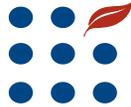




United States
Department
of Agriculture

AES-60

December 1,
2008



Electronic Outlook Report from the
Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service



www.ers.usda.gov

www.fas.usda.gov

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade

FY 2009 Agricultural Exports Lowered to \$98.5 Billion; Imports Lowered, But Remain at Record \$81 Billion

Contents

Economic Outlook
Export Products
Regional Exports
Import Products
Regional Imports
Contact Information

Tables

Commodity Exports
Regional Exports
Commodity Imports
Regional Imports
Reliability Tables

Web Sites

U.S. Trade Data

FAQ & Summary
Data

Articles on U.S.
Trade

The next release is
February 26, 2009

Approved by the
World Agricultural
Outlook Board.

Fiscal 2009 agricultural exports are forecast at \$98.5 billion, down \$14.5 billion from August and \$17.0 billion below record 2008 sales. The outlook for U.S. exports has changed dramatically with the expectation of global recession in 2009. The combination of weaker global demand, falling prices, and an appreciating dollar create a very unfavorable outlook for U.S. exports.

Huge wheat supplies from Russia, EU, and Ukraine increase competition in grain markets. Grain and feed exports are lowered from August, and exports are now forecast \$10 billion below record 2008 sales. Forecasted unit values for wheat and coarse grains are lowered from August, and year-over-year shipments are down about 20 percent. Soybeans and products are reduced \$2.2 billion since August on lower unit values, and reduced supply lower year-over-year soybean shipments 3.1 million tons. China's demand for soybeans remains strong. Cotton exports are lowered due to weak consumer demand for textiles. Animal product exports drop \$1.7 billion since August mostly due to reduced demand for pork, broilers, animal fats, and dairy products. The forecast for horticultural products is lowered, but sales are still expected to increase from 2008.

Fiscal 2009 agricultural imports are lowered \$2 billion from August but remain a record \$81 billion. This reflects the slowest growth rate in many years. Despite the stronger dollar, and some relief from high oil prices, a slumping economy with rising unemployment and falling consumer spending is slowing import growth.

Table 1--U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal years 2004-2009, year ending September 30

Item	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Forecast fiscal 2009	
						Aug.	Nov.
<i>\$ billion</i>							
Exports	62.4	62.5	68.6	82.2	115.5	113.0	98.5
Imports	52.7	57.7	64.0	70.1	79.3	83.0	81.0
Balance	9.8	4.8	4.6	12.1	36.1	30.0	17.5

Reflects forecasts in the November 10, 2008, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Economy slows in 2008, world goes into recession

The U.S. recession began in late 2007 as the previous expansion peaked in December. Since then this recession has spread to Europe and Asia. World growth has slowed to recession levels due to crises in world financial and asset markets and the lagged effects of sharp energy price increases. Credit constraints and higher interest rates have sharply curtailed U.S. and European growth, which are now negative. High commodity prices and overall inflation in 2008 have turned around with commodity price deflation and sharply lower inflation. The real estate market, financial market, and commodity price bubbles have burst. Oil prices which reached almost \$150 in intraday trading are now trading at around \$50 per barrel, below the 2007 average price. In the first half of 2008, the dollar weakened against every major currency. In the second half, the dollar strengthened against every currency except the yuan and the yen.

U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 1.2-1.4 percent is expected in 2008, down from prior estimates. The Eurozone grew less than 1 percent. Slowdowns in developed economies will keep world economic growth between 2.5 and 2.6 percent in 2008, down from 2007. Growth in every major Asian economy has been below 2007 levels, due to sluggish growth in developed economies and the spread of the financial crisis to Asia. Latin American growth has slowed. Lower commodity prices have taken some of the sting out of slower economic growth.

U.S. growth has slowed in 2008 due to a sharp decline in housing construction, financial market disturbances outside housing, and troubled bank loan portfolios. Farm operators have continued to get bank loans, despite overall credit rationing, as commercial farm loan delinquencies have been at record low levels. Rising exports and falling imports supported U.S. growth in the first half of 2008, but the last half of the year is expected show negative GDP growth. China's GDP is expected to grow 9 percent in 2008. The rest of Asia is slated to grow 5 percent. Despite slower world growth and tighter credit conditions, Asian trade has been supported by lower commodity and energy prices, which also brought lower transportation costs.

Looking ahead to a less favorable 2009

The dollar is expected to generally appreciate against most currencies in 2009, however it will remain weak by recent historical standards. Nevertheless, prospects for U.S. exports are far less favorable for 2009 than in 2008. The U.S. and European recessions that began in 2008 are expected to continue into 2009 with both economies shrinking, despite aggressive action by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board and the European Central Bank.

The good news is that energy prices should fall, with crude oil prices falling 20-30 percent compared to 2008, easing inflationary pressures. Other raw material prices should drop as well as the commodity price bubble continues to deflate. Further, the dollar, despite some modest strengthening against some currencies, will remain relatively weak helping U.S. trade.

U.S. economic growth will shrink in 2009 due to weak housing construction, higher long-term market interest rates, deteriorating household and business balance

sheets, rising unemployment and falling personal income which results in falling consumer spending. Modestly higher exports and falling imports will moderate the shrinkage of the U.S. economy in early 2009. As the world economy further slows, total world trade growth will fall sharply—possibly further pinching world and domestic growth. Canada will grow sluggishly, below the 1 percent growth seen in 2008. Latin American growth will slow to below 3 percent as Argentina and Brazil slow to 3 percent and Mexico drops slightly in 2009.

Developed European economies will continue the recession some of these nations have been in since early 2008 and be joined by every major continental economy. Germany and France are expected to see no GDP growth and rising unemployment. The United Kingdom is expected to see GDP shrink 1 percent. Overall, developed Europe's GDP is expected to shrink.

China's GDP is expected to grow 7 percent in 2009, as their exports to the recessed U.S. and European economies slow sharply, bringing growth in the rest of East Asia below 3 percent. The rest of Asia is slated to grow about 4 percent, with Indian and Korean growth slowing to 3 percent—below the strong growth of recent years. Strong growth in total world trade seen over the last 5 years will reverse as world growth drops to 1.2-1.5 percent, well below the 2 percent growth rate seen as the standard for a world recession.

Downside risk to outlook significant

A deeper U.S. recession with 2009 GDP dropping 1.5 percent could then shrink Mexican and Canadian GDP. Developed Europe could shrink 1.5 percent with peripheral European countries such as Turkey, Ukraine, and Bulgaria shrinking 1-2 percent. Russia could see GDP growth slow to 2-3 percent with FSU countries possibly shrinking.

If China were to slow to 5 percent growth in 2009, it could be accompanied by a drop in other Asia growth to 2-3 percent. Japan could shrink 2 percent with or without the Chinese economy shrinking. The bottom line, if several of these events converged, there would be no world growth. World trade would shrink and U.S. farm exports could drop even more sharply.

Export Products

The U.S. financial crisis came to a head shortly after the August forecast was released and was transmitted around the globe via tighter credit markets, falling equity values, declining commodity prices, and exchange rate adjustments. A global recession is now expected. At the same time, the dollar has sharply appreciated against nearly every currency, creating a very unfavorable outlook for U.S. export value in FY 2009.

Increased competition and reduced import demand in global grain markets is negatively impacting U.S. exports. The fiscal 2009 forecast for grain and feed exports is lowered to \$28.3 billion, down \$3.9 billion from August and \$10 billion from last year's record \$38.3 billion. Most of the revision since August is due to lower estimates for unit values, as commodity prices continued to fall. On a year-to-year basis, decreased volumes (especially for coarse grains) remain the principal reason for reduced value across the entire category. Wheat exports are reduced \$500 million from August, as the unit value (now set at \$290 per ton) is 23 percent below fiscal 2008. Export volume remains at 26.5 million tons or 20 percent below last year. Huge foreign exportable supplies, particularly in the EU, Russia, and Ukraine, have created intense competition and downward pressure on prices.

The fiscal 2009 forecast for coarse grains is lowered from the August estimate to 51.6 million tons—nearly 17 million tons below last year. Corn export value is down sharply due to unit value and volume adjustments. U.S. supplies remain adequate, but key competitors hold large exportable grain supplies (including feed-quality wheat). World corn trade is lowered by over 6 million tons since August, with fierce competition from feed-quality wheat. Compared to last year, global import demand for corn is down 14 million tons mainly as the EU and Korea reduce purchases. Increased sorghum sales to the EU in 2008 will be lost in 2009.

Fiscal 2009 rice volume and unit values are lowered from August, bringing the forecast to 3.9 million tons valued at \$2 billion—largely the same as fiscal 2008. Weaker shipments to Latin America and the Middle East are expected to offset expanded shipments to Oceania from fiscal 2008 to fiscal 2009. Despite rapidly falling prices in recent months, the average unit value for fiscal 2009 remains 5 percent higher than last year.

The fiscal 2009 forecast for oilseeds and products is reduced \$4.7 billion from August to \$18.4 billion—\$4.5 billion below last year's record \$22.9 billion. The revision since August is due to lower unit values which are now estimated at \$430 per ton for soybeans (down 9 percent from fiscal 2008), \$327 per ton for soymeal (down 15 percent), and \$911 per ton for soyoil (down 21 percent). Oilseed and product prices in part reflect weakening demand for meats and livestock feed.

Partly offsetting the downward adjustment in unit values since August, soybean volume was raised slightly based on strong early-season sales to China. China's import demand remains at near record levels, although slightly reduced from last year. However, U.S. soybean volume is still forecast to fall 3.1 million tons or 10 percent from last year's level. With little change in South American competitor supplies, lower U.S. export volume is due to more limited domestic supplies, as beginning stocks are down to 5.6 million tons or 10 million tons lower than the previous year. Soybean meal and oil available for export are lower as the estimate for domestic soybean crush is lowered.

The fiscal 2009 cotton export forecast is lowered 455,000 tons and \$1.9 billion since August to 2.8 million tons valued at \$4 billion. If realized, the forecast is \$800 million below record 2008 sales and is due to declines in both volume and unit value. Deteriorating world economic conditions dampen consumer demand for textiles and pressure cotton prices. The forecast for global consumption has fallen, largely because consumption in China has fallen, making this the first year-to-year decline in China's consumption since 1998/99.

The fiscal 2009 forecast for livestock, poultry, and dairy products is \$20.4 billion, or nearly \$1.8 billion below last year's record. Since August, the forecast was lowered \$2 billion, mostly due to lower pork volume, lower broiler meat prices, and a mix of volume and price reductions for animal fats, dairy products, and animal hides and skins. The revised outlook is mostly linked to concerns about weaker foreign demand resulting from the economic slowdown and stronger dollar. Unlike bulk commodities, falling sales volumes should have a greater overall impact on export value.

Pork exports are lowered 250,000 tons and \$550 million from August to 1.5 million tons valued at \$4 billion. Weaker demand and the stronger dollar should curb volume but not unit values. China's forecast import demand is lowered sharply as domestic production rebounds from disease and natural disaster. Since animal fats and vegetable oils can be substitutes, the prospects of lower vegetable oils prices lead to a \$300-million reduction for animal fats. Broiler meat is lowered \$300 million to \$2.9 billion mostly on lower unit values. Demand from Russia, Ukraine, and Vietnam eases due to macro-economic factors and the falling value of the Brazilian real against the dollar, increasing competition from that country.

Reflecting lower volumes and unit values, dairy exports are lowered \$500 million from August bringing the year-over-year decline to \$900 million. Global prices of major dairy commodities, particularly nonfat dry milk, are dropping sharply due to increased supplies from Oceania and the EU and contracting demand. Import demand is negatively impacted by falling consumer prices and weaker income growth. In Asia, the melamine issue has undermined consumer confidence in dairy products.

Fiscal 2009 horticultural product exports are lowered \$1.2 billion from the August forecast, but remain a record \$21.5 billion. This downward revision is mainly due to weaker demand and a stronger dollar. If realized, the \$700-million increase will represent the slowest growth rate (3 percent) in the past six years by a large margin. Sales to Canada are expected to see little, if any, decline. Sales of most products to most countries should noticeably weaken. Like other high-value products and processed foods, weaker demand should have greater impact on volume than prices.

Fresh fruits and vegetable are unchanged from the August forecast of \$6 billion. Approximately two-thirds of these products are shipped to Canada and Mexico and enjoy significant market presence over the competition. The processed fruit and vegetable export forecast is lowered \$300 million from August to \$5.6 billion. Demand for U.S. fruit juice, dried fruit, and highly processed products is expected to decrease, particularly in Europe, Japan, and Mexico as these consumers look for better values or curtail consumption. Tree nut exports are lowered \$200 million from the August forecast to \$3.6 billion, primarily due to a leveling off of EU demand for almonds.

Table 2--U.S. agricultural exports: Value and volume by commodity, 2005-2009

Commodity	2005	2006	2007	2008	Forecast fiscal 2009	
					Aug.	Nov.
VALUE	---Billion dollars---					
Grains and feeds 1/	15.919	18.200	24.256	38.349	32.2	28.3
Wheat 2/	4.252	4.290	6.533	12.342	8.2	7.7
Rice	1.240	1.296	1.279	2.023	2.2	2.0
Coarse grains 3/	5.316	6.808	9.783	15.766	13.7	10.9
Corn	4.742	6.187	8.933	14.008	12.8	10.0
Feeds and fodders	2.718	3.090	3.491	4.811	4.8	4.6
Oilseeds and products 4/	11.001	10.643	13.671	22.865	23.0	18.3
Soybeans	6.980	6.334	8.483	14.564	15.0	12.0
Soybean meal 5/	1.475	1.599	1.937	3.244	3.3	2.6
Soybean oil	0.351	0.311	0.608	1.524	1.4	1.0
Livestock, poultry, and dairy	12.158	13.369	16.361	22.170	22.4	20.4
Livestock products	7.444	8.636	10.121	13.214	14.1	12.9
Beef and veal 6/	0.832	1.399	1.899	2.665	2.7	2.7
Pork 6/	2.237	2.399	2.625	3.933	4.6	4.0
Beef and pork variety meats 6/	0.688	0.761	0.830	1.271	1.2	1.2
Hides, skins, and furs	1.748	1.978	2.161	2.131	2.2	2.0
Poultry and products	3.029	2.967	3.777	4.922	4.7	4.4
Broiler meat 6/ 7/	2.041	1.911	2.481	3.416	3.2	2.9
Dairy products	1.686	1.766	2.463	4.034	3.6	3.1
Tobacco, unmanufactured	0.988	1.058	1.143	1.280	1.4	1.0
Cotton	3.869	4.666	4.294	4.774	5.9	4.0
Seeds	0.926	0.880	0.943	1.206	1.2	1.2
Horticultural products 8/	14.945	16.758	18.020	20.795	22.7	21.5
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	4.126	4.471	4.786	5.515	6.0	6.0
Fruits and vegetables, processed 8/	3.493	3.924	4.399	5.370	5.9	5.6
Tree nuts, whole and processed	2.500	3.009	3.025	3.487	3.8	3.6
Sugar and tropical products 9/	2.700	3.008	3.471	4.003	4.2	3.8
Major bulk products 10/	22.644	24.452	31.514	50.749	46.5	37.6
Total 11/	62.516	68.593	82.170	115.450	113.0	98.5
VOLUME	---Million metric tons---					
Wheat 2/	26.505	25.005	29.413	32.953	26.5	26.5
Rice	4.258	4.024	3.316	4.046	4.1	3.9
Coarse grains 3/	50.538	61.363	59.051	68.358	53.9	51.6
Corn	45.262	56.038	54.159	60.685	50.0	47.5
Feeds and fodders	11.008	11.727	11.664	15.350	14.5	14.6
Soybeans	29.504	26.418	30.309	30.890	27.2	27.8
Soybean meal 5/	6.659	7.301	7.987	8.418	8.0	7.8
Soybean oil	0.600	0.523	0.851	1.319	1.2	1.0
Beef and veal 6/	0.204	0.345	0.442	0.600	0.6	0.6
Pork 6/	0.882	0.984	1.004	1.529	1.8	1.5
Beef and pork variety meats 6/	0.481	0.489	0.506	0.724	0.7	0.7
Broiler meat 6/ 7/	2.439	2.321	2.576	3.100	2.8	2.8
Tobacco, unmanufactured	0.152	0.169	0.180	0.184	0.2	0.2
Cotton	3.349	3.679	3.104	2.963	3.3	2.8
Major bulk products 10/	114.306	120.658	125.372	139.394	115.2	112.8

Total may not add due to rounding.

1/ Includes corn gluten feed and meal, and processed grain products. 2/ Excludes wheat flour. 3/ Includes corn, barley, sorghum, oats, and rye. 4/ Excludes corn gluten feed and meal. 5/ Includes soy flours made from protein meals. 6/ Includes chilled, frozen, and processed meats. 7/ Includes only federally inspected product. 8/ Includes juices. 9/ Includes coffee and cocoa products, tea, and spices. 10/ Includes wheat, rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, and unmanufactured tobacco. 11/ Includes cotton linters.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Regional Exports

Following the \$115.5-billion record in 2008, the forecast for 2009 exports falls back to \$98.5 billion. Increased competition in global grain markets, much lower prices for grains, oilseeds and cotton, weaker demand and a stronger dollar have reduced U.S. export values across the world. The largest declines are forecast for East Asia (down \$4 billion from 2008), with the EU down \$2.3 billion, the Middle East declining \$2.1 billion, Southeast Asia down \$2 billion, South America down \$1.7 billion, and the NAFTA countries declining \$1.4 billion. East Asia remains the top destination for U.S. agricultural exports, followed by NAFTA and Europe.

The top five export markets account for 50 percent of all exports at \$49 billion. Canada and Mexico remain the top two markets with exports of \$16.4 and \$14 billion. Japan remains in third position with \$11.5 billion, and China (forecast at \$10.4 billion) remains well ahead of the EU-27 (forecast at \$8.4 billion).

The Western Hemisphere continues as the top regional destination for U.S. agricultural exports with \$39.2 billion and accounting for nearly 40 percent of total sales. Lower grain and oilseed prices will lower export value to Canada as a rebound in Canadian wheat production boosts wheat feeding and reduces corn imports. Consumer food exports should offset these declines with minimal impact from a weaker Canadian dollar and economic slowdown. Sales of high-value products to Mexico, on the other hand, are vulnerable to slower economic growth and a weaker peso. This, plus falling commodity prices, should result in a relatively large drop in U.S. exports. There are declines forecast for most of our South American partners.

Exports to Asia are forecast to fall \$6.2 billion to \$37.2 billion. Soybean volume falls due to reduced U.S. supply and unit values are lower. Grain export volume is expected to fall due to increased competition from major foreign suppliers and unit values are lower. U.S. exports to China fall mostly due to weaker prices for soybeans, as volumes should hold fairly steady with near-record demand, and weaker prices and volumes for cotton due to global recession. Exports to Japan, China, and the other major East Asian markets decline more than those in Southeast Asia. Exports to South Asia are unchanged.

U.S. agricultural exports to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East are forecast to decline in 2009. U.S. exports to the EU are forecast to decline mostly due to reduced import demand for sorghum and soybeans and lower unit values. Flat to slightly lower sales of consumer foods are expected due to recession and a weaker euro.

Table 3--U.S. agricultural exports: Value by region, 2005-2009

Country and region 1/	2005	2006	2007	2008	Forecast fiscal 2009	
					Aug.	Nov.
<i>---Billion dollars---</i>						
Asia	22.520	24.937	29.345	43.374	42.6	37.2
East Asia	18.384	20.827	23.952	35.045	35.7	31.0
Japan	7.847	8.155	9.699	13.103	12.7	11.5
China	5.254	6.613	7.051	11.233	12.4	10.4
Hong Kong	0.885	0.912	1.082	1.597	1.6	1.5
Taiwan	2.198	2.416	2.915	3.509	3.7	3.1
South Korea	2.186	2.719	3.190	5.559	5.2	4.5
Southeast Asia	3.439	3.433	4.361	7.148	5.8	5.1
Indonesia	0.983	1.047	1.374	2.240	2.1	1.9
Philippines	0.836	0.828	0.963	1.730	1.6	1.4
Malaysia	0.382	0.426	0.508	0.631	0.6	0.6
Thailand	0.762	0.640	0.798	1.144	1.1	1.1
South Asia	0.697	0.676	1.031	1.182	1.1	1.1
Western Hemisphere	24.833	28.082	33.268	43.802	44.8	39.2
North America	19.641	22.006	25.592	31.832	34.9	30.4
Canada	10.386	11.609	13.261	16.245	17.8	16.4
Mexico	9.253	10.397	12.331	15.587	17.1	14.0
Caribbean	1.861	2.038	2.397	3.519	3.0	2.6
Central America	1.519	1.744	2.186	3.057	2.7	2.5
South America	1.812	2.294	3.094	5.394	4.2	3.7
Brazil	0.222	0.281	0.386	0.663	0.6	0.5
Colombia	0.601	0.802	1.124	1.759	1.5	1.3
Venezuela	0.351	0.442	0.518	1.451	1.3	1.2
Europe/Eurasia	8.649	8.597	9.813	13.513	12.5	10.6
European Union-27 2/	7.152	7.181	8.040	10.668	10.0	8.4
Other Europe 3/	0.278	0.326	0.331	0.521	0.6	0.4
FSU-12 4/	1.219	1.090	1.442	2.323	1.9	1.8
Russia	0.918	0.906	1.124	1.878	1.5	1.3
Middle East	2.866	3.060	4.219	6.918	5.5	4.8
Turkey	1.011	1.009	1.363	1.739	1.9	1.5
Saudi Arabia	0.342	0.435	0.536	0.979	0.9	0.8
Africa	2.672	3.052	4.338	6.363	6.2	5.4
North Africa	1.281	1.616	2.698	3.841	4.1	3.3
Egypt	0.809	0.955	1.685	2.199	2.2	1.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.391	1.436	1.640	2.523	2.1	1.8
Oceania	0.734	0.734	0.899	1.143	1.1	1.0
Transshipments via Canada 5/	0.242	0.131	0.288	0.336	0.3	0.3
Total	62.516	68.593	82.170	115.450	113.0	98.5

Total may not add due to rounding.

1/ Projections are based primarily on trend or recent average growth analysis.

2/ The former EU-25 plus Romania and Bulgaria who acceded in January 2007.

3/ Major countries include Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and former Yugoslav states.

4/ The former 15 Republics of the Soviet Union minus the three Baltic Republics.

5/ Transshipments through Canada have not been allocated to final destination, but are included in the total.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Import Products

The worsened state of the U.S. and global economies in late 2008 and potentially thru 2009 is expected to constrain U.S. import demand. Agricultural imports are projected at \$81 billion in fiscal 2009—\$2 billion lower than the preceding forecast. In contrast to the 13-percent growth in import value in 2008, a significant slowdown to 2 percent is anticipated in 2009. Although the U.S. dollar has strengthened and producer prices for food have subsided in recent months, domestic unemployment is higher and domestic demand is much weaker. While import demand for food in general is relatively inelastic, demand for many high-value foods such as cheese, wine, beer, red meats, and fresh fruit declined in the face of higher prices. During recessions in 1991 and 2001, growth in U.S. import value fell to under 1 percent, but did not decline, and imports have grown 10.7 percent on average since 2002. Lower farm commodity prices will likely keep import volumes close to 2008 levels, but would reduce import values of livestock, dairy, grain, and oilseed products.

Livestock and dairy products are projected to fall in 2009. The forecast of \$12 billion is \$400 million less than the August forecast and \$200 million lower than in 2008. The drop from August is attributed to the 500,000 head decline in cattle shipments from Canada and Mexico in 2009. Swine imports are also projected down, from 7.8 to 7.4 million head from the August forecast as the Canadian inventory declines and regulations on country of origin labeling alter trade patterns. The smaller volume of beef imports is mostly offset by higher expected unit values. Weaker demand is expected to limit volumes of dairy product imports while lower global prices reduce import unit values.

The growth of imported horticulture crops and products slows in 2009 as import volume is expected to remain flat. Prices, especially for processed fruit and vegetables, nuts, wine, and essential oils, are significantly higher. As a result, consumer demand for these and other horticulture products will weaken, but not enough to overcome higher prices which will raise the import bill by at least \$1 billion in 2009. The expectation for sugar and tropical products is similar. Although import prices of coffee and cocoa beans have already started to decline, they are nonetheless projected to boost overall import value by \$1 billion in 2009. The demand for rubber will be adversely affected by the depressed U.S. automobile market. Import volumes of coffee and cocoa beans and confections were down by double digits in 2008 as a result of escalating prices, but are not expected to face similar declines in 2009 as their prices ease. Overall, the long-run upward trend in import values for horticultural and tropical products will continue in 2009, albeit at a slower pace.

Since 1996 the volume of U.S. agricultural imports (as measured in metric tons) has grown. The long-term upward trend will likely continue in 2009, but at most half the 5.6 percent pace in 2008. Much of the estimated growth reduction in 2009 is attributed to the contraction in vegetable oil import values. Although the price of tropical oils (coconut, palm, and palm kernel) was considerably higher in 2008, import volumes were still up by double-digits. This inelastic demand for vegetable oils will carry over to some extent into 2009. Prices for coconut and palm oil, olive oil, and canola oil are all projected down in 2009 (as they have already started to fall), thus limiting any downward movement in their import volumes.

Like meat and dairy, imported grain and oilseed products are expected to contract in 2009. The prospective picture is akin to that of vegetable oils. Despite substantially higher prices for feed grains and grain products in 2008, import volumes racked double-digit gains as domestic supplies turned scarce after corn for ethanol production reduced plantings of other grains and oilseeds. Among grains, only rice is projected to register an increase in imports in 2009. Imported processed grain products are expected to remain at last year's level due to relatively price-inelastic demand. The dollar's recent appreciation will help to counterbalance the impact of higher prices for some high-value products on U.S. import demand.

Table 4--U.S. agricultural imports: Value and volume by commodity, fiscal years 2005-2009

Commodity	Fiscal	Fiscal	Fiscal	Fiscal	Forecast Fiscal 2009	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	Aug.	Nov.
VALUE		<i>Billion dollars</i>				
Livestock, dairy, & poultry	11.051	11.527	12.030	12.174	12.4	12.0
Livestock and meats	8.165	8.510	8.907	8.703	8.8	8.4
Cattle and calves	0.714	1.602	1.698	2.022	1.9	1.5
Swine	0.590	0.580	0.646	0.544	0.5	0.5
Beef and veal	3.779	3.254	3.385	2.965	3.1	3.0
Pork	1.327	1.263	1.210	1.099	1.1	1.1
Dairy products	2.508	2.609	2.661	3.008	3.1	3.0
Cheese	1.015	0.993	1.076	1.172	1.2	1.1
Grains and feed	4.326	4.926	5.993	7.885	8.3	8.0
Grain products	3.173	3.434	3.917	4.603	4.8	4.6
Oilseeds and products	2.979	3.472	4.026	6.581	7.0	5.7
Vegetable oils	2.034	2.444	2.781	4.594	4.8	4.0
Horticulture products	26.817	29.142	32.386	34.712	36.3	36.1
Fruits, fresh	4.219	4.687	5.401	5.544	5.6	5.6
Fruits, processed	2.318	2.601	3.416	3.984	4.5	4.4
Fruit juices	0.980	1.056	1.616	1.935	2.1	2.0
Nuts, whole and processed	1.155	1.071	1.078	1.277	1.5	1.4
Vegetables, fresh	3.518	3.979	4.165	4.442	4.6	4.5
Vegetables, processed	2.621	2.754	3.149	3.520	3.7	3.7
Wine	3.720	4.043	4.543	4.755	5.0	4.8
Malt beer	2.978	3.376	3.686	3.662	3.7	3.6
Essential oils	2.435	2.469	2.431	2.653	2.9	2.8
Cut flowers & nursery stock	1.374	1.424	1.531	1.514	1.6	1.5
Sugar & tropical products	11.381	13.593	14.142	16.356	17.2	17.4
Cane and beet sugar	0.713	1.405	0.817	0.948	1.0	1.0
Confections 1/	1.161	1.170	1.220	1.255	1.4	1.4
Cocoa and chocolate 1/	2.593	2.631	2.593	3.046	3.1	3.2
Coffee beans & products	2.830	3.206	3.654	4.348	4.8	4.8
Rubber, natural	1.506	1.950	2.087	2.711	2.7	2.7
Other imports 2/	1.157	1.367	1.486	1.609	1.7	1.7
Total agricultural imports	57.711	64.026	70.063	79.317	83.0	81.0
VOLUME		<i>Million metric tons</i>				
Wine 3/	0.721	0.783	0.869	0.835	0.9	0.8
Malt beer 3/	2.913	3.223	3.535	3.389	3.5	3.4
Fruit juices 3/	4.216	3.804	4.791	4.941	4.5	5.0
Cattle and calves 4/	1.495	2.397	2.320	2.563	2.5	2.0
Swine 4/	8.079	8.613	9.474	10.134	7.8	7.4
Beef and veal	1.219	1.027	1.026	0.820	0.9	0.8
Pork	0.438	0.437	0.423	0.359	0.4	0.4
Fruits, fresh	7.996	8.003	8.787	8.668	9.0	8.7
Fruits, processed 5/	1.196	1.327	1.440	1.448	1.6	1.5
Vegetables, fresh	3.758	4.076	4.384	4.597	4.6	4.7
Vegetables, processed 5/	2.765	2.763	2.953	3.015	3.2	3.0
Vegetable oils	1.982	2.500	2.645	3.252	3.5	3.3
Cocoa and chocolate	1.220	1.263	1.140	1.075	1.2	1.1
Coffee beans	1.274	1.296	1.369	1.350	1.5	1.4
Rubber, natural	1.187	1.069	1.005	1.065	1.0	1.0

1/ Confections are consumer-ready products that contain sugar. Cocoa and chocolate are intermediate products.

2/ Tobacco, planting seeds, and cotton. 3/ Liquid volume is in billion liters. 4/ Million head; includes bison. 5/ Excludes juice

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau.

Regional Imports

China is now the third largest source of imported fresh and processed fruits after posting a value of \$1.1 billion in 2008. China is also fast becoming a major supplier of vegetables to the U.S. market, again ranking third behind Mexico and Canada. Chile, which trails Mexico as the next top source of fruits, will likely be surpassed by China if the Chinese currency remains highly competitive. Vietnam is now the biggest supplier of tree nuts to the United States, overtaking India in 2008 as Vietnamese cashew nuts topped India's shipments. China will likely increase its share of the U.S. horticulture market if the exchange rate does not appreciate significantly against the dollar. By purchasing U.S. Treasury bonds with its sizable export earnings, China is not only propping up the dollar's value, it is also keeping the yuan at a lower exchange rate.

With respect to grains and feed, oilseeds and products, livestock and meats, Canada remains the number one source of U.S. agricultural imports. Mexico places second as a supplier of grains and feeds; Malaysia is second as a source of oilseed products, and Australia ranks second for meats. New Zealand is the top supplier of dairy products to the United States and ranks third after Australia in supplying meats. Following Canada, Mexico, and China, the rest of the top 10 sources of U.S. farm imports are Italy, Indonesia, Brazil, Australia, Ireland, France, and the Netherlands, all of which exported at least \$2 billion worth of products. What is clear, however, is that Asia, due largely to China, is quickly gaining market share in food exports to the U.S. at the expense of Latin America except Mexico. Given that horticultural and tropical products represent two-thirds of U.S. agricultural imports, the ascension of Asia and China as major suppliers is not unexpected.

Table 5--U.S. agricultural imports: Value by region, fiscal years 2005-2009

Region and country	Fiscal	Fiscal	Fiscal	Fiscal	Forecast Fiscal 2009		Share of total
	2005	2006	2007	2008	Aug.	Nov.	
	<i>Billion dollars</i>						<i>Percent</i>
Western Hemisphere	29.831	33.756	37.085	41.872	43.8	43.0	53.1
Canada	11.817	13.203	14.703	17.935	19.0	18.7	23.1
Mexico	8.095	9.316	9.916	10.761	11.1	11.0	13.6
Central America	2.465	2.846	3.110	3.541	3.7	3.6	4.4
Costa Rica	0.880	1.157	1.214	1.201	1.3	1.2	1.5
Guatemala	0.895	0.933	1.025	1.259	1.3	1.3	1.6
Other Central America	0.691	0.756	0.870	1.080	1.2	1.1	1.4
Caribbean	0.359	0.443	0.451	0.423	0.4	0.4	0.5
South America	7.095	7.948	8.905	9.213	9.7	9.4	11.6
Argentina	0.778	0.908	1.102	1.177	- - -	1.2	1.5
Brazil	1.814	2.208	2.539	2.598	2.8	2.7	3.3
Chile	1.531	1.714	1.919	1.961	2.0	1.9	2.3
Colombia	1.382	1.451	1.518	1.716	1.8	1.8	2.2
Other South America	1.590	1.666	1.827	1.761	- - -	1.8	2.2
Europe and Eurasia	13.701	14.492	15.547	16.567	17.5	16.9	20.9
European Union-27 1/	13.313	14.111	14.990	15.784	16.7	16.0	19.8
Other Europe	0.342	0.330	0.491	0.706	0.7	0.8	1.0
Asia	8.030	9.432	10.821	14.168	14.7	14.5	17.9
East Asia	2.663	3.030	3.764	4.482	4.6	4.8	5.9
China	1.791	2.107	2.798	3.429	3.6	3.7	4.6
Other East Asia	0.872	0.923	0.966	1.054	1.1	1.1	1.4
Southeast Asia	4.383	5.287	5.840	8.007	8.3	8.0	9.9
Indonesia	1.606	2.049	1.938	2.669	2.7	2.7	3.3
Malaysia	0.630	0.788	1.028	1.710	- - -	1.6	2.0
Thailand	1.086	1.272	1.497	1.831	1.9	1.9	2.3
Other Southeast Asia	1.691	1.178	1.376	1.797	- - -	1.8	2.2
South Asia	0.984	1.114	1.217	1.678	1.8	1.7	2.1
India	0.902	1.012	1.099	1.533	1.6	1.5	1.9
Oceania	4.177	4.232	4.402	4.243	4.5	4.2	5.2
Australia	2.488	2.434	2.610	2.404	2.6	2.5	3.1
New Zealand	1.618	1.705	1.701	1.740	1.9	1.7	2.1
Africa	1.330	1.407	1.392	1.659	1.6	1.6	2.0
Sub-Sahara	1.205	1.209	1.178	1.402	1.4	1.4	1.7
Ivory Coast	0.565	0.460	0.482	0.633	0.6	0.6	0.7
Middle East	0.641	0.708	0.815	0.808	0.8	0.8	1.0
Turkey	0.361	0.427	0.478	0.490	0.5	0.5	0.6
World total	57.711	64.026	70.063	79.317	83.0	81.0	100.0

- - - Not previously forecast. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau.

Reliability Tables

Table 6--Reliability of quarterly U.S. export projections, by commodity and quarter

Commodity	Average forecast errors					Forecast accuracy					Forecast accuracy
	Fiscal 2008					Fiscal 2008					
	Aug ¹ 2007	Nov 2007	Feb 2008	May 2008	Aug ² 2008	Aug ¹ 2007	Nov 2007	Feb 2008	May 2008	Aug ² 2008	
Export value	<i>Percent</i>					<i>"X" if error < 5%</i>					<i>Percent</i>
Grains and feeds	37	28	15	8	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Wheat	51	39	18	15	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Rice	25	20	15	15	5	-	-	-	-	X	20
Coarse grains	35	26	11	7	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Corn	34	27	11	8	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Feeds and fodders	27	19	15	2	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Oilseeds and products	40	29	17	10	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Soybeans	40	29	18	10	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Soybean meal	44	31	9	9	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Soybean oil	67	53	33	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Livestock, poultry, and dairy	24	17	12	0	7	-	-	-	X	-	20
Livestock products	25	18	14	6	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Beef and veal	19	11	15	15	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Pork	33	31	21	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
Beef and pork variety meats	38	38	23	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
Hides, skins, and furs	5	10	0	0	5	X	-	X	X	X	80
Poultry and products	31	24	18	8	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
Broiler meat	35	29	21	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Dairy products	43	35	35	8	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Tobacco, unmanufactured	15	15	0	0	8	-	-	X	X	-	40
Cotton	15	21	17	6	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Seeds	25	17	0	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Horticultural products	11	11	5	1	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	13	11	7	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Fruits & veget., processed	19	17	7	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Tree nuts, whole/processed	17	14	6	0	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Sugar and tropical products	8	8	8	3	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Major bulk products	30	19	5	0	5	-	-	X	X	X	60
Total agricultural exports	28	21	13	6	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Average error and accuracy	29	23	13	7	3	X	X	X	X	X	27
Export volume											
Wheat	17	13	6	8	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Rice	8	5	5	3	2	-	X	X	X	X	80
Coarse grains	12	1	2	4	0	-	X	X	X	X	80
Corn	10	1	2	4	0	-	X	X	X	X	80
Feeds and fodders	28	21	19	11	16	-	-	-	-	-	0
Soybeans	10	14	11	4	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Soybean meal	11	11	6	4	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Soybean oil	54	46	31	0	8	-	-	-	X	-	20
Beef and veal	17	17	17	17	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Pork	33	27	20	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	0
Beef and pork variety meats	29	29	14	14	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Broiler meat	19	19	13	13	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Tobacco, unmanufactured	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Cotton	20	20	13	3	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Major bulk products	12	6	3	1	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Average error and accuracy	19	15	11	6	3	X	X	X	X	X	41

¹ Forecast made for following fiscal year, with 15 months out. ² Forecast made for current fiscal year, with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - = Error exceeds 5 percent.

Table 7--Reliability of quarterly U.S. export projections, by country and quarter

Country/region	Average forecast errors					Forecast accuracy					Forecast accuracy Percent
	Fiscal 2008					Fiscal 2008					
	Aug ¹ 2007	Nov 2007	Feb 2008	May 2008	Aug ² 2008	Aug ¹ 2007	Nov 2007	Feb 2008	May 2008	Aug ² 2008	
Export value	-- Percent --					"X" if error ≤ 5%					Percent
Asia	29	26	19	11	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
East Asia	28	25	20	9	2	-	-	-	-	X	20
Japan	26	21	16	13	4	-	-	-	-	X	20
China	25	30	25	6	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Hong Kong	31	19	13	0	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Taiwan	20	6	0	9	3	-	-	X	-	X	40
South Korea	41	38	34	21	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Southeast Asia	38	32	18	18	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Indonesia	32	32	18	9	5	-	-	-	-	X	20
Philippines	41	35	12	0	6	-	-	-	X	-	20
Malaysia	17	0	17	17	0	-	X	-	-	X	40
Thailand	18	9	0	9	0	-	-	X	-	X	40
South Asia	25	8	0	0	8	-	-	X	X	-	40
Western Hemisphere	21	15	9	7	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
North America	15	11	5	4	2	-	-	X	X	X	60
Canada	16	9	3	2	1	-	-	X	X	X	60
Mexico	15	12	7	6	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Caribbean	29	17	17	14	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Central America	29	23	16	13	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
South America	50	37	26	17	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Brazil	57	43	29	29	14	-	-	-	-	-	0
Colombia	28	22	17	17	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Venezuela	73	60	47	27	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Europe and Eurasia	29	19	9	7	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
European Union-27	25	17	10	8	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Other Europe	20	20	0	20	0	-	-	X	-	X	40
FSU-12	48	26	4	0	9	-	-	X	X	-	40
Russia	42	32	5	5	16	-	-	X	X	-	40
Middle East	43	32	12	7	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Turkey	18	12	6	18	12	-	-	-	-	-	0
Saudi Arabia	40	40	0	20	10	-	-	X	-	-	20
Africa	38	27	3	9	3	-	-	X	-	X	40
North Africa	34	24	8	16	13	-	-	-	-	-	0
Egypt	23	18	0	0	5	-	-	X	X	X	60
Sub-Sahara	36	28	0	4	8	-	-	X	X	-	40
Oceania	18	9	9	9	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Transshipments via Canada	33	0	0	0	33	-	X	X	X	-	60
World	28	21	13	6	1	-	-	-	-	X	20
Average error and accuracy	31	22	12	10	6	0%	5%	34%	26%	61%	25%

¹ Forecast made for following fiscal year, with 15 months out. ² Forecast made for current fiscal year, with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - = Error exceeds 5 percent. - - - = No forecast available.

Table 8--Reliability of quarterly U.S. import projections, by commodity and quarter

Commodity	Average forecast errors					Forecast accuracy					Forecast accuracy Percent
	Fiscal 2008					Fiscal 2008					
	Aug ¹ 2007	Nov 2007	Feb 2008	May 2008	Aug ² 2008	Aug ¹ 2007	Nov 2007	Feb 2008	May 2008	Aug ² 2008	
	-- Percent --					"X" if error ≤ 5%					
Import value											
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	2	1	1	3	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Livestock and red meats	2	6	2	2	1	X	-	X	X	X	80
Cattle and calves	25	10	10	0	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Swine	20	20	40	20	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Beef and veal	17	20	7	0	3	-	-	-	X	X	40
Pork	9	9	9	9	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Dairy products	13	10	0	7	3	-	-	X	-	X	40
Cheese	8	8	0	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Grains and feed	16	16	14	5	1	-	-	-	X	X	40
Grain products	9	9	7	2	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Oilseeds and products	35	27	15	0	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Vegetable oils	35	24	11	2	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Horticulture products	2	1	1	0	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits--fresh	7	9	5	2	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Fruits--processed	2	0	2	2	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruit juices	11	5	11	11	0	-	X	-	-	X	40
Nuts--whole and processed	8	8	8	8	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Vegetables--fresh	0	0	2	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Vegetables--processed	0	3	3	3	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Wine	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Malt beer	14	8	3	0	3	-	-	X	X	X	60
Essence oils	7	7	7	0	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Cut flowers & nursery stock	7	7	7	7	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Sugar and tropical products	7	9	8	5	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Cane and beet sugar	0	0	0	11	0	X	X	X	-	X	80
Confections	8	0	0	0	0	-	X	X	X	X	80
Cocoa and chocolate	7	10	10	7	3	-	-	-	-	X	20
Coffee beans and products	12	12	9	0	2	-	-	-	X	X	40
Rubber--natural	19	19	19	15	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Other imports	0	0	6	6	0	X	X	-	-	X	60
Total agricultural imports	5	5	4	1	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Average error and accuracy	10	8	7	4	1	X	X	X	X	X	55
Import volume											
Wine (HL)	25	25	13	13	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Malt beer (HL)	24	9	3	3	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Cattle and calves	19	0	0	0	4	-	-	-	-	X	80
Swine	6	4	9	9	1	-	-	-	-	X	40
Beef and veal	38	38	25	25	0	-	-	-	-	X	20
Pork	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Fruits--processed	7	7	7	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vegetables--fresh	0	0	4	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Vegetables--processed	7	7	0	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Vegetable oils	15	15	6	0	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Cocoa and chocolate	27	27	9	0	0	-	-	-	X	X	40
Coffee beans	7	7	0	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Rubber--natural	9	9	0	9	9	-	-	X	-	-	20
Average error and accuracy	14	11	6	5	2	21%	36%	57%	71%	93%	49%

¹ Forecast made for following fiscal year, with 15 months out. ² Forecast made for current fiscal year, with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - = Error exceeds 5 percent. - - - = No forecast available.

Table 9--Reliability of quarterly U.S. import projections, by country and quarter

Country/region	Average forecast errors					Forecast accuracy					Forecast accuracy
	Fiscal 2008					Fiscal 2008					
	Aug ¹	Nov	Feb	May	Aug ²	Aug ¹	Nov	Feb	May	Aug ²	
Import value	<i>-- Percent --</i>					<i>"X" if error ≤ 5%</i>					<i>Percent</i>
	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	
Western Hemisphere	0	1	1	1	1	X	X	X	X	X	100
Canada	2	1	4	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Mexico	3	4	1	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Central America	0	3	3	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Costa Rica	8	17	17	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	0
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Other Central America	11	11	11	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Caribbean	20	0	0	0	0	-	X	X	X	X	80
South America	0	1	1	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Brazil	0	0	4	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Chile	0	0	11	11	11	X	X	-	-	-	40
Colombia	7	7	7	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	0
Other South America	0	3	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Europe and Eurasia	3	3	1	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
European Union-27	3	3	0	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Other Europe	20	20	0	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Asia	6	6	1	4	4	-	-	X	X	X	60
East Asia	13	13	5	3	3	-	-	X	X	X	60
China	18	18	7	4	4	-	-	-	X	X	40
Other East Asia	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
Southeast Asia	2	2	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	100
Indonesia	21	21	16	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	0
Thailand	13	13	0	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
Other Southeast Asia	8	8	4	0	0	-	-	X	X	X	60
South Asia	0	0	8	8	8	X	X	-	-	-	40
India	0	0	9	0	0	X	X	-	X	X	80
Oceania	2	2	0	2	2	X	X	X	X	X	100
Australia	0	4	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	100
New Zealand	6	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	0
Africa	0	7	14	14	14	X	-	-	-	-	20
Sub-Sahara	0	0	8	17	17	X	X	-	-	-	40
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	20	20	X	X	X	-	-	60
Middle East	13	0	0	0	0	-	X	X	X	X	80
Turkey	20	0	0	0	0	-	X	X	X	X	80
Average error and accuracy	6	5	4	4	4	59%	65%	68%	71%	71%	66%

¹ Forecast made for following fiscal year, with 15 months out. ² Forecast made for current fiscal year, with 3 months remaining in current fiscal year. - = Error exceeds 5 percent. - - = No forecast available.

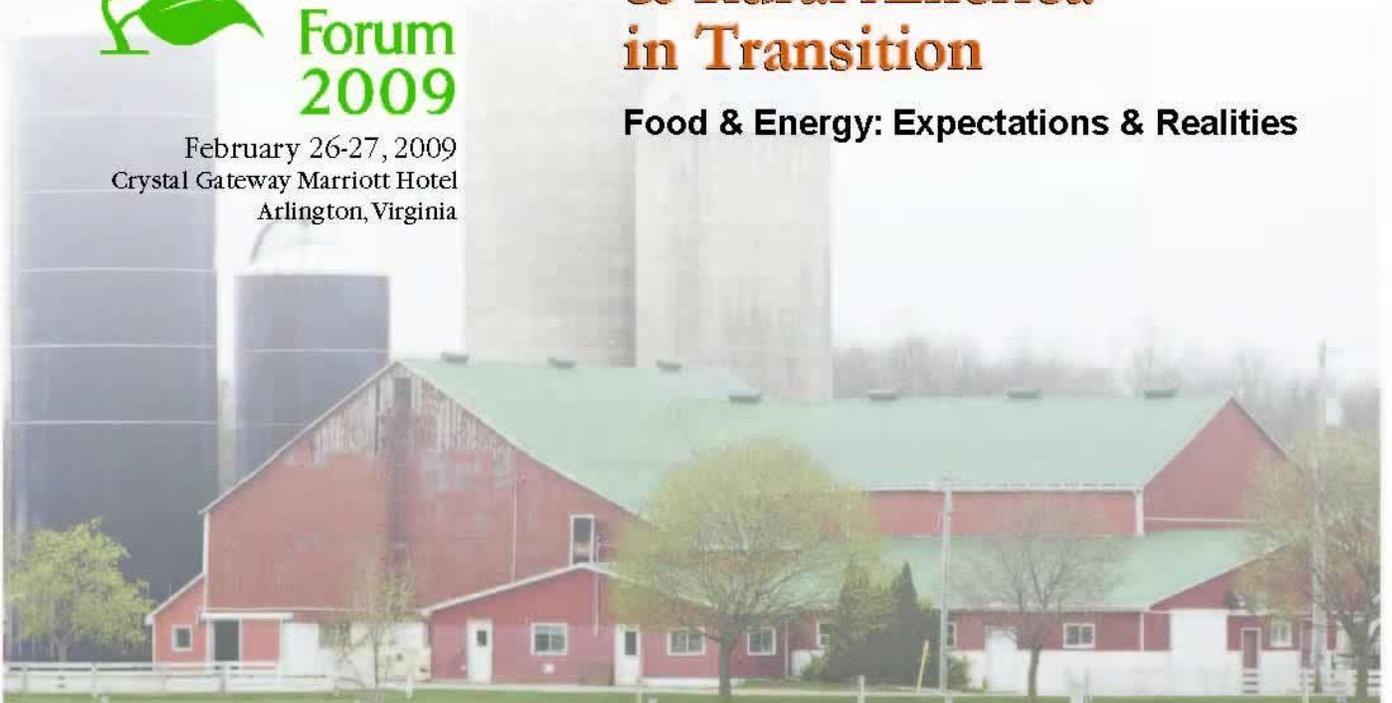


**Agricultural
Outlook
Forum
2009**

February 26-27, 2009
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
Arlington, Virginia

Global Agriculture & Rural America in Transition

Food & Energy: Expectations & Realities



Early Bird Registration \$350 until January 23, 2009 • \$375 after January 23

www.usda.gov/oce/forum

Contact Information

Coordinators (area code 202)

Nora Brooks/ERS, 694-5211, nbrooks@ers.usda.gov
Ernest Carter/FAS, 720-2922, ecarter@fas.usda.gov

Forecast Contacts (area code 202)

Nora Brooks/ERS, 694-5211, nbrooks@ers.usda.gov
Andy Jerardo/ERS, 694-5266, ajerardo@ers.usda.gov
Ernest Carter/FAS, 720-2922, ecarter@fas.usda.gov

Commodity Specialist Contacts (area code 202)

Grains and Feeds: Richard O'Meara/FAS, 720-4933
Coarse Grains: Marcela Rondon/FAS, 720-0929
Edward W. Allen/ERS, 694-5288

Wheat: Edward W. Allen/ERS, 694-5288
Teresa McKeivier/FAS, 720-1072

Rice: Nathan Childs/ERS, 694-5292
Debra Rubas/FAS, 720-0472

Oilseeds: Mark Ash/ERS, 694-5289
Bill George/FAS, 720-6234

Cotton: James Johnson/FAS, 690-1546
Leslie Meyer/ERS, 694-5307

Livestock, Poultry & Dairy Products: Claire Mezoughem/FAS, 720-7715

Beef & Cattle: Claire Mezoughem/FAS, 720-7715
Michael McConnell/ERS, 694-5158

Pork & Hogs: Claire Mezoughem/FAS, 720-7715

Poultry: Dave Harvey/ERS, 694-5177
Michelle DeGraaf/FAS, 720-7285

Dairy Products: Paul Kiendl/FAS, 720-8870

Horticultural & Tropical Products:

Fruits & Preparations

Deciduous Fresh Fruit: Shari Kosco/FAS, 720-2083

Fresh Citrus and Juices: Reed Blauer/FAS, 720-0898

Vegetables & Preparations: Shari Kosco/FAS, 720-2083

Tree Nuts: Lashonda McLeod/FAS, 720-6086

Essential Oils: Tony Halstead/FAS, 720-1592

Sugar and Tropical Products: Bob Knapp/FAS, 720-4620

Sugar: Ron Lord/FAS, 720-6939

Macroeconomics Contact (area code 202)

David Torgerson/ERS, 694-5334

Agency Contact Information

Foreign Agricultural Service homepage: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/>

Economic Research Service homepage: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

E-mail Notification

Readers of ERS outlook reports have two ways they can receive an e-mail notice about release of reports and associated data.

- Receive timely notification (soon after the report is posted on the web) via USDA's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (which is housed at Cornell University's Mann Library). Go to <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/aboutEmailService.do> and follow the instructions to receive e-mail notices about ERS, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board products.

- Receive weekly notification (on Friday afternoon) via the ERS website. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Updates/> and follow the instructions to receive notices about ERS outlook reports, *Amber Waves* magazine, and other reports and data products on specific topics. ERS also offers RSS (really simple syndication) feeds for all ERS products. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/rss/> to get started.