



Hogs & Pigs

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Kansas Inventory Down 9 Percent from Last Year

The March 1 inventory for **hogs and pigs** on Kansas farms totaled 1.46 million head, down 9 percent from March 1, 2002, and down 5 percent from December 1, 2002.

The number of hogs and pigs kept in herds for breeding, at 160,000 head, was down 6 percent from last year but unchanged from December 1, 2002. Breeding stock accounted for 11 percent of all hogs and pigs. Market hogs accounted for the remaining 89 percent of the total inventory, at 1.30 million head. The number of market hogs in inventory was 9 percent lower than a year ago, and 5 percent below the December 1, 2002 number. Market hogs weighing less than 60 pounds totaled 430,000 head, down 12 percent from a year ago. The 60-119 pound weight group, at 250,000 head, was down 7 percent from a year ago. The 120-179 pound weight group totaled 250,000 head, down 14 percent from a year ago. The over 180 pound weight group totaled 370,000 head, down 3 percent from a year ago.

September-February Pig Crop

The September-February pig crop in Kansas totaled 1,333,000 head, a decrease of 2 percent from a year ago. Sows farrowing during this period, at 155,000 head, were down 3 percent from the same period a year ago with an average pig per litter rate of 8.60. September-November farrowings of 79,000 sows were down 2 percent from a year ago, with an average of 8.70 pigs per litter. Farrowings during December-February, at 76,000 sows, were down 4 percent from the previous year, with a litter rate of 8.50 pigs.

Farrowing Intentions

Kansas farmers intend to farrow 80,000 sows in the March-May quarter, down 2 percent from the preceding year. For the June-August quarter, expected farrowings are estimated at 80,000 sows, down 2 percent from the previous year.

Hogs And Pigs Inventory, March 1, Seventeen Major States

State	2002	2003	2003 % of 2002	State	2002	2003	2003 % of 2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Arkansas	590	275	47	N. Carolina	9,800	9,600	98
Colorado	790	710	90	Ohio	1,470	1,430	97
Illinois	4,200	3,950	94	Oklahoma	2,290	2,460	107
Indiana	3,200	3,100	97	Pennsylvania	1,090	1,070	98
Iowa	15,100	14,900	99	S. Dakota	1,270	1,290	102
Kansas	1,600	1,460	91	Texas	910	890	98
Michigan	960	870	91	Wisconsin	500	500	100
Minnesota	5,800	6,100	105	Other States	3,728	3,702	99
Missouri	2,950	2,950	100	U. S.	59,248	58,107	98
Nebraska	3,000	2,850	95				

U.S. Inventory Down 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003, was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below both March 1, 2002 and December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

Pig Crop

The December 2002-February 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002 but 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

Farrowing Intentions

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2003 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for June-August 2003, at 2.79 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in both 2002 and 2001. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up 31 percent from last year.

Revisions: All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2002 through December 2002 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and import and export data in U.S. level balance sheets. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of one percent were made to the September 1, 2002 inventory, two percent to the June-August 2002 pig crop, and one percent to the December 1, 2002 inventory.



Hogs And Pigs: Inventory, Number, March 1

Item	Kansas			United States		
	2002	2003		2002	2003	
	Number (000)	Number (000)	% of 2002	Number (000)	Number (000)	% of 2002
All Hogs & Pigs	1,600	1,460	91	59,248	58,107	98
Breeding	170	160	94	6,236	5,956	96
Market	1,430	1,300	91	53,011	52,151	98
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Group:						
Under 60 pounds	490	430	88	19,487	19,110	98
60 - 119 pounds	270	250	93	12,975	12,655	98
120 - 179 pounds	290	250	86	11,172	10,894	98
180 pounds & over	380	370	97	9,377	9,492	101

Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs Per Litter, And Pig Crop

Item	Kansas			United States		
	2002	2003		2002	2003	
	Number (000)	Number (000)	% of 2002	Number (000)	Number (000)	% of 2002
December - February						
Sows Farrowing	79	76	96	2,836	2,767	98
Pig Crop ¹	664	646	97	24,794	24,374	98
Pigs per Litter ²	8.40	8.50	101	8.74	8.81	101
March - May						
Expected Farrowings	82	80	98	2,943	2,842	97
June - August						
Expected Farrowings	82	80	98	2,887	2,792	97

¹ Number of pigs born December-February that were still on hand March 1 or had been sold.

² Number of pigs.

MARKET IMPLICATIONS - Provided by Jim Mintert, Extension Ag Economist at KSU - Research & Extension Service

Hog Prices Below A Year Ago: National base prices reported by USDA averaged about \$47.69 per cwt. (carcass weight) during the January-March quarter, 7.5% below a year ago. National net hog prices (which include carcass premiums and discounts) averaged approximately \$50 per cwt. during 2003's first quarter, about 7% below last year. Similarly, USDA's estimated pork cutout value averaged about \$53.79 per cwt. during January-March, 6.9% below 2002's.

The year-to-year decline in hog prices means that pork producers are still losing equity. According to Iowa State University, farrow-finish hog operations during January-February 2003 lost an average of \$18 per head marketed. This follows an average loss per head marketed of \$16 during 2002. And 2002 was the third year in the last five that farrow-finish operations have lost money.

Commercial hog slaughter totalled 24.6 million head during the January-March quarter 1.8% larger than last year and larger than forecast, based upon USDA's December **Hogs and Pigs** report inventories. Based upon the December report, hog slaughter during the January-March quarter was expected to fall about 1% below a year ago, instead of rising above last year.

Smaller Slaughter Ahead: Today's **Hogs and Pigs** report from USDA indicated that hog producers are continuing to respond to losses by reducing the size of the breeding herd as the March 1 breeding herd was approximately 4% smaller than last year. Producers also expect to hold their farrowings below last year through summer. Look for hog slaughter to fall below a year ago no later than this summer.

Revised slaughter estimates based on today's report indicate that hog slaughter this spring (April-June) will likely total 23.1 million head, fractionally lower than in 2002. Summer quarter slaughter is likely to fall 3 to 4% below 2002's, ranging from 24.2 to 24.3 million head. Fall quarter slaughter is expected to rise seasonally from the summer quarter, but could total about 26.1 million head, which is still 2.5% smaller than during fall 2002. Slaughter for the year is now expected to total 98.1 million head, about 2.2% smaller than last year.