

December pig report causes market slippage

DES MOINES, IA — December's hog and pig report showed an inventory decrease of only four to six percent, not the 10 percent predicted by many market analysts.

As a result of the emotional reaction to the report, market prices of hogs have dropped.

A factor affecting the current market price of hogs is the number of heavy hogs being sold. Market weights are averaging 247 to 249 pounds. Only one other time in the last 30 years have weights averaged over 247 pounds.

The National Pork Producers Council said that

pork producers have not marketed hogs at optimum weights in anticipation of the further increase in market prices for live hogs expected in the new year.

Although pork producers are disappointed that the reduction in numbers is not greater, there is a positive side. December's report is

the first to show a substantial reduction in five years.

According to Orville Sweet, Executive Vice President of NPPC, those producers being hurt the worst are the ones who let their hogs get too heavy. The same result applies to producers who let their hogs

get too heavy in the future. "After all," said Sweet, "an average 20-pound lighter hog going to market will have a greater effect on price than the predicted 10 percent reduction in numbers."

The increased price of grain should also encourage marketing at lighter weights.

However, we are seeing a much more disciplined industry than we saw a few years ago, said Sweet. Pork producers are more professional in their reactions to market aberrations today.

Cost of producing pork today is from \$47 to \$60 per hundred weight, depending on the efficiency of the operation and cost of facilities.

Bill Buller, President of NPPC and a producer from

Brookings, S.D., said, "Pork producers should get current in their marketings as soon as possible and maintain lighter weights, preferably 220 pounds. This would not only reduce the surplus but provide a better product for the consumer while reducing the cost of production to the producer."

Through promotion and advertising, a well-disciplined pork industry successfully moved the market price of live hogs up by 30 percent in the last quarter of 1980, while maintaining strong supply.

"Our best sources of information indicate to us," said Sweet, "that there may be some more supply-demand adjustments, then stability should set in followed by the expected up-trend due to more confidence in actual numbers."

For Higher Production & Profit:

Use These Atlantic Genetic Power Sires in '81 (Jan./81 USDA Production Summaries)

sire	no. daus.	PREDICTED DIFFERENCE				rpt.
		milk	fat	value		
1H266	Penstar	323	+1,483	+54	+\$187	93%
15H231	Very	132	+901	+76	+\$184	85%
15H221	Mandate	30	+1,562	+44	+\$176	56%
15H223	Ideal	62	+1,625	+40	+\$174	74%
15H180	Superior	145	+1,537	+33	+\$157	88%
15H190	Blend	71	+1,441	+35	+\$154	81%
15H192	Titan	143	+1,472	+32	+\$151	88%
15H202	Mariner	54	+1,537	+28	+\$149	75%
15H242	Lightning	26	+1,263	+39	+\$148	53%
15H175	Marvex	223	+1,211	+41	+\$148	92%
15H120	Gay	22,095	+1,238	+31	+\$134	99%
15H228	Transformer	65	+904	+44	+\$132	75%
1H306	Jo Boy	23	+1,259	+26	+\$127	38%
15H206	Charisma	53	+640	+51	+\$126	75%
15H203	Boots	81	+1,202	+26	+\$123	79%
15H224	Special	52	+1,111	+30	+\$123	71%
1H267	Eric	354	+1,324	+20	+\$122	94%
15H252	Gangster	16	+1,119	+26	+\$117	39%
15H165	Comet	1,409	+1,010	+27	+\$112	98%
15H184	Progressor	82	+1,690	-2	+\$110	81%
1H243	Performer	1,066	+1,026	+24	+\$108	97%
15H219	Duke	36	+1,130	+18	+\$105	63%
15H237	Oak Star	79	+1,137	+17	+\$104	77%
15H143	Snowman	1,635	+1,073	+19	+\$103	99%
15H236	Authority	68	+1,170	+13	+\$100	74%
15H151	Proud	2,127	+893	+24	+\$99	99%
15H205	Reliance	75	+767	+29	+\$99	81%
15H200	Intense	54	+825	+22	+\$91	76%
15H212	Wave	45	+926	+14	+\$85	70%
15H187	Hall	96	+923	+14	+\$85	85%
15H188	Topper	110	+461	+31	+\$81	84%
15H226	M & M	59	+976	+8	+\$79	74%
15H225	Banker	45	+943	+5	+\$72	69%
15H194	Boss	95	+649	+14	+\$66	85%
15H209	Exclusive	507	+772	+6	+\$62	96%
15H230	Complete	41	+956	-5	+\$56	65%
1J194	Soldier Boy	58	+1,925	+60	+\$227	63%
1J157	Soldiers Pride	61	+1,720	+48	+\$194	69%
15J53	Noble	61	+1,242	+45	+\$156	72%
1J199	Promoter	22	+920	+40	+\$127	46%
1J154	Big Four	60	+1,082	+27	+\$117	72%
1J137	Glory	30	+1,061	+26	+\$114	56%
1J183	Tris Gen	203	+955	+31	+\$114	85%
1J169	Rain Dance	26	+1,030	+20	+\$102	51%
8J77	Lotus Lad	181	+946	+20	+\$96	86%
3G145	Choice	3,010	+1,370	+54	+\$180	99%
3G147	Nobleman	122	+956	+28	+\$110	85%
14G0184	Atlantic	40	+852	+28	+\$103	62%
21G249	Jamaica	32	+770	+27	+\$96	54%
1G132	Uncle Charlie	45	+912	+15	+\$86	59%
21G243	Top Dollar	66	+871	+14	+\$81	69%
1B67	Titan	60	+1,369	+33	+\$146	56%
1B72	Toro	23	+831	+24	+\$95	33%
1B54	Fiddle	112	+642	+31	+\$93	82%
3A86	Jack	863	+762	+21	+\$85	97%
9A79	Boy	596	+763	+16	+\$77	96%
21M515	Pacesetter	110	+2,074	+76	+\$263	78%


These Profit-Makers - and more - are available from all out Professional Technicians and Direct-Herd Representatives.

Atlantic

LIVESTOCK SERVICES BREEDERS COOPERATIVE
Member — NAL Affiliated Breeders

24-Hour Toll-Free Phone Nos. For Service:
Pennsylvania 800-732-0391 Lancaster 569-0411 Del. & Md. 800-233-0216

NOW IS THE TIME FOR RALGRO® IMPLANTING



CATTLE with RAL-O-GUN
you just pull the trigger once to implant the correct 36 mg. of Ralgro for up to 18% faster gains in livestock.

WINTER SPECIAL
FREE PAIR TINGLEY WORK BOOTS WITH PURCHASE OF THE AUTOMATIC CATTLE HEAD GATE (In Stock)



Cattle think they can pass through easily, but the top latch changes all that. Treatment is now performed fast and easy. Can be adjusted for large or small animals. One man operation.

STOP AND SEE US AT OUR BOOTH AT THE CATTLE FEEDERS DAY, JAN. 27th 1981 IN THE FARM AND HOME CENTER AUDITORIUM

ZIMMERMAN'S ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPLY
Located 3 miles West of Ephrata at Wood Corner Road
RD #4, Box 140, Lititz, Pa. 17543
717-738-4241