

# U.S. Hog, Pig Inventory 2 Percent Below Year Ago

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003 was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below March 1, 2002 and 2 percent below December 1, 2002, according to the National Agricultural Service (NASS).

• Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from last quarter.

• Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

The December 2002-February 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002, and 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year.

The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs saved per litter for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 last year.

Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2003 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for June-August 2003, at 2.79 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in both 2002 and 2001.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

Revisions: All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2002 through December 2002 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, import, and export data in U.S. level balance sheets. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of one percent were made to the September 1, 2002 inventory, two percent to the June-August 2002 pig crop, and one percent to the Dec. 1, 2002 inventory.

# Ag Bankers Committee Meets In Hershey



Pictured, from left, are Terry Hague, The Bankers Bank, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Michael Firestine, Fulton Bank/Lebanon Valley Farmers Bank; R. Scott Smith, Jr., Fulton Financial Corporation; and Roger Monson, Citizens State Bank of Finley, Finley, N.D.

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — R. Scott Smith, Jr., president and chief operating officer of Fulton Financial Corporation, recently addressed the American Bankers Association's Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee when the group met in Hershey.

The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee's members include banking representatives from 14 states. The group meets quarterly to discuss legislative, legal, and environmental issues that affect our nation's farms and agribusinesses.

Michael Firestine, senior vice president, from the ag department at Fulton Bank/Lebanon Valley Farmers Bank, is a member of the Committee and acted as host for the meeting.

The group discussed many topics, including the impact of the drought on farmers across the nation; prices of farmland; trends affecting crops, livestock, agricultural products and commodities; and the banks' agriculture lending portfolios.

Smith spoke to the group about Fulton Financial Corporation's commitment to farms and agribusinesses. The volume of lending to farms and businesses related to agriculture through two Fulton Financial affiliate banks Fulton Bank and Lebanon Valley Farmers Bank — makes Fulton Financial the 23rd largest Ag lender in the United States.

The Committee also discussed agricultural patents and trademarks, patent infringement and the ensuing risks to ag lenders. In addition, the group developed some basic tips for beginning farmers, which will soon be available on the American Banker's Association website ([www.aba.com](http://www.aba.com)).

The Committee's next meeting will take place on July 12-14 in Park City, Utah.

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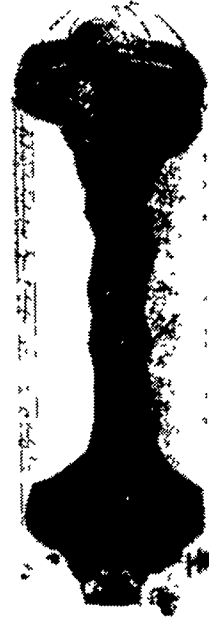
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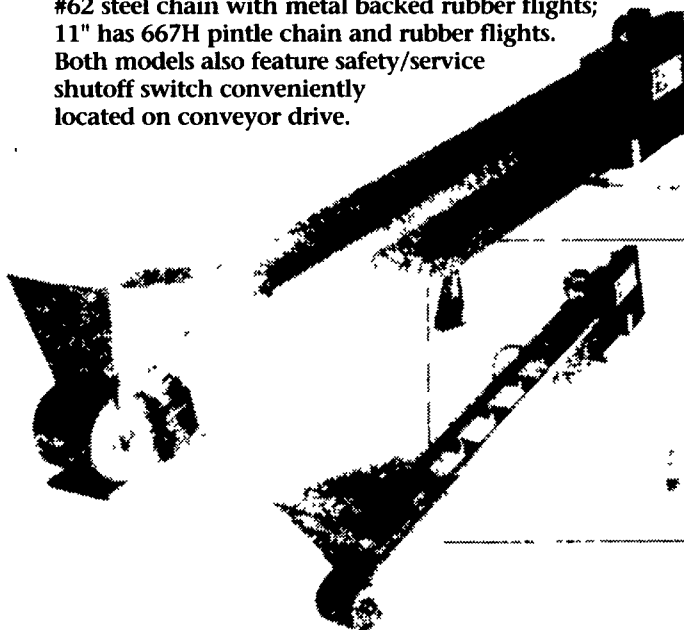
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