



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Hog & Pig Inventory Up 10,000 Head from a Year Ago

HARRISBURG, PA, April 1, 2008 - - There were 1,120,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on March 1, 2008, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This estimated inventory was 30,000 head less than the December 1 inventory, but was 10,000 head more than the March 1, 2007 inventory.

Market hog inventory, at 1,020,000 head, decreased 30,000 head since December; while breeding stock inventory, at 100,000 head, was unchanged from both December and March of last year. The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop totaled 409,000 head, up 13,000 head or 3 percent from March a year earlier, but down 46,000 head or 10 percent from the September -November 2007 pig crop. There were 43,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, down from 44,000 a year ago. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.5, up 0.4 from the previous quarter and up 0.5 from the 9.0 pigs per litter for March a year ago.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 45,000 sows farrow during both the March-May and June-August quarters, the same number that actually farrowed in March-May 2007 and 2,000 less than actually farrowed in the June-August period one year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008, was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007 - February 2008 U.S. pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007, and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowed during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the March-May 2008 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 4 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for June-August 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2007, but up 4 percent from 2006. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year

- # -

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov.