

Hog inventory shows decrease

June 1 Inventory Down 19 percent
 Hogs and pigs on U.S. farms June 1, 1975 are estimated at 48.2 million, 19 percent below a year earlier and 20 percent below June 1, 1973, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is the lowest June 1 number since this series of estimates began in 1964.

-Number kept for breeding at 7.4 million, is down 17 percent from a year ago and 18 percent less than two years earlier.

-Market hogs and pigs at

40.8 million, are down 19 percent from June 1, 1974 and 20 percent less than June 1, 1973.

-By weight groups, market hogs and pigs on June 1, 1975 and the comparison with a year earlier and two years earlier, respectively:

Less than 60 pounds - 18.5 million, down 22 percent and 25 percent. 60-119 pounds - 10.0 million, down 18 percent from both years. 120-179 pounds - 6.9 million, down 12 percent and 16 percent. 180-219 pounds - 4.3 million, down 13 percent and 11 percent. 220 pounds and over - 1.1 million, down 37 percent and 17 percent.

The 14 Quarterly States had 41.0 million head, down 20 percent from a year earlier and down 21 percent from two years ago. These States accounted for 85 percent of the United States all hogs and pigs inventory.

December-May Pig Crop Smallest in 40 Years

At 35.3 million, the U.S pig crop from December 1974 through May 1975 was down 22 percent from a year ago, and down 24 percent from two years earlier. This is the lowest December-May pig crop since 1935.

The 4.9 million sows farrowed during this period

was 23 percent below the same period a year earlier. Average litter size during December 1974-May 1975 was 7.15 pigs compared with 7.07 pigs a year ago.

The pig crop in the 14 Quarterly States for December 1974-February 1975 was 12.5 million, down 20 percent. For March-May 1975, the crop was 17.5 million, down 24 percent.

Farrowing Intentions Lowest Since Early 1950's

Hog producers in the U.S. intend to farrow 4.7 million sows during June-November 1975, down 13 percent from that period last year and 19 percent below 1973.

These intentions, and allowances for projected litter size, indicate a pig crop of 34.1 million, down 12 percent from a year earlier. If these intentions are realized, this will be the lowest fall pig crop since 1965.

Intentions in the 14 Quarterly States are for 2.0 million sows to farrow June-August 1975, down 17 percent. September through November 1975 intentions in these States are down 12 percent at 2.0 million sows.

Pet food uses ag by-products

Through their purchases of feed grains and of meat, poultry, and seafood by-products not generally considered suitable for human consumption, the manufacturers of pet food in the United States are making a significant contribution to the income of American farmers and to the economical production of primary food for human consumption.

A survey by the Pet Food Institute (PFI) shows that approximately 2.2 billion pounds of meat, poultry, and seafood by-products, (including 500 million pounds of meal rendered from by-products), and 2.5 billion pounds of feed grains and grain by-products were used in pet foods during 1974.

"We have been asked if pet food manufacturers are drawing away agricultural supplies that would otherwise be used for human consumption," PFI said in releasing the survey. "Actually, the reverse is true: by providing a profitable market for the by-

products of plants which process meat, poultry, and seafood for human consumption, the pet food industry lowers the cost of providing these primary food products for the American consumer.

Pet food manufacturers paid approximately \$320,000,000 for the by-products of meat, poultry, and seafood processing in 1974, the Institute reported. Of this, \$264,000,000 represented direct purchases of by-products, and \$56,000,000 represented purchases of meat, poultry, and fish meal.

Without pet food purchases, the by-products now used in pet foods would in most cases be sold to rendering plants at prices far below their value as pet food ingredients.

"If pet food manufacturers didn't use these by-products, the loss to the meat, poultry and seafood processing industry would be in the range of \$200,000,000," the Institute said. "The loss would have to be made up in increased costs to consumers of primary food products," the Institute noted.

In the case of processors operating on relatively small profit margins, the loss of a profitable outlet for their by-products could mean the difference between survival and bankruptcy," the Institute said.

"The industry's purchases of feed grains and soybean meal also provide an important source of income for the American farmer at a time when concern is being heard that large crops may lead to surpluses and to market declines," the Institute noted.

The total value of the grain, grain by-products, and soybean meal used in pet foods during 1974 was approximately \$286,500,000. "Obviously," the Institute said, "These purchases represent significant income to America's farmers."

The Institute said the grains used in pet foods were almost exclusively those types and grades grown for animal feed, with a small quantity of wheat being the only significant ingredient also used for human consumption. "Wheat use," it noted, "is less than 0.38 percent of total U.S. production." The Institute noted that the wheat, in most cases, was of grades lower than the wheat milled for human use.

"As processed for commercial pet foods, these by-products and feed grains are all fine, nutritious products for dog and cat nutrition," the Institute noted. "But they do not come out of the supply of food for human consumption."

"This economical usage of agricultural by-products is part of an efficient farm production system," the Institute noted.

CHUCKLE COLUMN

BLACKSMITHS
 Two stuttering blacksmiths had finished heating a piece of pig iron, one placed it on the anvil with a pair of tongs. 1st "H-h-h-hit it 2nd "W-w-w-where?" 1st "Aw, heck, we'll have to h-h-h-heat it again "



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