

Livestock Inventory & Production, 2001

By Charles E. Less

The total value of all cattle, hogs and sheep on Pennsylvania farms during 2001 was \$1.81 billion, up 14 percent from the previous year. Cattle inventory was valued at \$1.72 billion on January 1, 2002, accounting for 95.3 percent of the total value of cattle, sheep and hogs in Pennsylvania. Sheep inventory, valued at \$11.7 million, accounted for 0.6 percent of the total. Hog inventory, valued at \$73.1 million on December 1, 2001, accounted for 4.0 percent of cattle, sheep and hog inventory value.

Cattle: All cattle in Pennsylvania totaled 1,640,000 head on January 1, 2002, unchanged from January 1, 2001. Of the total, 740,000 were cows and heifers that had calved. Milk cow inventory totaled 588,000, a 3.6 percent decrease from one year earlier. The number of beef cows at 152,000 head, was up 2,000 head from last year. Heifers 500 pounds and over totaled 370,000, a jump of almost three percent from January 1, 2001. There were 285,000 heifers for dairy replacement and 40,000 for beef cow replacement. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 175,000. A total of 25,000 bulls 500 pounds and over were on hand. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 330,000, a 5,000 head decrease from the previous year. The 2001 Pennsylvania calf crop totaled 660,000 head, 1.5 percent below the 2000 calf crop.

The gross income from beef production was \$435.5 million in 2001, up 6.1 percent from the previous year. There were 28,000 Pennsylvania farms having cattle during 2001, the same as 2000. Farms with milk cows decreased 400 from 2000 to 10,300. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in the United States in milk cow inventory on January 1, 2002, and 20th in cattle inventory.

Hogs: There were 1,060,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms as of December 1, 2001, 30,000 head above the previous year. Breeding hog inventory, at 130,000 head, was 10,000 head more than the previous year. A total of 930,000 market hogs and pigs were on hand as of December 1, 2001, 20,000 head above last year.

Pennsylvania's pig crop in 2001 totaled 1,871,000, up almost 11 percent from 2000. A total of 212,000 sows farrowed in 2001, averaging 8.83 pigs per litter. The gross income from pork production was \$181.1 million for 2001, which was over \$24.7 million higher than in 2000. Hog farmers numbered 2,900 in 2001, 100 less than the previous year. Pennsylvania's hog inventory ranked 12th in the United States on December 1, 2001.

Sheep: January 1, 2002 sheep and lamb inventory totaled 86,000 head, up 5,000 head from January 1, 2001. Commonwealth flocks included 73,000 breeding sheep and lambs and 13,000 market sheep and lambs. The total lamb crop for 2001 was 71,000 lambs, up one percent from 2000. Wool production totaled 440,000 pounds, 10,000 pounds more than 2000 wool production.

The gross income from sheep production in 2001 was almost \$4.0 million, down 13 percent from 2000. The value of wool produced during the year was \$110,000, down 8 percent from 2000. Sheep farms numbered 2,500, the same as last year. Pennsylvania ranked 19th in the United States in sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2002.

Red Meat Production: Pennsylvania red meat production, dressed weight basis, in commercial slaughter establishments totaled 1.17 billion pounds, a slight decrease of over one percent from 2000. There were 333 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2002. Pennsylvania ranked 1st among all states in the number of commercial slaughter plants.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 954,400 head in 2001, 3.8 percent below the previous year. Total live weight for cattle slaughtered was 1.21 billion pounds. Average live weight at 1,265 pounds was 6 pounds below the 2000 average. Slaughter of calves weighing less than 500 pounds totaled 170,500 head, down 6.6 percent from 2000. Total live weight for calves slaughtered was 62 million, 734,000 pounds. The average live weight for calves, at 368 pounds, was up 7 pounds from 2000.

A total of 2,530,500 hogs were slaughtered in Pennsylvania in 2001, down 2 percent from 2000. Total live weight for hogs slaughtered was 623,210,000 pounds. The average live weight for hogs slaughtered was 246 pounds, up 1 pound from 2000.

Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 57,500 head, was 4.6 percent below the previous year. Total live weight for sheep and lambs slaughtered was 5,893,000 pounds. Sheep slaughtered averaged 102 pounds live weight, up 16 pounds from the previous year.

Pennsylvania ranked 11th among all states in commercial red meat production in 2001. Pennsylvania's rankings by number of head slaughtered were: 8th for cattle, 1st for calves, 11th for hogs, and 6th for sheep.