

# Livestock and Livestock Products - 2006

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2007, in New Jersey totaled 38,000 head, 4,000 head less than the previous year. Value per head decreased \$10 from the previous year to \$1,200. The 2007 inventory value was estimated at \$45.6 million, \$5.22 million less than the total from a year ago.

**Cattle:** The total number of milk cows and beef cows on January 1, 2007, was 10,500 head and 8,500 head, respectively, with both milk and beef cows down 1,000 head from the previous year. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 50 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 9,000 head, 24 percent of total inventory. Of these, 5,000 were milk cow replacements, 2,000 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 2,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 5 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and over numbered 1,000 head or 3 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 7,000 animals, 18 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2007. The 2006 calf crop totaled 14,000 head, unchanged from 2005.

**Milk:** Milk production in the Garden State totaled 178 million pounds, down 7 percent from the 192 million pounds produced in 2005. The average number of milk cows was 11,000 head, down 1,000 head from the previous year. Milk per cow averaged 16,182 pounds in 2006 compared to 16,000 a year earlier. Value of production of milk totaled \$23.9 million during 2006, compared to \$29.8 million in 2005. The leading milk producing counties were Salem, Sussex, Warren and Gloucester, accounting for 79 percent of the state total.

**Hogs and Pigs:** All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms December 1, 2006 totaled 7,000 head, a decrease of 2,000 head from the previous year.

Value per head averaged \$100, \$10 less than a year ago. The total value of the hog and pig inventory amounted to \$700,000, down \$290,000 from the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 7 percent were kept for breeding and 93 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 3,800, up 36 percent from 2005.

**Chicken and Eggs:** Egg production in the Garden State in 2006 decreased to 446 million eggs, compared to 491 million eggs in 2005. Eggs per layer averaged 286, up from 273, the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 1.56 million during 2006, compared to the 1.80 million in 2005. In 2006, poultry managers in the state received an average of 54.5 cents per dozen eggs, compared with 49.4 cents in 2005. The value of egg production in 2006 was unchanged from 2005 at \$20.3 million.

**Turkeys:** New Jersey turkey production in 2006 was 33,000 birds, 4,000 less than the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of \$1.16 per pound, 3 cents less than the price in 2005. In 2006, the value of production decreased to \$842,000, up 24 percent from the \$678,000 the year before.

**Honey:** Honey production in 2005 amounted to 384,000 pounds, increasing 19 percent from the 324,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of 118 cents per pound in 2005, down 23 cents from the previous year. The value of production fell from the 2004 level of \$457,000 to \$453,000 in 2005.