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News Release

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OHIO HOG INVENTORY UP 4 PERCENT

Ohio hog producers had 2,130,000 hogs on hand December 1, 2011, which was up 4 percent from a year earlier, and up slightly from last quarter. The number of market hogs, at 1,960,000 head, was up 5 percent from last year and up 1 percent from last quarter. Breeding stock, at 170,000 head, was the same as last year and last quarter.

The September-November pig crop numbered 892,000 head, which was up 5 percent from last year and up 4 percent from last quarter. The number of sows farrowed during the September-November 2011 quarter, at 91,000, was 2,000 head above last quarter and 1,000 head above last year. Pigs saved per litter during the September-November 2011 quarter averaged 9.8 and was up 4 percent from the same period last year and up 2 percent from last quarter.

Ohio producers intend to farrow 88,000 sows during the December-February 2012 quarter; down 1 percent from a year earlier. Farrowing intentions for the spring quarter, March-May 2012, is 89,000; down 2 percent from the same quarter of 2011.

UNITED STATES HOG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2011 was 65.9 million head. This was up 2 percent from December 1, 2010, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2011.

Breeding inventory, at 5.80 million head, was up slightly from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.1 million head, was up 2 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2011 pig crop, at 29.0 million head, was up 2 percent from 2010. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, up slightly from 2010. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 10.02 for the September-November period, compared to 9.89 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the December 2011-February 2012 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2011, but down slightly from 2010. Intended farrowings for March-May 2012, at 2.89 million sows, are down 1 percent from 2011, and down 1 percent from 2010.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 45 percent of the total United States hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

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