



# ERS To Strengthen and Extend its Market Analysis and Outlook Program

New FY 2008 funding will provide the Economic Research Service with the resources needed to strengthen and expand its Outlook Program and thereby provide the world-class analysis necessary for 21st century agriculture.

## Information needs are changing in agricultural markets

Agricultural commodity markets are changing rapidly as a result of globalization, consumer demand for an ever greater variety of food products, and rapid growth in bioenergy. The uncertainty resulting from these developments, along with likely changes in both domestic farm programs and trade policy, means that policymakers, farmers, and other market participants have a greater need than ever for objective information and analysis for a broad array of agricultural markets—the kind of information and analysis at which ERS excels.

With additional funding in FY 2008, ERS will be able to satisfy those expanded information needs by extending and strengthening its Market Analysis and Outlook Program.

## And ERS is changing to keep up with them

For 85 years, ERS and its predecessors have provided objective agricultural market analysis and outlook for federal policymakers and the public. For the past 15 years, the agency has achieved technological efficiencies to offset declining staffing levels. With the increased funding proposed for FY 2008, ERS will hire the staff needed to provide broader scope in current topics as well as to expand coverage of critical emerging issues.

**This broader scope and expanded coverage in the ERS Market Analysis and Outlook Program will help public and private sector decision makers deal with increasingly dynamic and uncertain agricultural product markets.**

ERS will deepen coverage in critical areas including animal products, field crops, and specialty crops. The 2008 funding proposed in the President's budget would enable ERS to extend its market analysis and outlook activities to rapidly growing and developing markets:

- South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa;
- ethanol and biodiesel co-products;
- organic product markets, including meat and dairy products;
- ornamental horticulture and floriculture markets; and
- processed fruit and vegetable products, including wine.

In the increasingly complex and fast-paced environment of agricultural product markets, timely, high-quality analysis is critical to sound decision making, for public sector policymakers as well as for farmers and other market participants.