

Livestock & Livestock Products ---

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2005, in New Jersey totaled 44,000 head, 2,000 head less than the previous year. Value per head increased \$120 from the previous year to \$1,110. The 2005 inventory value was estimated at \$48.8 million, \$3.3 million more than the total of a year ago.

The total number of milk cows and beef cows on January 1, 2005, was 12,000 head and 10,000 head, respectively, the same as the previous year. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 50 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 11,000 head, 25 percent of total inventory. Of these, 6,000 were milk cow replacements, 3,000 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 3,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 7 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and greater numbered 1,000 head or 2 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 7,000 animals, 16 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2005. The 2004 calf crop totaled 16,000 head, down 2,000 from 2003.

Milk production in the Garden State totaled 200 million pounds, down 7 percent from the 216 million pounds produced in 2003. The average number of milk cows was 12,000 head, down 8 percent from 13,000 head in 2003. Milk per cow averaged 16,667 pounds in 2004 compared to 16,615 a year earlier. Value of production of milk totaled \$32.8 million during 2004, compared to \$27.6 million in 2003. The leading milk producing counties were Salem, Sussex, Warren and Burlington, accounting for 75 percent of the state total.

All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms totaled 11,000 head on December 1, 2004. This number was a decrease of 1,000 head from the previous

year. Value per head averaged \$120, \$41 dollars more than a year ago.

The total value of the hog and pig inventory value amounted to \$1.32 million, up \$372,000 from the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 9 percent were kept for breeding and 91 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 7,700, up 38 percent from 2003.

Egg production in the Garden State in 2004 increased to 558 million eggs, compared to 556 million eggs in 2003. Eggs per layer averaged 276, down from 282, the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 2.03 million during 2004, compared to the 1.97 million in 2003. In 2004, poultry managers in the state received an average of 62.2 cents per dozen eggs, compared with 63 cents in 2003. The value of egg production in 2004 was down 1 percent from 2003 at \$28.9 million.

New Jersey turkey production in 2004 was 37,000 birds, up 4,000 from the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of 87 cents per pound, 9 cents more than the price in 2003. In 2004, the value of production increased to \$708,000, up 32 percent from the \$535,000 the year before.

Honey production in 2004 amounted to 324,000 pounds, increasing 71 percent from the 190,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of 138 cents per pound in 2004, down 22 cents from the previous year. The value of production rose from the 2003 level of \$304,000 to \$447,000 in 2004.