

# LIVESTOCK HIGHLIGHTS

## CATTLE AND CALVES

Cattle numbers in Kentucky fell to their lowest level in nearly 40 years on January 1, 2000. The **All Cattle and Calves** inventory totaled 2.25 million head, down 7 percent from 1999 and the smallest inventory since 1962. The drought of 1999 reduced supplies of water, hay, and pasture causing many producers to sell out or reduce their herds. Milk cow numbers fell to a record low 130,000 head on January 1, 2000, 4 percent below the previous year. Milk cow numbers have declined steadily since 1986. Inventory levels for all classes of cattle declined from 1999 except cattle on full feed for slaughter which was unchanged. The 1999 calf

crop totaled 1.13 million head, down 3 percent from 1998.

The value of the January 1, 2000 inventory, at \$1,305 million, was up 10 percent from the previous year. Average value per head was \$580, compared with \$490 on January 1, 1999. Cash receipts from marketings totaled \$551 million during 1999, 10 percent below 1998. Marketings fell 13 percent from 1998. Cattle prices averaged \$59.30 per hundredweight during 1999 compared with \$59.00 during 1998. Calves averaged \$80.20 per hundredweight compared with \$74.90 during 1998.

## HOGS AND PIGS

Finding adequate market opportunities and rebounding from low prices early in the year proved difficult for Kentucky's hog producers. The December 1, 1999 **Hog and Pig** inventory was another record low at 460,000 head. Hog numbers were 12 percent below 1998 and have been declining steadily since 1995. Hogs for breeding totaled 55,000 on December 1, 1999, down 15 percent from the previous year. December 1999 market hogs, at 405,000 head, were 11 percent below the previous year.

The 1999 pig crop, at 1.01 million, was down

fractionally from 1998. Pigs saved per litter averaged 8.68, compared with 8.43 in 1998. Producers farrowed 116,000 sows during 1999 compared with 120,000 during 1998.

Kentucky's hog and pig inventory was valued at \$23.9 million on December 1, 1999, compared with \$18.2 million a year ago. Cash receipts from marketings came to \$77.7 million, compared with \$89.3 million during 1998. Marketings slipped 6 percent from 1998, and the average price was \$28.50 per hundredweight, down 19 percent from the \$35.20 recorded in 1998.

## POULTRY

The broiler industry continues to expand in Kentucky. **Broiler** production for 1999 totaled 982 million pounds from 188,800 birds. Value of production was \$363 million making broilers the fourth largest source of cash receipts for Kentucky farmers. Compared with 1998, broiler production increased 10 percent and total value rose 9 percent. The December 1, 1999 inventory of **All Chickens**

(excluding broilers) totaled 5.65 million birds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Laying flocks produced 922 million eggs during 1999, a 7 percent increase from the previous year. Value of sales from eggs came to \$60.3 million for 1999, 16 percent above 1998. Eggs averaged 78.5 cents per dozen in 1999 compared with 72.5 cents during 1998.