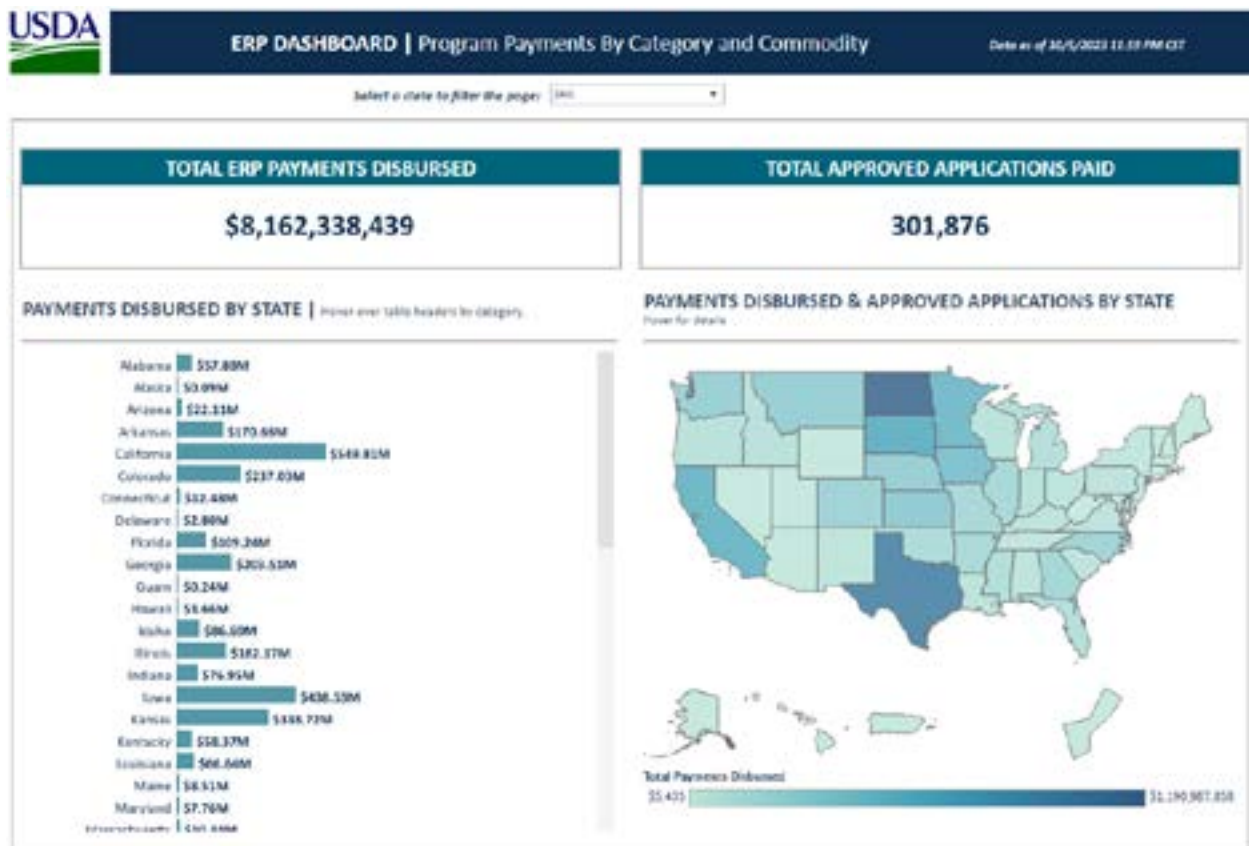
More than \$1.1 Billion in ELRP Payments have been disbursed.



Emergency Relief Program Payments

FSA is closing out Phase Two of the [Emergency Relief Program](#) (ERP) through the delivery of more than \$1.17 billion in crop disaster assistance payments to producers of eligible crops who suffered losses, measured through decreases in revenue, due to qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2020 and 2021. ERP Phase Two was intended primarily for producers of crops that were not covered by federal crop insurance or FSA’s [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP). Previously, through ERP Phase one, FSA staff processed more than 300,000 applications and paid an estimated 217,000 eligible producers more than \$8 billion.

FSA has released an [ERP public dashboard](#) and provides weekly updates which provides data and transparency on the Emergency Relief Program.



Dairy Margin Coverage Program Provides Critical Support for Dairy Operations

The August milk margin triggered the eighth consecutive payment for dairy producers who obtained [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) for the 2023 program year. August's income over feed margin is \$6.46 per hundredweight (cwt.) with projected DMC payments totaling \$120 million. To date, including the projected August payments, dairy producers have received more than \$1.2 billion in much needed economic support for 2023 and margin forecasts indicate the likelihood of more to come before the end of the calendar year.

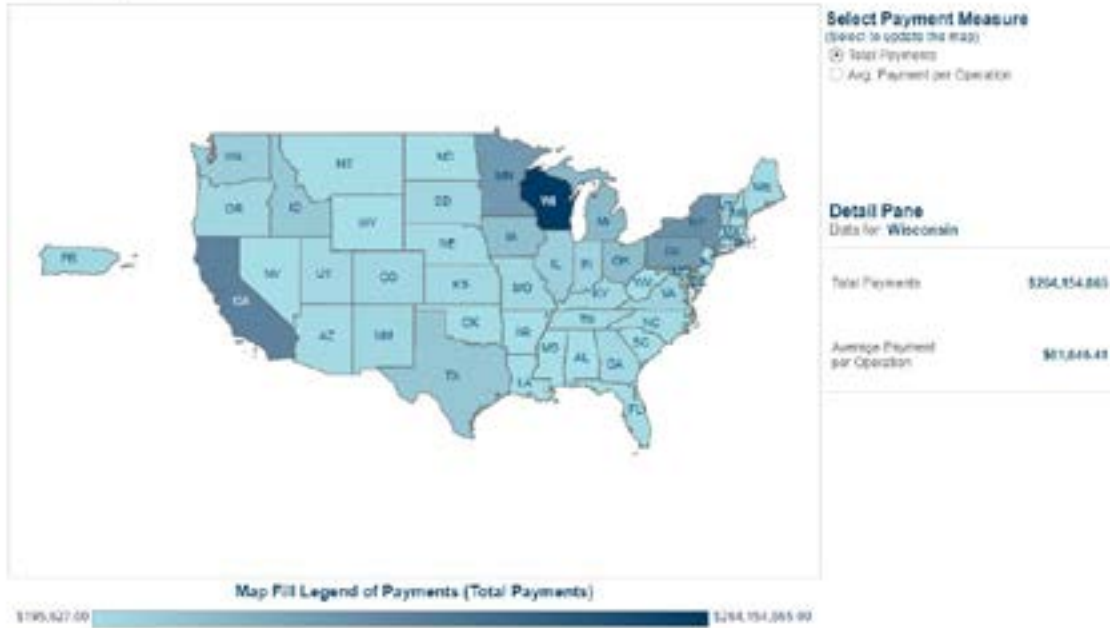
DMC is a voluntary risk management program administered by USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

"While livestock and crop producers alike have been financially impacted by catastrophic natural disaster events, dairy producers' financial stressors have been compounded by significant market volatilities," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Dairy Margin Coverage is a key risk management tool for dairy operations to financially endure the numerous, and often unpredictable uncertainties that adversely impact market prices for milk."

FSA has released a [DMC Public Dashboard](#) and provides monthly updates which provides data and transparency on the Dairy Margin Coverage Program.

Payments by State (Total Payments)

(Select a state to populate the table with detailed information, click an empty space on the map to clear selection)



Explore the Data

(Use the dropdown menus to change the sort order of the states in the table)

Sort By: State Name | Sort Direction: Ascending (A-Z)

State	Total Payments	Average Payment per Operation	Enrolled Operations	Percent Enrolled	All Operations (w/ Estimated Production History)	Licensed Dairy Operations (NASS Data, 2018)
Alabama	\$124,544	\$48,349.14	73	43.3%	38	33
Alaska	\$0	\$0	0	0.0%	1	1
Arizona	\$7,321,847	\$198,375.94	46	66.7%	70	108
Arkansas	\$662,087	\$36,312.08	25	51.0%	49	50
California	\$196,276,812	\$141,822.25	943	75.6%	1,229	1,315
Colorado	\$11,253,588	\$141,275.77	78	80.7%	91	120
Connecticut	\$4,320,814	\$88,064.74	92	72.1%	86	118
Delaware	\$665,355	\$98,036.59	18	83.3%	12	25
Florida	\$5,790,795	\$142,744.12	40	54.8%	73	85
Georgia	\$8,973,875	\$98,822.32	94	40.2%	290	160
Hawaii	\$0	\$0	0	0.0%	1	2
Idaho	\$31,915,857	\$132,132.41	242	73.1%	331	408
Illinois	\$21,152,946	\$63,090.81	362	75.2%	457	508
Indiana	\$17,541,855	\$78,036.08	222	80.9%	267	305
Iowa	\$48,417,558	\$73,372.47	659	76.8%	756	1,020
Kansas	\$10,963,864	\$78,319.28	141	68.8%	205	208
Kentucky	\$9,325,823	\$49,880.49	187	58.2%	310	340
Louisiana	\$5,350,228	\$34,821.77	81	54.2%	95	92
Maine	\$7,593,958	\$32,087.25	142	75.3%	194	238
Maryland	\$15,897,848	\$81,028.14	170	77.8%	227	308
Massachusetts	\$3,375,478	\$48,730.25	68	72.8%	113	128
Michigan	\$66,813,442	\$45,987.83	620	85.2%	680	1,820
Minnesota	\$99,895,731	\$58,284.13	1,718	88.0%	1,959	2,990
Mississippi	\$1,447,315	\$45,026.59	32	100.0%	32	65
Missouri	\$12,945,821	\$44,894.29	291	90.7%	343	518
Montana	\$3,439,941	\$37,498.78	48	81.6%	49	62
Nebraska	\$8,056,293	\$74,776.28	81	79.4%	102	115
Nevada	\$2,820,362	\$165,964.82	17	85.0%	28	20
New Hampshire	\$3,451,987	\$85,134.28	53	62.4%	85	108
New Jersey	\$1,588,422	\$71,238.42	21	88.6%	25	50
New Mexico	\$13,102,347	\$75,134.38	77	52.7%	145	148
New York	\$183,858,822	\$102,732.13	1,815	72.4%	2,508	4,190

USDA To Provide Additional Financial Assistance to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will begin providing additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying guaranteed Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the \$3.1 billion to help certain distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act.

An FLP guaranteed loan borrower is distressed if they qualify under one of the options below. FLP guaranteed borrowers who qualify under multiple options will receive a payment based on the option that provides the greatest payment amount:

- Payment of any outstanding delinquency on all qualifying FLP guaranteed loans as of Oct. 18, 2022. This includes any guaranteed loan borrowers who did not receive an automatic payment in 2022 on that loan because they were not yet 60 days delinquent as of Sept. 30, 2022, as well as guaranteed borrowers that became delinquent on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan between September 30, 2022, and Oct.18, 2022.
- Payment on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan for which a guaranteed loan borrower received a loan restructure, which modified the guaranteed loan maturity date, between March 1, 2020, and Aug. 11, 2023. The payment amount will be the lesser of the post-restructure annual installment or the amount required to pay the loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.
- Payments on certain deferred amounts on qualifying FLP guaranteed loans, not to exceed \$100,000, for guaranteed borrowers who received a deferral or another type of payment extension, for at least 45 days, between March 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2022, from their guaranteed lender on that qualifying guaranteed loan in response to COVID-19, disasters, or other revenue shortfalls. The Inflation Reduction Act payment amount will be the lesser of the most recent deferral or extension amount on the qualifying FLP guaranteed loan, or the amount required to pay that loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.

This assistance is only available for FLP guaranteed loan borrowers who did not or will not receive an initial payment on the same FLP guaranteed loan under Inflation Reduction Act assistance announced in October 2022.

Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program

The new ODMAP, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), is intended to help smaller organic dairy farms that have faced a unique set of challenges and higher costs over the past several years that have been compounded by the ongoing pandemic and drought conditions across the country. Many small organic dairy operations are now struggling to stay in business and FSA plans to provide payments to cover a portion of their estimated marketing costs for 2023. Final spending will depend on enrollment and each producers projected production, but ODMAP has been allocated up to \$100 million.

More than \$20 Million in ODMAP Payments have been disbursed.



Signup for 2023 Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds specialty crop producers of available assistance to help cover certain costs of complying with regulatory and market-driven food safety certification requirements. FSA will accept applications for 2023 costs from Feb. 1, 2023, to Jan. 31, 2024.

FSA is making available up to \$200 million through the FSCSC program, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small-scale agricultural operations and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

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

USDA DATA USERS' FALL MEETING 2023

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, such as its Dairy; Specialty Crops; Livestock and Poultry; and Cotton and Tobacco Programs. AMS also oversees the National Organic; Science and Technology; and Transportation and Marketing Programs. 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 update and improve their electronic data offerings through the AMS, My Market News and Datamart websites. Through these websites, users can access commodity specific data on over 1,500 reports that are updated daily, weekly, monthly, and annually to provide up-to-the-minute information that assists producers, consumers, and other businesses in making informed marketing and production decisions. AMS Market News is a valuable resource for anyone who is involved in the agricultural industry. It provides unbiased, comprehensive, and timely information that can help users to make informed decisions.

Additionally, AMS Market News provides two separate Application Programming Interfaces (API), where customers can now access data from over 875 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 requested information to the user in the established format without further action. Other updates that have been implemented on the site over the past year include the functionality that allows users to identify corrected data sets both by report and through the [My Market News API](#) and [Livestock Mandatory Reporting \(LMR\) API](#).

In June 2023, AMS introduced version 3.0 of 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. Version 3.0 of the app provides additional tools that allow users identify reports containing international, retail, and organic data. The update also simplifies the search process for the state and commodity search screens, making newly released reports more visible to users.

Federal-State Cooperation

AMS Market News has Federal-State Cooperative Agreements with 30 states for commodity market reporting activities. Beginning in FY 2023, these agreements were converted into the USDA ezFedGrants (eFG) Grants and Agreements System. The eFG system is used for processing Federal financial assistance transactions and provides significant efficiencies to all users managing grant and agreement portfolios. AMS worked closely with its 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 for the collection and reporting of data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products. As required by the Act, USDA collects and distributes reporting on prices of organic agricultural products; develops and implements surveys on organic production, handling, and distribution; and conducts analysis on the data for publication in reports. Of the \$5 million allocation, \$3.5 million was provided to AMS to support organic production and market data activities.

AMS is currently engaged in several key activities to support organic production and market data activities, as required by the Act, under the Organic Data Initiative (ODI). Key among these is the collection and distribution of market information for organic and conventionally produced agricultural products. Each business day, AMS Market News reporters collect price, demand, and movement information and make it available online at no cost to ensure market transparency and assist in the marketing and distribution of agricultural commodities. AMS Market News currently reports over 240 organic commodities, and tracks and reports organic markets at three main levels – shipping point or point of entry (for imports), wholesale, and retail. Reporting of organic commodities at shipping point usually includes tracking the volume of movement, which consists of domestic shipments or crossings from Mexico/imports from other countries. Market News provides some comprehensive reports for the organic sector, such as the daily *National Specialty Crops Organic Summary*. AMS has a webpage showcasing Market News organic reports including a *Weekly Retail Organic Price Comparison Report* that shows the price differences between organic and conventional products to assist stakeholders in analysis of commodity sales and consumers' willingness to pay for organic products.

In FY 2023, 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 has been expanded as part of the ODI effort. AMS was able to participate in outreach at dozens of industry conferences and events under the Initiative, and partnered with multiple state institutions to both increase organic data as well as to conduct gap analyses 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. MIOA supports the concept that timely and unbiased market information helps provide market transparency – a basic public good. MIOA and AMS Market News have partnered to create the *MIOA Toolbox*, a five-part series of modules available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. This series has provided hundreds of leading market information specialists, data analysts, and various strategic partners from the 33 member countries with key information on the strategies, new tools, and good practices to improve market reporting.

across the Americas. The five modules are titled:

- *Components of a Successful MIS*
- *Value of and Strategies for Accurate Market Information*
- *Market Reporter: Profile and Good Practices for Success*
- *Good Practices for MIS in Preparation for Emergencies*
- *Outreach, Education and Promotion for MIS*

AMS Market News, along with the other data agencies of USDA, is partnering with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to deliver capacity building programs in the Dominican Republic and the State of Maharashtra, India. AMS is drawing upon the *MIOA Toolbox* for these training programs for market information specialists. Information specialists from other countries have sat in on these advanced training programs, greatly increasing the reach and impact of these programs. Additional projects for improving Market Information Systems with guidance from AMS Market News are also underway in Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, and Paraguay. AMS Market News has also provided technical assistance for FAS capacity building programs in Ethiopia which may be expanded to cover much of the African continent.

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Reporting

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News (LPGMN) 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 the statutory authority was scheduled to expire September 30, 2020. However,

reauthorization has been extended several times, the latest by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and other Extensions Act through November 17, 2023.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 provided funding to the Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division to develop and maintain a Cattle Contracts Library (CCL) pilot program like the Swine Contract Library maintained by the Packers and Stockyards Division. Development of the CCL is underway and expected to be released publicly no later than September 30, 2023. The Cattle Contract Library is a pilot program was launched in January 2023. The program collects and maintains information on contracts between packers and cattle producers for the purchase of fed cattle. This information is then aggregated and reported to the industry and public on a weekly basis. The Cattle Contract Library is intended to help cattle producers make more informed marketing and business decisions. By having access to information on the terms and conditions of cattle contracts, producers can better understand the market and negotiate better prices for their cattle. The Cattle Contract Library is still in its pilot phase, and the USDA is seeking feedback from the industry on how to improve the program.

In July 2023 LPGMN 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.

Cotton Market News Reporting

During the 2022-2023 cotton crop year, Cotton Market News 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 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. Class II, Class III, and Class IV weekly cream multiples and prices were added to the domestic East and West Fluid weekly regional reports. In February 2023, Dairy Market News added several new package sizes to the weekly retail ad collection entries, allowing for improved coverage of organic butter, cheese, and ice cream product ads. 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. Dairy Market News reports will be transitioning to PDF format, from txt format, soon.

In conjunction with the Organic Data Initiative, Dairy Market News added 4 Pennsylvania regional farmers market reports, which can be found on the [Dairy Market News Local and](#)

Regional Food Marketing website. Additional farmers market reports are being developed and will be added to the Dairy Market News Local and Regional Food Marketing website in the near future.

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

Specialty Crops Market News (SCMN) continues the transition to MARS/ My Market News with the successful launch of the Retail market level in September 2023. Terminal, Shipping Point, and Movement market levels will be the next to make the transition. For each market level, the full dataset including historical data will be available via API once transition to the new system is complete. SCMN added 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. The *National Retail Report – Specialty Crops* has grown to be one of the mostly closed tracked reports published by Market News. SCMN tracks approximately 410 supermarket chains, with over 30,300 individual outlets. 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. To better meet specialized information needs, the *U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update* was created to highlight the seasonal market situation on several of the most widely imported specialty crops commodities, with additional commentary and market price and volume data visualizations. SCMN has been working closely with the Domestic Hemp Production Program to improve access to and awareness hemp commodities. The National Weekly Hemp Report was launched in January 2023, featuring both retail prices as well as movement volumes of imports of selected hemp commodities.

SCMN gained access to the Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE), implemented through the joint efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Homeland Security, and the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). SCMN transitioned to using the ACE system as the primary source of import data, starting with the northern border on January 2, 2020. On January 3, 2021, SCMN continued the transition to ACE for all other points and ports of entry, excluding Mexico Crossings through Nogales, Arizona. The ACE data using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes is timelier, allowing SCMN to have daily reports for hundreds of commodities, and it reflects the actual volumes more accurately, as it covers all ports and points of entry.

SCMN worked closely with industry leaders to request new HTS codes from the International Trade Commission (ITC) to increase the specificity of the ACE data and provide transparency for commodities that have significant economic value in the marketplace. Since January 2021, SCMN is responsible for the creation of 227 new HTS codes, 47 of which are organic.

Currently, 39 organic and 13 conventional commodities are being held in abeyance for the October 2023 ITC 484 (f) Committee meeting and additional commodities are being researched for the March 2024 submission.

Agricultural Transportation Open Data Visualization Platform – AgTransport

The [AgTransport](#) platform offers farmers, commodity analysts, elevator operators, shippers, and other stakeholders’ access to USDA data that can help them 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—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.

There have been many new features added to the platform with the latest expansion in July. One feature helps users visualize data about international transport costs to better understand international trade competitiveness. New interactive datasets have been added related to highway infrastructure from the report, [The Importance of Highways to U.S. Agriculture](#), released in December 2020. There is also an [online version](#) of the 2021 [Compendium of Agricultural Transportation Research](#), which offers insight on all major transport modes by highlighting the main findings and methods from recent research between 2015 and 2021.

Other features on the platform include:

- Grain Transportation Cost Indicators and Global Competitiveness Dashboard with data on Brazil, Mexico, and Japan
- Interactive Rail Dashboard with expanded Data, Maps, and Analysis, featuring 14 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



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 2013 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 Survey of Business Owners
- 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 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. [census.gov/economic-indicators](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/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

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 the FTR. 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 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), 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
- COVID-19 Data Hub

The U.S. Census Bureau's COVID-19 Hub contains demographic and economic data designed to help guide decision-making related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interactive platform includes key demographic data from the American Community Survey and key data on businesses with one or more paid employees from the County Business Patterns program. In addition, the COVID-19 Data Hub brings together data from multiple Federal agencies including the USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program and private sector organizations. The hub was built in collaboration with ESRI and leverages many features of the ArcGIS platform and solution templates.

<https://covid19.census.gov/>