



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Data may have been updated since publication. For the most current information, see [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/)

## Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Annual percent change			
						2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	240.9	288.5	324.2	285.0p	290.5f	19.8	12.4	-12.1	1.9
Crops	122.3	149.9	183.1	166.3p	160.3f	22.6	22.1	-9.2	-3.6
Livestock	118.6	138.6	141.1	118.8p	130.3f	16.9	1.8	-15.8	9.7
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	15.8	11.9	12.2	12.9p	12.4f	-24.7	2.5	5.7	-3.9
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	273.3	316.7	356.2	318.6p	324.5f	15.9	12.5	-10.6	1.9
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	68.8	78.2	97.5	70.8p	76.3f	13.7	24.7	-27.4	7.8
Net value added (\$ bil.)	101.7	117.0	135.7	108.1p	114.2f	15.0	16.0	-20.3	5.6
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,720.0	1,841.2	1,766.6	1,694.2p	1,643.3f	7.0	-4.1	-4.1	-3.0
Farm debt-asset ratio	10.6	10.4	11.9	12.8p	12.4f	-1.9	14.4	7.6	-3.1
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	80,122	87,740	78,803	76,258p	80,766f	9.5	-10.2	-3.2	5.9
Farm household income relative to average									
U.S. household income (%)	120.4	129.8	115.2	na	na	na	na	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) <sup>1</sup>	3.4	3.5	2.2	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	304	312	317	310p	na	2.6	1.6	-2.2	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) <sup>1,2</sup>	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.8p	na	2.5	6.0	4.1	18.4

## Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	13,178	13,808	14,265	na	na	4.8	3.3	na	na
Share of agriculture & related industries in GDP (%) <sup>1</sup>	4.3	4.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) <sup>1</sup>	0.7	1.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>	64.0	70.1	79.3	73.4	77.5f	9.5	13.1	-7.4	5.6
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>	68.6	82.2	115.3	96.6	100.0f	19.8	40.3	-16.2	3.5
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) <sup>1</sup>	23.0	24.6	22.4p	23.0f	na	na	na	na	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	195.3	202.9	214.1	218.0	224.2f	3.9	5.5	1.8	2.8
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.8	9.7	9.6	na	na	na	na	na	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	51.5	51.5	51.5	na	na	na	na	na	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	246.2	248.1	267.0	276.3	na	0.8	7.6	3.5	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>	53.1	54.3	60.9	79.2	na	2.3	12.2	30.0	na

f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available. All dollar amounts are in current dollars.

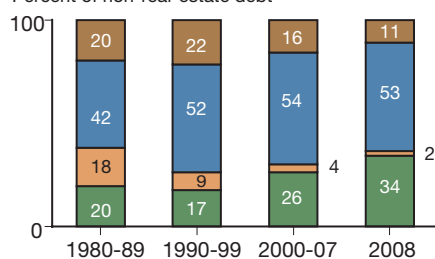
<sup>1</sup>The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics.

Sources and computation methodology are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm)

<sup>2</sup>Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

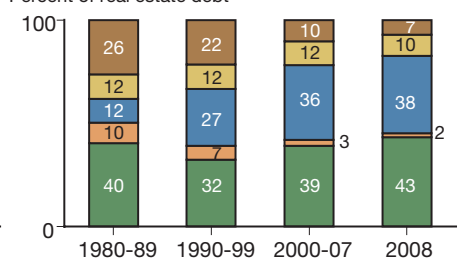
**While commercial banks have been the dominant lenders for non-real-estate farm debt...**

Percent of non-real-estate debt



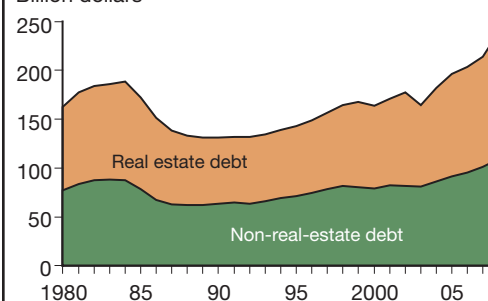
**...the Farm Credit System is the dominant lender for real estate debt of farm businesses**

Percent of real estate debt



**Farm real estate debt rose faster than non-real-estate farm debt from 2003 to 2008**

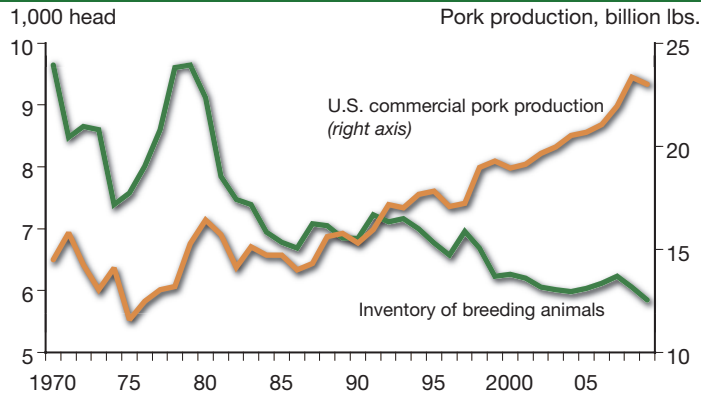
Billion dollars



For more information, see [www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves)

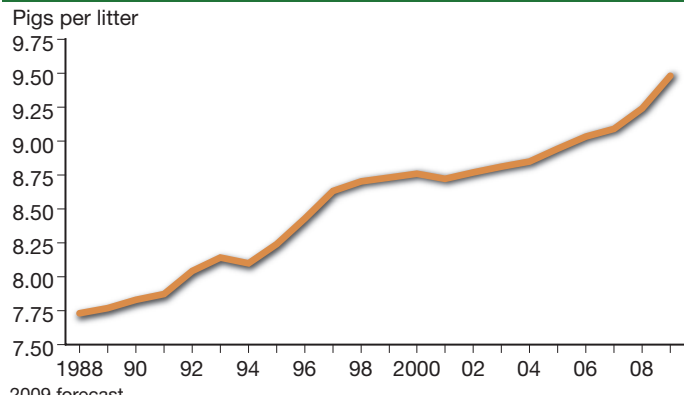
## Markets and Trade

### U.S. commercial pork production rose even as breeding animal numbers declined...



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using information from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

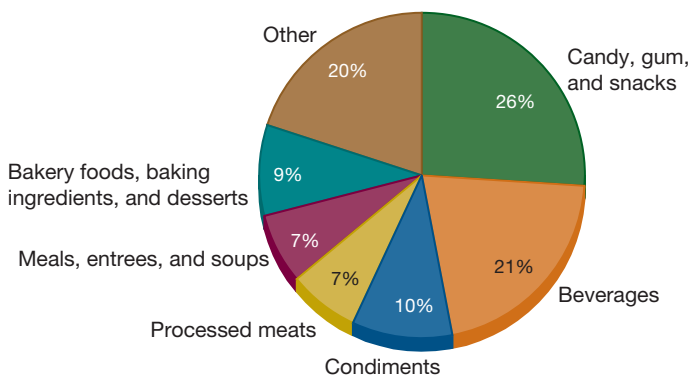
### ...and the number of pigs per litter rose steadily



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using information from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

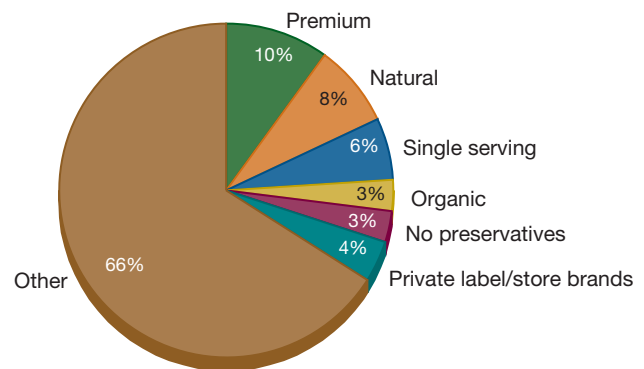
## Diet and Health

### Candy, gum, snacks, and beverages made up almost half of new food products in 2009



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using Datamonitor data.

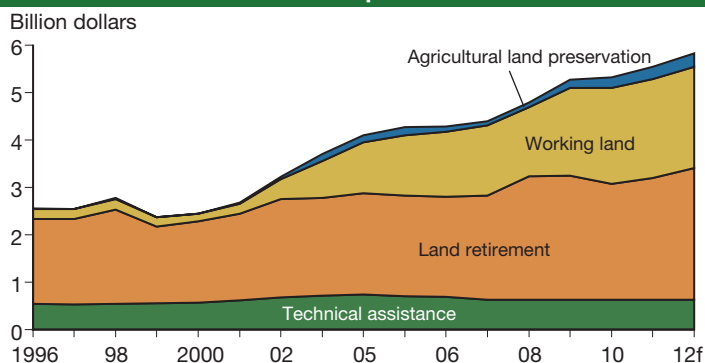
### "Premium" and "natural" topped list of claims on new food products in 2009



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using Datamonitor data.

## Resources and Environment

### Conserving practices on working lands account for growing share of USDA conservation expenditures

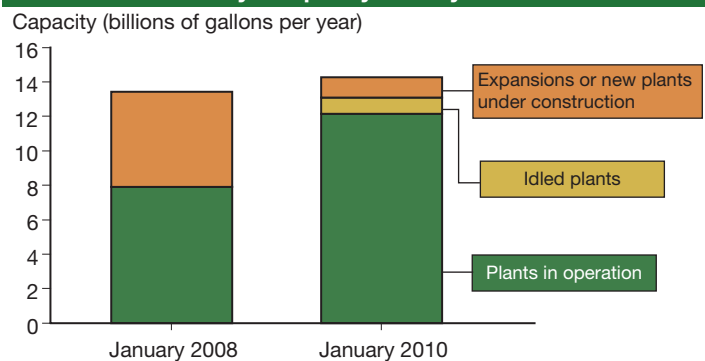


f = forecast.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using Office of Budget and Policy Analysis budget summary data (1996-2007) and Congressional Budget Office data (2008-12).

## Farms, Firms, and Households

### Idled plants accounted for about 7 percent of the U.S. ethanol industry's capacity in early 2010



Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service analysis of data from *Ethanol Producer Magazine*, the Renewable Fuels Association, company websites, media reports, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency.

## On the Map

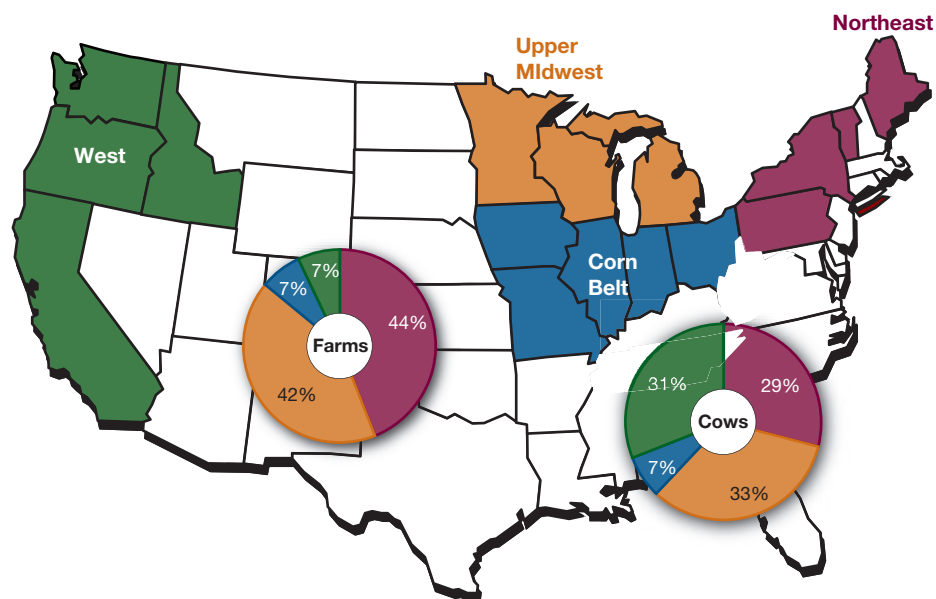
### Western U.S. Has the Highest Number of Organic Dairy Cows Per Farm But the Fewest Farms

More than 80 percent of U.S. organic dairies were located in the Northeast and Upper Midwest, but these operations were smaller and less productive than those in the West. Only 7 percent of organic dairies were in the West, but these operations accounted for 31 percent of organic milk cows. Operations in the Northeast averaged 53 cows; the Upper Midwest, 64 cows; and the West, 381 cows. Organic dairy cows in the West averaged nearly 16,000 pounds of annual milk production per cow, 2,700 pounds more than in the Upper Midwest and 4,000 pounds more than in the Northeast.

**William D. McBride,**  
wmcbride@ers.usda.gov

### Share of organic dairy farms and milk cows in each region

Only 7 percent of organic dairy farms were in the West region, but these farms held 31 percent of organic milk cows



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations based on data from USDA's 2005 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

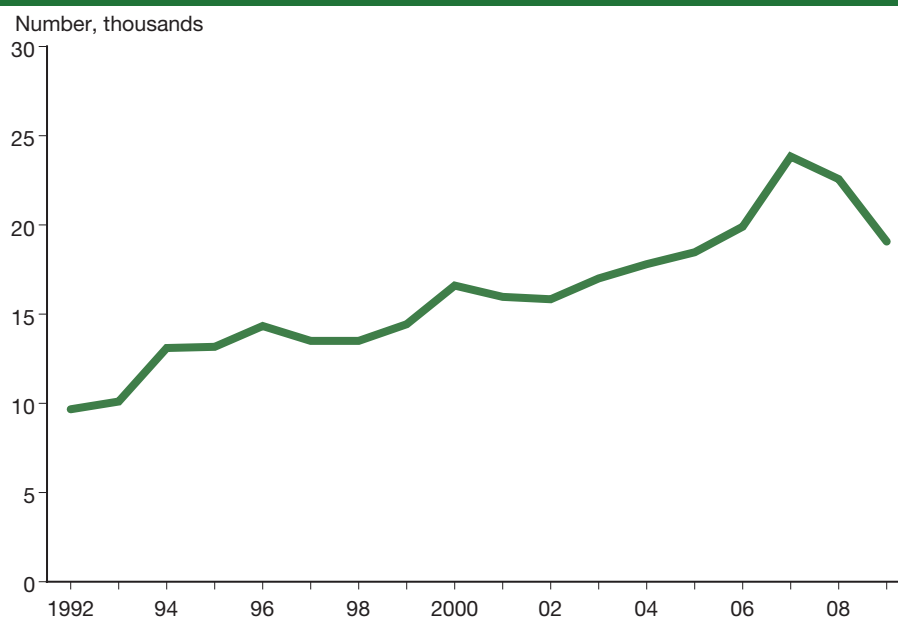
## In the Long Run

### Food Product Introductions Buck Long-Term Trend

U.S. food and beverage product introductions have increased for most of the last decade and a half. A record 24,236 new products were introduced in 2007. In 2009, however, U.S. food and beverage product introductions fell by 3,519 to 19,047, the second consecutive yearly reduction and the largest in at least 15 years. Categories with the most new products included beverages and candy, gum, and snacks. Among the top 10 new product tags or claims, "premium" and "organic" experienced the largest declines, while private label product introductions set a new record in 2009.

**Steve Martinez,**  
martinez@ers.usda.gov

### U.S. food and beverage product introductions, 1992-2009



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using Datamonitor data.