



Released: December 27, 2006

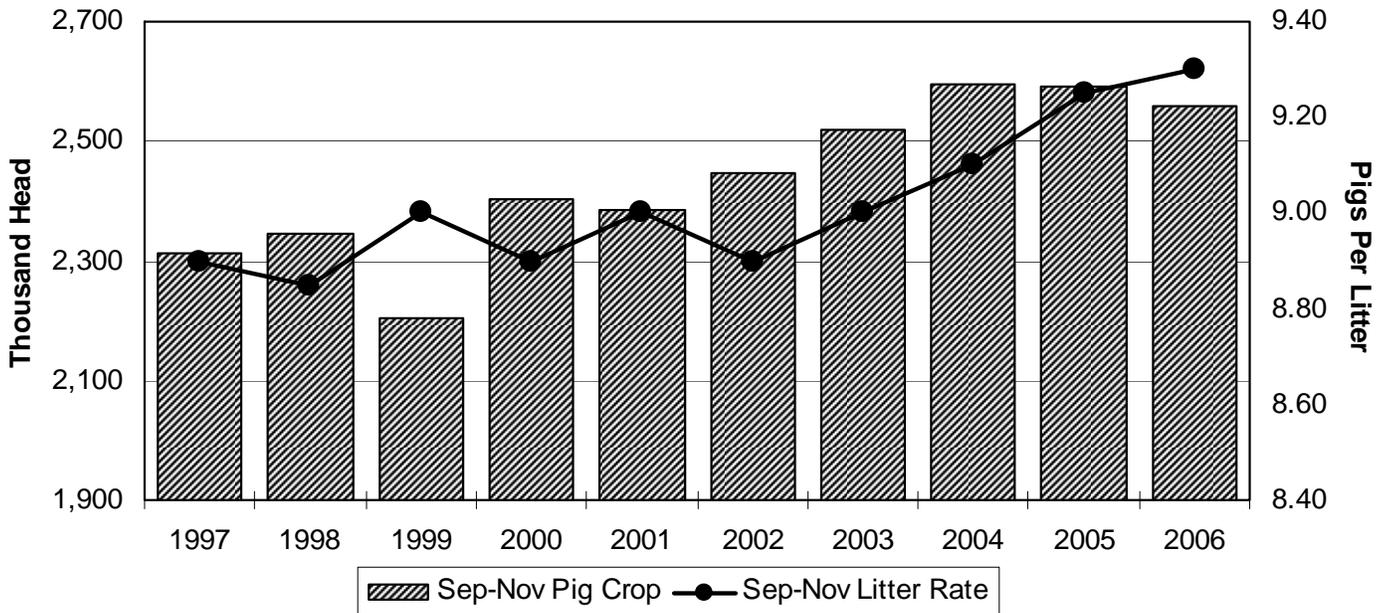
MINNESOTA HOG NUMBERS DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM SEPTEMBER

Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 6.8 million hogs and pigs on December 1, 2006, up 3 percent from last year but down 1 percent from the September 1, 2006 figure, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. This is a new record inventory for December 1. Breeding hogs totaled 590 thousand head, unchanged from a year earlier and market hogs and pigs at 6.21 million head, were up 3 percent from a year ago.

STATE PIG CROP DOWN 1 PERCENT

Minnesota's September-November 2006 pig crop totaled 2.56 million head, down 1 percent from a year earlier and down 2 percent from the June-August 2006 pig crop. The 275 thousand sows that farrowed averaged 9.30 pigs per litter, up from 9.25 a year ago.

**September-November Pig Crop & Pigs Per Litter
 Minnesota 1997-2006**



DECEMBER-2006-FEBRUARY 2007 AND MARCH-MAY 2007 INTENTIONS

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 270 thousand sows during December 2006-February 2007 quarter. If realized, this would be unchanged from the same period a year earlier. Producers intend to farrow 270 thousand sows during the March-May 2007 quarter. If realized, this would be down 4 percent from the same period in 2006.

(See back page for U.S. highlights)

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2006 was 62.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from December 1, 2005, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2006.

Breeding inventory, at 6.09 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and up slightly from the previous quarter.

Market hog inventory, at 56.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2006 pig crop, at 26.6 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005 and up 3 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.91 million head, up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.13 for the September-November 2006 period, compared to 9.03 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.20 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2005 through September 2006 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, a small adjustment of less than one-half of one percent was made to the June 2006 inventory and September 2006 inventory, along with an adjustment of slightly larger than one-half of one percent to the March-May 2006 pig crop.

**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,
United States, December-November 2005-2006^{1 2}**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Dec ¹	938	937	8.89	8.98	8,338	8,412
Jan	951	953	8.94	9.08	8,500	8,648
Feb	946	951	8.99	9.05	8,505	8,607
Mar	967	979	8.99	9.04	8,693	8,848
Apr	962	967	9.00	9.06	8,656	8,765
May	953	970	9.06	9.14	8,637	8,868
Jun	968	974	9.07	9.14	8,779	8,901
Jul	978	970	9.04	9.13	8,845	8,859
Aug	972	980	9.08	9.15	8,825	8,971
Sep	982	986	9.04	9.12	8,874	8,996
Oct	970	972	9.05	9.14	8,777	8,888
Nov	948	951	9.00	9.11	8,536	8,667
Total	11,535	11,590	9.01	9.10	103,965	105,430

¹ December preceding year.

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