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HOG INVENTORY

North Dakota The December 1 all hogs and pigs inventory, at 182,000 head, increased 13,000 from December 1, 2006. This is the largest inventory level since 2000's inventory at 185,000. Over the past 10 years, the largest December 1 inventory was 205,000 head in 1998. These estimates are based on a survey conducted around December 1.

The breeding herd totaled 37,500 head, up 4,500 from December 1, 2006. The 2007 annual pig crop totaled 611,000, up 81,000 from last year and the highest pig crop since 1961's crop of 660,000. Average pigs per litter, at 9.85, again set a new record high since recording began in 1924.

Market hogs totaled 144,500 head, up 8,500 from last year. Market inventory by weight group with respective changes from last year are as follows: 74,500 head weighing under 60 pounds, up 28 percent from last year; 27,000 head in the 60-119 pound range, down 25 percent; 24,000 head in the 120-179 pound range, up 9 percent; 19,000 head at or over 180 pounds, down 5 percent.

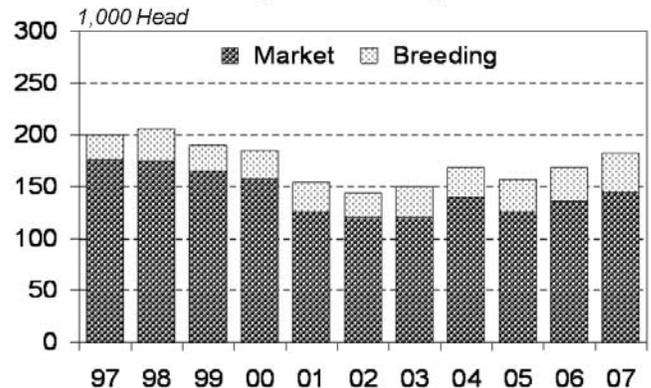
United States Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2007 was 65.1 million head. This was up 4 percent from December 1, 2006, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.16 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.0 million head, was up 5 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2007 pig crop, at 28.0 million head, was up 4 percent from 2006 and up 7 percent from 2005. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.03 million head, up 3 percent from 2006 and up 4 percent from 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.24 for the September-November 2007 period, compared to 9.11 last year.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.98 million sows farrow during the December 2007-February 2008 quarter, up 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 5 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for March-May 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are up slightly from 2007 and up 4 percent from 2006.

Hogs and Pigs: Inventory
North Dakota, December 1, 1997-2007



Hogs and Pigs: Inventory, Sows Farrowing, Pig Crop and Pigs Per Litter
North Dakota and United States, December 1, 2006-2007

Item	North Dakota		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
All Hogs and Pigs	169.0	182.0	62,490	65,110
Breeding	33.0	37.5	6,087	6,157
Market	136.0	144.5	56,402	58,953
Under 60 Pounds	58.0	74.5	20,462	21,364
60-119 Pounds	36.0	27.0	13,928	14,459
120-179 Pounds	22.0	24.0	11,275	11,737
180 Pounds and Over	20.0	19.0	10,738	11,394
Sows Farrowing				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	55.5	62.0	11,629	11,960
Pig Crop				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	530	611	105,618	109,937
Pigs Per Litter				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	<i>Head</i> 9.55	<i>Head</i> 9.85	<i>Head</i> 9.08	<i>Head</i> 9.19

^{1/} December preceding year.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

North Dakota

The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products in December is 214 percent of the 1990-1992 base. This is up 63 percent from last year and 78 percent above two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 237 percent of the base, is up 77 percent from December 2006 and the All Livestock and Products Index, at 125 percent, is up 5 percent from last year. December indexes are calculated using preliminary mid-month prices.

United States

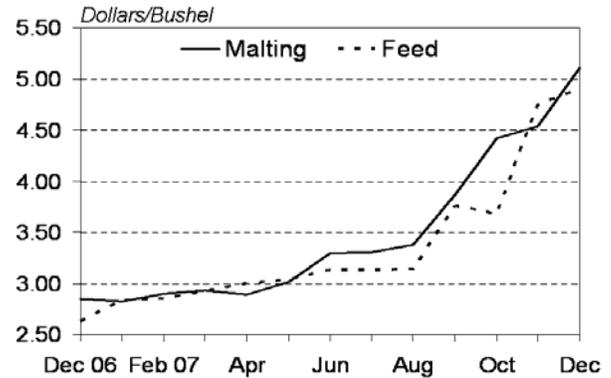
The December All Farm Products Index is 151 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 3 percent from the November index and 26 percent above the December 2006 index. The All Crops Index is 165, up 6 percent from November and 31 percent above December 2006. The Livestock and Products Index, at 136, is unchanged from last month but up 20 percent from December 2006.

**Index Numbers of Farm Prices
North Dakota and United States, December 2007**

Indexes and Ratios	North Dakota			United States		
	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007
Prices Received	(1990-92 = 100)					
All Farm Products	131	180	214	120	146	151
Crops	134	197	237	126	155	165
Food Grains	155	263	342	151	227	290
Feed Grains & Hay	136	169	206	135	154	172
Oil Bearing Crops ^{1/}	117	185	195	112	164	183
Potatoes & Dry Beans ^{2/}	123	137	132	116	118	120
Livestock and Products	119	124	125	113	136	136
Meat Animals	121	126	128	109	115	113
Dairy Products	105	101	105	109	168	166
Other Livestock Products ^{3/}	112	112	112	124	155	154
Prices Paid Ratio ^{4/}	NA	NA	NA	149	161	162
	NA	NA	NA	81	91	93

1/ Includes non-oil sunflower. 2/ North Dakota includes sugarbeets. 3/ United States excludes wool. 4/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid. NA=Not applicable.

**Barley Prices Received by Farmers
North Dakota, December 2006-December 2007**



**Prices Received by Farmers
North Dakota and United States, December 2007**

Item	Unit	North Dakota			United States			Effective U.S. Parity Price Dec 2007
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
		Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
Wheat, All	Bu	4.49	7.47	9.92	4.52	7.36	9.41	11.20
Durum	Bu	4.74	12.50	15.20	4.74	11.10	14.70	NA
Spring	Bu	4.44	6.81	9.20	4.48	7.02	9.16	NA
Winter	Bu	4.36	7.37	9.05	4.53	7.32	9.22	NA
Corn	Bu	2.63	3.08	3.65	3.01	3.43	3.88	8.31
Oats	Bu	2.05	2.53	3.01	2.01	2.73	2.71	4.65
Barley, All	Bu	2.75	4.54	5.08	2.93	4.34	4.81	7.83
Feed	Bu	2.62	4.74	4.90	2.79	5.05	5.06	NA
Malting	Bu	2.85	4.53	5.10	3.00	4.11	4.75	NA
Sunflower, All	Cwt	13.50	18.50	20.00	13.60	18.40	20.00	35.90
Oil	Cwt	13.10	18.20	19.70	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-oil	Cwt	15.30	19.90	20.70	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baled Hay, All ^{2/}	Ton	65.00	55.00	56.00	110.00	131.00	133.00	NA
Alfalfa ^{2/}	Ton	69.00	58.00	59.00	111.00	135.00	136.00	NA
Other ^{2/}	Ton	49.00	41.00	43.00	107.00	123.00	126.00	NA
Canola	Cwt	12.30	16.70	20.80	NA	16.60	20.80	29.60
Flaxseed	Bu	5.73	12.90	13.20	5.73	12.90	13.20	18.20
Soybeans	Bu	5.74	8.58	9.90	6.18	9.41	10.40	18.40
Dry Edible Beans, All	Cwt	19.40	23.70	24.40	21.80	28.40	27.20	58.80
Navy	Cwt	16.80	23.70	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pinto	Cwt	19.70	23.40	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Potatoes, All	Cwt	6.50	6.80	6.65	6.79	6.47	6.75	17.70
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt	7.65	8.40	NA	8.38	8.17	NA	NA
Processing	Cwt	6.05	6.15	NA	5.96	5.60	NA	NA
Beef Cattle	Cwt	86.50	90.60	93.30	83.10	89.70	89.10	220.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	99.00	107.00	108.00	89.00	95.90	95.50	NA
Cows	Cwt	42.00	41.50	41.00	42.20	43.90	44.10	NA
Calves	Cwt	114.00	119.00	118.00	116.00	119.00	119.00	316.00
Sheep	Cwt	33.00	26.00	NA	34.80	27.60	NA	106.00
Lambs	Cwt	108.00	97.00	NA	94.00	97.30	NA	257.00
Hogs	Cwt	44.40	37.90	NA	43.50	38.20	39.50	126.00

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/ Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. 3/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock. NA=Not applicable.

CATTLE ON FEED

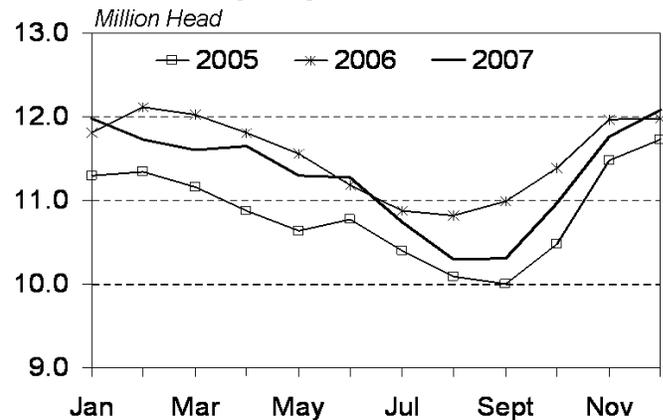
United States

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.1 million head on December 1, 2007. The inventory was 1 percent above December 1, 2006 and 3 percent above December 1, 2005. This is the highest December 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.12 million, 12 percent above 2006 and 3 percent above 2005. Net placements were 2.06 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 685,000, 600-699 pounds were 650,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 361,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2006 but 2 percent above 2005. Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during November, 31 percent below 2006 and 37 percent below 2005.

**United States Cattle on Feed
1000+ Capacity Feedlots, 2005-2007**



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

United States

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.30 billion pounds in November, up 4 percent from the 4.15 billion pounds produced in November 2006.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.83 million head, down slightly from November 2006. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,304 pounds.

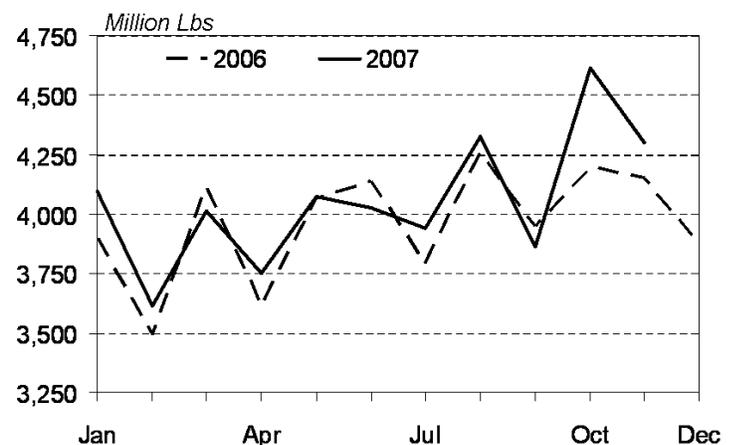
Veal production totaled 10.1 million pounds, 22 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 12 percent from November 2006. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 291 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.05 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.1 million head, up 7 percent from November 2006. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.1 million pounds, was up 5 percent from November 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,700 head, 6 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 1 pound from November a year ago.

January to November 2007 commercial red meat production was 44.6 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

**Commercial Red Meat Production
United States, 2006-2007**



Conservation Reserve Program Boosts Outdoor Recreation in Rural Communities

As growth in the biofuels industry increases demand for raw materials, market pressures to devote more land to crop production may lead to the conversion of millions of current Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres back to cropland. The 36.7 million acres of U.S. farmland currently enrolled in the CRP provide a range of environmental benefits. Those positive effects could be lost if CRP lands were brought back into production.

The CRP is a voluntary program run by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Agricultural producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving vegetative covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contracts last from 10 to 15 years.

By improving wildlife habitat and air and water quality, CRP has significantly increased the number and variety of wildlife, attracting bird watchers, hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts, who then spend money in rural areas. In 2004, ERS research confirmed that the CRP's environmental benefits can substantially increase recreational expenditures in rural counties. Based on data from national surveys of farmers and hunters, increases in recreational spending attributable to CRP enrollment are estimated to be as much as \$290 million per year. This dollar amount includes revenue reported by farmers from recreational uses of their CRP land, as well as the nonfarm local spending of visitors to CRP land for outdoor recreation.

A number of simplifying assumptions were needed to arrive at this estimate, making its precision hard to gauge without more detailed information from landowners and outdoor recreation enthusiasts. However, other analyses also found similarly substantial economic benefits from CRP-induced recreation. For example, one study by Dean A. Bangsund, Nancy M. Hodur, and F. Larry Leistritz of North Dakota State University estimates that CRP lands in North Dakota attract about \$13 million per year in recreation-related spending. The same attributes that attract hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts - clean air and water and a healthy ecosystem - create attractive landscapes that make rural communities more pleasant places in which to live and work.

Source: Amber Waves, USDA-ERS, November 2007

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