



News Release

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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On: DECEMBER HOG AND PIG INVENTORY
DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

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Austin . . . The December 1, 2008 Texas hog and pig inventory, at 1.12 million head was down 3 percent from the December 2007 number of 1.16 million head.

The number of breeding hogs totaled 100,000 head, down 5 percent from last year's estimate, according to figures released by the Texas Field Office.

The December 1 market hog inventory totaled 1.02 million head, 91 percent of the total hog and pig inventory. The inventory of market hogs weighing less than 60 pounds, at 320,000 was up 2 percent from the previous year. The inventory of hogs weighing 60 to 119 pounds, at 200,000 head, was down 13 percent from the December 2007 inventory. Market hogs weighing 120 to 179 pounds, totaled 205,000 head, 11 percent below last year, and hogs weighing 180 pounds or more, at 295,000 head, were 5 percent above the previous year's estimate.

The 2008 Texas pig crop totaled 1.85 million head, 4 percent below the 2007 pig crop. From December 2007 through November 2008, pigs per litter averaged 8.92, down 3 percent from the previous year. State Director, David Abbe, reported that 207,000 sows farrowed in Texas during December 2007 through November 2008, compared to 209,000 the previous year.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2008 is estimated at 66.7 million head, down 2 percent from both a year ago and September 1, 2008. The breeding hog inventory, at 6.08 million head, was down 2 percent from last year. Market hog inventory, at 60.6 million head, was down 2 percent from last year.

The U.S. pig crop for September-November 2008 was 28.4 million head, down 4 percent from the previous year. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.97 million sows farrow during the December 2008-February 2009 period, down 3 percent from actual farrowings during the same period in 2008.