



Released: March 26, 2004

MINNESOTA HOG NUMBERS UP 5%

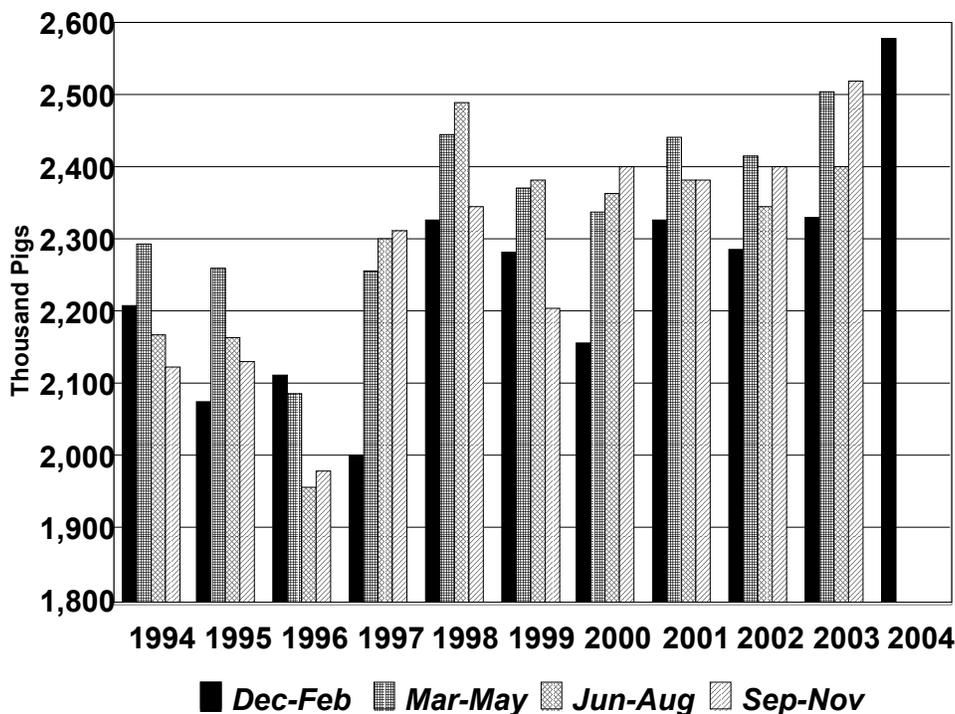
Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 6,400,000 hogs and pigs on March 1, 2004, up 5% from a year earlier but down 2% from the revised December 1, 2003 figure, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is a record inventory for March 1. Breeding hogs totaled 600,000, unchanged from a year earlier and 5,800,000 were market hogs and pigs, up 5% from a year ago.

Market hogs in the under 60 pound weight group were up 4% from last year. Those in the 60-119 pound weight group were up 8%. Hog numbers in the 120-179 pound group were up 1% from last year, while the 180+ pound group were up 11% from a year ago.

**Pig Crop
Minnesota 1994-2004**

STATE PIG CROP UP 11%

Minnesota's December 2003-February 2004 pig crop totaled 2,579,000 head, up 11% from a year earlier and up 2% from the September-November 2003 pig crop. This is a record pig crop for any quarter. The 285,000 sows that farrowed averaged 9.05 pigs per litter, up from the litter rate of 8.80 a year ago. This is a new record litter rate for the December-February quarter.



MARCH-MAY 2004 and JUNE-AUGUST 2004 INTENTIONS

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 285,000 sows during the March-May 2004 quarter. If realized this would be up 2% from last year. Producers also intend to farrow 285,000 sows during the June-August 2004 quarter. If realized, this would be up 4% from the previous year.

(See back page for U.S. highlights)

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2004, was 59.3 million head. This was 2 percent above March 1, 2003, but 2 percent below December 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.92 million head, was down 2 percent from March 1, 2003, and down 1 percent from last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 53.4 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 2003 - February 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2003, and up slightly from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.81 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.85 for the December 2003 - February 2004 period, compared to 8.81 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the March-May 2004 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2003, and 3 percent below 2002. Intended farrowings for June-August 2004, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period in 2003 and 1 percent below 2002.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2003 through December 2003 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the March 2003 and June 2003 total inventories. An adjustment of one percent was made to the September 2003 and December 2003 total inventories. An adjustment of less than one-half of one percent was made to the December 2002-February 2003 pig crop, March-May 2003 pig crop, and September-November 2003 pig crop. The June-August 2003 pig crop was adjusted three percent.

NASS has completed the 5-year historical review for March 1998 through December 2002. To ensure the continuity and availability of estimates to data users, December 1, 2003, breeding inventory, market inventory, and farrowings have been published on pages 13, 14, and 19 with any revisions. Final estimates were released on Monday, March 22, 2004, in the NASS Statistical Bulletin Number 986, Hogs and Pigs - Final Estimates 1998-2002.

**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,
United States, December-November 2003-2004^{1/2/}**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Number	Number	1,000 Head	1,000 Head
Dec ¹	907	925	8.75	8.84	7,940	8,176
Jan	930	951	8.82	8.83	8,202	8,400
Feb	932	938	8.86	8.87	8,257	8,319
Mar	946		8.85		8,372	
Apr	966		8.88		8,581	
May	973		8.91		8,674	
Jun	961		8.91		8,567	
Jul	974		8.90		8,670	
Aug	971		8.89		8,632	
Sep	962		8.91		8,575	
Oct	949		8.93		8,478	
Nov	930		8.93		8,305	
Total	11,401		8.88		101,254	

¹ December preceding year.

² Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.