



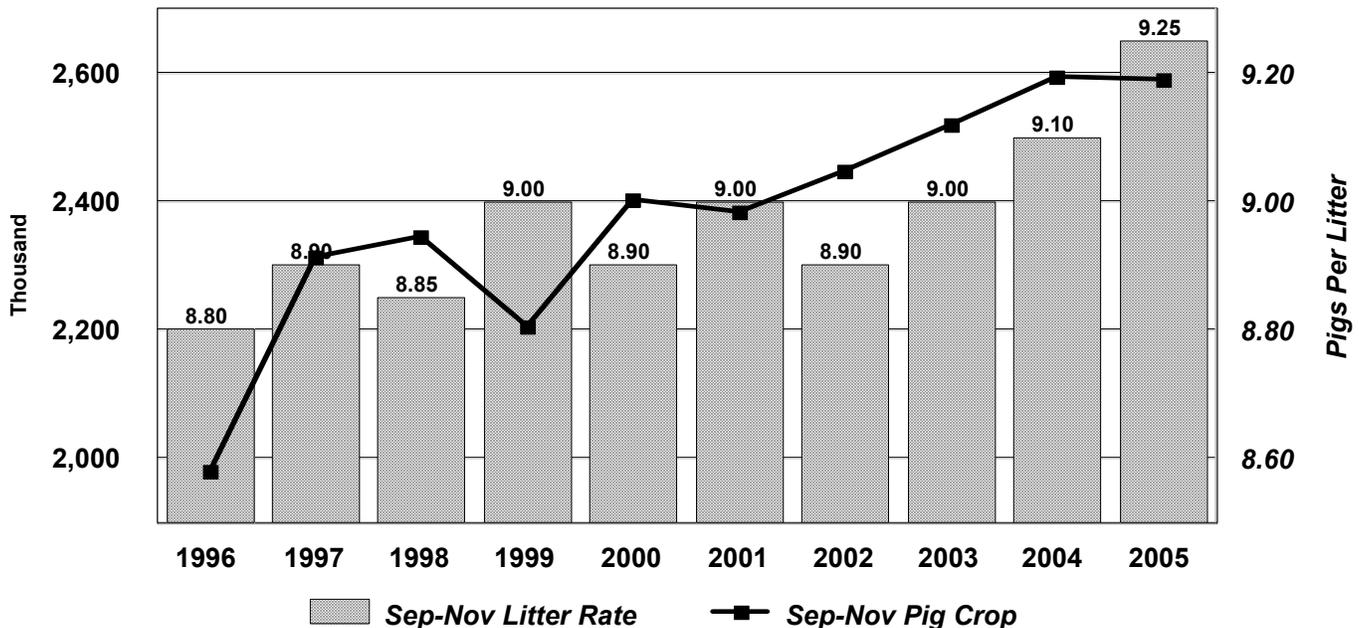
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MINNESOTA HOG NUMBERS DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM SEPTEMBER

Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 6.60 million hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier but down 3 percent from the September 1, 2005 figure, according to USDA, NASS Minnesota Field Office. This is a new record All Hogs & Pigs inventory for the December 1 quarter. Breeding hogs totaled 590 thousand, down 2 percent from a year earlier and market hogs and pigs at 6.01 million, were up 2 percent from a year ago.

Market hogs in the under 60 pound weight group were up 3 percent from last year. The 60-119 pound weight group was up 3 percent. Hog numbers in the 120-179 pound group were down 4 percent from last year, while the 180+ pound group was up 5 percent from a year ago.

**September-November Pig Crop and Pigs Per Litter
Minnesota 1996-2005**



STATE PIG CROP DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST QUARTER

Minnesota's September-November 2005 pig crop totaled 2.59 million head, down fractionally from a year earlier and down slightly from the June-August 2005 pig crop. The 280 thousand sows that farrowed averaged 9.25 pigs per litter, up from 9.10 a year ago. This is a new record litter rate for the September-November quarter.

DECEMBER 2005-FEBRUARY 2006 AND MARCH 2006-MAY 2006 INTENTIONS

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 275 thousand sows during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter. If realized this would be unchanged from the same period the previous year. Producers intend to farrow 280 thousand sows during the March-May 2006 quarter. If realized, this would be down 3 percent from the same period in 2005.

(See back page for U.S. highlights)

U.S. Hog Inventory Up Slightly

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent from last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2004 through September 2005 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the June 2005 total inventory, September 2005 total inventory and to the March-May 2005 pig crop.

**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,
United States, December-November 2004-2005^{1 2}**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs Per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2004 <i>1,000 Head</i>	2005 <i>1,000 Head</i>	2004 <i>Number</i>	2005 <i>Number</i>	2004 <i>1,000 Head</i>	2005 <i>1,000 Head</i>
Dec ¹	935	938	8.84	8.89	8,265	8,338
Jan	954	951	8.86	8.94	8,448	8,500
Feb	947	946	8.86	8.99	8,392	8,505
Mar	958	967	8.89	8.99	8,515	8,693
Apr	957	962	8.93	9.00	8,550	8,656
May	955	953	8.97	9.06	8,568	8,637
Jun	978	963	8.99	9.07	8,792	8,734
Jul	970	973	9.00	9.04	8,730	8,800
Aug	957	963	9.03	9.08	8,640	8,742
Sep	981	982	8.94	9.03	8,771	8,873
Oct	961	966	8.96	9.05	8,611	8,740
Nov	946	940	8.98	9.01	8,499	8,467
Total	11,498	11,504	8.94	9.01	102,780	103,685

¹ December preceding year.

² Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.