



NEWS RELEASE

**Hogs & Pigs
December 30, 2003**

NORTH DAKOTA HOG NUMBERS DECLINE

North Dakota

The all hogs and pigs inventory as of December 1, 2003, set a record low for North Dakota at 150,000 head, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The total hog and pig inventory in the state was down 3 percent from both 2001 and 2002. The largest December 1 inventory in the last 10 years was 320,000 head in 1993. These estimates are based on a survey conducted around December 1.

Breeding inventory totaled 30,000 head, up from 26,000 head in 2002. The pig crop totaled 420,000, down from 444,000 last year and down from 476,000 in 2001.

Market inventory totaled 120,000 head, down from 128,000 head last year. Market inventory by weight group with respective changes from last year are as follows: 50,000 head weighing under 60 pounds, unchanged from last year; 30,000 head in the 60-119 pound range, down 9 percent; 21,000 head in the 120-179 pound class, down 16 percent; 19,000 head at or over 180 pounds, down 5 percent.

United States

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September - November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September - November period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

For More Information Contact:

DECEMBER 1 HOG INVENTORY

Item	NORTH DAKOTA		UNITED STATES	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
INVENTORY	--- 1,000 Head ---		--- 1,000 Head ---	
All Hogs and Pigs	154	150	59,513	60,040
Breeding	26	30	6,012	5,966
Market	128	120	53,501	54,074
Market Hogs and Pigs				
Under 60 Pounds	50	50	19,461	19,821
60-119 Pounds	33	30	13,054	13,250
120-179 Pounds	25	21	10,881	10,839
180 Pounds and Over	20	19	10,105	10,164
SOWS FARROWING				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	52.5	47.0	11,483	11,306
PIG CROP				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	444	420	101,344	100,406
PIGS PER LITTER				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	8.46	8.94	8.83	8.88

^{1/} December preceding year.

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