



MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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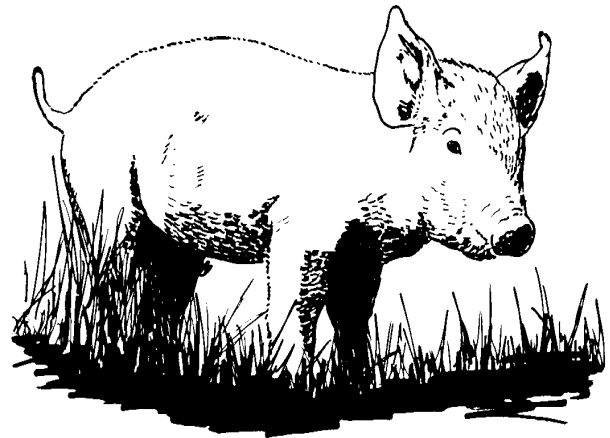
January 04, 2005

HOGS

CONTENTS

Agricultural Prices
Chickens and Eggs
Hogs

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Maryland was estimated at 26,000 head for December 1, 2004, down 13% from 2003. The number of Market Hogs declined from 25,000 hogs in 2003 to 22,000 hogs in 2004. The breeding inventory was down 1,000 head when compared to 2004.



Hogs and Pigs, December 1, 2003 and 2004

Item	Delaware		Maryland		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
<i>Thousand Head</i>						
Breeding	3	3	5	4	6,009	5,969
Market-Under 60 lbs	4	5	8	7	19,778	19,636
60-119 lbs	2	3	5	5	13,238	13,439
120-179 lbs	2	2	6	5	11,109	11,286
180 lbs & over	2	3	6	5	10,311	10,171
Total Market	9	12	25	22	54,434	54,531
Total All Hogs	12	15	30	26	60,444	60,501

U.S. HOG INVENTORY

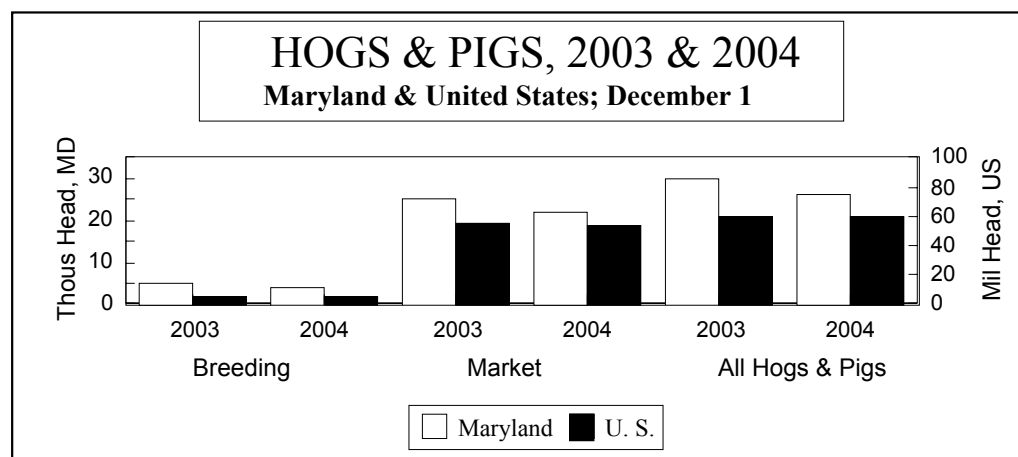
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004, was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter. The September - November 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 25.6 million head, was up slightly from 2003 and up 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The

average pigs saved per litter was 8.96 for the September - November period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2004 - February 2005 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in 2004, and 3 percent above 2003. Intended farrowings for March - May 2005, at 2.87 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2004, and down 1 percent from the same period in 2003.

Sows Farrowed, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop United States 2003-2004

Quarter	Sows		Pigs Per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Thousand Head</i>		<i>Number</i>		<i>Thousand Head</i>	
December -February¹	2,769	2,836	8.81	8.85	24,400	25,105
March - May	2,886	2,870	8.88	8.93	25,629	25,633
June - August	2,918	2,888	8.90	9.01	25,974	26,010
September - November	2,856	2,852	8.93	8.96	25,488	25,558

¹ December preceding year.



Prices received for the month of December varied for all

price of \$5.07 and corn price was up fourteen cents to \$2.22

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

crops. The barley price was down slightly with a price of \$1.89 per bushel. Wheat prices increased by three cents to \$2.88 per bushel. Soybean price was up twenty-three cents per bushel from last month's

per bushel. Livestock prices were mixed in December. Beef cattle price is up \$11.51 from the previous month, while calf prices were down \$18.99. Hog prices decreased to \$23.17 per cwt.

Prices Received, Maryland, Delaware & United States, November & December 2004

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			
		DEC 2003	NOV 2004	DEC 2004	DEC 2003	NOV 2004	DEC 2004	PARITY PRICE
<i>Dollars</i>								
Wheat, Winter	BU	3.59	2.85	2.88	3.62	3.39	3.29	10.00
Corn	BU	2.74	2.08	2.22	2.31	2.05	1.99	6.74
Barley	BU	2.34	1.92	1.89	2.93	2.51	2.46	6.69
Soybeans	BU	7.44	5.07	5.30	7.17	5.36	5.41	15.90
All Hay, Baled	TON	159.10	136.12	124.37	80.60	86.20	84.30	----
All Beef Cattle	CWT	93.80	62.57	74.08	90.40	85.10	86.80	170.00
Calves	CWT	88.50	89.45	70.46	112.00	124.00	121.00	228.00
Hogs	CWT	37.80	41.32	23.17	34.20	55.70	54.50	105.00
Milk, Fluid MKT	CWT	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.80	15.48	16.34	----
Broilers	LB	0.349	0.405	0.415	0.380	0.390	0.390	----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.382	0.490	0.462	1.020
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.917	0.463	0.501	0.739	0.436	0.488	1.69

Index of Prices Received, United States, December 2004 with Comparisons

Index and Ratios	December 2003	November 2004	December 2004
<i>1990 - 92 = 100</i>			
All Farm Products	114	115*	112
All Crops	115	112*	104
Feed Grain & Hay	103	92*	91
Oil-Bearing Crops	126	97*	99
Fruits & Nuts	93	140*	102
Livestock Products	112	119*	120
Meat Animals	110	118*	119
Dairy Products	106	123*	126
Poultry and Eggs	121	118	118
Ratio ¹	88	86	84
Prices Paid Index	129	134	134

*Revised

¹Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 72 million eggs during November 2004 of which 70 million were table eggs and 2 million were hatching eggs. The average number of layers

on hand during November 2004 was 3,186,000. On December 1, 2004, 5.5% were being forced molted and 32.0% of all layers in Maryland had completed a molt.

Eggs and Layers: November 2003-2004

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
Eggs Produced During November		<i>Million</i>	<i>Percent</i>
U.S.	7,326	7,455	102
Maryland	70	72	103
Layers, Average Number During November		<i>Thousand</i>	
U.S.	338,283	343,477	102
Maryland	2,927	3,186	109
Eggs / 100 Layers During November		<i>Number</i>	
U.S.	2,166	2,170	100
Maryland	2,392	2,260	94

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT NORM BENNETT, STATE DIRECTOR AT (410) 841-5740

E:mail: nass-md@nass.usda.gov

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