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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA HOG INVENTORY DOWN 9 PERCENT FROM 2010

Hogs and pigs on SOUTH CAROLINA farms as of December 1, 2011, are estimated at 210,000 head, the USDA, NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is 9 percent below the 230,000 head on December 1, 2010. South Carolina ranks 21st among all states while Iowa ranks first at 19.8 million head with North Carolina and Minnesota coming in second and third at 8.8 and 7.8 million head, respectively.

Of the total hog inventory on December 1, 10,000 were breeding hogs, down 29 percent from 2010 and 200,000 were market hogs, 7 percent below the 216,000 on hand a year earlier. Sows farrowed December 2010 - November 2011 was 23,500, down 10 percent from the previous year. The average litter rate for the year was 9.02 pigs per litter, compared to 8.77 a year ago. Total pig crop was 212,000, down 7 percent from the previous year.

U. S. HOG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

The 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.