

# Livestock Inventory & Production

By Mark A. Linstedt

*The total value of all cattle, hogs and sheep on Pennsylvania farms January 1, 2009, was \$1.95 billion, down 11 percent from the previous year. Cattle inventory was valued at \$1.84 billion on January 1, 2009, accounting for 94.4 percent of the total value of all livestock in Pennsylvania. Sheep inventory, valued at \$17.2 million, accounted for 0.9 percent of the total. Hog inventory, valued at \$92.1 million on December 1, 2008, accounted for 4.7 percent of the total livestock inventory value.*

**Sheep:** January 1, 2009 sheep and lamb inventory totaled 100,000 head, up 2,000 head from January 1, 2008. Commonwealth flocks included 84,000 breeding sheep and lambs. The total lamb crop for 2008 was 73,000 lambs, up 6,000 head from 2007. Wool production totaled 400,000 pounds, 30,000 pounds less than 2007 wool production.

The gross income from sheep production in 2008 was \$6.0 million, up 1 percent from 2007. The value of wool produced during the year was \$124,000, down \$9,000 from 2007. Pennsylvania ranked 15th in the United States in sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2009.

**Goats:** January 1, 2009 milk and meat goat inventory totaled 56,500 head, down 500 head from January 1, 2008. Commonwealth herds included 42,000 meat and other goats and 14,500 milk goats.

**Red Meat Production:** Pennsylvania red meat production, dressed weight basis, in commercial slaughter establishments totaled 1.34 billion pounds in 2008, up 4 percent from 2007. There were 245 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2009. Pennsylvania ranked 1st among all states in the number of commercial slaughter plants.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 998,700 head in 2008, 6 percent above the previous year. Total live weight for cattle slaughtered was 1.25 billion pounds. Average live weight at 1,263 pounds was 11 pounds above the 2007 average. Slaughter of calves weighing less than 500 pounds totaled 160,800 head, down 6 percent from 2007. Total live weight for calves slaughtered was 59.5 million pounds. The average live weight for calves, at 370 pounds, is down 23 pounds from 2007.

A total of 3,010,900 hogs were slaughtered in Pennsylvania in 2008, up 2 percent from 2007. Total live weight for hogs slaughtered was 768.9 million pounds. The average live weight for hogs slaughtered was 256 pounds, up 3 pounds from 2007.

Sheep and lamb slaughter was at 54,800 head. Total live weight for sheep and lambs slaughtered was 5,320,000 pounds. Sheep and lambs slaughtered averaged 97 pounds live weight, up 1 pound from the previous year.

Pennsylvania ranked 13th among all states in commercial red meat production in 2008. Pennsylvania's rankings by number of head slaughtered were: 8th for cattle, 3rd for calves, 10th for hogs, and 5th for sheep.

**Cattle:** All cattle in Pennsylvania totaled 1,590,000 head on January 1, 2009, down 20,000 head from January 1, 2008. Of the total, 700,000 were cows and heifers that had calved. Milk cow inventory totaled 550,000, a 2,000 head decrease from one year earlier. The number of beef cows at 150,000 head, was down 8,000 head from last year. Heifers 500 pounds and over totaled 370,000, down 5,000 from January 1, 2008. There were 270,000 heifers for dairy replacement and 40,000 for beef cow replacement. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 160,000. A total of 25,000 bulls 500 pounds and over were on hand. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 335,000, down 5,000 from the previous year. The 2008 Pennsylvania calf crop totaled 610,000 head, down 10,000 from the 2007 calf crop.

The gross income from cattle production was \$514 million in 2008, up 6.3 percent from the previous year. Pennsylvania ranked 5th in the United States in milk cow inventory on January 1, 2009, and 19th in cattle inventory.

**Hogs:** There were 1,120,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms as of December 1, 2008, 50,000 head below the previous year. Breeding hog inventory, at 90,000 head, was 15,000 head less than the previous year. A total of 1,030,000 market hogs and pigs were on hand as of December 1, 2008, 35,000 head below last year.

Pennsylvania's pig crop in 2008 totaled 1,545,000, down 186,000 head from 2007. A total of 163,000 sows farrowed in 2008, averaging 9.48 pigs per litter. The gross income from pork production was \$183.2 million for 2008, which was down 13 percent from 2007. Pennsylvania's hog inventory ranked 13th in the United States on December 1, 2008.