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News Release

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On: DECEMBER HOG AND PIG INVENTORY
DOWN 31 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

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Austin . . . The December 1, 2009 Texas hog and pig inventory, at 770,000 head was down 31 percent from the December 2008 number of 1.12 million head.

The number of breeding hogs totaled 60,000 head, down 40 percent from last year's estimate, according to figures released by the Texas Field Office.

The December 1 market hog inventory totaled 710,000 head, 92 percent of the total hog and pig inventory. The inventory of market hogs weighing less than 50 pounds, at 145,000 was down 49 percent from the previous year. The inventory of hogs weighing 50 to 119 pounds, at 170,000 head, was down 28 percent from the December 2008 inventory. Market hogs weighing 120 to 179 pounds, totaled 165,000 head, 80 percent below last year, and hogs weighing 180 pounds or more, at 230,000 head, were 78 percent below the previous year's estimate.

The 2009 Texas pig crop totaled 1.61 million head, 13 percent below the 2008 pig crop. From December 2008 through November 2009, pigs per litter averaged 9.44, up 6 percent from the previous year. State Director, Doug Rundle, reported that 171,000 sows farrowed in Texas during December 2008 through November 2009, compared to 207,000 the previous year.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2009 is estimated at 65.8 million head, down 2 percent from both a year ago and September 1, 2009. The breeding hog inventory, at 5.85 million head, was down 3 percent from last year. Market hog inventory, at 60.0 million head, was down 2 percent from last year.

The U.S. pig crop for September-November 2009 was 28.8 million head, up slightly from the previous year. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.95 million sows farrow during the December 2009-February 2010 period, down 2 percent from actual farrowings during the same period in 2009.