

Farming and Agriculture: The Lifeblood of a Rural Community

A special edition of:



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Advantages of Four-Year Crop Rotations: Sustainable and Productive Farming Practices

South Dakota Ag Connection - 05/29/2023

Decades of research conducted at the North Central Agriculture Research Lab near Brookings, S.D., part of the USDA Agricultural Research Service, have consistently shown the advantages of four-year crop rotations over two-year rotations. These findings provide valuable insights for South Dakota farmers looking to enhance their agricultural practices and maximize yields.

Improved Yields and Environmental Resilience:

Studies led by ARS agronomist Shannon Osborne have revealed significant benefits associated with four-year rotations. These rotations involve incorporating crops such as corn, soybeans, spring wheat, winter wheat, oats, field peas, and sunflowers, resulting in enhanced soybean yields of up to 25% after five to six years. Corn yields have also improved, particularly when grown in rotation with winter wheat and peas. Additionally, four-year rotations are less vulnerable to weather extremes, making them more stable and environmentally sustainable.

Soil Health and Erosion Control:

Four-year rotations contribute to improved soil health, resulting in various benefits. The increased biological activity enhances nutrient cycling efficiency and reduces erosion, leading to healthier and more stable soil conditions. Soils in four-year rotations exhibit larger and more stable aggregates, making them less prone to wind and water erosion compared to the less stable aggregates found in two-year corn and soybean rotations.

Additional Benefits:

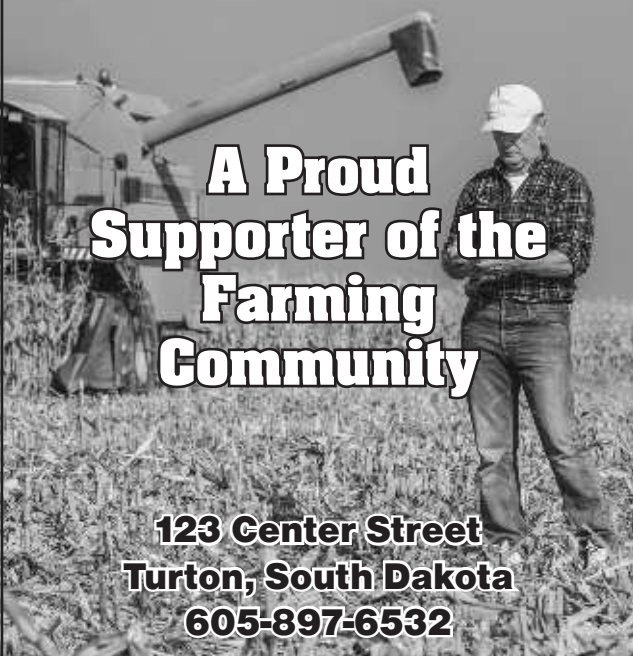
The advantages of diverse crop rotations extend beyond increased yields and improved soil health. Other benefits include carbon buildup, increased soil organic matter, better water filtration and storage capacity, and enhanced plant resilience during drought conditions. These advantages contribute to long-term sustainability and overall farm productivity.

Choosing the Right Rotation:

Farmers should consider their production systems and resources when selecting a crop rotation. Rotations with two legumes, such as corn, soybeans, a small grain, and peas, are advantageous for reducing fertilizer costs. Rotations involving winter wheat and oats are recommended to promote root growth and increase soybean yields. A rotation consisting of corn, oats, winter wheat, and soybeans is a straightforward option.

The research conducted in South Dakota emphasizes the significant benefits of four-year crop rotations in terms of productivity, environmental resilience, and economic viability. By adopting diverse crop rotations and implementing sustainable practices, farmers can enhance their yields, protect soil health, and mitigate the risks associated with changing weather patterns. These findings provide valuable guidance for South Dakota farmers aiming to build sustainable and thriving agricultural systems.

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Another South Dakota Ethanol Plant Signs on to Summit Carbon Pipeline

South Dakota Ag Connection - 05/29/2023

Another ethanol plant in South Dakota has signed on to the Summit Carbon Solutions carbon capture pipeline project.

Summit announced on May 25 that NuGen Energy in Marion in southeast South Dakota has joined 32 ethanol plants in five states on the project.

NuGen Energy began operations in 2008 and has a production capacity of 150 million gallons per year, Summit said in a news release.

“We are delighted to partner with Summit on this important carbon capture storage project,” Zafar Rizvi, CEO of Rex American Resources, said in a news release. “Strategically, the location of our NuGen facility in Marion, South Dakota, and our goals to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions perfectly align with Summit Carbon Solutions. We look forward to working with Summit to achieve our sustainability targets and making a positive impact on the environment.”

There are seven other existing ethanol plants in South Dakota signed on to the 2,000 mile project that intends to transport liquid carbon dioxide to an underground storage area in North Dakota.

Summit earlier this year announced that a Gevo plant at Lake Preston, South Dakota, that will make sustainable aviation fuel from corn also intends to use the Summit pipeline to reduce its carbon footprint.

The Gevo and NuGen plants are not included in Summit’s pipeline route application that is pending with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Summit’s director of regulatory affairs, John Satterfield, said separate applications will be filed for the additional plants.

Summit says it has commitments for just over half of the pipeline’s planned CO2 capacity.

“We’re talking with people everyday,” Satterfield said of other potential partners.

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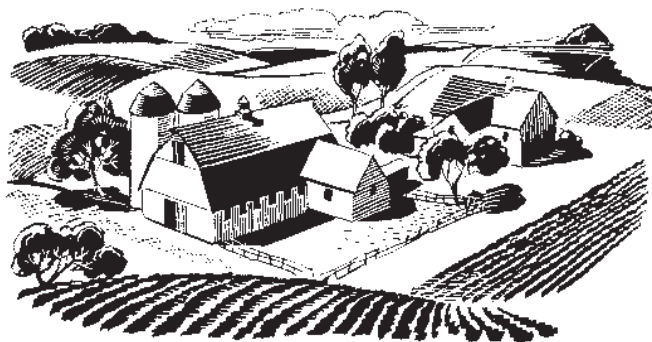
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Local News

U.S. Farm Income Projections

Net farm income and net cash income are projected to decrease in 2023, following 3 consecutive years of increases starting in calendar year 2020. Net farm income is projected to decrease by \$1.7 billion (1.0 percent) from \$160.5 billion in 2022 to \$158.8 billion in 2023.

Net cash farm income is projected to decrease by \$33.5 billion (17.8 percent) from \$187.9 billion in 2022 to \$154.4 billion in 2023. Lower cash receipts and Government payments, including those from Coronavirus (COVID-19) related programs, are the primary contributors to the projected decline in net farm income for 2023 relative to 2022.

Farmers received an estimated \$16.5 billion in direct Government payments, including from COVID-19-related programs and standing farm bill programs in 2022. Direct Government payments are forecast to be 25.5 percent lower at \$12.3 billion in 2023. The decline in payments is also due to projected higher commodity prices in 2022/23, which will reduce Government payments from programs such as the Price Loss Coverage (PLC). Authors assume no further COVID-19 related program payments after 2023, but the projections do include additional payments authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Conservation payments (including payments from the Conservation Reserve Program and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs) are collectively forecast to account for the largest share of direct Government payments to the agricultural sector over 2023–32.

These projections assume there will be additional conservation payments of \$1.5 billion in 2023, \$3.9 billion in 2024, \$6.5 billion in 2025, and \$6.0 billion in 2026—in addition to \$2.0 billion for direct assistance of distressed borrowers—using the authority under the IRA.

• Acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is assumed to be at or slightly less than the legislative maximum of 27 million acres under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill. CRP payments are projected to stay at \$2.1 billion in 2022, gradually increasing to \$2.3 billion in 2032, primarily due to marginal increases in acres enrolled to the cap.

• Payments under the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are projected to decrease from about \$353.6 million in 2022 to \$282.4 million in 2023. ARC and PLC payments are projected to decrease further in 2024. These payments are expected to increase to \$363.8 million in 2025. For the

2023–32 projection period, producers are assumed to be able to change their base acre election between the ARC and PLC programs on an annual basis. From 2026–28, ARC payments are projected to increase before tapering lower through 2032.

• Total farm production expenses are projected to rise slightly to \$443.1 billion in 2023 because of increases in non-farm origin inputs, such as interest expenses, labor expenses, and net rent. Production expenses are then projected to decrease to \$415.8 by 2026, but are expected to increase each year thereafter, ending at \$442.9 billion at the end of the projection period.

Figure 28. U.S. farm income indicators, 2002–32

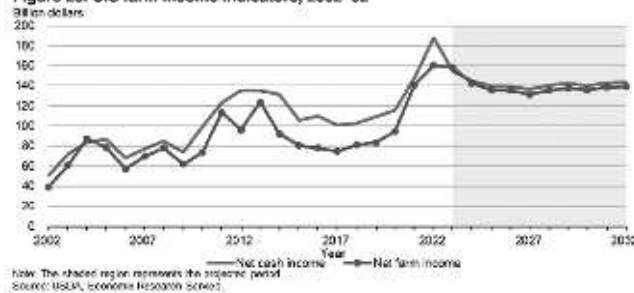


Figure 29. U.S. farm gross cash income, 2002–32

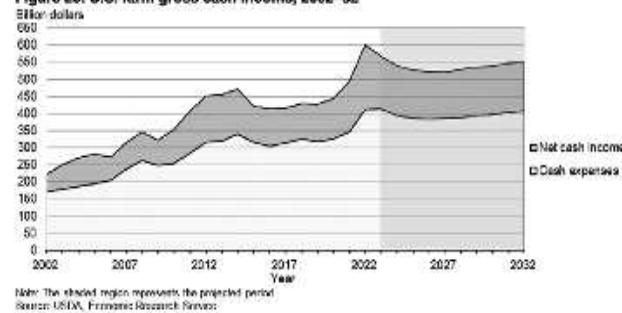


Figure 30. U.S. total gross farm income, 2002–32

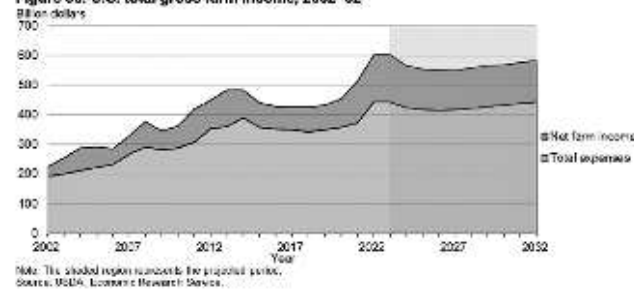
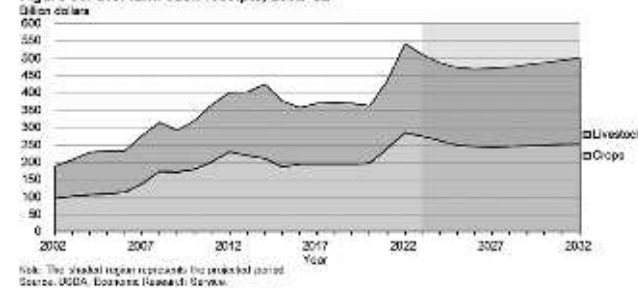


Figure 31. U.S. farm cash receipts, 2002–32



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USDA Long Term Crop Projections

Global economic and market circumstances including persistent inflation, drought, supply chain disruptions, high input costs, and Russia's war against Ukraine have influenced the U.S. agricultural sector and pressured commodity prices above their historic trends. Nevertheless, rising global demand for diversified diets and protein will continue to stimulate import demand for feed grains and soybeans. Increased demand for these crops—as well as for wheat, rice, and cotton—are accompanied by rising competition for market share from Brazil, Argentina, the European Union (EU), India, and others, and prices decline from recent peaks for all crops. Note that Baseline projections start in marketing year 2023/24, end in 2032/33, and data for 2022/23 and prior years are based on information as of the October 2022 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE).

Potential exporters from the United States also face challenges related to a relatively strong U.S. dollar, which tends to keep U.S. commodity prices relatively high in foreign currency terms. Although strong trade competition continues, U.S. agricultural commodities remain generally competitive in global agricultural markets. Export levels of the four major U.S. crops are expected to increase over the next decade. Upland cotton ends the projection period

at record levels and corn and soybean exports rise and nearly approach prior records. Wheat exports rise from a projected 50-year low in 2022/23. Nominal prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton are expected to decline from their recent peaks in 2021/22 and/or 2022/23 (as of October 12, 2022) and stabilize at significantly lower levels after the first several years of the projection period. Of these crops, only cotton prices trend upward after the initial decline, projected to rise each year after 2025/26 through 2032/33

Corn prices are expected to fall steadily from a near-record peak of \$6.80 per bushel in 2022/23 to \$5.70 per bushel in 2023/24 and continue a downward trend through 2026/27. USDA Long-Term Projections, February 2023 27 before stabilizing at \$4.30 through 2032/33. Growth in domestic corn use is driven exclusively by feed and residual use, spurred by expanding corn supplies and meat production growth to meet both domestic and export demand for beef, pork, and poultry. The Baseline projects corn use for food, seed, and industrial use (including ethanol) to be essentially flat during the projection period, while exports rise by nearly 20 percent. Soybean prices follow a similar trend as corn, falling to \$13.00 per bushel in 2023/24; down \$1.00 from the recent 2022/23 peak.

Soybean prices continue their downward trend through 2028/29, before stabilizing at \$10.30 per bushel through 2032/33. Soybean crush is expected to rise steadily to keep pace with soybean meal and soybean oil demand.

Soybean exports are also expected to rise slowly, growing 8 percent over the 10-year projection period. Global import demand growth, led by China, is mainly fulfilled by increased exports from Brazil.

Wheat prices are expected to drop from a record \$9.20 per bushel in 2022/23 to \$8.00 in the first year of the projection period, still the second highest price on record. Prices continue to fall through 2026/27 before settling at \$5.70 per bushel through 2032/33.

Domestic use for wheat is projected to remain steady, rising only 2.4 percent over the 10-year projection period while exports climb at a relatively stronger rate, rising from 825 million bushels in 2023/24 to 950 million bushels in 2032/33, a 15.2 percent increase over the 10-year period.

After reaching a record of \$0.914 per pound for cotton in 2021/22, the price is expected to fall to \$0.80 per pound in 2023/24. Cotton prices are projected to continue to decline through 2025/26 to \$0.75 per pound before turning upward in a steady rise though 2032/33,

Continued on next page.

Farm Tab

Crop Projections: Continued

ending the projection period at \$0.825 per pound. Domestic mill use for upland cotton is expected to grow slowly, rising 8.7 percent from 2023/24 to 2032/33. Upland cotton exports are projected to grow at a much faster rate, rising 51.5 percent by the end of the projection period from a relatively low base of 11.8 million bales in 2023/24.

Despite prices that continued to rise from already elevated levels in 2021/22, total area planted to the 8 major field crops (barley, corn, cotton, oats, rice, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat) dipped from 253.4 million acres in 2021/22 to 249.5 million acres in 2022/23. The decrease in the 8-crop area planted was driven primarily by a reduction in corn acres.

However, shifts in prevented plantings acreage—which expanded by 4.3 million acres in 2022—were also influential. Acreage changes year-to-year are led by the largest four crops: corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton. For the projection period, the 8-crop total declines from 250.8 million acres in 2023/24 to 248.6 million in 2032/33. A ramp-up of USDA, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres from 24.1 million in 2023 to 27 million acres by 2026 more than offsets the moderate decline in the 8-crop total of planted acres during the projection period. After 2026,

CRP acres remain in the 26.9-million to 27-million acre range through 2032. Twenty-seven million acres is the maximum level legislated by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill.

For corn, soybeans, and wheat, rising yields compensate for slow reductions in area, resulting in production rising to record levels for corn and soybeans, and rising production for wheat during the projections—but at levels well below much of the past two decades.

Growth in cotton production is driven by both yield and area gains. The Baseline projects U.S. corn production to grow over the next decade as yield gains offset a slight decline in acreage. Planted area is projected to steadily decline after 2023/24's strong response to increased global demand and tight supplies. Exports are expected to be the fastest growing category of use. Feed and residual use also expands, supported by rising supplies and growing livestock inventories. The stocks-to-use ratio is expected to rise somewhat rapidly, from 11.6 percent in 2023/24 to 16.0 percent in 2026/27.

Later in the projection period, supply and use grow at similar rates, slowing growth in the stocks-to-use ratio. Season-average nominal producer prices begin the projection period at \$5.70 per bushel in 2023/24 before steadily declining to \$4.30 by 2026/27 and through the

end of the Baseline period as global production responds to increased global demand. Additionally, the Baseline projects the following outlook for the corn market:

- Corn used for ethanol production declines slightly over the projection period, from 5.325 billion bushels to 5.300 billion bushels by 2032/33. Expected declines in motor gasoline consumption constrains ethanol demand.

- Food, seed, and industrial (FSI) use of corn (other than ethanol production) gradually declines through the middle of the projection period, largely driven by declining high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) production. Corn for food and beverage use grows in continuation of long-term per capita consumption trends, while glucose, dextrose, and starch are projected to remain flat.

- U.S. corn exports are projected to reach 2.725 billion bushels by 2032/33 driven by strong global demand. Somewhat higher stocks relative to use are expected to mitigate against global weather and production risks, as the United States competes for market share with other major exporters in South America, particularly as an increasing share of global trade becomes more reliant on a favorable outcome to the rainy season in Brazil's Center-West region

U.S. plantings of wheat are projected to start at 47.5 million acres in 2023/24 and decline to 46 million acres by 2032/33, remaining very close to the recent 5-year

average (2018/19–2022/23) of 46.0 million. The higher expected plantings in 2023/24 are a result of strong futures and cash prices amidst tight U.S. and global supplies. However, over the rest of the projection period, prices are expected to gradually decline to their long-term averages, and plantings are projected to trend lower due to weak relative returns compared to alternative crops. Domestic wheat use, especially for food use, is expected to grow slowly as population growth slightly outpaces declining per capita consumption. Over the long term, food use for wheat is expected to continue to exhibit slow

growth, reflecting a mature market and long-term per capita trends. Exports in 2023/24 are projected to rebound by 50 million bushels from the previous year to 825 million bushels. Growth in U.S. exports and market share is expected to be minimal for the rest of the projection period based on expectations of continued large supplies in key global competitors. Additionally, the Baseline projects the following outlook for the wheat market:

- Wheat-to-corn price ratios remain relatively stable throughout the projection period and do not favor increased wheat feeding as corn supplies remain

ample. Feed and residual use remains relatively flat through 2032/33, consistent with the level of production and generally limited demand for feed wheat use.

- Wheat imports, mainly from Canada, are projected to be relatively flat, but slightly lower by 2032/33.
- Rising incomes, particularly in emerging economies with rising per capita demand, support growth in global demand and a corresponding increase in global wheat trade contributing to somewhat higher U.S. exports.

- Sustained price competition from Russia

Continued on next page.

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Farm Tab

Crop Projections: Continued

and the European Union tempers U.S. exports.

U.S. soybean plantings rebounded sharply in 2021/22 and 2022/23 from the prior 2 years, and area is projected to remain steady over much of the coming decade before declining slightly near the end of the projections. Plantings remain near 87 million acres, supported by high prices and net returns relative to the 2014/14–2019/20 period. In addition, the Baseline projects the following outlook for the soybean market:

- U.S. soybean prices are projected at near record levels in 2022/23 with relatively tight stocks. Nominal soybean prices in 2023/24 start high but then decline through the middle of the projection period and then stabilize as stocks-to-

use rebounds.

- Domestic soybean meal and oil demand grows steadily, supporting a continued rise in soybean crush over the next decade. Gains in crush reflect output and growing domestic and export demand for soybean oil.

- U.S. soybean exports maintain steady growth over the projected period as global consumption rebounds, particularly in China. The U.S. share of global soybean trade drops from 33 percent to 28 percent between 2021/22 and 2032/33, with Brazil gaining share.

- U.S. soybean oil and meal exports continue to face strong competition from South America during the projection period. Argentina's share of world soybean meal exports grows to nearly 42 percent by 2032/33. Brazil is expected

to boost its soybean meal market share to about 29.5 percent by 2032/33. Despite increasing meal exports, the United States loses global share, slipping from about 18 percent to 16 percent of the market by 2032/33.

- Soybean oil use for production of biofuels increases from 11.8 billion pounds in 2022/23 to 12.15 billion pounds by 2032/33. The Federal and State policies in place as of October 2022 are assumed through 2032/33. Projections are largely driven by increasing renewable diesel for the California market and Federal mandates.

USDA Long Term Livestock Projection

Key factors that shape the 2024–32 livestock-poultry Baseline estimates include modest rates of real GDP growth, moderating prices of feed grains and oilseeds compared to recent history, and drought conditions that began in late 2020. The drought forced a reduction in cattle numbers that is expected to constrain beef production to modest rates of increase in the near term as cattle numbers rebuild. Consistent, moderate growth in both pork and broiler production however, offsets weak beef production, and results in rising 2024–32 per capita retail weight meat disappearance. The projection period for livestock, poultry, and animal products begin with calendar year 2024. The projections and data for 2023 and prior years are based on information available in the October 2022 publication of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE).

- Beef production is expected to decline in 2024 reflecting tighter cattle supplies leading into the projection period. Higher cattle prices in 2023 will likely incentivize heifer retention, after which modest herd growth is expected through the end of the projection period. Increasing slaughter weights will further support production gains as the herd expands. Beef production is expected to increase during the projection period, starting in 2025 at year-over-year rates that average

almost 1.0 percent.

- The U.S. hog sector grows moderately over the projection period. Pork production increases at an average year-over-year rate of 1.4 percent. In 2024 almost 129 million head of hogs are projected to be slaughtered, producing about 28 billion pounds of pork. In 2032 production is projected to be about 31 billion pounds on a slaughter of 140 million head. Farrowings increase moderately over the period, with litter rate growth accounting for most of the pig crop increases.
- Broiler production is expected to continue increasing steadily over the forecast period, driven by greater domestic and foreign demand. Production growth will largely reflect the growing number of birds slaughtered each year. After contracting each year from 2018 to 2022, with 2022 being the most extreme due to an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), turkey production is expected to increase gradually over the projection period.

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- Milk production is anticipated to rise throughout the projection period reaching 253.7 billion pounds in 2032. While the U.S. dairy herd is projected to decline from 2023 to 2024, it is expected to grow during 2026 through 2032. Milk per cow is expected to rise through the projection period (see dairy section later in this report).
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- U.S. per capita disappearance of total red meat (beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton) and poultry (broilers and turkey) is projected at 228.4 pounds in 2024 and 236.3 pounds in 2032, with poultry meat continuing to account for most of the projected growth in disappearance.

Continued on next page.

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Livestock Projection: Continued

• Per capita retail weight beef disappearance is expected to decline early in the first year of the projection period on lower production. Beef production is expected to modestly increase for the rest of the period, but beef exports are expected to grow at a faster pace than imports, lowering domestic disappearance over time. Beef disappearance is projected at 55.7 pounds per capita in 2024 and is expected to be 55.5 pounds per capita by 2032.

USDA Long-Term Projections, February 2023 52

• Expected per capita retail

weight pork disappearance over the projection period averages 54.2 pounds. The period begins at 52.5 pounds per person, and increases at an annual rate of just under 1.0 percent, finishing the period at 56.3 pounds per capita.

• Broiler per capita disappearance is expected to increase steadily, growing from 101.4 pounds in 2024 to 106.0 pounds by 2032. Per capita turkey disappearance is expected to bounce back from the 2022 low of 14.7 pounds to 15.8 pounds in 2024. From there, per capita disappearance of turkey will level out at 16.0 pounds through 2028, then fall to

15.5 pounds by 2032.

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level out at 16.0 pounds through 2028, then fall to 15.5 pounds by 2032.

• In 2022 and 2023, steer prices in the 5-area marketing region are forecast to rise reflecting tightening cattle supplies. As producers respond to higher cattle prices, U.S. cattle inventories are expected to expand in 2025, and cattle prices are projected to decline through 2026 to \$137.82 per hundredweight (cwt). For the remainder of the period, steer prices are expected to gradually rise to \$148.73 per cwt in 2032 reflecting strong global demand for U.S. beef and relatively tight supplies for

the domestic market.

• Pork production grows moderately in the projection period. Hog prices—national base lean prices for live-equivalent 51–52 percent lean hogs—are expected to average about \$54.80 per hundredweight. Strong processor demand for hogs—deriving primarily from robust domestic pork demand and moderate export demand—support hog prices over the projection period. Although comparatively high relative to history, hog prices are projected to remain substantially below elevated prices in 2021 and projected at still high levels through 2023. The initial jump in

prices during 2021 reflected strong consumer demand for pork to be prepared at home. Prices through 2023 are also USDA Long-Term Projections, February 2023 53 expected to be supported by constrained supplies. Prices after 2024 gradually decline as production grows through 2032 and competition with other meats increases.

• After 2 years of particularly strong prices in 2022 and 2023, wholesale broiler prices are expected to begin the projection period lower, at 122.8 cents per pound as production increases. They will then increase steadily.

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Farm Tab

Livestock Projection: Continued

to 146.3 cents per pound in 2032, as demand remains strong. Wholesale turkey prices are expected to fall from a 2022 peak to 147.8 cents per pound in 2024, then level off, declining only slightly from 143.6 cents in 2025 to 142.7 cents in 2032. The real exchange rate of the U.S. dollar is expected to depreciate fractionally against the currencies of agricultural trade partners during 2024–32, although from a relatively high level. This may lend some marginal support to U.S. red meat and poultry exports, that are projected to rise through 2032, largely based on increased U.S. red meat

and poultry supplies.

- The decline in U.S. beef production from 2023 to 2024 leads to a decline in available supplies for export. During the projection period of 2024 to 2032, U.S. beef exports are expected to grow almost 15.0 percent from 2.9 billion pounds to 3.3 billion pounds. Brazil is projected to be the largest global beef exporter, while India remains second, followed by Australia and the United States. Among the major global beef exporters, U.S. market share is expected to decline fractionally, largely due to growth in exports by Brazil and India.

- The annual percent change

in U.S. pork exports averages about 1.0 percent over the projection period. Efficiency gains in hog production and pork processing continue to enhance the sectors' international competitiveness. Although the United States is expected to face increased competition in export markets, it is projected to maintain its USDA Long-Term Projections, February 2023 54 position as the second largest exporter of pork behind the European Union (EU). U.S. exports are projected to remain well ahead of other major exporters—Brazil and Canada.

- U.S. poultry exports are expected to increase steadily over the next 10 years. Broiler export growth is expected to continue to benefit from gains in production efficiency along with increasing global demand, climbing from 7.49 billion pounds in 2024 to 8.43 billion pounds in 2032. Turkey exports dropped sharply in 2022, reflecting the impacts of HPAI, but are expected to bounce back to 500 million pounds in 2024. Turkey exports will continue to climb through the projection period, reaching 575 million pounds in 2032.

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Farm Tab

USDA Conducts 2023 Agricultural Resource Management Survey in South Dakota

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has initiated the first phase of the 2023 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) in South Dakota. Approximately 1,600 farmers and ranchers in the state can expect to receive survey forms in their mailboxes. This annual survey serves as a vital tool for examining various aspects of agricultural production in the United States and assessing the overall well-being of farms.

Through the ARMS survey, comprehensive data is gathered on multiple facets of agricultural operations, providing valuable insights into the industry. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to actively participate and provide accurate information, as the survey contributes to the formulation of agricultural policies and decision-making processes.

The survey's scope encompasses a wide range of topics, including crop cultivation, livestock management, land use, production costs, income, and various socioeconomic factors affecting farm households. By analyzing the collected data, the USDA gains a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the agricultural sector, enabling them to develop strategies to support farmers and ensure the sustainability of U.S. agriculture.

The participation of South Dakota's farmers and ranchers in the ARMS survey plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the agricultural industry, fostering informed decision-making, and promoting the well-being of farms across the state.

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Farm Tab

States See Chinese Purchase of Farmland as a Threat to National Security

Several states have already banned or are considering banning foreign ownership of farmland from U.S. adversaries such as China, a trend that has its recent roots in North Dakota.

Chinese food manufacturer Fufeng Group purchased 370 acres of land for a corn milling plant in Grand Forks in November 2021.

By January 2023, the Grand Forks City Council announced it would deny building permits for the plant, killing the project 12 miles from the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

The pressure came from state and federal officials concerned about the proposed plant's ties to China and its proximity to the base. A report from the Air Force that officially called the purchase of the land a "threat to national security" sealed the transaction's fate.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 40.8 million acres of U.S. farmland is owned by foreign

citizens, companies or countries as of 2021. China owned about 384,000 acres of U.S. farmland.

While the Grand Forks plan is dead, states' efforts to prevent China and other communist countries from owning land are ongoing.

North Dakota lawmakers this session passed a bill that prevents city or county governments from entering into land deals with foreign adversaries. Other legislators have also introduced or passed bills dealing with foreign ownership of agricultural land.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem was one of the first governors to ban the Chinese-owned app TikTok from state-owned devices, but her push to ban the country and others from purchasing land was not as successful.

The state banned aliens from owning more than 160 acres of land in 1979. Lawmakers wanted to establish the "Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States – South Dakota," which would scrutinize all foreign

farmland purchases.

Senate Bill 185 failed to make it out of the Senate.

Republicans in Arizona also failed to pass a bill banning foreign entities from owning land in their state. It passed the Senate but did not garner enough votes in the House. Other states are having more success with passing similar legislation.

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte signed Senate Bill 203 this session that bans land purchases by what it refers to as "foreign adversaries," defined as "any foreign government or foreign non government person determined by the U.S. secretary of commerce to have engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States



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