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# Publications

**Agricultural-Food Policy Review: Perspectives For The 1980's.** ESS, USDA, AFPR-4, April 1981.

Nine articles provide background for discussions on new legislation to replace the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, which expires this year. New legislation will be influenced by the much altered nature of U.S. farming:

- Almost all easily available cropland, including that once idled by farm programs, is now back in production. Millions of acres of potential cropland remain, but are not as productive or need to be improved.
- The long period of overproduction, burdensome surpluses, and depressed farm prices now seems to be behind us, although there may still be occasional years of excess production.
- The character of U.S. farming has changed as fewer but larger farms now produce most of our total agricultural production.

**Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land—Highlights,** by Peter De Braal. ESS, USDA, ESS-9, April 1981.

Foreign entities and individuals reported by December 31, 1980, that they owned 7.8 million acres or 0.6 percent of U.S. farmland. This is 2.2 million more acres than found in the previous survey which ended February 1, 1980. This increase is partially due to the inclusion of 1979 reports filed after the February cutoff date.

**Developments in Farm-to-Retail Price Spreads for Food Products in 1980.** National Economics Division, ESS, USDA, AER-465, April 1981.

The rise in 1980 food prices was the smallest in 3 years and well below the inflation rate for all prices in the economy. For domestically produced foods, both the farm value and food-industry charges for processing and marketing rose less than in 1979, limiting the retail price rise. However, retail prices for fish and imported foods, particularly sugar, rose more sharply. As in past years, about a third of consumer expenditures for domestically produced foods

paid for the farm value of foods and the rest was needed to pay for the marketing bill.

**Analysis of the Impact of Food Stamp Redemptions in Food Stores and Regions, Fiscal Year 1978,** by Paul E. Nelson. ESS, USDA, TB-1646, April 1981.

Among stores accepting food stamps in fiscal year 1978, large chain stores were concentrated in higher income, white collar neighborhoods and suburban areas, where most households had access to a car. Smaller stores, particularly independent grocers, predominated in lower income and black neighborhoods. Regional shares of all food stores accepting food stamps, their food sales, and level of food stamp redemptions differed significantly in both 1976 and 1978. Changes that occurred between the 2 years, however, were not significant.

**Meat Animals: Production, Disposition, and Income, Final Estimates for 1975-78.** Crop Reporting Board, ESS, USDA, SB-660, April 1981.

This publication presents final estimates for farm production, disposition, and income from meat animals for the period 1975-78. Some estimates are slightly revised. This report continues the official series published in Statistical Bulletin No. 598 issued March 1978.

**Impact of Household Size and Income on Food Spending Patterns,** by David Smallwood and James Blaylock. ESS, USDA, TB-1650, May 1981.

Expenditure elasticities are detailed for 24 major food groups and 77 subgroups. They allow researchers and policymakers to anticipate what can happen to family expenditures when income and household size change. The elasticities usually confirm that spending for food away from home increases significantly as income rises while spending for food prepared at home increases more modestly. The reverse relationship is true for increases in household size.

**Establishing a Cotton Gin Cooperative in the Southeast,** by Donald M. Simon, William R. Garland, and Jan Halkett. ACS, USDA, ACS-7.

The producer-members of the proposed Albermarle Cotton Growers Cooperative now experience costly and dangerous conditions in transporting seed cotton to distant

ginning sites. These growers seek to acquire locally a cooperatively owned and operated cotton gin. This study of the proposed venture reports on producer surveys and financial projections, and estimates member benefits and return on investment. The feasibility analysis concludes that it is possible for these North Carolina growers to earn a respectable return on their cooperative investment. However, firm volume and equity commitments on the part of the growers will be required.

**Cheese Pricing,** by Harold W. Lough. ESS, USDA, AER-462.

Cheese prices reflect expanding production and consumption, increasing domination by fewer firms, and substantial government regulation. Dairy farmers receive about 48 cents of each retail dollar spent on cheese. Processing, packaging, and transportation account for the remaining 52 cents. Retailers receive a higher profit from cheese than from other dairy products.

**Inflation: A Food and Agricultural Perspective,** by Paul T. Prentice and Lyle P. Schertz. ESS, USDA, AER-463.

Inflation, defined as a rise in the general price level, accelerated in the U.S. from an average of slightly less than 2 percent in 1950-64, to over 11 percent in 1979 and 13 percent in 1980.

In the agricultural sector, inflation leads to higher prices of farm products and inputs. It also encourages farmers to purchase additional capital inputs, increases the wealth of those who own the land, and strengthens the relative economic position of high income people in buying land. Inflation and agriculture, and the impact of programs designed to aid farmers and consumers are examined in this report.

*Publications noted in this section may be obtained by writing the sources listed. For publications without addresses call (202) 447-7255 or write Publications Unit, Room 0054, Economics and Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. All publications are free of charge unless otherwise noted.*