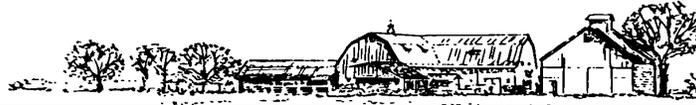




Debra K. Kenerson
State Statistician



In This Issue:

Tennessee Hogs & Pigs	1
U.S. Hogs & Pigs	2
Weather Crop Summary	2
Weekly Broiler Hatchery	2
Cotton Ginnings	3
Prices Received	3
Chicken and Eggs	4
Livestock Slaughter	4

Tennessee Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent

Tennessee's total hog and pig inventory declined for the eighth consecutive year to a historically low 220,000 head on December 1, 2002. This was a decrease of 2 percent from December 1, 2001. The number of operations fell from last year inventory level of 1,500 to 1,300. This is the lowest number of operations since records have been kept dating back to 1905, and the lowest Tennessee inventory since 1867. The December 1, 2002, inventory breakdown and comparison to 2001 is as follows: breeding hogs, 30,000 head, remained the same as 2001; market hogs, 190,000 head, dropped 5,000. Weight group comparisons show pigs weighing less than 60 pounds, down 4 percent; 60 - 119 pounds, down 2 percent; 120 - 179 pounds, fell 7 percent; and 180 pounds and over, up 6 percent from December 1, 2001.

2002 Farrowings and Pig Crop

Tennessee producers farrowed 53,000 sows from December 2001 through November 2002, unchanged from the previous year. Tennessee's annual litter rate was 8.32 pigs per litter slightly less than the historic high of 8.36 achieved in 2001. Pig crop was down 2,000 head at 441,000 head.

Hog Operations Continue Decline

During 2002, there were 1,300 operations (places having at least one pig at any time during December 2001 to November 2002) with one or more hogs in Tennessee.

This is down 200 operations from last year and the lowest on record. This compares with 7,500 operations just 10 years ago.

Hogs and Pigs: Number on Farms, Tennessee, December 1, 1993-2002

Year	Dec. 1 Inventory	Breeding	Market	1,000 Head			
				Under 60 lbs	60 to 119 lbs	120 to 179 lbs	180 + lbs
1993	500	70	430	150	115	100	65
1994	580	75	505	190	115	110	90
1995	500	65	435	170	102	92	71
1996	400	51	349	129	85	71	64
1997	340	45	295	115	75	60	45
1998	300	40	260	120	55	40	45
1999	250	30	220	70	60	40	50
2000	230	35	195	70	50	40	35
2001	225	30	195	78	43	40	34
2002	220	30	190	75	42	37	36

Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Tennessee, Dec. - Nov. 1993-2002

Year	Sows Farrowing	% Prev. Year	Pigs Per Litter	% Prev Year	1,000 Head	
					Pig Crop	% Prev. Year
	1,000 Head		Rate Per Sow		1,000 Head	
1993	127	88	7.43	97	943	85
1994	127	100	7.69	104	976	103
1995	117	92	7.91	103	926	95
1996	97	83	7.88	100	764	83
1997	73	75	8.16	104	596	78
1998	80	110	8.18	100	654	110
1999	54	68	8.07	99	436	67
2000	67	124	8.28	103	555	127
2001	53	79	8.36	101	443	80
2002	53	100	8.32	100	441	100

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2002, was 58.9 million head. This was 1 percent below December 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter. The September-November 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent less than 2001, and 1 percent less than 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.83 pigs saved per litter for the September-November 2002 period, compared to 8.82 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 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 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2002-February 2003 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 2 percent above 2001. Intended farrowings for March-May 2003, at 2.85 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001. The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002, down 7 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 10 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled 75 percent or more of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 2,258, accounted for 53 percent of the total inventory, up from 52 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

Weather Crop Summary December 23 - 29, 2002

A stormy weather pattern continued in the Pacific Northwest, delivering heavy rain to low-lying coastal areas and significant snowfall to coastal and inland mountain ranges. The wet weather pattern has eliminated drought conditions along the coast and significantly reduced moisture shortages along the foothills of the coastal ranges. In the interior valleys, topsoil moisture supplies improved, but long-term moisture shortages remained moderate to severe. Meanwhile, above-normal temperatures aided root development of winter grains in the Pacific Northwest and northern Great Plains. Strong root development and abnormally warm weather have reduced the threat of heaving and winter kill, even though the protective snow cover has been thin and spotty. In California, precipitation interrupted field and orchard work in the central and northern valleys, but the moisture, combined with near-normal temperatures, contributed to vigorous crop growth. Another winter storm provided additional moisture reserves in the Southeast and reduced moisture shortages along the Atlantic Coastal Plain, but many areas of the lower Mississippi Delta and Gulf Coast were excessively wet. The storms further hampered sugarcane harvest in Louisiana. In the southern Great Plains, below-normal temperatures limited growth of winter forages and rain delayed fieldwork. The Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains and Great Lakes region were abnormally warm and mostly dry.

Broiler Eggs Set In 19 Selected States Down 4 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 201 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 21, 2002. This was down 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Down 4 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 164 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 21, 2002. Placements were down 4 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through December 21, 2002 were 8.49 billion.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to December 15, Crop Years 1999-2002

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Cotton				
AL	595,400	504,550	776,550	510,350
AZ	509,300	519,200	515,000	471,750
AR	1,388,400	1,398,450	1,775,000	1,597,850
CA	1,783,800	2,092,950	1,836,650	1,627,950
FL	104,450	90,500	131,950	60,500
GA	1,392,400	1,443,950	1,865,200	1,327,750
LA	918,600	923,100	1,042,900	747,200
MS	1,678,700	1,673,400	2,249,650	1,840,000
MO	450,050	501,650	664,750	564,550
NM	54,400	57,750	61,350	46,000
NC	714,050	1,168,250	1,355,650	711,450
OK	122,000	137,800	154,100	158,850
SC	249,400	336,400	392,150	105,600
Tennessee	573,800	691,100	936,200	776,350
TX	4,331,000	3,568,250	3,682,800	3,768,800
VA	125,900	135,350	166,500	79,650
US	14,991,650	15,232,650	17,606,400	14,394,600
Amer-Pima				
AZ	12,500	5,400	10,300	12,850
CA	351,650	245,150	315,000	341,650
NM	5,650	3,800	9,750	11,600
TX	32,850	22,500	32,400	27,450
US	402,650	276,850	367,450	393,550

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee and United States, December 2002, with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		December 2001	November 2002 ¹	December 2002 ²	December 2001	November 2002 ¹	December 2002 ²
Dollars Per Unit							
Field Crops							
Winter Wheat	bu.	3.01	4.00	---	2.78	4.16	3.83
Corn	bu.	2.24	2.66	2.60	1.98	2.27	2.29
Cotton Lint	lb.	.311	.430	.448 ³	.308	.419	.425 ³
Cottonseed	ton	85.00	95.00	94.00	94.00	100.00	101.00
Soybeans	bu.	4.46	5.76	5.80	4.20	5.46	5.48
Livestock							
All beef cattle	cwt.	59.60	54.80	56.80	64.80	67.60	70.20
Steers/heifers	cwt.	76.00	72.00	74.00	68.50	72.00	74.80
Cows	cwt.	35.00	29.00	31.00	36.00	33.00	34.20
Calves	cwt.	89.00	78.00	80.00	101.00	88.20	93.60

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month.

Chicken and Eggs: U.S. egg production totaled 7.25 billion during November 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.23 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 962 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2002 averaged 339 million, up slightly from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,140 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,128 eggs in November 2001. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays, two holidays and five Saturdays, compared to 22 weekdays, two holidays and four Saturdays in November 2001.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State and United States, during November 2001-2002

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	2,729	2,316	10,279	9,692	1,848	1,826
Arkansas	4,955	4,758	14,811	14,645	1,843	1,857
Georgia	12,287	10,825	21,830	20,122	2,080	2,092
North Carolina	3,290	3,495	11,174	10,768	1,870	1,922
All Other States ²	250,205	254,425	279,821	283,366	2,167	2,177
United States	273,466	275,819	337,915	338,593	2,128	2,140

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee included in other states.

Livestock Slaughter: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in November, down 2 percent from the 3.97 billion pounds produced in November 2001. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from November 2001. The average live weight was 1,260 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 91,100 head, up 4 percent from November 2001. The average live weight was 308 pounds, unchanged from November a year ago. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, 1 percent below November 2001. The average live weight was 268 pounds, down 1 pound from November a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 271,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 6 pounds from November a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: United States, November 2001 and 2002

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	2,903	2,861	3,644,238	3,606,275	1,255	1,260
Calves	87	91	26,899	28,029	308	308
Hogs	8,716	8,656	2,345,186	2,315,439	269	268
Sheep & lambs	287	271	39,614	35,809	138	132

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

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