



United States Department of Agriculture

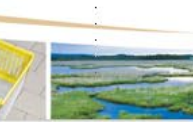
An Overview of the Economic Research Service

*Administrator Spiro Stefanou
USDA Economic Research Service
April 6, 2021*





*Providing **trusted, objective, and timely** research and statistics on agriculture, food, the environment and rural America.*



ERS Covers a Broad Range of Economic and Policy Topics

- **Agricultural Economy** – farm sector performance and farm households' well-being; farm size and concentration; market analysis, data, and projections on commodity supply, demand, and prices; and Federal farm policies
- **Rural Economy** – investments in rural communities and drivers of rural economic performance, demographic change and its impact on rural communities
- **Global Markets and Trade** – major markets and competitors, economic impacts of exports and imports, trade barriers, and potential trade agreements



ERS Covers a Broad Range of Economic and Policy Topics

(continued)

- **Food Safety** – societal benefits associated with reducing food safety risks, economic impacts of food hazards, and potential results of regulation versus industry decisions
- **Food and Nutrition** – U.S. food security, food and nutrition assistance programs, food choices and health outcomes, food access and store proximity, food retailing and marketing, and food prices
- **Resources and Environment** – economic impacts of conservation programs, efficacy of policies designed to protect the environment, and enhancing agricultural competitiveness through technology





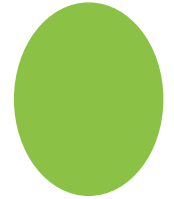
Economic Research Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ERS Foundational Data Supports Research & Analysis

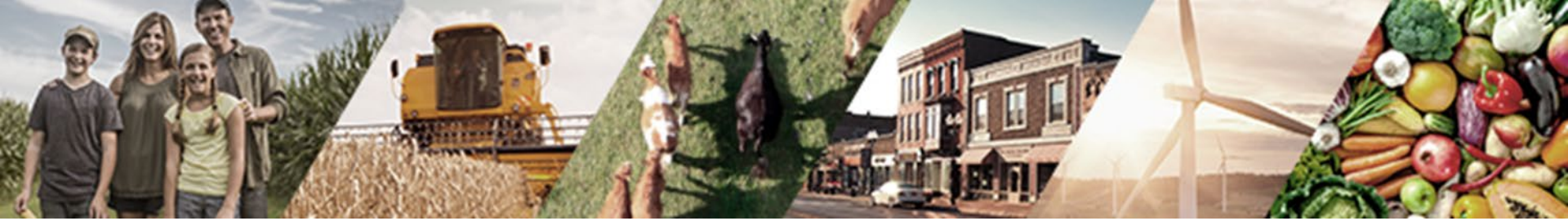
- **The Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS):** is USDA's primary source of information on the financial condition, production practices, and resource use of America's farm businesses and the economic well-being of America's farm households.
- **The National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS):** is the first nationally representative survey of American households to collect unique and comprehensive data about household food purchases and acquisitions.
- **Store Sales and Household Scanner Data:** Point of sale data from food stores, drugstores, mass merchandisers, dollar stores, club stores, military, and convenience stores and from household panel members scanning their purchases.



ERS Research Addresses Several Key Issues Affecting Farmers

- Farm Labor
- Farm Income
- Farm Bill & Farm Policy
- Financial Risk & Tax Policy
- Rural Infrastructure
- Trade Policy/Foreign Competition
- Technology Adoption & Precision Ag
- Rural Economic Prosperity
- Availability Of Credit & Banking
- Healthy, Local, Organic Foods
- Income & Debt
- Weather Variability & Drought Resilience
- Sustainability
- Bioengineered Foods/Biotech
- Water Use, Irrigation, & Resource Conservation
- Consumers & Food Assistance Policy
- Beginning Farmers
- Food Safety Rules
- Risk Management
- Bioenergy
- Land Use





Recent ERS Research Efforts

- **ERS COVID-19 Rapid Response Team**
 - *Providing timely economic analysis to help policymakers understand the current impact and status of the pandemic.*
- **Household Pulse Survey & COVID-19 Working Paper Series**
 - *New data on COVID-19 and the resulting economic recession*
 - *Timely research related to the pandemic's impact on the food system, consumers, producers, and the economy.*
- **Analysis of the E.C. Farm to Fork Initiative**
 - *Released on accelerated timeline to respond to an emerging issue*





Priorities

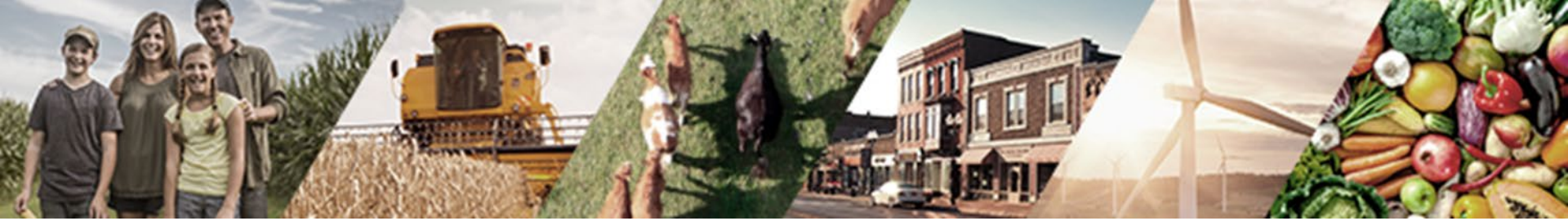
- **Staffing and Training**

- Filling many positions
- Rapidly absorbing a growing workforce with an eye to the future
- More than 96 positions filled in FY2020
- Continued maximum telework due to COVID-19
- New ERS – Kansas City facility at 805 Penn. Ave

- **Timely Release of Research**

- Developing new ways to communicate and disseminate research and data
- High priority, relevant topic areas to ensure wise investment of resources





Positioned to Contribute

- Ready to inform the policy agenda
 - Climate change and Agriculture
 - Food and nutritional insecurity
 - Open and Competitive Markets
 - Racial and Equity
- Food Supply Chain Resilience (EO 14017)





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Questions?

Contact:

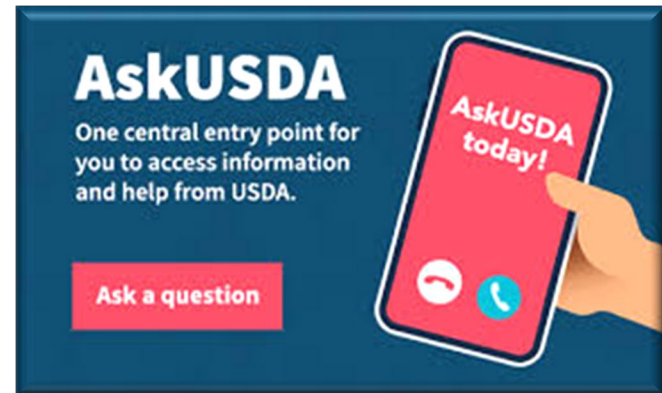
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