

LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND POULTRY

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2000 in New Jersey totaled 48,000 head, down 5,000 head from a year ago. Value per head increased \$60 from the previous year to \$930.00. The 2000 inventory value was estimated at \$44.6 million, \$1.5 million less than the total of a year ago.

Milk cow numbers on January 1, 2000 fell to 16,000 head, 11 percent less than the 18,000 head last year. Beef cows were estimated at 10,000 head, the same as the January 1, 1999 total. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 54 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 10,000 head, 21 percent of total inventory. Of these, 5,000 were milk cow replacements, 3,000 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 3,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 6 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and greater numbered 1,000 head or 2 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 8,000 animals, 17 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2000. The 1999 calf crop was 2,000 head less than 1998, totaling 20,000 head.

Milk production in the Garden State totaled 280 million pounds, down 4 percent from the 292 million pounds produced in 1998. The average number of milk cows declined to 17,000 head. Milk per cow averaged 16,471 pounds in 1999 compared to 15,368 a year earlier. The leading milk producing counties continued to be Warren, Salem, Sussex, Burlington and Hunterdon, accounting for 82 percent of the state's total. Value of production of milk totaled \$42.6 million during 1999, compared with \$45.6 million in 1998.

All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms totaled 15,000 head on December 1, 1999. This number decreased 9,000 head (37 percent) from the number of head on December 1, 1998. Value per head averaged \$86.00, thirty-three dollars more than a year ago.

The total value of the hog and pig inventory value amounted to \$1.3 million, the same as the

previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 13 percent were kept for breeding and 87 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 13,150, down 37 percent from 1998.

Egg production in the Garden State in 1999 increased to 547 million eggs, compared to 488 million eggs in 1998. Eggs per layer averaged 488, up from 286 the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 1.92 million during 1999, falling 7 percent from 2.05 million the preceding year. In 1999, poultry managers in the state received on average 55.0 cents per dozen eggs, down 4 percent from the 57.0 cents per dozen received in 1998. This price reflects the average price received by egg producers for wholesale and retail sales of all sizes and grades of eggs. The value of egg production increased to \$25.0 million during 1999, down from \$23.2 million in 1998.

Sales of chickens (excluding meat chickens) totaled 643,000 head in 1999, 11 percent less than the 725,000 head sold in 1998. The average price received in 1999 was 3.6 cents per pound, the same as the previous year's average price. Value of sales equaled \$79,000 in 1999, down \$10,000 from the preceding year.

New Jersey turkey production in 1999 was 50,000 birds, down 21,000 from the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of 72.0 cents per pound, 8 cents less than the price in 1998. In 1999, the value of production decreased to \$785,000, down 35 percent from \$1.2 million the year before.

Honey production in 1999 amounted to 440,000 pounds, decreasing 18 percent from the 539,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of \$.57 per pound in 1999, down 19.0 cents from the previous year. The value of production fell from the 1998 level of \$410,000 to \$251,000.