

# Dec. 1 Hog and Pig Inventory 1 Percent Below Year Ago

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on Dec. 1, 2002, was 58.9 million head. This was 1 percent below Dec. 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from Dec. 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter.

Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent less than 2001, and 1 percent less than 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the

breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.83 pigs saved per litter for the September-November 2002 period, compared to 8.82 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2002-February 2003 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002 and 2 percent above 2001. Intended farrowings for March-May 2003, at 2.85 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002, down 7 percent from last

year and 13 percent below 2000. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 10 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories of more than 2,000 head have controlled 75 percent or more of the total inventory.

The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 2,258, accounted for 53 percent of the total inventory, up from 52 percent a year ago.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these more-than-5,000-head operations but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

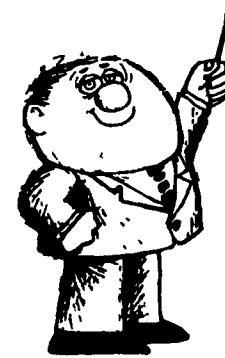
Revisions: All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2001 through September 2002 were reviewed

using final pig crop, official slaughter, import, and export data in U.S. level balance sheets. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half percent were made to the inventory level for June 1,

2002. Adjustments of less than one-half percent were made to the December 2001-February 2002, March-May 2002, and June-August 2002 pig crops.


## SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILIES IN ANNUAL FARM SHOW ISSUE

The new and expanded Farm Show opens to the public on Saturday, Jan. 11. And one of our largest, and best issues, is soon to hit mailboxes. The Jan. 11 issue will be *Lancaster Farming's* own Farm Show Issue, which highlights the newly expanded, largest indoor agricultural event in the country. Included that issue: Farm Show family highlights, Keystone Degree recipient biographies, events schedule, and maps. It's a brand-new Farm Show this year. We hope to see you there!



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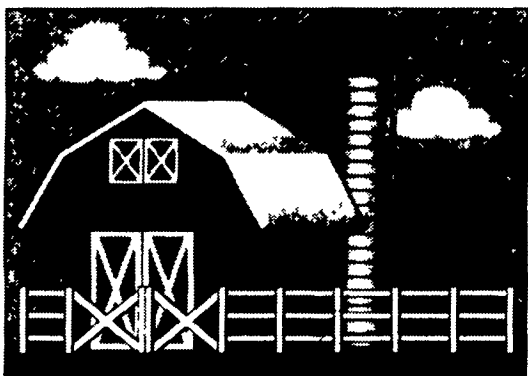

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