

Livestock Inventory

Livestock inventory numbers on Pennsylvania farms January 1, 1965 totaled 2,486,000 head, 3 percent below the 2,574,000 head on farms January 1 1964. Cattle numbers were down 2 percent or 38,000 head; hog numbers down 12 percent or 54,000 head; but there were 2 percent or 4,000 more sheep on farms. Changes in inventory reflect in part the crop and weather situation; the increase in sheep numbers reflecting the more favorable conditions in western counties. Inventory value of all livestock totaled \$347,124,000 — 3 percent less than a year ago and 13 percent below average.

CATTLE NUMBERS DOWN

Cattle on farms January 1, 1965 totaled 1,874,000 — 1 percent less than on hand a year earlier. This continued the decline from the near record 1,971,000 on farms January 1, 1962. Milk stock decreased 4 percent during the year — from 1,912,000 head to 1,874,000. Numbers of beef type cattle increased 3 percent from 473,000 to 488,000 partially offsetting the decline in milk stock. Practically all of the decrease was in milk cow numbers which declined from 949,000 a year earlier to 911,000 — a decrease of 4 percent. Average number of milk cows in milking herds during the year was 820,000, down 3 percent from 1963 and smallest since 1929. Milk production totaled 7,052,000 pounds surpassed only by the production in 1963 of 7,098,000 pounds.

HOG NUMBERS AT RECORD LOW

Pennsylvania farmers had 398,000 hogs and pigs on farms on January 1 1965, a record low. This was 12 percent less than the 452,000 on hand a year earlier and 22 percent below the (1958-62) average of 513,000. Inventory value of all hogs and pigs on farms this January 1 was \$10,428,000 — 10 percent less than a year earlier and 26 percent under average. The combined 1964 spring and fall pig crops totaled 646,000 — 17 percent less than the 1963 pig crop which totaled 782,000 and 19 percent less than the (1958-62) average of 800,000 pigs saved.

POULTRY

The number of chickens on farms excluding commercial broilers totaled 18,043,000 a 1 percent decline from 1963. This is the eighth consecutive year of declining numbers which are now the lowest since 1935. Among the States Pennsylvania ranks fourth in total numbers. Of the total chickens on hand January 1 33 percent were hens, 57 percent pullets and 5 percent other chickens. The total value of these chickens was \$27,064,000 compared to \$26,306,000 a year earlier. The average

number of layers in the Commonwealth during 1964 totaled 14,544,000 — a 1 percent decline from 1963. Pennsylvania had as few layers as in 1941-42 but produced 40 percent more eggs. Gross income from the 31 billion eggs produced amounted to \$95,892,000.

U.S. LIVESTOCK SUPPLY

On January 1, 1965, there were 107.2 million cattle and calves on farms and ranches,

a record high, but only slightly greater than the 106.7 million head on hand a year earlier. A decline of 3 percent in the number of milk animals was more than offset by an increase in beef-type cattle. The number of milk cows and heifers 2 years old and older decreased 3 percent to 17.6 million head — the smallest number since 1904.

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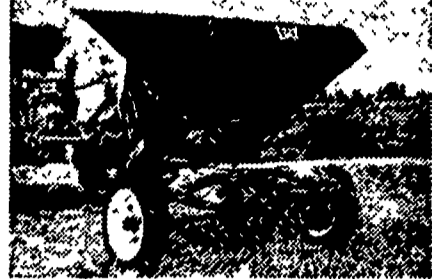
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